

Doug Boykin

Chairman

Save Our Bosque Task Force

Good morning everyone, thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to participate in this “roundtable” discussion. I want to thank Gina for all the hard work in setting this up, as well as other individuals that has assisted her. (Gina, can you identify?)

My name is Doug Boykin, I serve as the chairman of the Save Our Bosque Task Force and have been on the Task Force since its inception back in 1993. The task force was initiated to bring attention and focus to the Rio Grande Bosque between Sevilleta NWR and Bosque del Apache NWR. Those two great refuges were doing great work, but we realized that the 25 mile stretch of bosque between the refuges were critical to their health as well as the refuges were critical to this stretch (most commonly called the Socorro Reach).

Since that humble beginning back in 1993, the task force has completed the Socorro Nature Area, rebuilt the Escondida Lake/Picnic Area, established 17 riverine parks and several fuel breaks, treated and restored MRGCD, NM Tech, and private and “ unclaimed” lands numbering in the 1000’s of acres. We have planted thousands of seedlings and cottonwood/willow poles, downright killed millions of Salt Cedar and Russian olives, held numerous public meetings, produced bumper stickers, pamphlets, a comprehensive plan and feasibility study. We continue to host Bosque Conservation Day (2016 will be year 33) that brings hundreds of school children to the bosque each October. We partner with anyone who shares our vision, which reads “ the vision of the Save Our Bosque Task Force is a riparian ecosystem that functions as naturally as possible within the confines of the 21st Century infrastructure and political limitations while respecting the traditional customs and cultures of the citizens of Socorro. “

Once again, thank you for attending and welcome to NM Tech, Socorro and the Middle Rio Grande Valley.

Save Our Bosque Task Force Summary

To set the stage I want to bring you up to speed on what the Save our Bosque task force is working on now.

1 – We continue to work on the Socorro Nature Area, Escondida Lake and the 17 riverine parks

2 - We continue to coordinate Bosque Conservation Day- where 5th graders from the local schools visit the nature area and hear 20 minute bosque related programs from resource professionals.

3- We hold Bosque Trash Pickup days in the spring and fall of each year,

- 4- We continue to work with Doris Rhodes on the Rhodes Property restoration project,
- 5- We act as fiscal agent between landowners and the US F & W S Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program to restore private lands,
- 6- We work with BOR, Corps of Engineers, and MRGCD on bosque access issues.
- 7- We look for additional funds to treat and maintain past restoration projects and add to already completed areas.
- 8- We have a strong partnership with Socorro County , assisting the county in securing the award of over \$1.5 million grant from NM DHS/FEMA for WUI , fuelbreaks and defensible space projects.
- 9- We are developing a 5 year plan for future work
- 10 - We are developing a long term fundraising program (example is the Armendaris Ranch Bat Cave raffle this past summer)
- 11 – We are continuing our community outreach program – such as this meeting as well as a public meeting later in the spring.

NMSF Status

Ribbon work

- Completed 130 acres of “ the ribbon” between the North Flood Control and Brown Arroyo.
- Just received word of another \$40,000 allocation to continue this work between the Flood Control and Escondida Lake and then start working south from Brown Arroyo.
- Continue to issue fuel wood permits for dead and down salt cedar and russian olive, issue on an average of 250 permits between September and April each year.
- Support the other projects mentioned early in the day.

