



THE TAOS NEWS

Best U.S. Weekly Paper- NNA 2007, 2008, 2010
Inland Press Nation's Best Weekly Newspaper 2009

Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area plan approved

The Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior has approved the management plan for Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area.

The approval makes the heritage area eligible to receive a large increase in federal funds, up to \$300,000 each year through the National Park Service.

The funds will be used to sustain the cultural traditions, landscapes, environment, languages and architecture of the heritage area, which includes Taos, Rio Arriba and Santa Fe counties.

Founding member and former Heritage Area director José Villa stated, "patience and persistence are virtues...the hard work is before the board to get re-acquainted with our heritage so our kids understand and take pride in who they are. It's important to the Hispano and Indio character."

Board President and Taos tribal member Vernon Lujan said in a prepared statement, "This plan sets the course for the NRGNHA for implementing cultural preservation, educational outreach and fundraising programs that will benefit our communities. The Board is comprised of community members who live, work and hold fast to the enduring cultural and heritage traditions that makes the Northern Rio Grande area so unique, which is why it was designated by Congress."

—*Staff Report*