

# The LANL Trails Management Program & Trails Working Group - A Path Forward

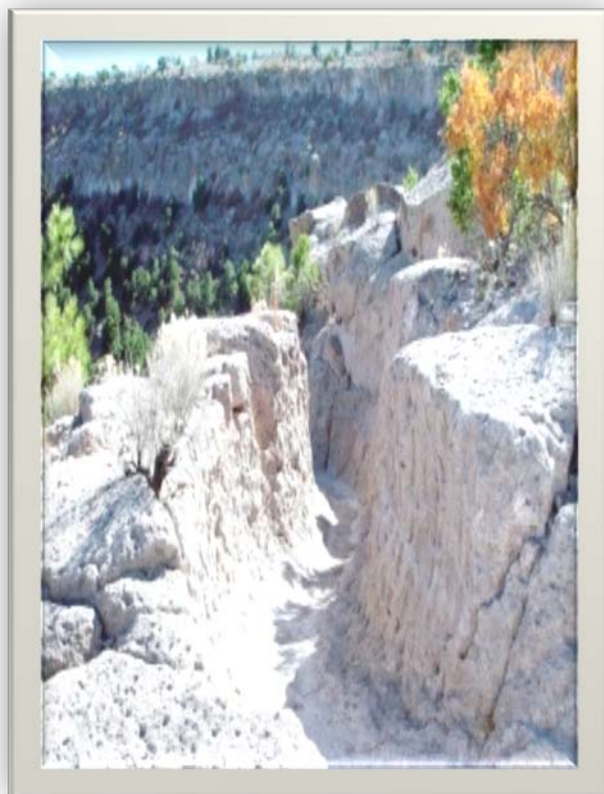


In December 2003, the LANL Trails Working Group was established to inventory, map, and prepare historical reports on the many trails used at LANL. Some of these are ancient ancestral pueblo footpaths that continue to be used for recreational hiking today. The Trails Working Group consists of representatives from local citizen hiking groups, Los Alamos County, Forest Service, Park Service, Los Alamos National Laboratory and the NNSA Los Alamos Site Office.

The Trails Working Group carries out the Trails Management Program which was a requirement stipulated in an NNSA environmental assessment completed in 2003. The Program addresses various issues related to hiking on Laboratory property. Through this program, an active needs assessment was completed on how to manage foot traffic, control looting and vandalism, protect the scientific value of sites near trails, and provide the proper respect for sites that are sacred to local pueblos.

The Trails Management Program has conducted trails assessments that consider Laboratory operations and security needs, and trail use needs and conditions. Some trails have been closed or rerouted. For example, LANL closed the popular Mortandad Cave Kiva Trail in December 2005.

An agreement between LANS and a local trails group has allowed for volunteers to provide much-needed maintenance of the Hidden Canyon Trail in Los Alamos Canyon. In October 2008, local Boy Scouts and volunteers rerouted a trail away from cultural sites near White Rock. Future work calls for more realignments, maintenance, signs at trailheads, and on-going stakeholder coordination.



*On the Camp Hamilton Trail*

**For more information about the LANL Trails Management Program go to [http://www.lanl.gov/environment/outreach/working\\_groups/tawg.shtml](http://www.lanl.gov/environment/outreach/working_groups/tawg.shtml) or contact Dan Pava at 667-7360 [dpava@lanl.gov](mailto:dpava@lanl.gov).**

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