

ABOUT THE TULAROSA BASIN CONFERENCE SERIES

This volume is a compilation of conference papers that were submitted by participants of the 6th Tularosa Basin Conference held in Ruidoso in 2022. In a small way, this volume presents an incomplete record of history, archaeology, iconography, geology, and botany from the Tularosa Basin, its surrounding areas, and related broader regions. The broad subject matter presented reflects an equally diverse collection of authors, exemplifying the over-arching objectives of the Tularosa Basin Conference, promoting research of the cultural, historical and natural resources found in this broad region known as the northern Chihuahuan Desert. Although the conferences included far more presentations on even more diverse subjects than those assembled within these pages, this volume provides a cumulative effort by those authors who desired to have their presentations reproduced for greater dissemination. We are grateful to those who participated in the conferences, as authors and audience, and to those who prepared final papers that are reproduced herein.

The concept of the Tularosa Basin Conference was borne (and remains) an opportunity to engage the public. This concept was founded on two main themes. First, it was our desire to give back to the public, who often express an interest in the type of studies we conduct. Many of these studies are funded either in part or entirely by public funds. With increased awareness of the research conducted by private organizations such as Jornada Research Institute, private funding and support is enabling researchers to undertake important investigative studies that had not previously found funding. Our objective was to make sure that those who supported our research, either knowingly or unknowingly, had an opportunity to interact first-hand with and learn from those conducting the research. Second, we considered the conference a great opportunity to solicit presentations and papers from members of the local community. As professionals, we were interested in hearing about historical events from those who knew of them first-hand. To this end, over the years the concept has been successful, attracting several presenters from the communities of Tularosa, Alamogordo and adjacent areas around the Tularosa Basin. During this conference, we were fortunate to have various individuals from the Ruidoso area present on a wide range of topics.

We did not consider that the conference would be an annual event. Rather, the organizers considered that it would be a conference that would be organized when time allowed or opportunity presented itself, and when we could muster enough support from the community to make it possible. To this end, we thank the communities of southern New Mexico, those community businesses who supported our efforts financially and through services, and, importantly, the various cultural resource management firms who provide their services in the Tularosa Basin and adjacent areas of New Mexico and west Texas for the generous financial support of the conference. The intent from the beginning was to publish the collected papers, an objective that was found to be more difficult to accomplish than anticipated. This volume of collected papers, generated generously by presenters, has been compiled, edited and formatted with great attention, and prepared in a manner that provides sound research from which both professionals and the public can benefit. Jornada Research Institute took up the efforts to cover the costs to produce these volumes beginning with Volume 2 in the series and has become a major sponsor of the conference. Proceeds from the sale of these manuscripts are used to cover printing costs; should interest and demand prove high, Jornada Research benefits from receipts that exceed production costs, all the while supplying the time and effort in support of the goals of the 501-c-3 not-for-profit education and research organization and those who graciously give to make these volumes a reality.

The Tularosa Basin and the northern Chihuahua Desert serve as the focus for research presentations and publishable papers on a wide variety of topics — history, archaeology, anthropology, ethnography, iconography, symbolism and expressionism, biology, geology and geomorphology, hydrology, and flora and fauna. The production of this volume and the success of the Tularosa Basin Conference require credit to so many — presenters, participants, attendees, volunteers, those who submitted papers, and editing and

production. At this point I wish to thank Alex Kurota and Ron Barber for their help in editing various papers and to Nancy Hewitt for spending long hours editing the draft of this volume. Nancy and I are responsible for any editorial errors, and we apologize for any we have missed or created.

The statements and interpretations presented in the individual papers are those of the author or authors, and do not necessarily reflect the opinions or concepts of the volume editors, Jornada Research Institute, its Board Members, its Research Associates, or Individual Members. We have attempted to correct editorial problems and format individual papers into a similar presentation, but have not attempted to modify content. This collection of papers closely represents those submitted to us.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The production of this collection of papers has resulted from the efforts of many and through the support of the following sponsoring organizations: Boone Archaeological Resource Consultants, LLC, Roswell; Tres Amigos Realty, El Paso; Statistical Research Inc., Albuquerque; Parametrix, Albuquerque; Office of Contract Archeology, University of New Mexico; Tierra, Tucson and Albuquerque; TRC, Albuquerque; Versar, El Paso; Ruidoso Land Surveyors, Ruidoso; DMG Four Corners Research, Inc., Las Cruces; First National Bank of Alamogordo; the Ruidoso Valley Chamber of Commerce; and the Village of Ruidoso. Numerous volunteers helped with the conference set up and clean up. Advertising on the website was made possible by Jeff Hanson. Dawn Greenwald and Laura Perry oversaw registration, a thankless job, but we thank them for committing to the task. Great appreciation is extended to all those who volunteered in support of the conference and those who generously gave of themselves to prepare this document through your purchase of this volume, acknowledgment of the conference sponsors, and continued support of the conference and its objectives.

As with our objectives of “educating and engaging the public” through bringing the public together with the professional community to share and exchange information, I wish to acknowledge each presenter at the conference and each attendee. Without you we would not have achieved a successful outcome. Heartfelt thanks is extended to everyone who contributed and participated, and my apologies to anyone I may have overlooked.

David H. Greenwald
Conference Chairperson

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