

Walk in the Past, Trail #616

Walk in the Past, Trail #616, was initiated in 2010 with the primary purpose of improving access to the historical Tularosa Ranger Station and petroglyphs along the Tularosa River in the Cruzville area. The resources have been visited by the public for years; however the recreational use remained undefined and unmanaged. The project offered new recreational opportunities to the public and structured the ongoing use with strong resource protection messages.



The Gila National Forest North Zone Trail Crew developed the trail and Youth Conservation Corp (YCC) has maintained it. On this project, the New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors contributed about 600 hours over two years. They were critical in helping get this project done and making trails better for everyone.



The moderate three mile roundtrip trail is designed and managed to accommodate day hikers. A footbridge was installed in 2013 to protect the Tularosa River. Motor vehicle use will be prohibited.

In July 2014, Reserve Ranger District employees participated in a workday at the Walk in the Past trailhead. A self-closing gate at the one pasture fence crossing was installed, wayfaring signs were put up, and a fenced parking lot constructed with accessible parking. A picnic table is located near the parking lot at the entrance to the trail.



Later in the summer an informational kiosk was installed and interpretive signs were put up at three different locations. These interpretive signs are utilized to provide educational information about the



1905 Tularosa Ranger Station, the petroglyphs and wildlife of the area. A log is available to record visitor use, and the New Mexico Site Watch Program will monitor the trail.

Funding for the project has been largely through the Secure Rural Schools Act which authorizes the use of Resource Advisory Committees (RAC) as a mechanism for local community collaboration with federal land managers.

The Reserve Ranger District will have a formal opening of the Walk in the Past Trail in spring 2015. More information will be available about the event in coming months. Please join us!

