

**From:** "Torres, Tami M" <[REDACTED]>  
**Date:** March 1, 2012 10:23:45 AM MST  
**To:** Linda Fluk <[REDACTED]>  
**Subject:** RE: Thank you for managing the Nambe area land

Hi Linda

Could I call you on the phone so I can explain the planning process for BLM?

We did not authorized trail maintenance or construction of trails in this area. They have already been told to stop. We were however, trying to work with the groups and use volunteer services in the future.

Tami  
[REDACTED]

**From:** Linda Fluk [mailto:[REDACTED]]  
**Sent:** Thursday, March 01, 2012 8:18 AM  
**To:** Torres, Tami M  
**Subject:** Thank you for managing the Nambe area land

Dear Tami,

I appreciate that the BLM is actively managing the Nambe area land (to the west and east of CR 503). This is a beautiful but fragile badland area and home to many species. I am very glad to hear that you are working on a NEPA assessment for the area. In the past my husband and I have worked with Susan Havener, mapping the existing trails in the vicinity. As a mountain biker, geologist, conservationist, and a Nambe resident, I advocate maintaining the Nambe trails for sustainable use by hikers, runners, horseback riders, and bicyclists (and not by motorized vehicles).

I stress 'sustainable' because as a Professional Geologist, I know that the semi-arid ecosystem in the Nambe area is easily subjected to soil erosion, especially if trails are heavily used and if new trails are constructed at a high trail density. The dry ecosystem in the Nambe area is composed of easily scoured soils, including cryptogamic soils, and delicate desert blue grama and buffalo grasses and other fragile

biota. The cryptogamic organisms and desert biota help to stabilize the soil in the area, hold in moisture, and provide protection for growth of other plants. Heavy usage of this terrain will result in erosion and destruction of this fragile ecosystem. Unfortunately, even light usage encourages erosion. Summer monsoon runoff carves deep channels in the paths. I have noticed that the trails become deeply rutted over time and without repair, users cut adjacent paths encouraging further erosion. Much trail maintenance is required to ameliorate erosion. I have noticed how difficult it is to sustainably manage the Santa Fe regional valley trails. I am concerned that the Nambe BLM land is at risk of being developed, in a non-sustainable manner, as a 'playground' recreational area. The Santa Fe Fat Tire Society (SFFTS) has reported on Facebook that they have been working with Mark at BLM (I do not know Mark's last name), and they have constructed multiple new trails in Nambe on the west side of CR 503. In fact, I have heard that the SFFTS has done so much trail building in the last month that Mark requested they discontinue developing new trails until he has had time to review the construction. The SFFTS has plans for constructing more challenging trails (steeper terrain) for the more serious mountain bikers. In anticipation that the Nambe trails will be used by a lot of mountain bikers, SFFTS is working with the REI grant program to place signs at the gate(s) along CR 503.

The bottom line is that the semi-arid ecosystem in the Nambe area cannot sustain this type of development and heavy usage. The number of mountain bikers will increase with the increased number of trails (and official signs designating the area as a mountain bike and multiuse area). In addition, even if all users were to stay on designated trails, the planned usage is too high. I have seen that some mountain bikers have not stayed on the 'historical' trails. And the way that some of the new trails have been developed (with close switchbacks), it will be easy (and tempting for some) to cut across the trails and ride off-trail. This will result

in further damage to the fragile terrain.

It is extremely difficult to find dedicated volunteers to maintain the trails. Typically a few dedicated local residents carry out the hard trail repair work. Increasing the trail mileage without a trail maintenance plan is not wise.

I am requesting that BLM halt construction and development of new trails in the Nambe area until a full environmental assessment is completed and the results carefully considered. And please do not allow designated and official mountain bike races to be run on the Nambe BLM land.

I would also appreciate if you would include me in the Environmental Assessment process for the Nambe area so I may have the opportunity to provide review and/or comments.

Thank you very much for your consideration, and I truly appreciate your diligent work.

Sincerely,

Linda Fluk, PG, CPG