

July 29, 2010

FORT LEWIS COLLEGE UPDATE AND KEY POINTS OF DRAFT PLAN FOR OLD FORT FIELD STATION

CURRENT FORT LEWIS COLLEGE USES

Academic - Agriculture, Archaeology, Biology, Geosciences, Physics/Astronomy
Student Organizations – Buffalo Council, Pejuta Society, Environmental Center

OLD FORT LEWIS TASK FORCE AND DRAFT PLAN

Established by President Bartel to develop a vision and management plan for the Old Fort/Hesperus Trust property.

Draft plan has been prepared. A review and discussion of the draft plan will be undertaken this fall involving the college, community at large and State Land Board.

VISION FOR THE PROPERTY

Develop an interdisciplinary field station for education, research, and community partnerships in sustainable agriculture, cultural, natural and physical resources.

Guiding Principles:

- The Hesperus Trust will be used as a field station model for advancing the mission of Fort Lewis College through **hands on** education, research and community service.
- The field station will be **financially self sustaining** and generate revenue through agricultural production and a variety of public and private business leases, user fees, community partnerships and grants.

EXAMPLES OF GOALS AND OBJECTIVES IDENTIFIED BY FLC ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS

Agriculture

- Develop a sustainable agriculture resource center.
- Partner with tribes and ethno/botany faculty to preserve and cultivate native indigenous foods and plants.
- Combine animal husbandry, horticulture, biological and ecology practices to create a sustainable system.
- Construct a commercial kitchen as part of library renovation for student value-added food processing and revenue production through rental and user fees.

Cultural Resources

- College has designated Mona Charles as Old Fort Lewis archaeologist
- Continue use as base for college's archaeological field school.
- Provide professional development for career archaeologists and applied research.
- Continue survey and research of entire property.
- Protect resources through education and management of the property.
- Work toward listing on the National Historic Register.

Biology

- Maintain and enhance wildlife and vegetation through faculty and student inventories and mapping.

- Provide hands-on learning opportunities for forensic studies, ornithology, field ecology, zoology and senior seminar/research.
- Develop interpretive trails that provide wildlife and native plant educational opportunities.
- Preserve and enhance the riparian corridor.

Physics and Astronomy

- Continue to provide hands-on use of observatory for physics majors and non-majors.
- Enhance use by non-college groups that include K-12 public school groups, summer science camps for minority students, Dine/Navajo Nation College, and San Juan College.

COMMUNITY USES – If supported by State Land Board, intent to continue use by appropriate community groups. When feasible, these groups should pay rents or fees or provide in-kind services to help with property maintenance.

- Fort Lewis Mesa Fire District Station
- Mesa Verde Interagency Helitack Fire Operation
- Southwest Conservation Corp Crew field programs
- Four Corners Draft Horse and Mule Association
- 4-H and Boy Scout events
- La Plata County Search and Rescue Canine Team training
- Elementary and Durango Nature Studies field trips

FORT LEWIS COLLEGE SUPPORTS LEASES WITH OTHER PARTIES IF

- Uses are compatible with the mission of Fort Lewis College.
- Resource stewardship will be achieved.
- Student and faculty access is allowed on pre-arranged basis for education and research.
- Revenue is generated for the benefit of Fort Lewis College.

UPDATE ON RECENT AND PENDING ACTIONS

- The Ute Mtn. Ute Farm and Ranch Enterprise has a short-term grazing lease through this fall for 200 cattle with the State Land Board.
- SW Conservation Corps is trading space for labor. Their lease includes one house, garages for equipment and work space in the shop. In-kind labor is being provided for fencing, grounds and building maintenance.
- The Colorado State Forest Service is managing a small timber and firewood sale this summer/fall.
- The State Land Board will issue a temporary access permit to FLC through December 2010.
- Longer term FLC lease will be negotiated this fall/early winter.
- FLC has hired Dan Selzer, CSU employee for last several years, to serve as farm manager and caretaker.
- FLC has negotiated a lease with an option to purchase farm and equipment from CSU to continue supporting academic programs and maintain property.
- The FLC Agriculture Department has a ¼ acre market and research garden. A small herd of cattle has been acquired from CSU to continue animal husbandry instruction.
- FLC will continue to use their water rights to support agriculture production for education and revenue generating purposes.

FORT LEWIS COLLEGE CENTENNIAL in 2011

- Fort Lewis as a state school started on this property in 1911.
- We will be celebrating our heritage and using our lessons from history to enhance Fort Lewis College's future.

