

Building Trust in Unlikely Places

LANL Natural Resource Damage
Assessment Trustee Council

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What is NRDA?

Natural Resources Damage Assessment Act

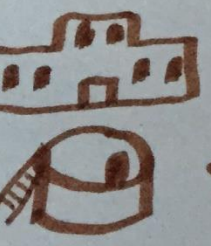
- ▶ Natural resource = land, water, wildlife, air, cultural sites, etc. owned or managed by govt, including tribes
- ▶ Part of Superfund Act, following clean up
- ▶ Requires:
 - restoration of natural resources to pre-contamination condition
 - OR replacement of natural resources
 - OR compensation for natural resources



Los Alamos Nat'l Labs

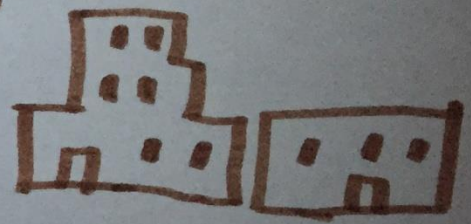
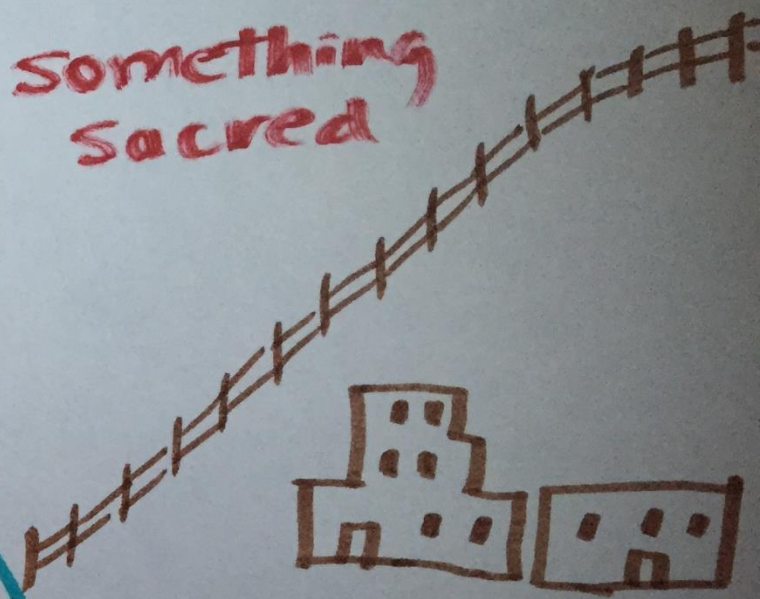


Fields



San Ildefonso Pueblo

Something Sacred

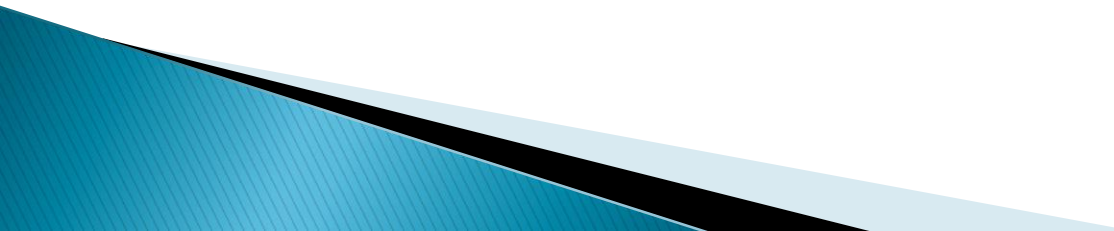


Santa Clara Pueblo

NRDA Trustee Council

- ▶ Restoration, replacement, or compensation determined by a trustee council
- ▶ LANL Trustee Council:
 - Federal land mgmt reps (DOE, LANL, FS)
 - State land mgmt reps (NM NR Trustee)
 - Tribes (Santa Clara, San Ildefonso, Jemez, Cochiti)

Process


- ▶ First phase: Assessment
 - 6 years
 - Data search; determine injury
 - ▶ Second phase: Restoration (or.....)
 - 3 years?
 - Negotiate projects, land purchase, other compensation
 - ▶ Contractor
 - ▶ Monthly meetings
- 

Challenges


Today:

- ▶ Complexity of data
- ▶ Turnover of members (non-tribal)
- ▶ Bureaucratic dynamics
- ▶ Sensitivity of pueblo data
- ▶ Intertribal conflicts

In the future:

- ▶ Competition among pueblos
 - ▶ Justice Dept approval
 - ▶ Funding
- 

What works?

- ▶ Relationships, trust built over years
 - ▶ Understand that everyone is at the table in a professional role; not responsible for situation
 - ▶ History is accepted, acknowledged and left in its place
 - ▶ Experts, data gatherers are contractors, hired by group
 - ▶ Facilitation of meetings
 - ▶ Rotate meeting locations
 - ▶ Eat lunch together
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