



JULIE CARTER/RUIDOSO NEWS

The NMSU Corona Range and Livestock Research Center is located east of Corona. The ranch is prime for the research being done to benefit the agricultural community but now the location will also become the center for rangeland sustainability research to benefit all land owners with information on technologies such as water and energy production and management practices for wildlife, brush and forages.

Halfway there and ready to build

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The Southwest Center for Rangeland Sustainability is no longer just a dream sketched out on a piece of scratch paper with a group of "advisors" throwing suggestions at the plan.

It is now a fully funded reality ready to see dirt moved, concrete poured and walls going up.

State legislatures have funded half of the necessary \$3 million for the total project, the bulk of that coming last year with \$1

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NMSU Southwest Center for Rangeland Sustainability
December, 2008



ing last year with \$1 million in capital outlay funding.

With the approval of the Board of Regents last summer, the project went to the architects for some serious drafting and crafting, resulting in finalized prints for Phase I of the project.

Endorsements for the project also came from Lt. Gov. Diane Denish, the New Mexico Farm Bureau, South Central Mountain RC&D, the New Mexico Cattle Growers, New Mexico NRCS/USDA, NMAZ Collalition of counties and others.

The Southwest Center for Rangeland Sustainability project is a high-tech education, outreach, research and interdisciplinary demonstration center with the goal of revitalizing rural communities bounded by piñon/juniper rangelands.

The Corona Research Ranch's Advisory Committee met Jan. 6, at the ranch and were briefed about the progress made with the architectural work as well as the plans to request from the legislature the additional funding necessary to bring the project to completion.

Walking the requests through the legislative process are Advisory Committee members and Lincoln County ranchers Scott Shafer and Stirling Spencer. They presented the requests to the legisla-

tures on Jan. 3, in Ruidoso and will continue with the lobbying through the upcoming Legislative session in Santa Fe.

The facility that will see groundbreaking by fall will include a 4-5,000-square-foot main building with a meeting room/education hall with satellite and Internet capabilities, video conferencing and multiple screens. It will house a galley-style kitchen and dining area as well as a library, restrooms and small offices.

Separate pods will supply overnight accommodations for guests, students or faculty researchers. With the ranch remotely located away from motel accommodations, the facilities for staying over are a critical enhancement to the center.

A detached laboratory will offer a place for analytical procedures, sample handling and demonstrations.

The Corona Range and Livestock Research Center is a 27,886-acre working ranch laboratory. Land within sits at elevations ranging from 5,700-6,700 feet. NMSU's Animal and Range Sciences Department operate the research center where research programs and graduate student studies are a major part of the center's activities.

The ranch is unique from similar research cen-



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Shad Cox, manager of the Corona research facility, gives a report of the past year's operations to the Advisory Committee. Top photo is the architect's rendition of the building and the cover page for a packet of information sent to all the legislators last week.

ters as it is dependent on generating income from ranch operations to maintain and support itself.

For more information about the CRLRC ranch, contact Manger Shad Cox at 849-1015 or shadcox@nmsu.edu. The Web site for the ranch is <http://corona.nmsu.edu>.

Shafer can be contacted at 648-2377 and Spencer at 648-2814.