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First name: Shelley

Last name: Loveless

Organization:

Title:

Comments: Our home is actually in Taos Canyon, surrounded by the Kit Carson Forest and also Taos Pueblo land. Llamas are the ONLY animals allowed and encouraged to be used as trek animals on our public forest lands. It has been shown that not only do they leave a very small footprint on this beautiful forest land, but they provide many benefits. They can carry an approx. 60lb. load to enable hikers to neatly and effortlessly carry their items which encourages responsible use of our forest land. They have helped the forest service by carrying communication equipment into the mountainous areas in New Mexico and Colorado during forest fires. Llamas have been used in Search & Rescue missions when horses and four-wheelers can't do the job. Our local "Lunch with a Llama" hiking trips are a very popular tourist attraction that encourages the local economy, responsible use of our national forest, and safe, positive memories of an experience like none other, especially for city slickers!