



NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release:
May 27, 2003 ecr0527rel

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BLM Selects Associate Director for El Camino Real International Heritage Center

SOCORRO – The U.S. Bureau of Land Management has selected a public resources manager who has logged more than 50,000 miles in promoting cultural resources in New Mexico to be associate director to the new El Camino Real International Heritage Center, BLM-Socorro Field Manager Kate Padilla announced.

Most recently the program coordinator for the Museum of New Mexico's Van of Enchantment museum on wheels, Marcia deChadenèdes has demonstrated a passion for New Mexico's landscape, diversity and unique history. She has worked with public and private organizations, businesses and schools statewide to facilitate access to New Mexico's cultural resources.

She will represent the BLM in the partnership with New Mexico State Monuments to create a public interpretive center for *El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro* National Historic Trail. The facility, which the New Mexico legislature has designated as the trail's official interpretive center, is scheduled to open in the fall of 2004. Joy Poole is the Center's director.

A native of Colorado, deChadenèdes spent 20 years in the Pacific northwest before coming to New Mexico; "I wanted to wear out a pair of sunglasses," she claims. She also has worked with cultural nonprofit organizations to provide statewide access in Alaska, Washington and Oregon.

She holds a bachelor of science in political science from Colorado State University, a bachelor of fine arts from Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design in Vancouver, BC, and a masters in arts administration degree from the University of Oregon.

"We are fortunate to have deChadenèdes in this role. She already has the talent and relationships with New Mexican communities to facilitate exciting public programs," Padilla said.

The BLM will host a reception from 3-4 p.m. June 2nd at the BLM's Socorro field office to officially welcome deChadenèdes to the communities of El Camino Real.

The BLM, an agency of the U.S. Department of the Interior, manages about 13 million acres in New Mexico. The BLM's Socorro field office is responsible for about 1.5 million acres of that total in Socorro and Catron Counties.