

## **Green Mountain Project Description**

The Town of Taos is proposing to lease a site at Green Mountain in Colfax County, New Mexico, to install aircraft monitoring equipment related to improvement of the Taos Regional Airport. The aircraft monitoring equipment will enable the Town and the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to fulfill a commitment with Taos Pueblo to monitor the number and altitude of aircraft that fly over the Blue Lake Wilderness Area and the Taos Pueblo village. The equipment may also enable rescue crews to locate and respond more quickly to aircraft accidents in the area as there is no radar coverage due to the mountainous terrain. The FAA will be assisting the Town with the acquisition, installation and operation of the equipment with a federal grant under the Airport Improvement Program.

The commitment to install an aircraft monitoring system was made per the following agreement document: “Memorandum of Agreement [MOA] Among the Federal Aviation Administration, Taos Pueblo, the Town of Taos, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer[NMSHPO], the New Mexico Department of Transportation, Aviation Division [NMDOT], and the National Park Service Regarding Airport Layout Plan Revision Approval and Federal Funding Considerations at Taos Regional Airport, Taos, New Mexico.” The MOA was promulgated during the development of the environmental impact statement for a new crosswind runway at Taos Regional Airport. Stipulation IV of the MOA details the requirements for installation and operation of the passive monitoring equipment.

The Green Mountain project site comprises approximately 2 ½ acres located within a 7-acre area already in use as a telecommunications array; several large towers and associated equipment are already installed and functioning. The project site, located within the Colin Neblett Wildlife Management Area (managed by the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish), is reachable by means of the preexisting Green Mountain Summit Road, a bladed and maintained road that travels directly up the side of the mountain approximately 5.2 miles to reach the tower site.

The project contractor will install and maintain a Local Area Multilateration System (LAMS), consisting of four different types of sensor units mounted on short posts or towers. Power to operate the system will be provided by Kit Carson Electrical Coop. The utility pole is located as per the figure shown below. The sensor units will be connected to utilities by means of trenches, approximately 1 foot wide and **18 inches** deep. The trenches run directly from the 4 assembly points to each other (see Figure below) and to the utility pole. The equipment runs autonomously and can be monitored remotely. Periodic maintenance will occur once a year in the summer months.

