

Adams State University

Request to obtain approval for the use of human participants

Date: January 27, 2015

To: Dr. Robert Demski, ASU Institutional Review Board

From: Dr. Benjamin James Waddell

Subject: Request for IRB approval

Title: SLV Lifeways Research Project

- a) **Responsible Faculty Member:** Assistant Professor of Sociology Benjamin James Waddell, bwaddell@adams.edu. Others in contact with subjects include Pauline Victoria Martinez, ASU (3rd Year), Interdisciplinary studies, martinezpv@grizzlies.adams.edu, and students enrolled in Sociology 479: Field Studies in Sociology. (See list below.)
- a. Benjamin Waddell (PI): bwaddell@adams.edu; (719) 480-0479
 - b. Pauline Martinez (student researcher): martinezpv@grizzlies.adams.edu
 - c. Stefan Armenta (student): c.armentasg@grizzlies.adams.edu
 - d. Dariana Roybal (student): roybaldl@grizzlies.adams.edu
 - e. Isabella Whitten (student): e.whittenim@grizzlies.adams.edu
 - f. Christopher Quintana (videographer): f.quintanacj004@grizzlies.adams.edu
- b) **Objective of research:** The SLV Lifeways Research Project is an ethnographical study of the people in the San Luis Valley (SLV) and their connections to land, community, and culture. Specifically, the project looks to analyze changes in people-land connections overtime in the SLV. The project places specific emphasis on the particular meanings that inhabitants associate with living in the SLV.
- c) **Subjects of study:** The subjects of our research are to be adults over the age of 18. Subjects will be identified through existing research, local newspaper articles, key informants (such as former educators, other researchers, and local historians) as well as through individuals referenced by subjects participating in the project. Subjects will generally be residents of the SLV, those who seasonally work in the SLV, or individuals who live beyond the SLV and retain strong connections to the SLV. Subjects will not be remunerated for their participation in the study, and at no point will deception be used in this study.

Semi-directed interviews will be conducted on the ASU campus as well during site visits to communities in the SLV. In addition, researchers will engage in participate-observation, gathering indirect observations of community events, municipal proceedings, and online records of historical artifacts and other public information. Although interviews and access to public information may reveal private information, any identifiable aspects of that information will be held to the strictest confidentiality possible. In addition, express written consent from all participants will be obtained. (Please see attached form.) Finally, the information gathered during this research may be publically disseminated through both visual media (e.g., a short

documentary) and text (e.g., a qualitative report). In addition, interviews may be partially transcribed as a means of informing our final qualitative report.

Subjects may experience minimal disruption to their everyday lives by making time to be interviewed. However, such disruptions present minimal risk to participants. On average, interviews will take 1 hour to complete. Benefits of this ethnographic study may include an increased awareness of the people's connections to the SLV, and will add to the small list of research that has been conducted in the SLV. The underlying goal of this research is help scholars, local citizens, government officials, and the public to better understand the people of the San Luis Valley and their connections to the land, community, and culture. The research, which is generously supported by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Title V, will inform our community on the unique relationship between land, natural resources, and culture in the SLV.

- d) **Measurements:** Researchers will use both traditional participant-observation and ethnographic field research to gather information on individuals, groups, organizations, and social artifacts of interest. Semi-directed interviews will be conducted in the field. The content of these interviews will shift depending on the individual and their particular relationship to the larger project. Providing consent, subjects may be audio and video recorded. (Please see the attached consent form.)
- e) **Methods:** Audio and video equipment, in addition to ethnographic notes, will be used to record interviews. Social artifacts and cultural areas, monuments, and historic buildings may be photographed. Some indirect observations will be conducted and logged in a field research journal.
- f) **Protection Measures:** Information gathered during interviews, as well as any subsequent interviews, will be digitally encrypted as a means of protecting the privacy of participants. In addition, data will be stored under lock and key in the principal investigator's office located on Adams State University's campus. Participants will be allowed to view/read any resulting products from this project prior to the public dissemination of material.
- g) **Consent:** Please see consent form. (Attached.)
- h) **Changes:** Any changes to the research will be brought to the attention of the IRB. Any additional paperwork that is required by IRB will be promptly filled out.
- i) **Stages of research:**
 - Stage I (Fall 2014): The first stage of research is focuses on conducting appropriate background research, including reviewing academic articles, books, and information logged on the Internet. The goal of this phase of research is to identify social artifacts of historical significance.
 - Stage II (Fall 2014/Spring 2015): In the second stage researchers will engage in field observations of community events and municipal proceedings. Pilot interviews, designed to refine interview procedures using students and/or fully consenting subjects interested in

participating in the project at their own volition, will be conducted as an official component of Dr. Waddell's Field Studies in Sociology.

- Stage III (Spring/Fall 2015): The third stage of research focuses on conducting interviews with subjects that have been identified during the first two stages of research. Researchers intend on commencing fieldwork on February 11th with a field visit to Antonito, Colorado.
- Stage IV (Spring 2016): The fourth stage of research will focus on drafting an ethnographic report that details the project's core findings. The final report will include both visual and written elements. Researchers will house the final report in the Neilson Library, at which point the results of the study will be made available for public consumption.