

Dear Fellow Member,

Happy New Year! The dawn of 1987 is occurring and so is a very critical time for many of our valuable fish and wildlife species. The doe deer, cow elk, ewe bighorn, and doe antelope are all carrying young. Soon, hundreds of bird species will begin to arrive in New Mexico's riparian, wetland, and upland habitats. Many of those birds are coming here to breed. The rainbow and cutthroat trout will soon become active after the long winter. They will soon begin to move into the spawning areas to begin their annual breeding cycle. The young fry of the brown and brook trout spawned last fall will begin to emerge into our streams.

Will there be plenty of nutritious forage for the pregnant deer, elk, bighorn, and antelope and their soon to be born young? Will the arriving birds find the old nesting tree, shrub, snag cavity, or ledge intact? Will the trout find their favorite gravel beds, on which many generations have spawned? Will they? Or will the forage be sparse, and of poor quality due to over use and abuse. Will the young fawns and calves be born only to starve along with many of their parents? Will the birds find a parking lot, racetrack or new housing development located where their favorite nest site used to be?

Lets hope these animals, old and young alike, find 1987 a year of plenty. Let them arrive at their destinations to find things better than they left them in 1986.

The most important question we should be asking is what have we done to help or hinder? Did we observe all the rules and regulations that support good wildlife management while we were afield in 1986? Did we take the time to talk to (educate) the less informed sportsmen we observed in 1986? Did we stop to pick up that bag of trash, paper, beer can, pile of spent shells, and other artifacts left behind by some neanderthal before us? Did we write our local, state, and federal leaders and let them know when we agreed or disagreed with a particular wildlife resource issue? Sure we did! We're all paid members of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation!

Please come to the February 12, 1987 meeting and enjoy the program. See some old friends and meet some new ones. Look around you and pick out someone you know, relative or otherwise, that is a hunter, birdwatcher, conservationist, fisherman, etc. bring him or her with you. We need YOU and them to make our organization fun, exciting, and effective in benefiting the wildlife resources of New Mexico.

I'll be looking forward to seeing and hearing from you, and your new member in February. See you there.

Sincerely,



Charles Ault
(Your new) President
Albuquerque Wildlife
Federation

ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION NEWS

ICE FISHING TALK FEB. 12

87

Date: Thursday, Feb. 12

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Gardenswartz Sportz
2720 San Mateo NE (north of Menaul)

Don Delorenzo, Santa Fe National Forest wildlife biologist, will tell us where and how to go ice fishing in New Mexico. Don will show ice fishing equipment and compare fishing conditions in frozen northern New Mexico lakes.

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GAME DEPARTMENT REORGANIZATION BEFORE LEGISLATURE

Critical wildlife issues, including a controversial plan to reorganize the New Mexico Game and Fish Department, may be decided by the New Mexico Legislature in its current session ending in March. Sportsmen are worried that the Carruthers administration's proposal to make the the department director answer to the Secretary of Natural Resources---and through him to the governor---will inject politics into wildlife management decisions.

Other potential legislation with major impacts on wildlife include:

* A wildlife depredation law to pay ranchers and farmers for damages caused by deer, elk, coyotes and other wildlife from hunting and fishing license fees.

* An instream flow bill (HB 64), introduced by House Appropriations Committee Chairman Max Coll, to make keeping water flowing down New Mexico rivers and streams to support fish and wildlife a beneficial use under state water law.

* A measure to delist the mountain lion as a game species.

* Possibly, legislation to prohibit the Game and Fish Department from supporting reintroduction of the Mexican wolf to New Mexico.

The Albuquerque federation will be discussing these issues during the monthly business meeting at 6:30 p.m. Feb. 12, before the general meeting. All interested sportsmen and wildlife enthusiasts are welcome to take part.

* * * * *

INSTREAM FLOW HEARING FEB. 11

The House Judiciary Committee will be holding a hearing on Coll's instream flow legislation (HB 64) at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 11 in the State Capitol in Santa Fe. Hunters and fishermen who would like to see a portion of New Mexico's water reserved for wildlife will be attending.

Prior to the hearing, federation members can voice their opinions to key Judiciary Committee members who will vote on the legislation. House members can be reached at the Capitol by calling (1) 984-9300:

Committee members from Albuquerque include Rep. Stuart Hill (ext. 658) and Rep. Ray Vargas (ext 461).

Other key committee members include Chairman Tommy Foy of Silver City (ext. 426), Rep. Gary King of Santa Fe County (ext. 490), Toots Green of Alamogordo (ext. 658), and Richard Knowles of Roswell, a co-sponsor of the bill. Friends from those cities could be asked to call them.

THE WILDLIFE FEDERATION! WHICH ONE?

The question of how the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation is tied to the state and national organizations was put to me the other day. Since others may also have that question, I thought a brief outline of the relationships might be worth some space in this newsletter.

The Albuquerque Wildlife Federation is a non-profit educational organization, incorporated in the State of New Mexico. The New Mexico Wildlife Federation is similarly incorporated. AWF is an affiliate to NMWF. Under the conditions of affiliation, dues of \$5 are paid to NMWF for each adult member, except for those who also are life members of NMWF.

NMWF also has individual members who pay a membership fee of \$15 and life members. Both of these classes of members, and members through the affiliate clubs, can participate in the annual meeting, and be elected as officers or members of the NMWF Board of Directors. Members receive the Outdoor Reporter, the state federation's monthly newspaper.

NMWF is an affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation. Each of the fifty states, Guam, Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico have an affiliate organization. Affiliates are required to meet certain standards for affiliation; the constitution, bylaws, election of officers are among the criteria evaluated. Affiliate delegates set policy for NWF at the annual meeting through resolutions. Resolutions are submitted by the affiliate representatives or the NWF staff. Officers and Directors are elected by the delegates at the annual meeting.

NWF also has life members and associate members. These are non-voting memberships. These members do receive copies of the National Wildlife magazine. The life member also receives copies of the International Wildlife magazine.

Dave Weingarten

FUTURE PROGRAMS

Bill Zeedyke and Cliff Mendel, program chairmen, are hard at work lining up future programs for meetings. Tentative plans include a program on acid rain for March, following the clean air theme for National Wildlife Week. Other possibilities include programs on wild turkeys in April and trout fishing in May. Meetings are scheduled March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11.

GAME DEPARTMENT APPLICATION DEADLINES

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| Spring turkey hunt permits | Feb. 18 |
| Bighorn sheep and bear entry permits | April 15 |

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ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION NEWS

ACID RAIN IN THE PECOS

Date: Thursday, March 12 1987

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Gardenswartz Sportz
2720 San Mateo NE (north of Menaul)

Tom Lynch, chairman of the New Mexico Tech biology department in Socorro, will outline the effects of acid rain on lakes in the Pecos Wilderness. Lynch has been conducting studies the last couple of years on how sensitive our lakes and mountain streams are to acid precipitation.

The National Wildlife Federation has made clean air the theme for National Wildlife Weeks, March 15-21, the week following our meeting. The talk will illustrate how air pollution may be degrading mountain lakes and streams-- and the wildlife that depend on them.

* * * * *
ALBUQUERQUE BOARD MEETING MARCH 9

The Albuquerque Wildlife Federation board will meet Monday, March 9, three days before the general meeting.

Time: 7-8:30 p.m.

Place: Gardenswartz Sports, 2720 San Mateo NE

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OPEN LETTER FROM AWF PRESIDENT

To: The Membership

From: Your President

Many thanks are in order for jobs well done leading up to our February meeting. First, to Tony Romero for actions above and beyond the call of duty; to Bill Zeedyk and Cliff Mendel for the great program; to Mr. Don DeLorenzo for his excellent presentation; to Mr. Tom Dougherty for his informative discussion; to Tom Arrandale for 1987's first newsletter; to Dave Weingarten for his comprehensive analysis of the reorganization bill; and finally to all the board and committees for getting us off to a good start for 1987.

A couple of things have occurred since our last meeting. First of all, the House Judiciary Committee unanimously passed (10-0) House Bill 64, which will provide legal protection for maintenance of instream uses of water rights to maintain fish and wildlife; second, Governor Carruthers withdrew his proposed merger of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish with the larger, more political bureaucracy in Santa Fe. Chalk one up for New Mexico's Wildlife!! Suffice it to say our feelings on these matters were made known.

Please don't forget to bring at least one new member with you to the March 12 meeting! We need to grow in proportion to the rapid growth of the problems facing our wildlife resources.

C.J. Ault

Editor's Note: AWF President Charlie Ault was a guest of former Gov. David Cargo for a March 3 radio talk-show discussion of New Mexico wildlife issues. Through such efforts by Charlie and the rest of us, AWF can be a force that will build public support in our state for improving wildlife habitat.

GAME PRIVATIZATION BILL PROPOSED

State senators from Carlsbad and Socorro have introduced legislation (SB 529) that could give ranchers control over all wildlife, on public as well as private lands.

As proposed, the bill would authorize the New Mexico Game and Fish Commission to grant any landowner or combination of landowners a license to operate a "wildlife management area"---including federal and state as well as private lands. The license-holders then could control hunting and manage game populations in that area, essentially without supervision by the N.M. Game and Fish Department or public land managers. "Any area licensed pursuant to the Wildlife on Private Lands Act shall not be available for use by the general public without the consent of the landowner," the bill reads.

AWF President Charlie Ault says SB 529 would take New Mexico's wildlife resources "out of the hands of the citizens, and out of the hands of their public land managers, both federal and state, and put them into the hands of private landowners totally." Lobbyists for environmental groups in the Legislature say the bill stands a good chance of passing.

S 529 has been referred to the Senate Conservation Committee and the Senate Judiciary Committee. Conservation Committee members from Bernalillo County are Michael Alarid and Tom Benavidez. Bernalillo County senators on Judiciary include Chairman John A. Budagher, Manny Aragon, and Ken Kamerman. All can be reached at the State Capitol number (1) 984-9300.

BOB JONES CONFIRMATION HEARING

Controversy continues to build over the nomination of former New Mexico Cattle Growers President Bob Jones to the New Mexico Game and Fish Commission. The Senate Rules Committee will hold a hearing on Jones' nomination on Thursday March 12. The hearing will be held in the Senate chamber that afternoon, an hour after the Senate adjourns.

AWF is neither opposing nor supporting Jones' nomination. But President Charlie Ault encourages members to attend the hearing to voice their opinions as individuals.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 14: Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation Banquet. Hilton Inn 5 p.m. \$47.50 couple, \$30 individual. Proceeds will finance elk winter range habitat improvement at San Antonio Mountain in Carson National Forest. Contact Bob Nordstrum at 294-8947.

March 18 and 25: Duke City Bass Bums Bass Fishing Clinic. VFW Hall, 4510 Lomas NE, 7 p.m. \$3 donation. Proceeds will finance a New Mexico Boys Ranch fishing outing.

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ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION NEWS

May 1987

"TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA" WORK PROJECTS

With summer approaching, federal and state wildlife managers are seeking volunteers for work projects to improve New Mexico's wildlife habitat under the U. S. government's Take Pride in America campaign.

U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and New Mexico Game and Fish Department officials will outline planned work projects at the AWF's May meeting. A slide show will present the program's objectives.

Work projects will be explained for the Cibola, Carson and Santa Fe National Forests and for Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, as well as Game and Fish Department and possibly U.S. Bureau of Land Management lands. Representatives from other conservation groups will be invited to attend.

Date: May 14

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: New Mexico Game and Fish Department
3700 Osuna NE (west of I-25 on south side of Osuna)
Suite 611 (watch for AWF signs)

Board Meeting Monday, May 11, 7 p.m. at Gardenswartz Sportz
2720 San Mateo NE

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VALLE VIDAL WORK PROJECT SET FOR JULY

Dates: July 16, 17, 18, and 19.

Contact: Joe Padilla, 831-2114

For the last three years, members of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation and friends have volunteered their hard work for projects to help wildlife.

Again, we have been asked to contribute our labor for a good cause. July will be here before you know it, so plan on spending a few days in the beautiful Valle Vidal unit of Carson National Forest.

Contact Joe if you wish to come and lend a hand. He will be able to give you more information about this and other work projects.

CRAWDADDY BOIL IN AUGUST

The Albuquerque Wildlife Federation's annual Crawdaddy Boil once again will be held at Bluewater Lake west of Grants.

The most likely dates will be Aug. 15-16.

AWF FUND-RAISING RAFFLE

AWF President Charlie Ault has scheduled a fund-raising raffle for the June 11 meeting with a \$90 White Stag sleeping bag, \$80 lightweight aluminum tree stand, and elkhorn jewelry as prizes.

Tickets will be sold for 75 cents each. AWF members are asked to pick some up at the May 14 meeting for selling to friends and neighbors.

The drawing will be held at the June meeting. Tickets should be turned in to a board member before the June 8 board meeting.

GAME DEPARTMENT APPLICATION DEADLINES

| | |
|--------|---|
| May 13 | Elk permits |
| June 3 | Antelope permits and deer entry permits |
| July 1 | Barbary sheep permits |

MOUNTAIN LION STUDY

Kenny Logan, a Wildlife Research Institute biologist, will discuss the future of the mountain lion in New Mexico at the May 18 meeting of the Sierra Club's Albuquerque group.

Logan currently is conducting a ten-year study of mountain lion population dynamics and predator-prey relationships in the San Andres Mountains on White Sands Missile Range. The New Mexico Game and Fish Department is financing the study from share-with-wildlife funds.

The meeting will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Monday, May 18, in Room 1211 of the UNM Law School.

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ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION NEWS

FISHING NEW MEXICO HOT SPOTS

Author and fisherman Ti Piper, from New Mexico Trout, will tell where and when to go fishing in New Mexico.

Piper currently is wrapping up a book on fishing in the state. A short film on fishing will also be shown.

Date: Thursday, June 11
7p.m.

New Mexico Game and Fish Department
3700 Osuna Rd. NE (north of I-25)

Board meeting Monday June 8, 7 p.m. Gardenswartz Sportz, 2720 San Mateo NE

* * * * *

MOUNTAIN LION CONTROVERSY HEATS UP

The Albuquerque Wildlife Federation will discuss joining other groups in challenging the New Mexico Game and Fish Commission's decision to extend "preventive" mountain lion trapping to protect sheep on four ranches outside Carlsbad National Park. President Charlie Ault plans to bring up possible AWF action at the June 8 board meeting and the June 11 general meeting.

On May 20, the commission approved a regulation revising a 1985 "preventive" control program allowing game department trappers to take up to 14 lions a year. Wildlife group lawyers are working on a citizens' lawsuit charging that the commission violated the state open meetings law when four members took an unannounced tour of the Guadalupe Mountains---at game department expense---and attended a barbecue hosted by ranchers who have pressed for more extensive cougar trapping.

The game department spends up to \$70,000 a year from sportsmen's license fees for the preventive trapping program. Half of that goes to hire a trapper whose daughter is married to one of the sheep ranchers who claim heavy losses to cougars. In addition to the preventive program, which takes lions at random, the department traps specific lions that have been identified as preying on livestock. In the last two years, the department trapped 52 lions---including 26 under the preventive program---and four black bears have been found dead in cougar traps in the Guadalupe.

"We don't want to see a mountain lion control program in Southeast New Mexico or anywhere in New Mexico which is detrimental to the mountain lion population or the total wildlife in New Mexico," Ault said. "We also consider it a waste of sportsmen's license fees to fund a mountain lion control program that benefits a few economically unfeasible ranch operations. We don't want the mountain lion control program to take away from the game department's ability to manage the wildlife resource in New Mexico."

GAME DEPARTMENT DATES

July 1 Oryx and barbary sheep application deadline

July 24-25 Next game commission meeting in Santa Fe. Tentative agenda includes briefing on department's deer model and setting bird seasons.

SUMMER WORK PROJECTS

Joe Padilla has lined up three summer work projects for AWF members who wish to help build New Mexico's wildlife habitat.

June 6: Rowe Mesa rock dam. Joe had a crew all lined up to prepare a site for a rock dam on Rowe Mesa in the Pecos Ranger District in the Santa Fe National Forest. Joe says AWF may go back to finish the work later in the summer.

July 16-20: Valle Vidal. In what is becoming an annual event, AWF members will meet at the Valle Vidal Thursday July 16 for a five-day project building stream structures. Members can camp at the unimproved campground west of Shuree Lodge and use the lodge facilities for cleanup.

Aug. 15-16: Crawdaddy Boil. In conjunction with the annual Crawdaddy Boil at Bluewater Lake, AWF members will spend Saturday Aug. 15 finishing a dam they started last summer. The boil will be held that night.

For more details, call Joe at 831-2114.

NORDSTRUM SERVING ON ACCESS COMMITTEE

State Land Commissioner Bill Humphries has named Bob Nordstrum, former AWF president, to a committee considering disputes over access to state lands.

Bob says that members should contact him if they know of problems with getting access to state lands. The committee's next meeting is scheduled for July 23.

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ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION NEWS

July 1987

* VALLE VIDAL WORK PROJECT COMING UP *

Dates: July 16, 17, 18, and 19.

Contact: Joe Padilla,

831-2114 (home)

844-3643 (work)

Once again, Albuquerque Wildlife Federation members and their friends will be heading north for a few days of hard work---and fun and relaxation---to help wildlife in the beautiful Valle Vidal unit of Carson National Forest.

Donated to the U.S. Forest Service several years ago, the Valle Vidal once was part of Vermejo Ranch, owned by Pennzoil. Still relatively undiscovered by sportsmen and other outdoorsmen, the unit is home to one of New Mexico's largest elk herds. Cutthroats and other fish are plentiful in its streams and ponds.

AWF members have been working on habitat projects at Valle Vidal for the last three summers. Last July, 63 people took part. Work Project Coordinator Joe Padilla said 25 had signed up by July 8.

This year, "we will be working on the Middle Ponil stream installing stream structures," Joe says, "and maybe hauling aspen trees to the beaver ponds."

Please call Joe to let him know if you are going. He needs to know how many people will be going.

Things to Bring With You: Shovels, work gloves, old shoes and jeans.

We can use the showers at Shuree Lodge for cleaning up on Saturday.

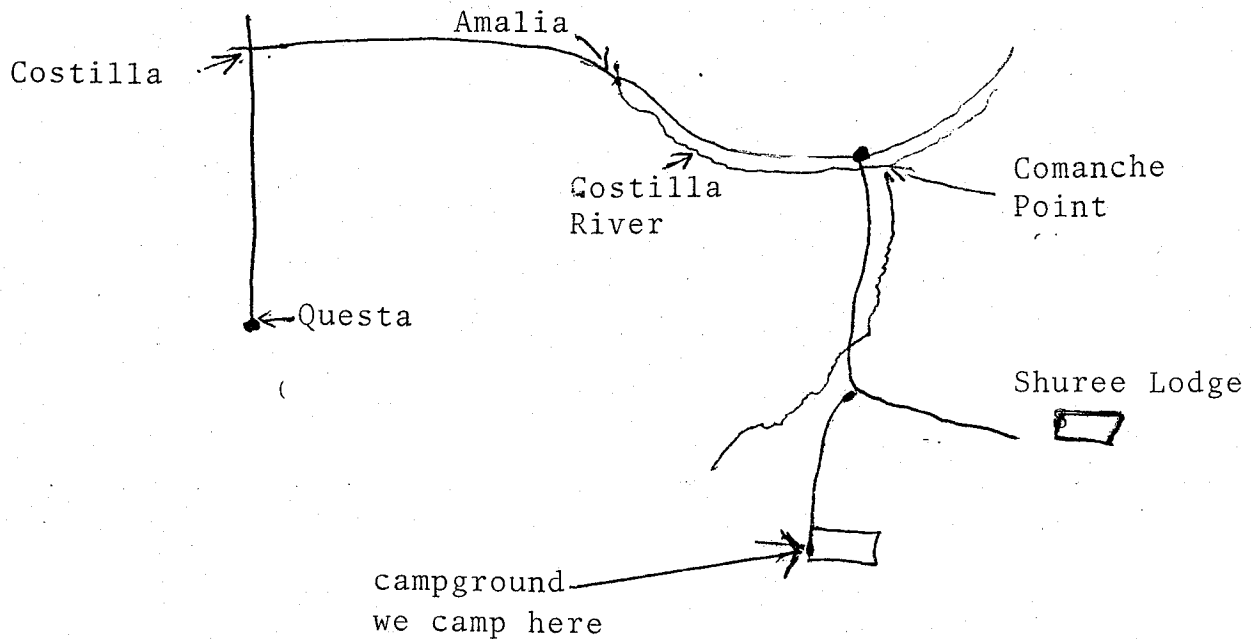
Food and Entertainment:

We will have our wine and dip party Friday, and our potluck on Saturday, 6 p.m.

The Albuquerque chapter will furnish hamburgers and hot dogs for the potluck. Also bringf some kind of dish to share with everybody.

Don't forget your fishing rods and user-stamps if you plan to fish.

This is how to get to Valle Vidal:



Turn off the highway at Costilla, north of Questa to Amalia, follow road to the Costilla River, then to Comanche Point, turn right there.

* CRAWDADDY BOIL AUGUST 15-16 AT BLUEWATER LAKE *

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ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION NEWS

August 1987

* AWF SHOULD BACK GRAY RANCH PURCHASE AS WILDLIFE REFUGE *

From AWF President Charlie Ault:

It is a sorrowful realization, but today's most healthy wildlife populations and the most intact public wildlife habitats occur on our Nation's National Wildlife Refuges, National Parks, National Monuments, and special State Wildlife Management Areas. These lands are managed specifically for maintaining health and stable wildlife populations.

In contrast, our National forests, Bureau of Land Management lands, and general state lands are managed for a great variety of purposes including wildlife, but many times wildlife is given a lower priority. Livestock grazing, mineral resource development, oil and gas development, timber production and harvest, energy and communication transmission, and mechanized recreation are some of the many demands placed on National Forests, BLM, and state lands that are either excluded or limited on refuges, parks, monuments, and state wildlife areas.

Another fact we must face is that our truly memorable and fulfilling outdoor experience occur mostly on our refuges, parks, and wildlife areas. There we are not overrun with too many hunters, are not forced to make camp in the midst of a herd of cattle, nor do we constantly trip on the waste left behind by the hordes that were there the previous weekend. If we're of a curious nature and we examine the habitat we're walking through, we find a variety of grasses, forbs, and woody plants, many with the current season's flowers left uneaten.

Unfortunately, on many of our National Forests, BLM, and general state lands, we venture out to find that we're not, by far, the only ones using those lands nor are the animals we're hunting the only ones using the forage. All too often, we find crowded, cluttered, and littered campsites, ever present livestock, and the denuded landscape they've left behind, and a distinct scarcity of game and wildlife in general.

We have a rare opportunity to add some valuable acres of beautiful and productive wildlife habitat to the public domain in New Mexico. Presently, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with the cooperation and support of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, is studying the feasibility of acquiring the Gray Ranch in Hidalgo County. The approximately 321,000 acre Gray Ranch's vast grasslands, pine-oak woodlands, shrublands, wetlands, riparian areas, and montane forests support a great variety and abundance of wildlife.

Pronghorn, scaled quail, and Gamble's quail abound on the vast shrublands and grasslands. Healthy mule deer and coues white tailed deer wander the foothills, peaks, and valleys of the Animas Mountains which are centered on the huge ranch. A population of Gould's turkey wander the canyons and forests. A myriad of non-game birds occur on the ranch, many of which reach their northern distributional limits in North American on the Gray Ranch.

The rare white-sided jackrabbit bounds through the tall grass in the Animas Creek floodplain, and the federally listed as threatened ridge nosed rattlesnake hides in the steep side slopes of Animas Peak. The exotic feral hog is a common resident of this ranch as well.

The acquisition of Gray Ranch, or Animas National Wildlife Refuge as it is now referred to, will provide many enriched opportunities for us all. We'll be able to hunt with gun or camera on the bountiful game that occurs there and do so knowing that they'll be there for many, many generations to come. We'll be able to see animals and plants there that we can find no where else in New Mexico or in the U.S. in some cases. We will be able to walk through some of the most intact habitat in the state and feel assured that it will be managed to remain that way.

We can have all this if we show our support for the acquisition of the Animas National Wildlife Refuge. We need to write letters to our congressmen, senators, the governor, and other key members of Congress and convince them to support this valuable project.

Write to:

The Honorable Pete Domenici
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Jeff Bingaman
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Manuel Lujan
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bill Richardson
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Joe Skeen
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510

Gov. Garrey Carruthers
State Capitol
Santa Fe, N.M. 87501

Some other points you may want to emphasize in your letters:

1. Animas NWR will bring an annual operational and maintenance budget of approximately \$350,000 to \$500,000 a year to financially struggling southwestern New Mexico. In addition, several hundred thousand dollars associated with annual recreational use and visitation will flow into Hidalgo County.

2. Funds used to purchase Animas NWR do not add to the national debt nor increase the burden to the taxpayer. Animas NWR will be purchased with funds available in the Land and Water Conservation Fund. This fund is derived from revenues generated from offshore drilling activities in order to compensate for the loss of our natural resources associated with these activities. There is in excess of \$4 billion in this fund right now. It is collected and earmarked specifically for acquisitions such as Animas NWR. We must urge our representatives to free up some of these dollars for New Mexicans!!

* WILD AND SCENIC RIO CHAMA *

The AWF should support Sen. Jeff Bingaman's legislation (S 850) to designate the Rio Chama from El Vado Reservoir to Abiqui Reservoir as a federal Wild and Scenic River.

The Rio Chama fishery is currently enjoying a significant recovery after an extended period of highly fluctuating stream flows that nearly destroyed it. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Bureau of Reclamation, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have worked hard and long to save and enhance the Rio Chama's fish and wildlife values and they need our support to continue.

Write or call Sen. Bingaman to support S 850. AWF should back keeping management of that reach of the Chama under BLM, because that agency has more than 10 years of successful experience in doing so thus far.

---Charlie Ault

* CRAWDADDY BOIL AUG. 15-16 *

BLUEWATER LAKE

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NEXT MEETING SEPT. 10



ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION NEWS

SANDHILL CRANE MIGRATION

Sanhill cranes soon will be heading south down the Rio Grande Valley to winter at Bosque del Apache and other sites. Our September program will discuss the crane's annual migration.

Dale Stahlecker, an independent wildlife biologist, will outline his research on sandhills, focusing on their migration patterns. Stahlecker, a consultant to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will illustrate his talk with slides.

Date: Thursday, Sept. 10

1987

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: New Mexico Game and Fish Department
3700 Osuna Road NE

NOTE: Due to Labor Day holiday on Monday, no board meeting will be held this month.

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HUNTING AND FISHING LICENSE FEE BOOST IN STORE

Meeting in Las Cruces Aug. 29, the New Mexico Game and Fish Commission approved a Game and Fish Department plan to ask the New Mexico Legislature for a significant increase in hunting and fishing license fees in 1988.

The game department proposal would create a new basic license to simplify the existing system. Hunters and fishermen would be required to buy the new license before purchasing other licenses. But most special stamps and application fees would be eliminated. No fee levels have been set.

The commission approved a \$13.4 million game department budget for the fiscal year starting July 1, 1988. It includes \$499,000 for overtime pay and \$201,000 for the Share With Wildlife Program. The commission voted to review the Share With Wildlife Program projects and committee before it approves new projects.

ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION NEWS

October 1987

GAME RANCHING, AFRICAN STYLE

Dr. David Hopwood, a game rancher from Kenya, will discuss his plans to convert a New Mexico cattle operation to a game farm offering opportunities to hunt native New Mexican species.

Hopwood's novel plan is sure to stir controversy. Its success or failure will have major implications for sportsmen who hunt and fish in New Mexico.

Hopwood will show slides illustrating his game management techniques.

Date: Thursday Oct. 8

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Gardenswartz Sportz, 2720 San Mateo NE (north of Menaul)

Board meeting: Monday Oct. 5

6:30 p.m. Gardenswartz Sportz 2720 San Mateo NE

* * * * *

GAME COMMISSION ADOPTS REGIONAL DEER MANAGEMENT

The New Mexico Game and Fish Commission Sept. 29 approved a plan to manage deer hunting in New Mexico on a regional basis.

The plan will go into effect for the 1988-89 deer hunting seasons. It divides the state into 14 regions. Deer hunters will pick one region and hunt only in that one during the season.

By a 3-2 vote, the commission approved member Bob Jones' proposal to move fall deer seasons for rifles back one week to accommodate ranchers.

The Game and Fish Department had proposed starting fall rifle hunting on Nov. 5-6. But Jones, an Otero County rancher, contended that sportsmen hunting in early November could interfere with ranchers moving cattle to market over back roads. Jones said stockmen had lost thousands of dollars during past early deer seasons from stress and weight loss to livestock in trucks that were delayed by hunters' vehicles stuck on muddy roads.

Commission Chairman Gerald Maestas and member Tom Arvas supported Jones' proposal, while Richard Allgood and Christine DiGregorio opposed it. The change set 1988 fall deer hunts for Nov. 12-13, Nov. 16-20, and Nov. 23-29.

ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION NEWS

The Rio Grande Bosque

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will outline the critical importance of the Rio Grande Bosque to New Mexico's fish and wildlife resources at the Nov. 12 general meeting.

Carl Couret, a biologist with the service's ecological services field office in Albuquerque, will discuss the bosque's role in supporting birds, mammals, and other wildlife along the Rio Grande.

Date: Thursday Nov. 12

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: Gardenswartz Sportz
2720 San Mateo NE (north of Menaul)

Board Meeting: Monday Nov. 9, 7 p.m. Gardenswartz Sportz
2720 San Mateo NE

New Mexico Wildlife Federation
Affiliate Chapter
Albuquerque Wildlife Federation
300 Val Verde SE
Albuquerque, N.M.

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Albuquerque, NM
Permit No. 204

MR & MRS DAVID WEINGARTEN
12413 PLACID NE.
ALB., NM 87112





SUPPORT THE REINTRODUCTION OF THE MEXICAN
WOLF INTO NEW MEXICO

The experimental reintroduction of the Mexican wolf into the White Sands Missile Range has been denied by the U.S. Army. This site is potentially ideal in that it is isolated and the wolf population could be closely monitored.

In an effort to allow the wolf his place in the predator/prey balance in New Mexico and to enrich our state's native wildlife population, please write to any or all of the following people IMMEDIATELY!

Honorable Pete V. Domenici
Honorable Jeff Bingaman
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Honorable Bill Richardson
Honorable Manuel Lujan, Jr.
Honorable Joe Skeen
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Honorable Governor Garrey Carruthers
Executive Legislative Building
Santa Fe, N.M. 87503

For more information, call the Mexican Wolf Coalition at:
(505) 265-5506

1987

ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION NEWS

AWF Electing New Officers

The Albuquerque Wildlife Federation will elect new officers during a Christmas potluck dinner meeting on Wednesday Dec. 9 at the New Mexico Game and Fish Department offices. Door prizes will be awarded.

People attending this social occasion should bring a dish for sharing. Door prizes will include art reprints, paintings, a camper coffee maker, game bags, and a photo library. Only people in attendance will be eligible.

AWF President Charlie Ault will not seek re-election due to work commitments. Ault points out that members do not have to be present to be eligible for election.

Date: Wednesday, Dec. 9

Time: 7 p.m.

Place: New Mexico Game and Fish Department
3700 Osuna Road NE

Note: The meeting will be held on Wednesday, not Thursday as per usual.
There will be no December board meeting

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AWF Accomplishes Important Work for Wildlife

by Joe Padilla

The active members of the chapter once again came through with another banner year. As Work Project Coordinator, I would like to summarize our work for this past year.

Our first project was with Pete Taschel and his crew from the Pecos Ranger District. A rock header dam was started on June 27 on Rowe Mesa, in an area where a water impoundment was badly needed to expand habitat for wildlife.

The second project was in the Carson National Forest with Ron Thibedeau and his crew. One more project in the Valle Vidal area. By now, we have become veterans of this area, since this is already our fourth year of continuing work there. From before the area opened to the public to now, we have helped with putting up signs, to installing about 15 elk jumps or fences, to building nesting sites for turkey and clearcutting aspen to free some new residents, the beavers, and to top it off, to construct 75 stream structures. You name it, we have done it, and were there to help.

The third project of the year was with Paula Crumpton from the Cibola National Forest. Here we finished another rock header dam we had started last year. According to Bill Zeedyke, this dam is already a great success. Not only is it holding water for wildlife, but also has created a wet area below it.

So you see, folks, the active members of the club don't meet every month to sit around and drink beer. No, we are active doing many things. From attending the meetings concerning issues about public lands and Game Commissioners meetings, to anything that has to do with our natural resources. We are there to make sure our (and your) views are heard. Remember also that our work projects are not all work. We allow plenty of time for sightseeing, hiking, fishing, camping, and just having a good time. The reward for our work is the satisfaction of enjoying the outdoors and having contributed something for wildlife and future generations to enjoy. My philosophy is that I have hunted and fished around New Mexico all my life, now it's time to put something back.

December is election month, and we need to appoint and elect our officers and board members for the following year. Please plan to attend. We need more participation. Why not help us out with this. New faces are dearly needed. We have 200 plus members, but where are they? If you receive the newsletter, let us know about things which interest you. Better yet, plan to attend the December meeting and potluck, planned for the general meeting. Slides will be shown and door prizes give away.

AWF Receives Forest Service Appreciation

John P. Caffrey, U.S. Forest Service district ranger for the Mt. Taylor Ranger District, Oct. 27 presented the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation a certificate of appreciation for its work improving wildlife habitat by building a rock header dam reservoir on a tributary to Bluewater Creek.

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Election of Officers for the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation

The election of officers for 1988 will take place at the January meeting which will be held at 7 p.m. in the downstairs meeting room at Gardenswartz Sports at 2720 San Mateo Blv'd NE on Thursday, 14 January, 1988.

The slate found by the nominating committee is:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Pres. | Clifford Mendel |
| First Vice Pres. | Mary Reed |
| Second Vice Pres. | Joe Padilla |
| Treasurer | Renee Padilla |
| Secretary | Annette Colbert |

Board of Directors

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------|
| Jake Gonzales | Joyce Mendel | Bob Nordstrum |
| Dave Weingarten | Bill Zeedyk | |

Past president Charlie Ault is automatically on the board of directors. Please come and participate in the election. We need more board members and more help. Nominations for any position can be made from the floor.

After the election we will discuss plans for 1988. If you have an opinion on the direction your club should take, this is the time to speak out. The new officers will have a quick meeting to decide when the board will meet.