

# Albuquerque Wildlife Federation

1914-1952 GAME PROTECTIVE ASSN. / 1952-1972 ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE & CONSERVATION ASSN. / 1973 ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
ORGANIZED BY SPORTSMEN IN 1914 TO PROTECT AND PERPETUATE  
OUR WILDLIFE AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
P. O. Box 1234  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103



**GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, January 9, 1997**  
7:00 P.M.

Bear Canyon Senior Center - 4645 Pitt NE, Rooms 5 & 6  
(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro  
left on Pitt. BCSC is one block down on the left)

**\*\* \*\* \*\* JANUARY 9 PROGRAM \*\* \*\* \*\***

## **The Bosque Del Apache Fire: The effects and the future** **Phil Norton, Refuge Manager**

The Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge will be the subject of our January meeting. Refuge Manager Phil Norton will show slides and talk about the recent fire at the Bosque del Apache. He will tell how the fire affects the plants, birds and mammals at the refuge, and also will explain how the refuge staff intends to restore the area. The refuge is comprised of 57,000 acres, of which about 7,000 are managed intensively for wildlife.

Unlike coniferous forests, the effects of fire in the refuge are almost all negative. Most of the plants returning to the burned area are exotics, in particular Salt Cedar, or Tamarisk. Norton will explain what will be done to regenerate native species such as cottonwoods.

\*\*\*\*\*

*THURSDAY*  
*NEW YEAR*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

For want of a better (or any other for that matter) candidate, I am again president of AWF. I did not want to run because Joyce and I will be out of the state for much of the year. Because of this I will be depending on many of you for help.

I would like to thank Fred Breslin, Andy Gredell, Dennis Muirhead, and Carl Peterson for agreeing to join the Board of Directors. There are seven board members at present, and with the approval of the board of directors I can appoint several more. We would like to see other new members. If you would like to join the board, call me.

One and one half years ago, during Richard Becker's last term as president, the board of directors decided to concentrate on three things: general meetings with good programs, work projects, and actions (i.e. agency and legislative inputs). We have stuck to this agenda, and I believe we have been effective. Thanks to Joyce we have enjoyed excellent programs. Bill Zeedyk, with the aid of Richard Becker and Terina Overmeir, has provided us with effective, enjoyable, and educational work projects. We have been involved in a number of actions, led by Jim Hubert and Ted Bryant, and have had noticeable effects in some important areas.

During the coming year I hope, with the approval of the board, to continue in the same vein. I would like to see others get involved in these three areas. It is always helpful to have more opinions on good programs; an expanded number of work project leaders would reduce the strain on Bill, Richard, and Terina and eventually might expand the number of projects; and we always can use more help on actions.

Cliff Mendel, 265-3840

## HOLIDAY PARTY AND ANNUAL ELECTIONS

The holiday party was exceptionally good this year. Many people brought much good food. Particularly good were the wild game dishes brought by Cecil and Libby Haas,

Larry and Marianne Miller, and Dennis and Glenda Muirhead. Many guests from the Bureau of Land Management and US Forest Service from throughout the state attended. The help of these people in providing work projects is greatly appreciated, as was their presence at the annual meeting. Work project coordinator Bill Zeedyk awarded certificates to them as well as to project workers. Libby Haas created all of the certificates.

The officers for 1997 are the same as 1996:

Cliff Mendel, president  
Bill Zeedyk, vice president  
Terina Overmeir, treasurer  
Cecil Haas, secretary.

The new board of directors consists of:

Richard Becker	Fred Breslin
Andy Gredell	Jim Hubert
Andy Iskra	Dennis Muirhead
Carl Peterson	

Richard Becker retains the past president board membership; the others are elected.

## WOLF REINTRODUCTION

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has published a final Environmental Impact Statement on its proposal to reintroduce Mexican gray wolves within their historic range in the southwestern United States.

The Preferred Alternative announced by the Fish and Wildlife Service is to reintroduce the wolf in the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area. Wolves would be released into the primary recovery zone, located in eastern Arizona, and allowed to disperse into the secondary recovery zone, in Arizona and southwestern New Mexico.

The White Sands Wolf Recovery Area, in southern New Mexico, would be used as a back-up only if necessary and if additional information indicates that the deer population could support a wolf population.

The recovery objective is to re-establish 100 wild wolves, distributed over more than 5,000 square miles, by about the year 2005.

**AWF RECEIVES BLM  
VOLUNTEER AWARD**

The Rio Puerco Resource Area of BLM held a 50th Anniversary Volunteer Awards luncheon in mid-December. AWF president Cliff Mendel accepted an award for the Federation for wildlife conservation projects undertaken with BLM through the year. AWF Team Up with Wildlife coordinator Bill Zeedyk also received an award. Several other organizations received awards, some for wildlife and natural resource conservation work, others for work preserving cultural and paleontological sites, and some for works on recreational sites. It was a pleasure to visit with the many dedicated BLM employees. They, too, deserve thanks.

**RIO PUERCO WATERSHED  
ACT AUTHORIZED**

President Clinton recently signed legislation authorizing the Rio Puerco Watershed Act. The Act is intended to mitigate serious problems with unstable soil, poor livestock grazing practices, channelization of

the Rio Puerco, and problems with multiple ownership of watershed lands. A Rio Puerco Management Committee will be organized, and AWF will contribute to the committee makeup.

**NM GAME COMMISSION MEETING**

There will be a meeting of the NM State Game Commission at the Albuquerque Convention Center (Picuris Room) on Monday, 13 January, at 10 a.m.. The agenda includes amendments to SB-193, proposed Big Game license auctions, and the Cougar Study. Several board members and officers of AWF expect to attend. If you have never attended one of these meetings, you might want to take advantage of this one since it is in the Albuquerque area.

**MOUNTAIN LION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish is developing a Mountain Lion Management Plan and will hold several public meetings this month to obtain public input. In Albuquerque, the meeting will be held Thursday, Jan. 16, at 7 p.m. at the Game and Fish Department office, 3841 Midway Place NE.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Membership application for Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, PO Box 1234, Albuquerque, NM 87103

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

city, state, zip \_\_\_\_\_

phone \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

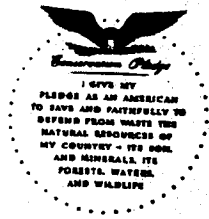
family membership\* (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_

name of person to be NMWF member \_\_\_\_\_

additional NMWF member (\$10/member) \_\_\_\_\_

single membership\* (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_

\* includes one NMWF membership



# Albuquerque Wildlife Federation

1914-1952 GAME PROTECTIVE ASSN. / 1952-1972 ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE & CONSERVATION ASSN. / 1973 ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
ORGANIZED BY SPORTSMEN IN 1914 TO PROTECT AND PERPETUATE  
OUR WILDLIFE AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
P. O. Box 1234  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103



## GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, February 13, 1997

7:00 P.M.

Bear Canyon Senior Center - 4645 Pitt NE, Rooms 5 & 6

(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro  
left on Pitt. BCSC is one block down on the left)

**\*\* \*\* FEBRUARY 13 PROGRAM \*\* \*\* \*\***

### PLAYA LAKES JOINT VENTURE

Kathy Wood, administrator of the Playa Lakes Joint Venture for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will tell about the Joint Venture projects and how they benefit New Mexico's ducks and geese. The Joint Venture is a public/private partnership for improving wetlands habitat in the Playa Lakes region, which includes eastern New Mexico. Projects assist the private owners of wetlands called "playas," which form small, temporary lakes.

### ALBUQUERQUE BIOPARK

Beth Dillingham, Albuquerque Zoo Education Coordinator, will tell us about what is going on at Albuquerque's BioPark. In addition to the zoo, the park includes the new aquarium and botanic garden. Dillingham will tell about the zoo's endangered species breeding program, as well as about the aquarium and garden.

## **BILL ZEEDYK RECEIVES AWARD**

The Middle Rio Grande Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation has chosen AWF board member and work project (Team Up With Wildlife) coordinator Bill Zeedyk for their annual award. This award is modelled after the "talking stick" awards of the plains indians, given for a quest of the bearer. The quest in the case of this award is Bill's effort to restore wet meadow ecosystems. Bill has organized many work projects with AWF and other organizations like AWF, MRGC of NWTF, and governmental agencies in the US and Mexico. Recently he has written a manual on the management of set meadow ecosystems which was published jointly by Ducks Unlimited and the Federal Highway Administration.

Bill has spent his professional life working on efforts for wildlife, and has received many awards for his efforts. We are fortunate to have him in our federation.

information courtesy of Dan Bastion, Jr  
of MRGC of NWTF

## **EDUCATIONAL FIELD TRIPS**

At the January board of directors meeting it was suggested that AWF should try a series of informative field trips. This was done some years ago (about 20), and was well received. These trips would involve studies of flora and fauna. They might include studies of trees, wildflowers, animal habitats, and accessing habitat conditions and wildlife numbers. These trips would usually be to areas close to Albuquerque so that they could be completed in one day.

This will be discussed further at the

February board meeting on Tuesday, 18 February. A committee and committee chair has not yet been appointed. If you would like to serve on such a committee, if you have suggestions for trips, and particularly if you could lead such a trip please inform Cliff Mendel (265-3840).

## **NM GAME COMMISSION REPORT**

The Commission met in Albuquerque on January 13. Two topics on the agenda were especially significant to many AWF members. The first regarded actions to overturn or change the law that came into effect as a result of SB-193 last year. That law requires outfitters and guides to be licensed, requires non-residents to hire a guide for most special hunts, and established a complex system of non-resident quotas. This complicated law has numerous flaws. The Game and Fish Department is being sued to prevent enforcement. AWF and other conservation organizations are trying to get legislative changes to the law so the good provisions can be retained. Publication of the proclamation and application deadlines will probably be delayed. In the worst case legal action could cause the affected special hunts to be cancelled this year. We will keep you informed on events as they unfold.

The second issue dealt with cougar management. The report on the 10-year study on the San Andreas mountains is complete, and public meetings are being held to present the results. By June the Department will present its recommendations to the Commission. They could cause significant changes in the way cougars are managed and hunted. If you have an interest, please call the NMG&F Albuquerque office (841-8881)

to find out where the public meetings will be held, or to get a copy of the report. The AWF board will probably take a position on this matter by April. Talk to one of your board members if you have an input regarding the decision, or see me at a general meeting.

Cecil Haas

### MINING INDUSTRY ALIVE AND WELL

A mineral economist, Douglas B. Silver told the Northwest Mining Association recently "It has been a magnificent year for the industry in the U.S.". What he did not say was that due to the 1872 Mining Law the U.S. treasury was deprived of billions of dollars worth of public land, no royalty was paid to the U.S. taxpayer and many western politicians continued to receive millions of dollars of "soft money" from the industry to protect the antiquated 1872 Mining Law. Nor did he point out that there are

550,650 abandoned hard-rock mines in the U.S. and that it will cost an estimated \$32.7 to \$72 billion to reclaim land damaged by mining. Further, the 7,222 abandoned mines covering over 25,000 acres and polluting 69 miles of streams in NEW MEXICO will cost taxpayers an estimated \$332 million to reclaim. Yes, the mining industry is alive and well...and at great cost to the environment and the treasury. The 1872 Mining Law must be seriously reformed.

Jim Hubert

### COUGAR STUDY

Our March program will be about the Game Department mountain lion study. Ken Logan, the ecologist who conducted the 10-year study on the San Andreas mountains, is coming from Las Cruces to present the slide program about cougars in New Mexico. Logan also will discuss recommendations for management of the cougars.

\*\*\*\*\*

Membership application for Albuquerque Wildlife Federation,  
PO Box 1234, Albuquerque, NM 87103

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

city, state, zip \_\_\_\_\_

phone \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

family membership\* (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_

name of person to be NMWF member \_\_\_\_\_

additional NMWF member (\$10/member) \_\_\_\_\_

single membership\* (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_

\* includes one NMWF membership

# AWF

*Organized in 1914 to protect  
and perpetuate our wildlife  
and natural resources.*

**Albuquerque Wildlife Federation--PO Box 1234--Albuquerque, NM 87103**

## **GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, March 13, 1997**

7:00 P.M.

Bear Canyon Senior Center - 4645 Pitt NE, Rooms 5 & 6

(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro  
left on Pitt. BCSC is one block down on the left)

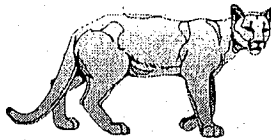
**\*\* \*\* \* MARCH 13 PROGRAM \* \*\* \*\* \***

### **COUGAR STUDY**

Wildlife researcher Ken Logan is coming from Las Cruces to present a slide program about the mountain lions he has spent ten years studying in the San Andres mountains. He also will discuss recommendations made by the Hornocker Wildlife Institute, for which he works, concerning the management of mountain lions. The study was done under a contract with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.

The Game Department currently is seeking comments regarding lion management. The Department is mailing out a draft long-range and action plan this month concerning cougar management to people on its mailing list. They will be asked to submit comments before the end of March. If you are not on the mailing list and would like a copy of the draft, write to the Department of Game & Fish, P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM, 87504.

The issue of mountain lion management is expected to come before the State Game Commission as a discussion item in May, and to be acted upon in June.



### **FIELD TRIP TO HAWKWATCH SITE**

**Saturday, 12 April, 1997**

**See article on page 2**

*Associated With The National Wildlife Federation*

## AWF COMMITTEES FOR 1997

**Programs:** Joyce Mendel (chair), Fred Breslin, Terina Overmier.

**Membership and membership records:** Libby Haas (chair), Terina Overmier.

**Actions:** Jim Hubert (mining issues, chair), Richard Becker (wetlands), Cecil Haas (NM Game & Fish Dept. And Commission).

**Work Projects (Team Up With Wildlife):** Bill Zeedyk (chair), Richard Becker, Dennis Muirhead.

We would like to have two more members on the Actions Committee to cover wildlife issues and fishing issues. We would also like someone to take charge of field projects. If you could help with these, or if you believe there are other important matters that need watching, call Cliff Mendel at 265-3840.

### HAWKWATCH FIELD TRIP

Laura Jenkins has arranged a field trip to the Hawkwatch site in the Sandia Mountains for **Saturday, 12 April**. The trip involves a short hike (perhaps 2 miles or less), and begins in Tijeras Canyon north of Carnuel. Because of limited parking at the trailhead we will meet at the Four Hills shopping center (south side of Central Avenue near Tramway) at 9:00 am on the 12<sup>th</sup>, and carpool to the trailhead. We must limit the number of participants to 20, so make your reservations early. Call Laura at 891-2531.

We will have an educator from Hawkwatch with us on the hike up to the site.

We will see the counting and the banding areas. Wear warm clothes, and bring water and a lunch.



## TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE 1997 CALENDAR

Bill Zeedyk has set up the 1997 work projects. All are to be held on the third Saturday of the month, although many will be two day weekends or longer.

**March 15:** Plant trees in Cedro Canyon (Tijeras). Meet at the Sandia Ranger station at 8:00 am.

**April 19:** Fence Riley Springs to exclude cattle, BLM near Socorro.

**May 17:** Build a rock-header dam in Priest Canyon in the South Monzanos. Water for Big Horn sheep, deer, birds.

**June 21:** Clean up Aspen Spring. BLM Rio Puerco Resource area near Cuba. BLM will provide transport, or personal 4x4 vehicle.

**July 19:** Valle Vidal. Wet meadow restoration. We might continue on Ring Place meadow, or on another meadow. Some members make this a Thursday through Sunday weekend.

**August 16:** Placer Creek riparian restoration. Near Hopewell Lake (west of Tres Piedras). Camp at Hopewell lake.

**Sept: 20:** Elk Springs, BLM Rio Puerco Resource Area south east of Cuba. Move fence, clean up old fencing material.

### NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION ANNUAL MEETING IN TUSCON

The 1997 NWF annual meeting will be held in Tucson Arizona this year. It will be held on April 4-6 at the Double Tree Hotel. Information can be obtained by calling (703) 790-4087. This is an excellent opportunity for AWF members to attend the annual meeting without a long drive or paying airfare.

## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Feb 26, 97

SB 430. (No Title) Modifies the guides and outfitters law to remove preference points, removes requirement for guides for non-residents, reduces non-resident outfitters registration fee to that of residents, other provisions. Supported by AWF.

HB 1196. (No Title) The guides and outfitters' alternative to SB 430. Sets aside 15% of licenses for non-residents who must hire an outfitter. Still requires guides on half the non-resident hunts. Opposed by AWF

SB 1219. (No Title) Submitted by Sen Tim Jennings. Provides direct compensation to landowners for wildlife damage. Uses 10% of G&F budget. No position by AWF because bill was submitted after the Board of Directors meeting, but AWF is historically opposed to direct compensation from G&F budget.

SB 667. Game and Fish Officers' Enforcement Powers. Allows G&F Officers to enforce certain laws such as assault, dangerous use of a firearm, and resisting arrest. Supported by AWF.

HB 961. Big Game Partnership Act. Provides matching funds for depredation reduction projects through the auction and raffle of big game licenses. Provides mechanism for cooperative agreements to address depredation.

HB 1010. Change to the Death Benefit Act. Provides the \$50,000 death benefit to the families of Conservation Officers killed in the line of duty. This is currently provided to all other state commissioned officers. Supported by AWF.

SB 654. Private Property Act. A "takings" bill which could be used as a tool by polluters to prevent any new regulations to protect public health, safety or the environment--or to be "compensated" if their private interests were

affected by a regulation. The Constitution already protects property from being physically taken by the government. This bill would generate many lawsuits and could cost the state and local governments millions of dollars. AWF has always strongly opposed regulatory "takings" bills.

HJM 47. Private Property Rights  
A property rights memorial that could open the door to future "takings" legislation.

HB 30. Amphibians & Reptiles Protection.  
Provides protection for reptiles and amphibians by regulating or prohibiting the taking or capturing of amphibians or reptiles in connection with a commercial activity or public event.

### CONFERENCE ON HABITAT CONSERVATION PLANS

This national conference, on May 17 and May 18, is for those who are interested in national policies for endangered species. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is negotiating hundreds of Habitat Conservation Plans with landowners across the country to resolve endangered species conflicts. The conference will provide an opportunity to meet with experts and begin answering the most pressing questions about these emerging Habitat Conservation Plans.

The conference will be held in downtown Washington D.C., and the registration fee of \$79 includes a continental breakfast and lunch on both days. The conference is sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation, and registration forms must be received by May 9. For more information call Cliff or Joyce Mendel, 265-3840, or Jeffrey Hunter, (703) 790-4093.

An Endangered Species lobby day will be held in Washington D.C. on May 19. Information and skills training will be provided in a two-hour session.

### NAME THIS NEWSLETTER

We need a good name for this newsletter. Do you have a suggestion? If so, please call Cliff or Joyce at 265-3840.

# AWF

*Organized in 1914 to protect  
and perpetuate our wildlife  
and natural resources.*

**Albuquerque Wildlife Federation--PO Box 1234--Albuquerque, NM 87103**

## **GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 1997**

7:00 P.M.

Bear Canyon Senior Center - 4645 Pitt NE, Rooms 5 & 6  
(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro  
left on Pitt. BCSC is one block down on the left)

**\*\* \* \* \* \* APRIL 10 PROGRAM \* \* \* \* \***

## **SPRING FISHING IN SOUTHERN NEW MEXICO**

**Ti Piper**

Author and expert angler Ti Piper will talk about early 1997 fishing prospects in southern New Mexico. Piper has spent many years fishing in this state, and almost as many sharing his knowledge with other New Mexicans, particularly the young. He will talk about stream fishing in the Sacramento Mountains and Gila watershed, and about fishing the small lakes in the southwestern corner of the state. His talk will cover both where to fish and good fishing techniques.

When fishing, Piper enjoys the whole scene, including the scenery surrounding the fishing water, and the wildlife that share it. The audience will enjoy this introduction to the 1997 fishing season.

## **HAWKWATCH INTERNATIONAL**

**Renee Land and Chris Kipping**

HawkWatch educators Renee Land and Chris Kipping will present a slide program about New Mexico's raptors and about what goes on at the HawkWatch research sites. They also will bring along either a red-tailed or a Swensons hawk. HawkWatch has 13 research sites in the western U.S., two of which are in New Mexico. The organization counts and bands raptors in the Sandias during the Spring migration and in the Manzanos during the fall migration.

## **FIELD TRIP TO HAWKWATCH SITE**

Saturday, 12 April, 1997

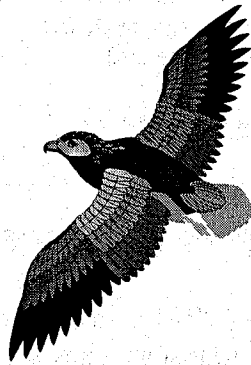
See article on page 2

*Associated With The National Wildlife Federation*

## HAWKWATCH FIELD TRIP

Laura Jenkins has arranged a field trip to the Hawkwatch site in the Sandia Mountains for **Saturday, 12 April**. The trip involves a modest hike, and begins in Tijeras Canyon north of Carnuel. Because of limited parking at the trailhead we will meet at the Four Hills shopping center (south side of Central Avenue near Tramway) at 9:00 am on the 12<sup>th</sup>, and carpool to the trailhead. Meet in front of the United Artists Theater. We must limit the number of participants to 20, so make your reservations early. Call Laura at 891-2531.

We will hike up to the observation site where observers will point out migrating hawks and other raptors. A field educator will be available to answer questions. We may be able to see some birds captured at the banding station.



There will be a two mile hike with 1000 feet of altitude gain to reach the site. Wear warm clothes, and bring water and a lunch.

## TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE PROJECT CEDRO CREEK RIPARIAN TREE PLANTING

AWF inaugurated the 1997 work project year on 15 March, 1997. One hundred fifty trees were planted by 14 volunteers. They were planted in Cedro Creek a few miles south of the Tijeras Ranger Station. Beverly DeGruyter and Andy Gredell of the US Forest Service supervised the project.

Plantings included New Mexico Olive, N narrow Leaf Cottonwood, Box Elder, Hop Tree, Goodings Willow, and Wood's Rose. Some of the trees originated from seeds taken on the Sandia Ranger District. Containerized trees were grown at the Los Lunas Plant Materials Center. Tree New Mexico supplied tree stock for the project.

Volunteers included Laura Jenkins, Lisa

Ellis, Chris Young, Dave Weingarten, Greg Neugebauer, Larry Ruggles, Larry Miller, Jim Hubert, Dennis and Glenda Muirhead, Richard Becker, and Cliff and Joyce Mendel.

## TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE 1997 CALENDAR

Bill Zeedyk has set up the following 1997 conservation projects. Most or all are to be held on the third Saturday of the month, although many will be two day weekends or longer.

**April 19:** This project has been changed. We will reconstruct a water guzzler on BLM land east of San Antonio in the Socorro Resource Area. Meet at the Owl Bar at 8:30 am.

**May 17:** Build a rock-header dam in Priest Canyon in the South Monzanos. Water for Big Horn sheep, deer, birds.

**June 21:** Clean up Aspen Spring. BLM Rio Puerco Resource area near Cuba. BLM will provide transport, or personal 4x4 vehicle.

**July 19:** Valle Vidal. Wet meadow restoration. We might continue on Ring Place meadow, or on another meadow. Some members make this a Thursday through Sunday weekend.

**August 16:** Placer Creek riparian restoration. Near Hopewell Lake (west of Tres Piedras). Camp at Hopewell lake.

**Sept: 20:** Elk Springs, BLM Rio Puerco Resource Area south east of Cuba. Move fence, clean up old fencing material.

## NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION ANNUAL MEETING IN TUSCON

The 1997 NWF annual meeting will be held in Tucson Arizona this year. It will be held on April 4-6 at the Double Tree Hotel. Information can be obtained by calling (703) 790-4087. This is an excellent opportunity for AWF members to attend the annual meeting without a long drive or paying airfare.

**CONFERENCE ON HABITAT  
CONSERVATION PLANS**

This national conference, on May 17 and May 18, is for those who are interested in national policies for endangered species . The US Fish and Wildlife Service is negotiating hundreds of Habitat Conservation Plans with landowners across the country to resolve endangered species conflicts. The conference will provide an opportunity to meet with experts and begin answering the most pressing questions about these emerging Habitat Conservation Plans.

The conference will be held in downtown Washington D.C., and the registration fee of \$79 includes a continental breakfast and lunch on both days. The conference is sponsored by the National

Wildlife Federation, and registration forms must be received by May 9. For more information call Cliff or Joyce Mendel, 265-3840, or Jeffrey Hunter, (703) 790-4093.

An Endangered Species lobby day will be held in Washington D.C. on May 19. Information and skills training will be provided in a two-hour session.

**SORRY**

This newsletter is short because of our crowded schedule. Cecil Haas has kindly agreed to do the May newsletter. We hope to do better in June.

Cliff and Joyce Mendel

\*\*\*\*\*

Membership application for Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, PO Box 1234, Albuquerque, NM 87103

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

city, state, zip \_\_\_\_\_

phone \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

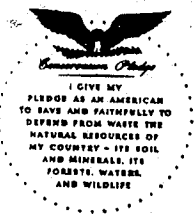
family membership\* (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_

name of person to be NMWF member \_\_\_\_\_

additional NMWF member (\$10/member) \_\_\_\_\_

single membership\* (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_

\* includes one NMWF membership



# Albuquerque Wildlife Federation

1914-1952 GAME PROTECTIVE ASSN. / 1952-1972 ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE & CONSERVATION ASSN. / 1973 ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
ORGANIZED BY SPORTSMEN IN 1914 TO PROTECT AND PERPETUATE  
OUR WILDLIFE AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
P. O. Box 1234  
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103



<sup>1997</sup>  
**GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, May 8, 1996 at 7:00 P.M.**

**Bear Canyon Senior Center - 4645 Pitt NE, Rooms 5 & 6**

**(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro  
left on Pitt. BCSC is one block down on the left)**

**\*\* \*\* \* MAY 8 PROGRAM \* \*\* \*\***

## **PREDATORS! PREDATORS!**

### **THE MEXICAN WOLF**

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife will present an update on plans to release the wolf back into New Mexico and Arizona.

### **COUGAR MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Mr. Santiago (Jimmy) Gonzales of the Game and Fish Department will be discussing the management considerations for cougars in New Mexico. As you may remember, the study results were presented earlier this year. With both public and Game and Fish input, the Game Commission will decide what changes in cougar management will be implemented.

### **Team Up for Wildlife Project: Rock Dam in Priest Canyon Saturday, May 17th**

We need volunteers to build a water catchment for deer and bighorn sheep. More information will be available at the May general meeting, or call Bill Zeedyk (281-9066) or Richard Becker (255-7156)

**PRESIDENTS MESSAGE:** The president is on an extended vacation. He will return in June.

### **ATTENTION HUNTERS!**

The hunting proclamation and applications are now available at Game and Fish offices and most hunting license vendors. The applications for special hunts in the 97/98 license year are due not later than May 24. Also new this year, the full cost of the license is not required when you apply. You need only to send in the non-refundable \$6 application fee. That's the good news. The bad news is that the number of applicants will at least double because of the lower fee. Another factor: the "quota" for non-residents sets aside 22% of the licenses on most special hunts for non-residents, where statewide the number of non-residents had been about 14%. When it's all told, your chances of being drawn for a hunt went down by a factor of about three, and your chances of being drawn are less than those of a non-resident. I guess we better be careful what we ask for; we got it this time.

### **WETLANDS MEETING**

Plan to attend a slide show on wetlands and the NM Wetlands Conservation Plan on May 21 from 7 til 9 PM. The program will be presented at the NRCS office, 6200 Jefferson NE, first floor conference room. This is sponsored by the NM Association of Conservation Districts and the Soil and Water Conservation Districts. For more information, call Gary Wooton, 761-4486.

### **SPOTLIGHT ON YOUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS: DR. FRED BRESLIN**

Fred was elected to the board last December. He decided to make Albuquerque his home after a distinguished career in the U.S. Army. Fred is a combat veteran of Viet Nam and spent several tours of duty in other countries. Fred earned a Ph.D. in statistical analysis and now works at Science Applications International. His experiences and life-long love of the outdoors give him valuable insight as he serves our members.

*Affiliated With The National Wildlife Federation*

## IDEAS? SUGGESTIONS? COMPLAINTS? OPINION?

Why not put it in our newsletter? We are always interested in getting new perspectives to our membership. Joyce Mendel, God bless her, usually puts this together, and she's always looking for more stuff related to wildlife. You got the second string this month. I'm proof positive that you only need three qualifications to write for any publication: 1. You need a little information on a subject, and if you don't have it, an opinion will do. 2. You gotta be semi-literate. 3. You have to be willing to work cheap or free. Get your ideas to Joyce or me and I guarantee we'll get them in. Cecil.

### Whom to contact on National issues:

The President, The White House (202) 456-1111  
Washington, DC 20500  
e-mail President@WhiteHouse.GOV

Hon. Pete Dominici (202) 224-6621, (505) 766-3481  
Hon. Jeff Bingaman (202) 224-5521, (505) 766-3636  
US Senate, Washington, DC 20510

Hon. Steve Schiff (202) 225-6316, (505) 766-2538  
Hon. Bill Richardson (202) 225-6190, (505) 988-7230  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515

### The Game Commission will meet on May 28-30

Place: Albuquerque Convention Center. Time: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Agenda has not yet been published, but should be available in time for the general meeting, or call Cecil Haas at 271-2103.

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation  
PO Box 1234  
Albuquerque, NM 87103



97 12 F  
Cliff & Joyce Mendel  
5119 Sunningdale NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87110

# AWF

*Organized in 1914 to protect  
and perpetuate our wildlife  
and natural resources.*

**Albuquerque Wildlife Federation--PO Box 1234--Albuquerque, NM 87103**

## **GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, JUNE 12, 1997**

7:00 P.M.

**Bear Canyon Senior Center - 4645 Pitt NE, Rooms 5 & 6**

(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro  
left on Pitt. BCSC is one block down on the left)

**\*\* \*\* \* JUNE 12 PROGRAM \* \*\* \*\* \***

### **HABITAT DEVELOPMENT AT WILDLIFE WEST NATURE PARK**

Roger Alink will present a slide program about the development of habitat for all kinds of wildlife, including migratory birds, at Wildlife West Nature Park. Alink is founder of the Nature Park, located near Edgewood. Bird species at the park have increased from 60 to 100 over the past three years.

### **WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY**

Wildlife photographer Wes Hibner, one of our new members, will show some of his wildlife slides and tell how to photograph wildlife. He started photographing elk and deer about 11 years ago. For the past four years he has photographed a variety of wildlife. His work has appeared in the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation *Bugle*, as well as other Elk Foundation publications. Some of his bird photographs are at the Bosque del Apache, where they're being put into a bird manual.

**\*\* \*\* \* JUNE TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE PROJECT \* \*\* \*\* \***

### **ASPEN SPRING CLEANUP: June 21**

This project is in the Rio Puerco BLM area southwest of Cuba. We will be cleaning up Aspen Spring and cleaning up an old enclosure from a previous project. Transportation will be provided by BLM for those who want it, or bring your own 4x4 vehicle. Bring lunch, water, and work gloves. Meet at the BLM office on Mantano. For more information call Terina (345-7666) or Richard (255-7156).

*Associated With The National Wildlife Federation*

## TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE PROJECT

The May Team Up With Wildlife project went very well. The weather was beautiful, the location was pleasant, and we had plenty of hard-working volunteers. The project was supervised by Beverly DeGruyter and Tyler Huning of Cibola National Forest, and by our Work Project coordinator, Bill Zeedyk. There were about a dozen volunteers, most of whom were AWF members.

The project site was in Priest Canyon which is north and west of Mountainair, with the southern Monzano mountains to the west. On the day of the project there had been recent rain, which provided water for cleaning and for mixing concrete, but the day was clear. Two rock-header dams were completed. A third could not be built, because of standing water. The dams are intended to hold silt which will provide soil for vegetation, and raise the bed of the arroyo.

Bill Zeedyk, who is widely recognized as an expert on such projects, was very happy with the days work. He pointed out that the vegetation presently growing in the area is a result of other work projects, and has already improved an area that was essentially devoid of vegetation tens years ago.

## TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE 1997 CALENDAR

**June 21:** Clean up Aspen Spring. BLM Rio Puerco Resource area near Cuba. BLM will provide transport, or personal 4x4 vehicle.

**July 19:** Valle Vidal. Wet meadow restoration. We might continue on Ring Place meadow, or on another meadow. Some members make this a Thursday through Sunday weekend.

**August 16:** Placer Creek riparian restoration. Near Hopewell Lake (west of Tres Piedras). Camp at Hopewell lake.

**Sept: 20:** Elk Springs, BLM Rio Puerco Resource Area south east of Cuba. Move fence, clean up old fencing material.

## AWF MONITORING CRAIG BILL

Senator Larry Craig (Idaho) is working on a bill that threatens to eventually turn our national forests and other public lands over to the states, which then could sell the land to private parties.

The bill also would limit public comments on public land management, and provide special privileges for ranchers and other commodity groups.

Several AWF members and board members met with Melane Stanley of National Wildlife Federation two months ago to consider what actions we could take. Dennis Muirhead is monitoring the situation for AWF. The bill is still being developed, and a copy can be downloaded from Senator Craig's website on the internet.

## BEAR, DEER, AND ELK HUNT GOALS AND STRATEGIES

At the State Game Commission meeting on May 30, held in Albuquerque, a good part of the day was spent hearing from members of the public concerning hunt regulations and goals for elk, deer and bear. However, few of the public attended either that meeting or other meetings held around the state for the same purpose.

If you have not yet told the Department what you think on this subject, you have a few more days to do so. To assist you, the Game Department has printed up questionnaires for each big game animal. If you have not already received them, contact the Department office for copies. The stated deadline is June 6, but department employees will accept as many as they can after that date. You also may simply write down your thoughts and mail them in.

The Game Commission will meet again Friday, June 27, from 1 p.m to 8 p.m., and Saturday, June 28, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the Cimerron Room, East Complex, Albuquerque Convention Center. Based on department and public input, received before mid-June, the Commission will decide how big game is to be managed for the next three years. Hunt structures will be set in mid-October.

## BEAR HUNTING

A disagreement surfaced at the May Game Commission meeting between Sandia Mountain BearWatch, a bear advocacy group that supports hunting, and the Game Department. Using the same data, they have come up with different interpretations concerning New Mexico's bear populations. The BearWatch interpretation is founded on discussions with wildlife biologists in other states and the consulting services of Al LeCount, an Arizona bear researcher.

The Game Department, looking at bear harvest data collected since 1978, believes that the bear population has slightly increased over the past 20 years. BearWatch members fear that bears may be declining and be overhunted.

They cite the near doubling of bears killed by hunters over the past few years, and also the department's research field study, which shows that an insufficient number of females are being born to replace those that are killed. The Game Department says that field study results are too preliminary to be very reliable.

Female bears stay in the area where they are born and do not disperse. Therefore BearWatch says that if females in fact are declining it could jeopardize bear hunting far into the future.

## JOHN CRENSHAW RETIREMENT

Many of you are acquainted with John Crenshaw, the Game Department's friendly and knowledgeable Chief of Public Affairs. John retires on June 27. He has done an admirable job of answering our questions and keeping us informed. We wish him an enjoyable retirement, but we will miss his help.

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

**GRAZING WORKSHOP:** There is a free workshop range-friendly ranching techniques taking place on Saturday June 14<sup>th</sup> at the Santa Fe Unitarian Church. The workshop begins at 8:30 am, and will include State Land Commissioner Ray Powell, Jr., rancher Jim Winder, author Dan Daggett (*Beyond the Rangeland Conflict*), and District Ranger Frank

Hayes of Arizona. Hayes was a wildlife biologist with Cibola National Forest some years ago, and is familiar to many AWF members. The workshop is sponsored by the Santa Fe Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Quivira Coalition. For more information call Courtney White (505-982-5502), or if you are interested in car pooling to Santa Fe, call Joyce Mendel (265-3840).

## FOREST GUARDIANS

**CONFERENCE:** Forest Guardians will hold a Conference at Ghost Ranch near Abiquiu on Saturday and Sunday June 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. The conference will have symposia on reducing logging on National Forests (FG would like to eliminate it entirely), on cooperation between fishing, hunting, and environmental groups, legal actions, and grazing on public lands. There will also be several hikes and a raft trip (the latter at extra cost). For information call 505-988-9126.

\*\*\*\*\*

Membership application for Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, PO Box 1234, Albuquerque, NM 87103

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

city, state, zip \_\_\_\_\_

phone \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

family membership\* (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_

name of person to be NMWF member \_\_\_\_\_

additional NMWF member (\$10/member) \_\_\_\_\_

single membership\* (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_

\* includes one NMWF membership

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation  
P.O. Box 1234  
Albuquerque, NM 87103

# AWF

*Organized in 1914 to protect  
and perpetuate our wildlife  
and natural resources.*

**Albuquerque Wildlife Federation--PO Box 1234--Albuquerque, NM 87103**

## **GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, JULY 10, 1997**

7:00 P.M.

Bear Canyon Senior Center - 4645 Pitt NE, Rooms 5 & 6

(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro  
left on Pitt. BCSC is one block down on the left)

**\*\* \*\* \* JULY 10 PROGRAM \* \*\* \*\* \***

### **LANDSCAPE**

A videotape, *Landscape* is about elk, cattle and rangeland. It tells about the improvement of land on a Montana ranch by properly managed cattle grazing. State Game Commissioner Steve Padilla will show the videotape, which he says shows elk preferring to eat where cattle had grazed. The film is sponsored by land management agencies, ranchers, and wildlife organizations.

### **BLACK BEARS**

Don Jones, a wildlife biologist with the Department of Game and Fish, has worked on a black bear study in the northeastern part of the state for the past five years. He will present a slide program about bear habits and how the research project is conducted. He also can talk about many other topics relating to bears, depending on the interests of the audience and their questions.

This summer the State Game Commission will decide on bear hunting regulations for the next three years. There has been a difference of opinion between some members of the Game and Fish Department and Sandia Mountain BearWatch concerning the state's bear population.

With their consultant, bear expert Al LeCount, BearWatch believes the population is declining because so many adult females are being killed, and that bears probably are overhunted. They base their conclusions in part on the field research project Jones is taking part in. A report from the study last year stated that bear reproduction and cub survival in the two study areas was well below what is needed to offset the mortality for female black bears. The Game Department bear model, which is based upon bear harvest data, indicates that the bear population is increasing.

**\*\* \*\* \* JULY TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE PROJECT \* \*\* \*\* \***

**15 YEARS AT VALLE VIDAL  
RING MEADOW WETLAND: July 19  
POTLUCK DINNER**

(next page)

*Associated With The National Wildlife Federation*

## 15 YEARS AT VALLE VIDAL

For the fifteenth straight year AWF will hold a work project at Valle Vidal. This year we will continue the work to improve the creek through Ring Meadow. This is the third year at that site. The results of the previous two years are evident, and the very success of that work makes it desirable to build structures that will widen the wetland even farther. For the work project bring gloves. Waterproof boots are helpful, but not necessary.

This is one of the premier events of the year. We will be camping by Shuree Lodge again, and the area will be open beginning at noon on Friday. People who want to come Thursday afternoon can camp at Cimarron campground. As usual, there will be a potluck dinner Saturday night. AWF will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, and soft drinks. Attendees can bring one dish to share. Bring your own dishes and utensils.

Don't miss this great project in one of the most beautiful places on earth.

## QUIVIRA COALITION RANCHING WORKSHOP

Our Board of Directors recently voted to subscribe to the newsletter of the recently formed Quivira Coalition. The purpose of the coalition is to teach ranchers, environmentalists, public land managers, and others "that ecologically healthy rangeland and economically robust ranches can be compatible."

The group held a workshop in Santa Fe last month. Among the speakers were Dan Dagget, author of *Beyond the Rangeland Conflict*; Jim Winder, a rancher who belongs to the Sierra Club; Kris Havstad, director and chief scientist of the Jornada Experimental Station; and Frank Hayes, a district forest ranger from Arizona.

Dagget, an Arizona Sierra Club member, had been a vocal critic of ranching. He talked about resolving conflicts by looking at situations as "us against the problem" instead of "us against them." People need to learn how to live together on rangelands, he said, and talk about shared goals.

He showed slides of how some areas had been restored by using Alan Savory's idea of putting large, dense herds of cattle on land for short periods. Cattle should be raised for environmental goals as well as beef production, he said. Accountability and monitoring are needed.

Havstad made four main points:

- 1) We have under-appreciated the extent of historic overgrazing which started after 1870;
- 2) Sustainability at best is a moving target. The key question is "what should the goal be?"
- 3) The land has responded to destocking to some extent. However, other than in some areas where grazing use is excessive and in riparian zones, we shouldn't expect further improvements using present management practices. Because of historic degradation of many rangelands and their stagnate condition, we should not expect these lands to improve even with complete removal of livestock. (He showed slides to support his point.) For the range to improve, competitors with native grasses need to be removed.
- 4) Grazing is a small-scale process and intensity is the key factor. Grazing can occur without damaging the land through control of intensity, timing and duration. Monitoring is essential.

Winder said he is convinced that grazing is sustainable in most places but it needs to be done differently. The key for ranchers is to have the right attitude; a holistic attitude. Ranchers need to manage for the whole ecosystem, not just for cows.

Cows need to be controlled through the relationship of timing, intensity, and frequency. Predators also are key, Winder said, and he tries to work around them. Using new methods, he now can produce more cattle per acre and produce them for less cost.

Hayes said he has found Holistic Range Management teachings about goals and decision making useful when deciding whether to reduce the number of cows on an allotment.

Tours of some of the places that practice or teach about what Quivira preaches will be conducted in August and September. You are encouraged to go.

*Continued*

The tours are:

Saturday, Aug. 2 and Saturday, Sept. 6: Four-hour tours of Jim Winder's ranch:

Jim will lead the tours and tell about such subjects as cattle rotation, range ecology, biodiversity, and economics. Assemble at 10 a.m. at Jim's house, located two miles north of Nutt, N.M. Take I-25 to Hatch, then drive 19 miles west on Highway 26 to Nutt. Bring a lunch, water, hat, and plenty of sunscreen. For more information call, Jim Winder at (505) 267-4227.

Saturday, Sept. 27: Tour of USDA's Jornada Experimental Station:

Kris Havstad, director and chief scientist of the Jornada Station, will lead the tour. This large tract of land was closed to uncontrolled cattle grazing 85 years ago. A long-term research station was established to provide information about the effects of grazing on arid environments.

The tour group will assemble at 10 a.m. at the south boundary of the Jornada property. From I-25, turn east on Highway 70 (just north of Las Cruces) at a Shell Station, drive three

miles, then turn north on the Jornada Road (dirt), drive 12 miles to the boundary fence. Bring a lunch, water, and a hat.

You can be placed on the Quivira Coalition mailing list and receive their newsletter by sending a contribution of \$15 or more to: The Quivira Coalition, 535 Cordova Rd., Suite 423, Santa Fe, NM, 87501.

**CALENDAR**

**Game Commission Meetings**

**July 18:** Roswell

**August 15:** Espanola

**Team Up with Wildlife Projects**

**August 16:** Placer Creek riparian restoration. Near Hopewell Lake (west of Tres Piedras). Camp at Hopewell lake.

**Sept: 20:** Elk Springs, BLM Rio Puerco Resource Area south east of Cuba. Move fence, clean up old fencing material.

\*\*\*\*\*

Membership application for Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, PO Box 1234, Albuquerque, NM 87103

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

city, state, zip \_\_\_\_\_

phone \_\_\_\_\_ date \_\_\_\_\_

family membership\* (\$25) \_\_\_\_\_

name of person to be NMWF member \_\_\_\_\_

additional NMWF member (\$10/member) \_\_\_\_\_

single membership\* (\$20) \_\_\_\_\_

\* includes one NMWF membership

# AWF

*Organized in 1914 to protect  
and perpetuate our wildlife  
and natural resources.*

**Albuquerque Wildlife Federation--PO Box 1234--Albuquerque, NM 87103**

## **GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, AUGUST 14, 1997**

7:00 P.M.

Bear Canyon Senior Center - 4645 Pitt NE, Rooms 5 & 6  
(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro  
left on Pitt. BCSC is one block down on the left)

**\*\* \*\* \* AUGUST 14 PROGRAM \* \*\* \*\* \***

### **FISHING, HUNTING, AND OTHER RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES ON THE ZUNI RESRVATION**

Nelson Luna, wildlife technician for the Zuni Department of Fish & Wildlife, will talk about opportunities for hunting, fishing, camping and hiking by non-tribal members on the Zuni reservation. The reservation has nine fishing lakes, with trout, northern pike, bass and catfish. He also will tell about wildlife restoration programs on the reservation. Luna, a native Zuni, is a founder and president of the Zuni chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. Zuni is the only Indian reservation that has a Habitat Stamp program.

### **THE NEW MEXICO HABITAT STAMP PROGRAM**

Janell Ward, from the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish, will present a slide program about the Habitat Stamp Program as it operates in Central New Mexico. She will talk about what has been done and where the program is headed. She also would like feedback concerning the program.

**\*\* \*\* \* AUGUST TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE PROJECT \* \*\* \*\* \***

### **GAVILON CANYON WET MEADOW RESTORATION SATURDAY, AUGUST 16**

Another wet meadow restoration, this one in the Carson NF west of Tres Piedras. Camp at Hopewell lake. See page 2 for details.

*Associated With The National Wildlife Federation*

## **AUGUST TEAM-UP WITH WILDLIFE PROJECT: GAVILON CANYON WETMEADOW**

Project coordinator Bill Zeedyk has another wet meadow restoration lined up for this project. We will again be working with Ben Romero of Carson National Forest. Those of you who have worked on projects provided by Ben know that these have been among our best.

We will be camping at Hopewell Lake, which is on the south side of US-64 about 20 miles west of Tres Piedras. The project will be in Gavilon Canyon which is about three miles west of the lake. An abandoned road runs down this canyon, and provides a fast path for water to get down the canyon. We will build structures to slow the water and restore the natural flow. Workers can arrive either Friday night, or early Saturday. We will leave the campground around 8:00 am. Bring a lunch, water, work gloves, and protection from the sun.

### **15<sup>TH</sup> YEAR AT VALLE VIDAL**

The Valle Vidal Team-up With Wildlife project and potluck dinner went very well. We had a large turnout, and as a result we completed the work before 2:00 in the afternoon. It was just as well, as thunderstorms were passing through the area. The project continued for the third year our restoration of the Ring Meadow. George Long represented Carson National Forest and also helped with the work and direction. Before we began work on Saturday, project coordinator Bill Zeedyk told us about meadow hydrology, and the effect our work would have.

The beneficial effects of the previous years work was evident to those of us who had been there in the past. There is a marked increase in width, and in desirable plants.

The potluck was generous as usual, and the food was excellent. AWF again provided hamburgers, hot dogs, and soft drinks. After the dinner Bill explained how the acquisition of Valle Vidal occurred (and how we missed out on a great deal more). A few of us who were around at the time learned some details we had missed. It was good to have Bill, who was a part

of the acquisition process, enlighten us.

After the dinner many of us went to the actual Vidal valley to watch elk. We saw many in the valley bottom, and saw several very large bulls on a nearby ridge.

### **VISIT TO THE WINDER RANCH**

The July newsletter told about the Quivara Coalition which is attempting to increase communication between the ranching community and groups promoting environmental improvement. Rancher Jim Winder, whose ranch is west of Hatch, is one of the people who founded the coalition, and is trying new approaches to ranching.

As part of this effort, Winder invited people to see his operation on Saturday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Four AWF members, Dale Jones, Andy Iskra, and Joyce and Cliff Mendel attended, along with a several people from other environmental organizations, several professional people involved in range and watershed issues, and a number of people from nearby ranches. Winder is very impressive, and is trying innovative ideas with advice from the Jornada Experimental Station. He rotates his cattle after short, intense grazing on small pastures. His ranch is divided into 62 pastures. He has increased the carrying capacity of his land and his lease lands, with improved range condition. He has suffered much less drought loss than others in the area this year. He showed and described to us how he runs his operation, and he showed us an improved riparian area on his state land.

The visit was well worth the drive. There will be a tour of the USDA Jornada Experimental Station on Saturday 27 September. This is nearer, and should also be interesting. Kris Havstad, director and chief scientist of the Jornada Station, will lead the tour. This large tract of land was closed to uncontrolled cattle grazing 85 years ago. A long-term research station was established to provide information about the effects of grazing on arid environments.

The tour group will assemble at 10 a.m. at the south boundary of the Jornada property. From I-25, turn east on Highway 70 (just north of

Las Cruces) at a Shell Station, drive three miles, then turn north on the Jornada Road (dirt), drive 12 miles to the boundary fence. Bring a lunch, water, and a hat.

You can be placed on the Quivira Coalition mailing list and receive their newsletter by sending a contribution of \$15 or more to: The Quivira Coalition, 535 Cordova Rd., Suite 423, Santa Fe, NM, 87501.

### FISHING CLINIC

Sandia Ranger District of Cibola National Forest will hold a fishing clinic again this year, at Manzano Lake on Sept. 13. This event gives young people who do not have friends or relatives who fish a chance to learn the basics, and perhaps catch their first fish in the process. Beverly DeGruyter of the Sandia District needs volunteers to help run the event, and to teach knot tying, casting, fishing ethics, etc. Bev will be at the August meeting. Please volunteer if you can.

### LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN

In June, the AWF board of directors took a position that the Lesser Prairie Chicken not be hunted this year, as we do not believe the population has recovered sufficiently. AWF secretary Cecil Haas represented our position before the State Game Commission in June.

Also, AWF member Lois Hermann wrote a personal letter to the Game Department preceding the meeting, asking that the Lesser Prairie Chicken not be hunted. Lois, you may recall, wrote an article about the bird's decline for our newsletter last fall.

The Game Department recommended that the season on the birds remain closed, and closure was approved by the Game Commission.

A number of people believe the chicken should be listed as "threatened" under the Endangered Species Act. About half of the Lesser Prairie Chickens still in existence live in New Mexico.

We recently received an update from the Audubon Society regarding the status of the Lesser Prairie Chicken on BLM land near Roswell. Figures from a biologist there indicate

that the bird declined from 2,500 in 1988 to an estimated 324 in 1996.

It is believed that the problem is largely due to loss of Lesser Prairie Chicken habitat, caused by a BLM herbicide program to reduce or eradicate shinnery oak. The BLM has imposed a moratorium on the program.

### AWF ACTIONS

We wrote to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding Habitat Conservation Plans for endangered species. We said the plans need to provide clear conservation benefits for species in exchange for assurances given to landowners.

We wrote to the State Game Commission concerning bear hunting regulations for the next three years. We asked that the Commission be conservative, and that the harvest of breeding-age females be reduced.

### CALENDAR

#### Game Commission Meetings:

Friday, August 15, 1997

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

El Rio Theater

324 W. Oate, Espanola, New Mexico

**September 25-27:** Santa Fe

**October 27-29:** Santa Fe

**November 22:** Farmington

#### Team Up With Wildlife projects

**Sept: 20:** Elk Springs, BLM Rio Puerco Resource Area south east of Cuba. Move fence, clean up old fencing material.

#### Cibola NF annual Fishing Clinic

**Sept. 13:** Manzano lake.

# AWF

*Organized in 1914 to protect  
and perpetuate our wildlife  
and natural resources.*

**Albuquerque Wildlife Federation--PO Box 1234--Albuquerque, NM 87103**

## **GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1997**

7:00 P.M.

Bear Canyon Senior Center - 4645 Pitt NE, Rooms 5 & 6

(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro  
left on Pitt. BCSC is one block down on the left)

**\*\* \*\* \* SEPTEMBER 11 PROGRAM \* \*\* \*\* \***

## **STATUS OF NORTH AMERICAN WATERFOWL--1997**

Kathy Wood, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist, will show a videotape that tells what has happened to North American waterfowl populations, our ducks, geese and swans, over the past few years. She was in Washington, D.C., this summer, working on the videotape.

She also will tell about what the Playa Lakes Joint Venture program is doing in eastern New Mexico and the southern Great Plains regarding wetlands habitat. She is the Playa Lakes Joint Venture coordinator.

## **THE RIO GRANDE BOSQUE OVER TIME: HOW MUCH CHANGE DO WE WANT?**

Cliff Crawford, a teacher and riparian ecologist, will present a slide program about change in the Middle Rio Grande Bosque and the costs and benefits of change. He will tell about the bosque in pre-historic times, the historical changes that are thought to have occurred, and how humans have influenced the bosque over the past century. He also will discuss the findings of research he has conducted at the Bosque del Apache since 1991 concerning how flooding affects a riparian forest like the bosque.

It all comes down to questions about how we want the bosque to look and how we want to use our water. This program should interest everyone who enjoys the Rio Grande and the woods which run along it.

**\*\* \*\* \* SEPTEMBER TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE PROJECT \* \*\* \*\* \***

**ELK SPRINGS  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**

*Associated With The National Wildlife Federation*

**SEPTEMBER TEAM-UP WITH  
WILDLIFE PROJECT:  
ELK SPRINGS**

This month's project will be at Elk Springs in the BLM Rio Puerco Resource Area southeast of Cuba. The project will be held on Saturday, September 20th. We will move a fence and clean up old fencing material. If you can help call Richard Becker (255-7156) or Terina Overmeir (345-7666).

**GAVILON CANYON HABITAT  
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

Eight AWF members joined our good friends Ben Romero, Silver Rael, and Brett Coleman of the Tres Piedras section of Carson National Forest on this project. Ben and AWF project coordinator Bill Zeedyk picked a badly eroded section of an abandoned road about 5 miles west of Hopewell lake and two miles north of route 64. Rainwater had run down a steep grade, and the resulting gully had ground itself several feet deep. This was a difficult project, but we made a good start on providing recovery.

The attendees camped at Hopewell Friday and Saturday night. Lunch during the project on Saturday was on a peak with a beautiful 230° vista looking out over the Tierra Amarilla grant to the west. The work was hard, but we had another very enjoyable outing.

**FISHING CLINIC**

Sandia Ranger District of Cibola National Forest will hold a fishing clinic again this year, at Manzano Lake on Sept. 13. This event gives young people who do not have friends or relatives who fish a chance to learn the basics, and perhaps catch their first fish in the process. Beverly DeGruyter of the Sandia District has people to teach knot tying, casting, fishing ethics, etc.

As a federal employee Bev cannot solicit food donations for the participants. In past years we have been able to get hot dogs,

hamburgers, or pizza donated by a local business person. If you could help with this part of the project, please volunteer. For more information call the District at 281-3304 and ask for Bev.

**EXCITING OPPORTUNITY FOR  
JOURNALISTICALLY-INCLINED  
PERSON**

OK, so maybe the title is a little misleading, but we could really use some help with the newsletter. This isn't a big job, perhaps a two or three hours a month. It would be best to have a computer, and even better if you have e-mail. We could use help with some of the writing, with organizing the newsletter, and with mailing it out. Won't you consider giving us a hand? Please call Joyce at 265-3840.

**AND BEST OF ALL, THAT'S NOT THE  
ONLY BIG OPPORTUNITY**

We would also like some help on programs and publicity. Each month we FAX meeting announcements to both major newspapers, and e-mail one to a community calendar on the Worldwide Web. We would like to do more, but we are at our limit with running the Federation and doing the newsletter. Publicity is a pretty easy job. It could be expanded, and hopefully bring in more members.

We also need several people to help work on programs, deciding on topics and calling potential speakers.

You could help? Great! Call Joyce at 265-3840.

**CLASS A PARKS**

The State Game Commission lifted a moratorium on granting new Class A Parks licences at its July meeting in Roswell.

State law provides for licensing Class A parks, which are game farms used to raise game animals, primarily elk, that are privately hunted. They allow private ownership of wildlife within the park.

The moratorium was imposed by the previous commission in the mid-1980s, largely to protect New Mexico's native wildlife from the

threat of disease caused by imported wildlife. According to Larry Bell, the department's chief law enforcement officer, there now is improved testing for such disease.

Other objections to game parks are: the required game proof fencing impedes the normal migration of wild game; the fences have not prevented escapes and the intermingling of public and private wildlife; public wildlife is turned to private ownership; wild elk may be lured into the park; and game may be killed without a fair hunt.

The department had received a number of requests from members of the public, primarily large landowners and the NM Cattlegrowers Association, to lift the moratorium.

State Game and Fish Director Jerry Maracchini said that people who oppose the Class A Parks law need to go to the legislature and get the law changed.

## **NEW DEPREDATION REGULATIONS**

The State Game Commission approved new regulations for depredation assistance to landowners at its August meeting. The new regulations were required by an amendment made by state Sen. Tim Jennings to House Bill 249 last spring.

A Game and Fish Department employee or representative is required to go to a property within 24 hours after the property owner has made a depredation complaint. Within 10 days of receipt of the complaint, the department is to offer at least three methods for resolving the depredation problem. After the landowner agrees to an intervention, the department is to implement it within five days of agreement.

If the landowner demonstrates that the department has not adequately resolved the problem within one year, the department is to issue a permit for killing the offending animal or animals.

The numbers and locations of depredating animals that are killed are to be reported, and landowners will not be allowed to keep animals that are killed or bid on them. The new regulations will apply only to private lands.

## **BIGHORN SHEEP RELEASE IN MANZANO MOUNTAINS POSTPONED**

About 25 bighorn sheep were to be released in the Manzano mountains in August by the Game and Fish Department. However, because both money and manpower are short, the release was postponed until next year.

## **CONGRATULATIONS BILL ZEEDYK**

Bill Zeedyk, our Team-Up with Wildlife coordinator and vice president, has been honored by the regional Environmental Protection Agency for the work he has done to restore wetlands. Bill received the award in a ceremony at the capitol rotunda on Friday, 5 September. We will tell more about Bill and the award in a future newsletter.

## **GAME COMMISSION MEETINGS**

Important issues regarding our wildlife and its future are discussed and voted on at State Game Commission meetings. The meetings are open to the public, but have been sparsely attended.

We urge our members to attend these meetings when possible and report back to us. Cecil Haas usually represents us at the commission meetings, but there are times when no member of the board is able to go. The Sept. 25 meeting in Santa Fe should be particularly interesting.

## **CALENDAR**

### **Game Commission Meetings:**

**September 25-27:** Santa Fe

**October 27-29:** Santa Fe

**November 22:** Farmington

### **Team Up With Wildlife projects**

**Sept. 20:** Elk Springs, BLM Rio Puerco Resource Area south east of Cuba. Move fence, clean up old fencing material.

### **Cibola NF annual Fishing Clinic**

**Sept. 13:** Manzano lake.



*Organized in 1914 to protect  
and perpetuate our wildlife  
and natural resources.*

**Albuquerque Wildlife Federation--PO Box 1234--Albuquerque, NM 87103**

**GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 9, 1997**

7:00 P.M.

**Bear Canyon Senior Center - 4645 Pitt NE, Rooms 5 & 6**

(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro  
left on Pitt. BCSC is one block down on the left)

**\*\* \*\* \* OCTOBER 9 PROGRAM \* \*\* \*\***

**BIOLOGY AND HABITAT USE BY MIGRATING SONG BIRDS  
ALONG THE MIDDLE RIO GRANDE**

Deborah Finch, a supervisory wildlife biologist from the Forest Service's Rocky Mountain Research Station, will present a slide program about migratory songbirds in the Middle Rio Grande. She is leading a study, now in its fourth year, to determine which habitats are used by various species of migratory songbirds and whether more effort should be made to conserve habitat.

Finch will show slides of the songbirds that are being captured and banded and will tell about methods and results of the study. She will tell which migrants are the most abundant and about bird population trends. She also will provide information about the endangered southwestern willow fly catcher.

**PROPOSED CHANGES TO DEER AND ELK REGULATIONS**

Darrel Weybright, big game project leader for the Department of Game and Fish, will talk about proposed changes to the deer and elk regulations. The State Game Commission will decide on big game hunt structures for the next five years in Santa Fe Oct. 27-29.

Weybright's presentation will enable us to learn what the department will propose and to comment before the regulations are finalized. We encourage you to write to the Game Commissioners with your views and to attend the Game Commission meeting.

The Game Commission has asked that the elk population be reduced by 20 percent to cut down on depredation complaints, and that the number of deer killed by hunters be dramatically reduced. To accomplish reduction of elk herds, the department is proposing more elk hunts and a significant increase in permits for cow elk.

The department proposed four deer hunt options for people to comment on, ranging from no change in the hunt structure to having all hunters draw. A reduction in deer hunters would not do much to increase the deer population, but would increase the number of bucks.

*Associated With The National Wildlife Federation*

## **MORE ON NEW DEPREDATION REGULATIONS**

We now have a copy of the new depredation regulations, written in response to legislation sponsored by Sen. Tim Jennings, and find we omitted an important provision in our last newsletter.

In the case of an immediate threat of damage to property by a game animal, where the property damage would be greater than the value of wildlife-related income collected by the landowner, the landowner, lessee, or employee can immediately kill the game animal. The killing has to be reported to the Game Department within 24 hours, and neither the landowner, family, lessee, nor employees can keep or bid on animals killed.

### **CLASS A PARKS**

Some people were upset when they heard at the July Game Commission meeting that a North Valley resident would be allowed to raise elk on seven acres of land. This was one outcome of lifting the moratorium on new Class A Parks by the Game Commission. There is no minimum acreage for a Class A game farm, and no restriction on the number of animals that can be raised.

According to Larry Bell of the Game Department, the department director must issue a Class A Park license to anyone who applies for one "in good faith." The fee for a Class A Park license is \$500 a year.

The owner can give away hunts or charge for them. No state license is required to hunt in a Class A park. Hunters do not have to abide by state bag limits or season dates. The owner can sell live or dead game animals, shoot and sell the animals for commercial meat, and cut off elk antlers.

There are two restrictions on Class A Parks. The maximum area that can be included in a park cannot exceed 3,200 acres, and each park must be enclosed by a game proof fence that conforms to specifications required by the State Game Commission. Wild animals contained within the fence may be treated as

belonging to the Game Park. However, when the park fence is abolished, the same number of wild game animals must be returned to the state.

### **COMING UP**

At our November meeting, Larry Bell from the Game and Fish Department will talk about the depredation regulations and Class A Parks. Also, Bill Zeedyk will give us an update on his work to restore riparian areas in Mexico.

### **DEER POLICY COMMITTEE**

Bill Zeedyk is chairman of a new AWF deer policy committee to study problems related to deer and help develop a position. Richard Becker and Bob Nordstrom also are on the committee, and others will be asked.

### **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Members of the committee for nominating next year's officers and board members are:

Richard Becker	255-7156
Cecil Haas	271-2103
Jim Hubert	286-2122
Cliff Mendel	265-3840
Bill Zeedyk	281-9066

Call one if them if you would consider running for a board position. If you are interested in wildlife, can attend monthly board meetings, and can help with work on issues or running the organization, we need you.

### **QUIVIRA COALITION**

We have sent a donation to the Quivira Coalition, the group that is trying to bring ranchers and environmentalists together to resolve rangeland conflicts. Our donation entitles us to receive the coalition newsletter and notices about upcoming events.

### **STATE GAME COMMISSION MEETINGS**

October 27-29: Santa Fe  
November 22: Farmington

**OCTOBER WORK PROJECT ON  
OCTOBER 18th  
Dia del Rio**

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation is again participating in Dia del Rio on October 18, 1997. This is an international event celebrating our river – how it has influenced our communities and our personal lives. Volunteers are needed to help plant trees, make seed balls and work on trails.

We will meet at the old Alameda Bridge at 8:30 AM on the 18<sup>th</sup>. Work in the morning and enjoy the festivities in the afternoon. Meet old friends and make new ones. For more information, call Richard Becker at 255-7156, or Ondrea Linderoth of the Open Space at 873-6620.

**A LITTLE ABOUT BEAR SCAT**

Bears are omnivorous, and as a result, their scat will differ, depending on their diet at the time. In the spring, after a winter of hibernating, grass is a primary item in their pantry. Therefore, one will find a bear's scat to be black and full of grass. Scat with considerable plant matter in it may smell like the interior of a silo. As spring turns into summer, and different foods satisfy a bear's palate, the scat will change as well. Scat with a lot of fruit in it, such as apples, will smell like the fruit composing the scat.

Bear scat can vary in size, from 1 ¼ inches up to 2 ¾ inches. Sometimes black bear scat will be bigger than grizzly scat, so scat size is not necessarily a good determining factor regarding bear species. If the scat is on top of grass, and the grass underneath is still green, there is a higher probability the bear is still in the area. If so, you might take some sensible precautions.

For more about tracking and animal scat, see Tracking and the Art of Seeing, by Paul Rezendes.

**A FEW WORDS ABOUT ELK BEHAVIOR**

Elk, like cattle, have a four part stomach. Often a feeding period begins shortly before day break and lasts for two or three hours. Then it's off to a bedding area to ruminate their breakfast. Because they require 10 to 15 pounds of forage a day, grazing and ruminating consume much of an elk's time. Feeding will pick up again in late afternoon. Also, moonlit nights may be used as grazing opportunities.

Although feeding times may be common, feeding strategies are different between bulls and cows. In the summer, cows have to incorporate security for their calves along with their feeding. Bulls may compromise security for high quality feed. The summer is a critical time for bulls to add on a layer of fat to compensate for the lesser amount of time spent feeding during the rut.

Besides food, elk are interested in maintaining a comfortable body temperature. Because they lack an extensive sweat gland system, in the summer elk will select the habitat that provides them with the comfort zone they want. Timber stands with less undergrowth provide protection from solar radiant heat, plus wind movement is not hindered as much. It's the cool place to be. This is particularly important for bulls, as about one calorie of heat is released for every one stored as fat. Thus bulls are driven into higher, more shaded habitat than cows require.

In the winter, heavier cover may be desired as a wind break, which helps conserve body heat. Also, in deep snow, elk will often be seen traveling in single file. The leader breaks the trail, and the route gets easier for each following elk. This saves energy, and means that another mouthful or two of grass won't have to be found.

Information gleaned from Elk of North America Ecology and Management, compiled and edited by Jack Ward Thomas and Dale E. Toweill.

# AWF

*Organized in 1914 to protect  
and perpetuate our wildlife  
and natural resources.*

**Albuquerque Wildlife Federation--PO Box 1234--Albuquerque, NM 87103**

## **GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1997**

7:00 P.M.

Bear Canyon Senior Center - 4645 Pitt NE, Rooms 5 & 6  
(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro  
left on Pitt. BCSC is one block down on the left)

**\*\* \*\* \* NOVEMBER 13, PROGRAM \* \*\* \*\***

### **NEW DEPREDATION REGULATIONS AND CLASS A GAME PARKS**

Larry Bell, from the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, will talk about new wildlife depredation regulations and about Class A game parks.

The depredation regulations were passed in response to legislation introduced by State Senator Tim Jennings during the last legislative session.

Class A game parks are farms used to raise game animals that are privately hunted. State law allows for private ownership of wildlife within the parks. A moratorium on the game farms was lifted last summer.

### **MEXICAN SPOTTED OWL**

Sarah Rinkevich, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service wildlife biologist, will present a slide program about the characteristics and behavior of the Mexican spotted owl, found in four states including New Mexico. She also will tell about its status as a threatened species under the federal Endangered Species Act and about efforts to increase owl populations.

*Associated With The National Wildlife Federation*

## EPA AWARD TO BILL ZEEDYK



Bill Zeedyk (center) receives award from Lynda Carroll of the EPA in the capitol rotunda. Mark Weidler of the NM Environment Department is on the left.

In an award ceremony held September 5<sup>th</sup> at the Capitol Rotunda in Santa Fe, the United States Environmental Protection Agency honored individuals and organizations from New Mexico for their outstanding environmental achievements. Among those receiving awards was AWF vice-president and Team-up with Wildlife project coordinator Bill Zeedyk.

The award was presented to Bill for special achievement in wetlands restoration. The presentation was made by Linda F. Carroll, Acting Deputy Regional Administrator for EPA region 6, and Mark Weidler, Secretary of the New Mexico Environment Department.

Special recognition was given to Bill for his efforts in helping to found the NM Riparian Council; developing a new philosophy and new strategies for road management in wet meadow areas; development and design of new road drainage systems which helps prevent the loss of wet meadows; leading the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation effort s to restore springs and wetland areas; and for his involvement in the habitat stamp (Sikes Act) program. Bill has published his road drainage design system in a widely distributed publication *Managing Roads for Wet Meadow Ecosystem Recovery*.

At the suggestion of AWF president Cliff Mendel, board member Richard Becker nominated Bill for the award, and solicited letters of support for the award from other organizations, and from New Mexico and Federal agency personnel who are acquainted with his work. Becker, and Bill's wife Gene attended the awards ceremony.

## OCTOBER GAME COMMISSION MEETING

The Oct. 27-28 State Game Commission met in Santa Fe on Oct. 27 and Oct. 28 to set next year's hunting regulations, including regulations for bears, cougars, and elk.

**Good News for Bears.** The Game Commission voted 4-3 to protect female bears by moving the bear hunting season to later in the year, when many of them will be in their dens. The new season, to take effect next fall, will run from Oct. 15 through Dec. 15. Currently the season is from Sept. 1 through the end of October.

The season change is in accord with our position, stated in a letter we wrote to the Commission several months ago. We asked that the harvest of adult female bears be reduced, which the later season should accomplish.

The new season dates are the result of concern expressed by a large number of people that bears in the study areas are not producing enough surviving young to replace themselves and may be over hunted.

**More Hunting for Cougars.** Although the Game Department had recommended no change in the current limit of one mountain lion per hunter each season, the Game Commission voted 4-3 to double the bag limit in several hunting units. Commissioners said they did so in the hope of protecting deer and bighorn sheep.

In doing so, the commissioners disregarded the Game Department's 10-year lion study, and the recommendations of cougar researcher Ken Logan. Department biologists recommended in September that no changes be made until the cougar management plan is complete.

**Hunters and Ranchers Protest New Elk Regulations.** It seemed that no one in the audience at the Oct. 27 Game Commission meeting liked the elk hunt recommendations the Game Department had been asked to write. The recommendations, which should result in reducing elk populations by at least 20 percent in many units, were based on input from the Commission's June meeting in Roswell-- attended by a number of ranchers from that area and State Senator Tim Jennings.

Many at the Oct. 27 meeting said they had just heard about the elk proposals. They said they wanted to see specific depredation problems worked on instead of reduction of the elk herd. Concern also was expressed about the compounding effect of the new depredation regulations, based on legislation by Sen. Jennings, which allows landowners to kill elk that threaten to damage their property.

Commissioners voted to leave the Farmington area hunt unit unchanged after a number of people, including hunters, ranchers, a Forest Service representative, and a Game Commissioner, spoke against the proposed elk herd reduction in that area.

**Game and Fish Director Glad to See Hunters Aroused.** Jerry Maracchini, the Game and Fish Department director, said he was somewhat happy about opposition to the new elk regulations because it meant that hunters were beginning to take notice. For the past few years, he said, the department has taken a lot of political pressure to reduce elk. When he goes before the legislature, his position is weak as the legislature doesn't hear from sportsmen. The state legislature doesn't believe the Game & Fish Department has constituents.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Members of the committee for nominating next year's officers and board members are:

Richard Becker	255-7156
Cecil Haas	271-2103
Terina Overmier	345-7666
Jim Hubert	286-2122
Cliff Mendel	265-3840
Bill Zeedyk	281-9066

Call one if them if you would consider running for a board position. If you are interested in wildlife, can attend monthly board meetings, and can help with work on issues or running the organization, we need you.

## STATE GAME COMMISSION MEETING

November 22: Farmington

# AWF

*Organized in 1914 to protect  
and perpetuate our wildlife  
and natural resources.*

**Albuquerque Wildlife Federation--PO Box 1234--Albuquerque, NM 87103**

**ANNUAL MEETING - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1997**

**6:30 P.M.**

**Bear Canyon Senior Center - 4645 Pitt NE, Rooms 5 & 6**

**(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro  
left on Pitt. BCSC is one block down on the left)**

**\*\* \*\* \*\* DECEMBER \*\* \*\* \*\***

*Annual Meeting  
and  
Christmas Party-Pot Luck Dinner*

Our annual meeting and Potluck dinner will be held at Bear Canyon beginning at 6:30 PM Thursday, 11 December. We will hold the annual elections, after which we will party. Bring a dish if it is convenient, but there is always plenty of food, so if a dish is a problem, just show up.

AWF will supply soft drinks, coffee, and tea, and plastic utensils. Rumor has it that there might be some wild game dishes.

This is always an enjoyable event, so please come, and feel free to bring a guest. Several guests who have provided us with work projects will join us. If you have some interesting photos related to wildlife or the out-of-doors, bring them along and share them with us.

*Associated With The National Wildlife Federation*

# Thanks!

I want to thank all of the people that have helped AWF during 1997. Bill Zeedyk has a gain done yoeman's service to schedule and run work projects, and as a the **vice-president**. His advice at board meetings and as a consultant on agency and legislation concerning wildlife and wildllands has been beyond value.

My wife Joyce has again done a superb job of getting speakers for the general meeting, and has sent out meeting publicity and helped with the newsletter. In addition she has kept track of legislation and agency actions for me. Libby Haas kept track of membership, sent out requests for renewal, and made sure mailing labels were available in time for the newsletter.

1997 AWF **secretary** Cecil Haas has attended most meetings of the Game and Fish Commission, has done a good job of keeping minutes of the board meetings, and has written letters on a number of subjects. Terina Overmeir has been a conscientious **treasurer** and a dependable contributor to the board meetings, and helped run work projects.

The **board members** were unusually good about making meetings. Jim Hubert, was in charge of actions. Richard Becker was very active as our director in charge of wetlands issues and helped run work projects. Andy Iskra helped us with wildlife issues, provided us with work projects, and advised us on legal and agency issues. Dennis Muirhead gave us a hunter's perspective and wrote regarding the Valle Vidal buffalo herd. Fred Breslin helped with programs. Carl Peterson was out of town for many meetings, but helped with the newsletter. I had hoped to get more help from Carl next year, but he is moving to Colorado Springs. We will miss him, and wish him well.

We had a large turnout at most **Team Up with Wildlife** projects. Bill Zeedyk, with a little help from some of us got a list of contributors together on short notice. I apologize in advance for the people I am sure we have left out.

## A big **THANK YOU** to:

Bob Nordstrum	Doug Edwards
Bill Reed	Mary Reed
Jim Hubert	Marge Hubert
Donna Hibner	Wes Hibner
Eric Backstrom	Jim Chesmore
Mariane Miller	Larry Miller
George Long	Greg Neugebauer
Richard Brown	Bill Brown
Andy Iskra	Bud Wilson
Richard Becker	Bill Zeedyk
Donna Dudley	Carol Chavez
Terina Overmeir	Peter Pacheco
Ben Romero	Silverado Rael
Brett Colman	Vallie Weingarten
Joyce Mendel	Cliff Mendel
Beverly DeGruyter	Tyler Huning
Dennis Muirhead	Glenda Muirhead
Larry Ruggles	Carla Alford
Doug Shaw	Ondrea Linderoth
Thomas Dow	Andy Gredell
Dave Weingarten	Ted Bryant
Larry Smith	

## ELECTION OF 1998 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

It is time once again to elect the officers and board of directors who will run AWF for next year. And once again we find ourselves with no one willing to head the organization. I am very discouraged about it, to be frank. I have been president for four of the last eight years, and my wife, Joyce, has been president for two more of those. Richard Becker served for the other two years. During these eight years Joyce and I also wrote most of the newsletters, and Joyce arranged for most of the programs (with help from Bill Zeedyk for part of that time) and got out meeting publicity. Up until a year ago when Libby Haas took over membership, I also did that.

A new president will be in a better position. He or she will be in charge of running general and board meetings, and making sure relevant issues are dealt with. There are people to do the newsletter, get programs, get out meeting publicity, and Libby has agreed to continue taking care of membership.

Others are doing more than their share. Bill Zeedyk has run our Team Up with Wildlife program for a number of years, and at the same time helped run the Riparian Council and the NM Wild Turkey Federation, helped rural Mexicans improve their wetlands, and helped the Navajo nation with their wetlands. Several board members and officers have assisted me when I have been out of town, and have also taken over important functions for the past year.

I hope someone out there will consider running for president. We asked many members, and were universally rejected. In sixteen years Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, which has operated continuously since its founding as the Game Protection Association in 1914 by several visionary wildlife advocates including the great Aldo Leopold, will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Will it make it? Not unless there are more people willing to put in a little time and effort to make it happen.

### Nominating committee:

Cliff Mendel  
Bill Zeedyk  
Terina Overmeir  
Richard Becker  
Cecil Haas

### Nominations:

president: ?  
vice-president: Richard Becker  
treasurer: Terina Overmier  
secretary: Cecil Haas

directors: Bill Zeedyk  
Dennis Muirhead  
Larry Ruggles  
Vallie Weingarten  
Andy Iskra  
Joyce Mendel

The AWF bylaws state the following. We must elect a minimum of four and a maximum of eight directors. If a new president is elected, I (Cliff Mendel) will be on the board as past president, and therefore would not be elected. By law, if no new president is elected, I will still be president. This is because we are incorporated under the state laws of New Mexico. Voting in the committee's board nominations will elect six directors. We can therefore elect two more if we wish. In addition, with board approval the president can appoint directors to bring the total to as many as twelve, so there is room for others who may wish to serve.

*The 1997 Officers and Board  
of Directors wishes you and your's  
a happy and safe holiday.*