



Protecting New Mexico's wildlife
and natural resources since 1914

AWF Newsletter

JANUARY 2006

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation ■ PO Box 1234 ■ Albuquerque, NM 87103
Affiliated with The National Wildlife Federation and The New Mexico Wildlife Federation

■ ■ ■ **GENERAL MEETING** ■ ■ ■
Thursday, January 12, 2006
7:30 pm

Join us for our first meeting of the new year, which features two very interesting presentations:

Wildlife Services & Animal Damage Control in New Mexico

Ken Podborny, wildlife biologist and District Supervisor for Northern NM, Wildlife Services, USDA, will discuss wildlife issues, predation, urban wildlife such as prairie dogs and coyotes, techniques, aerial operations... and more. Ken uses props, tools, and demonstrations to help tell his story on the control of wildlife damage. Come and get all your questions answered!

Legislative Update for the Short Session of the NM Legislature

Luke Shelby, Assistant Director of the NM Department of Game & Fish (and AWF Board member), will detail the progress of legislation near and dear to the Department as it advances through the political process.

The January meeting will be held at BEAR CANYON SENIOR CENTER, 4645 Pitt NE (North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro, left on Pitt. BCSC is one block down on the left.) As always, refreshments will be served!

■ ■ ■ **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** ■ ■ ■

As we start the new year, AWF has the achievements of 2005 to build upon. In addition to amending our By-Laws, four committees were formed: Membership Enhancement, Programs, Projects, and Wildlife Issues – all of which are important to our success and growth in the future. The Wildlife Issues committee struggled, however, still needing to get together to formalize its structure.

At the December annual meeting, the 2006 AWF Officers and Board of Directors were elected: Gene Tatum – President; Barbara Coulter – Vice President; Richard Becker – Secretary/Membership Enhancement Committee Chair; Glenda Muirhead – Treasurer/Communications; Bill Zeedyk – Project Committee Chair; Jim Hubert – Program Committee Chair; Luke Shelby – State Legislative Liaison; Dennis Muirhead – Project Support; Larry Dwyer – Hunter Issues; and Pat Hester – Federal Public Lands Issues. Dale Hall will continue as Wildlife Project Advisor. This is an excellent group of people with diverse backgrounds who will help us build on our past successes.

Wildlife habitat issues will be on the political forefront again in 2006. For example, Washington politicians want the 1872 Mining Law reformed (alias Public Lands give-away), and the leasing of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) for oil and gas development brought forward again as legislation. These two important issues were presented in 2005 not as stand-alone legislation for full and proper vetting, but as attachments to other important legislation. For example, ANWR leasing was a rider to the 2006 Defense Appropriations Legislation. These proposals must be seen in the light of day by the American people, and not be crafted in behind-closed-doors political maneuvering.

(continued)

As Americans concerned about wildlife habitat, we are obligated to become informed and make our positions known to our political representatives. As an organization, AWF can have more influence than unaffiliated individuals. Your participation in one of the AWF committees is needed for our organization to prosper and promote advocacy for wildlife. Please think about it.

— Gene Tatum, President

■ ■ ■ **UPCOMING PROGRAMS** ■ ■ ■
Mark your calendars!

FEBRUARY 9 : Mexican Wolf Recovery Program in NM and the Southwest

John Morgart, Program Coordinator for Mexican Wolf Recovery, US Fish and Wildlife Service, will present an update on the Mexican Wolf program complete with recovery efforts and accomplishments, coordination challenges and difficulties. Plenty of time will be available for questions and answers.



MARCH 9 : Otero Mesa – Crucial Habitat Threatened

The Greater Otero Mesa Area is home to the state's healthiest herd of pronghorn, wintering migratory songbirds, and important grassland habitat. But its peacefulness is threatened by the oil and gas industry's desire to lease 250,000 acres for development. The New Mexico Wilderness Alliance's Nathan Newcomer offers a DVD presentation revealing the threats to this region, and describes the Alliance's survey which identified over 500,000 acres as suitable for Wilderness designation—the largest remaining potential wilderness area left in New Mexico.

■ ■ ■ **SUMMARY OF AWF ANNUAL MEETING, DECEMBER 8, 2005** ■ ■ ■

Excellent food, including game dishes, vegetarian specialties, and *lots* of wonderful desserts, plus a congenial group of members and guests combined to make the AWF annual meeting an enjoyable event.

President: Gene Tatum
Vice-President: Barbara Coulter
Secretary: Richard W. Becker
Treasurer: Glenda Muirhead
Directors: Larry Dwyer, Pat Hester, Jim Hubert, Dennis Muirhead, Luke Shelby, Bill Zeedyk

Newly elected officers and directors for 2006 are listed at left. The AWF Representative and Alternate to the New Mexico Wildlife Federation Board will be selected by the AWF Board at the meeting on January 12. Changes to AWF By-Laws were approved as proposed in the December Newsletter.

Attendees viewed a segment from the *Wild New Mexico* television program hosted by Bob Gerding, showing an interview with Bill Zeedyk at Valle Vidal in August which also featured footage and comments from the large crew of energetic AWF members and many others engaged in collecting and placing rocks for erosion control structures.

Complimentary one-year memberships were presented to two of our 2005 guest speakers who attended the party: Ray Powell, formerly with the Valles Caldera Trust, and Laurie Wearne from Talking Talons. Our other speakers will also receive guest memberships for the year.

An issue under discussion was a change in meeting venue, to a more centralized and prominent location. Research into likely sites will continue. [More information on this issue appears on last page.]

— REMINDER —

② **Your 2006 membership dues** were payable at the AWF Annual Meeting on December 8, with a 60-day grace period. As this is a new policy, calculations by our Treasurer have been made to bring all memberships to a December 31st end date. If you have not already done so, please contact Glenda (281-2925 or gmuirhead1@msn.com) to obtain the amount owed. Thanks!

Sandhill Cranes at Los Poblanos Fields Open Space

By Bonnie Schmader

We watched as a small group of sandhill cranes slowly circled overhead, spiraling downward with wings extended. One crane called out, as if giving directions to the others. Soon, more cranes joined the chorus, their “garoo-a-a-a” calls trumpeting all around us. Then, wings down, feet dangling, they awkwardly landed in the alfalfa field, joining over 150 other sandhill cranes enjoying Central New Mexico’s mild winter climate and nutritious forage. No, this isn’t the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, this is Los Poblanos Fields Open Space, right here in the middle of Albuquerque.

These sandhill cranes have flown a long way to get here, some traveling from as far north as Canada, making New Mexico their winter vacation destination. Following the Rio Grande flyway, these cranes forage on grains and invertebrates in nearby agricultural fields during the day, and spend the night on sand bars and in the shallows of the river, safe from coyotes and other predators...



During the winter months, it’s not uncommon to see several hundred sandhill cranes scattered across the 138-acre Los Poblanos Fields Open Space, owned and managed by the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division. Alfalfa is the main crop here, but contract farmer Scott Rasband also plants wildlife crops such as sorghum, milo and millet as part of his agreement with the City of Albuquerque. In addition, Rio Grande Community Farms plants corn for the annual Maize Maze, as well as at their community garden to enhance forage for cranes and other wildlife to live on during the winter months.

Los Poblanos Fields Open Space is a bright green jewel in the crown of Albuquerque. [Acquired as

Major Public Open Space in 1997], it preserves agricultural land and farming – a way of life that is quickly disappearing. It provides resident and migratory wildlife with critical habitat, and it gives citizens a place to enjoy and appreciate the quiet solitude of an agricultural and wildlife habitat area in the heart of Albuquerque. Citizens enjoy the property as well by walking, jogging, horseback riding and bicycling along the farm and ditch roads.

Los Poblanos Fields Open Space is open to the public year-round. Wildlife viewing is especially popular during the winter months when hundreds of cranes, geese and ducks cover the fields.

If you want to see the cranes, visit between now and the end of February, because come one warm, clear March day when the winds are blowing just right, something in their ancient brains will tell them it’s time to go. They will launch themselves into wide, low circles while calling to each other, rising on thermals until they are almost out of sight several thousand feet high, reaching crosswinds that will send them back up north on their timeless, cyclical journey.

Directions:

Los Poblanos Fields Open Space is located off of Montano Road, between 4th Street and the river. Turn north on Tierra Viva Road; parking is to the left. [Please respect and abide by posted rules.]

(excerpted with author’s permission from Duke City Fit - Winter 2005 edition)

Bonnie Schmader is the Environmental Education and Outreach Coordinator for the City of Albuquerque Parks and Recreation Department’s Open Space Division. Even when she’s not out teaching an environmental education program, she spends much of her time outdoors in Albuquerque’s great Open Space lands. Contact her at the Open Space office 452-5200, or bschmader@cabq.gov.

Craneology 101

- Sandhill Cranes have a variety of vocalizations, but the most common is generally described as a repeated series of trumpeting “garoo-a-a-a” calls that can be heard for over a mile. One of the reasons for this remarkably loud and penetrating call is...its unusual windpipe. Most birds’ tracheas pass directly from the throat to the lungs, but in Sandhill cranes, [the trachea] is elongated by forming a single loop which fills a cavity in the sternum, coiled upon itself like a French horn.
- Contrary to popular belief, the red patch atop a crane’s head is naked skin, not feathers.
- Cranes can fly 25-38 mph.
- Cranes are some of the oldest surviving birds; a sandhill crane fossil wing bone was discovered in Nebraska and estimated to be over 9 million years old.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, PO Box 1234, Albuquerque, NM 87103
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➔ Please choose between **AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY** or **AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP**. **AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY** does **not** include membership in NMWF and your full dues payment goes to AWF. **AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP** includes **one** voting membership in NMWF, for which \$10 of your dues payment goes to NMWF. For Family Membership, if a second person* desires NMWF voting rights, an additional \$10 payment is required.

name(s) _____

address _____

city, state, zip _____

phone _____ email _____

Gift membership from: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES :

Student [under 18]\$10 ← [AWF Membership Only]

Individual\$25

Dues \$ _____

Family\$35

*Second NMWF Member \$10 _____

Sustaining \$50-\$99

Contribution \$ _____

Patron\$100

TOTAL \$ _____

THANK YOU!

Lifetime.....\$500 ← [One-time Payment]

➔ **PLEASE SELECT ONE :**

AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY

AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP: Designate NMWF member(s*) _____

A NEW MEETING LOCATION?

Investigation into a new AWF meeting venue, spearheaded by Barbara Coulter, has produced some possible sites which will be presented to the Board for discussion at their January meeting. Under consideration are a restaurant (Shoney's at Louisiana and Menaul, across from Coronado Mall), two churches in the UNM/Nob Hill area, and REI, the sporting goods store near Montano and I-25. Many thanks to Barbara for her relentless search and countless phone calls in pursuit of likely locations!

If you have suggestions for a new meeting location – a place where you attend other meetings, headquarters of an organization you belong to, a suitable room at your workplace – please let it be known!!! Come to the January meeting (Board meeting at 6 pm or general meeting at 7:30 pm) to present your information, or please contact Gene at 255-1960, or Barbara at 332-8213.

Happenings at the Rio Grande Nature Center

All events take place at the Nature Center, 2901 Candelaria NW. For those requiring advance registration or for more information, call 344-7240. The term "free" refers to the cost of the event; non-members of the Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center pay \$3 parking fee.

Free weekend walks led by volunteer naturalists: Saturday and Sunday bird walks at 9 am January-February, and 8:30 am in March. **Sunday nature walks** at 1 pm Jan.-March.

Winter Bird and Bat Festival. Speakers, including a talk on the threat of bird flu to migrating birds; a photo workshop; guided walks; crafts for children; live birds and bats; Ranger Rob's Field Guide to Duck Butts–Interpretive ranger Rob Yaksich explores waterfowl from the bottom up. Jan. 14, 10 am-4 pm. Free.

Twilight Hike on a Full Moon Night. Join a park ranger for a listening walk around the pond and through the bosque. Jan. 14 and Feb. 12 at 6 pm. Free, registration required.



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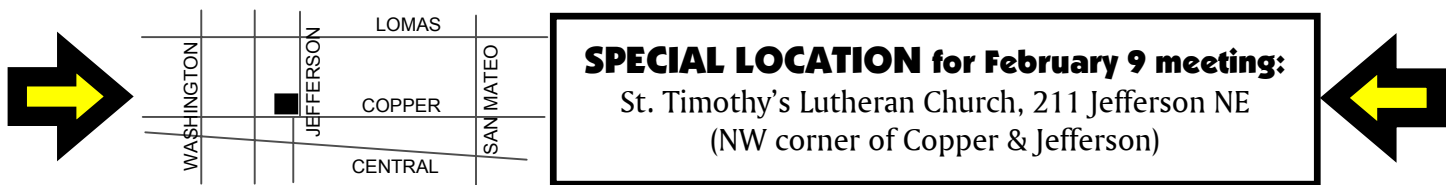
Albuquerque Wildlife Federation ■ PO Box 1234 ■ Albuquerque, NM 87103
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GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, February 9, 2006
7:30 pm

Mexican Wolf Recovery Program in NM and the Southwest

John Morgart, Program Coordinator for Mexican Wolf Recovery, US Fish and Wildlife Service, will present an update on the Mexican Wolf program complete with recovery efforts and accomplishments, coordination challenges and difficulties. Come learn the details and bring your questions – John has the answers! As always, there will be refreshments.



■■■ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ■■■

Our Project Committee, led by Bill Zeedyk, will be meeting soon to develop the project schedule for this year. Last year's outings were fun and challenging, and we hope to arrange similar events for 2006. If you would like to attend the planning meeting to offer suggestions or join the committee, contact Glenda or me* for the date, time and location.

AWF has performed restoration projects on the Valle Vidal for over 20 years. The 2005 Valle Vidal projects in July and August were the highlight, but had a slightly different emphasis than in past summers. Because of El Paso Energy's request to develop coal-bed methane on the Valle Vidal, the Forest Service began the preparation of an amendment to the Carson Forest Plan to include the Valle Vidal. To ensure that our sweat equity to restore Valle Vidal wetlands and streams is protected, we were compelled to become involved in the Forest Service's planning/decision-making process.

During the August forum at Valle Vidal, Governor Richardson announced he intended to nominate the Valle Vidal as an Outstanding National Resource Water (ONRW). In response to the Governor, the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission Surface Water Bureau designated the Valle Vidal as ONRW on December 23, 2005. The ONRW designation is a classification allowed under the Federal Clean Water Act, which does not prohibit oil and gas drilling, but it does allow the state to impose stringent restrictions and requirements on land uses that affect surface water quality. The designation will not affect existing uses of the land, which include hunting, fishing, other recreational activities, and some livestock grazing.

At the February 9th meeting, I will provide an update on the Carson Forest Plan Amendment for Valle Vidal, and if/how ONRW designation will be incorporated into the Amendment.

(continued)

The New Mexico Wildlife Federation purchased a display table at the Quivira Coalition Conference January 12-14, 2006, at the Hilton Hotel in Albuquerque. In exchange for providing personnel to manage NMWF's display of Valle Vidal and Otero Mesa information, we were allocated half the table to set up an AWF exhibit. Pat Hester, Glenda Muirhead, and I made several interesting contacts, expanded our mailing list—and maybe added a few members. Quivira puts on an excellent conference; our thanks to NMWF's Jeremy Vesbach for providing us the opportunity to “network” at this event.

— Gene Tatum, President

* Call Gene 255-1960 or Glenda 281-2925

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NEWS

President: Gene Tatum
Vice-President: Barbara Coulter
Secretary: (vacant)
Treasurer: Glenda Muirhead
Directors: Larry Dwyer,
Pat Hester, Jim Hubert,
Dennis Muirhead, Luke
Shelby, Bill Zeedyk
Ex-Officio: Richard W. Becker

Richard W. Becker, PhD, has decided to resign his position as AWF Secretary, effective January 11, 2006, because of a serious illness which precludes his regular attendance at Board meetings. He will remain on the Board of Directors as an ex-officio member, and hopes he may be able to come to an occasional program. In his letter of resignation as Secretary, Richard urges all of us to “continue to serve AWF and the wildlife of New Mexico.”

Richard's resignation as Secretary leaves this position open on AWF's Board. If you would like to serve on the Board in this capacity or as a Director, please contact Gene Tatum to express your interest.

January Board Meeting in Brief

Jeremy Vesbach, NMWF Director, has asked AWF to host the NMWF Annual Meeting in 2006, after the NWF Conference March 16-18. He has presented to the AWF Board a set of Guidelines outlining goals, responsibilities, and ideas. Committee will be formed of NMWF members Kent Salazar and Ellery Worthen plus three from AWF (Gene Tatum, Luke Shelby, and Glenda Muirhead volunteered). Bill Zeedyk is willing to assist and plan a project as part of the event, and we can solicit help from the membership. NMWF will provide funding. Tentative date is mid-May (May 19-20-21?) after turkey season.

Barbara Coulter reported that AWF is now formally a member of the Tijeras Canyon Safe Passage Coalition, a group working with planning entities to incorporate wildlife passes into I-40 reconstruction. Pursuant to a contact with Defenders of Wildlife, Gene will prepare a sample letter to show support for not weakening the Endangered Species Act; Board will provide comments. Gene and Pat attended a Native Plant Society meeting and spoke to the group about AWF; we will exchange meeting information with them. NPS member Virginia Burris attended the January Board meeting; she is interested in backyard habitat projects incorporating native plants and is planning a 2-day workshop in 2007. She is looking for speakers. NPS meets at the Garden Center on Lomas. We agreed to provide support and information for the workshop and advertise it in our newsletter.

MARCH 9 Program : Otero Mesa – Crucial Habitat Threatened

The Greater Otero Mesa Area is home to the state's healthiest herd of pronghorn, wintering migratory songbirds, and important grassland habitat. But its peacefulness is threatened by the oil and gas industry's desire to lease 250,000 acres for development. The New Mexico Wilderness Alliance's **Nathan Newcomer** offers a DVD presentation revealing the threats to this region, and describes the Alliance's survey which identified over 500,000 acres as suitable for Wilderness designation – the largest remaining potential wilderness area left in New Mexico.

Note: The March 9th meeting will be held at the REI store, 1550 Mercantile NE. Further details will be provided in the March AWF Newsletter.

Mark your calendars!

New AWF Meeting Locations

In reading through this newsletter, you'll have noticed that our February and March meetings will be held in locations other than our long-time spot, Bear Canyon Senior Center. We will maintain our ties with BCSC, but are attempting to create greater public awareness of AWF, its mission, and its activities by presenting our programs in places that are more central (February - St. Timothy's at Jefferson & Copper), and more prominent and outdoors-oriented (March - REI near I-25 & Montano). It is hoped that, with greater exposure, more people will become familiar with and participate in AWF's interesting monthly programs and fun, productive projects.

Conservation Group Meetings/Workshops

Meeting: Sierra Club – Rio Grande Chapter – Central Group

Thursday, February 16, 7:00 pm at the First Unitarian Church on Carlisle and Comanche.

Workshop: Riparian Restoration in the Southwest – The New Mexico Experience

February 28-March 2 at the Albuquerque Convention Center – Registration \$100-\$125.

Hosted by the New Mexico Chapters of the Soil and Water Conservation Society, Society for Range Management, NM Riparian Council. *Invasive plants have become a huge problem in riparian areas...impairing water resources, ecosystems and wildlife habitat. This workshop will provide important riparian restoration tools and introduce you to the experts.* Presenters include Bill Zeedyk, Riparian Ecologist; Nancy Riley, USFWS; Sterling Grogan, MRGCD; and many more. Contact Steve Kadas at Steve.Kadas@nm.usda.gov or 505-761-4422.



“Last Child in the Woods”

The theme for the Quivira Coalition's 5th Annual Conference on January 12-14, 2006, was “Bridging the Urban-Rural Divide: Reconnecting People to Land and Each Other.” Appearing as the Keynote Speaker was author Richard Louv, whose most recent book, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder*, offers insights and truths, concerns and challenges. Below, reprinted from the Conference program, is a *précis* of Louv's premise and presentation.

Like [Aldo] Leopold, Richard Louv believes that the dissolving bond between Americans and their land has spiritual, as well as physical, consequences...

There may be no greater concern for those of us worried about the environment than the growing disconnect between the nation's children and the natural world. For a new generation, nature is more abstraction than reality. “Increasingly, nature is something to watch, to consume, to wear – to ignore,” writes Richard Louv. “A kid today can likely tell you about the Amazon rain forest – but not about the last time he or she explored the woods in solitude, or lay in a field listening to the wind and watching the clouds move.”

This growing disconnect has huge implications, Louv argues, for the health of our children (obesity, attention deficit disorders), for the health of endangered plants and animals, and for the future of the planet.

“As the young spend less and less of their lives in natural surroundings, their senses narrow, physiolog-

ically and psychologically, and this reduces the richness of human experience,” he writes. “How the young respond to nature, and how they raise their own children, will shape the configurations and conditions of our cities and homes – our daily lives.” Or, to paraphrase another observer that Louv mentions in his book: why should a child care about the fate of an endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher if he or she doesn't know what a towhee is?

“In the space of a century, the American experience of nature has gone from direct utilitarianism to romantic attachment to electronic detachment,” he writes. This means that baby boomers may be the last generation to share an “intimate, familial attachment to the land and water.”

“Many of us now in our forties or older knew farmland or forests at the suburban rim and had farm-family relatives. For today's young people, that familial and cultural linkage to farming is disappearing, marking the end of the second frontier.” The challenge now in contemporary thinking in science has analogs in mythologies that have instructed civilizations from around the world down through the centuries, and both have implications for the urban-rural divide and the management of natural resources. Now it is up to all of us to figure out how to restore and maintain the connection between nature and our children.

– Courtney White, Executive Director, Quivira Coalition

Richard Louv is a futurist and journalist focused on family, nature and community. He is the author of seven books, among them *Childhood's Future* (Anchor) and *The Web of Life* (Conari).

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name(s) _____

address _____

city, state, zip _____

phone _____ email _____

Gift membership from: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES :

Student [under 18]\$10 ← [AWF Membership Only]

Individual\$25

Dues \$ _____

Family\$35

*Second NMWF Member \$10 _____

Sustaining \$50-\$99

Contribution \$ _____

Patron\$100

TOTAL \$ _____

THANK YOU!

Lifetime..... \$500 ← [One-time Payment]

➔ **PLEASE SELECT ONE :**

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AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP: Designate NMWF member(s*) _____



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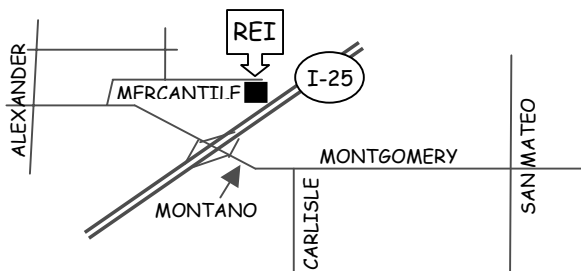
GENERAL MEETING

DATE: Thursday, March 9, 2006
TIME: 7:30 pm
PROGRAM: OTERO MESA – Crucial Habitat Threatened
SPEAKER: Nathan Newcomer, NM Wilderness Alliance

At over 1.2 million acres, New Mexico's Otero Mesa is America's largest and wildest grassland left on public lands. Otero Mesa is home to over 1,000 native wildlife species, several ranching families, and has archaeological sites dating back 5,000 years. In 1997, Harvey E. Yates Company drilled two test wells that found natural gas, but by many estimates, not very much. Ever since, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has had a mandate from the Bush Administration to open this fragile desert grassland to full-scale oil and gas development. Since that time, a bipartisan coalition of ranchers, hunters, conservationists, business owners, religious leaders, and Governor Bill Richardson have fought to protect this wild Chihuahuan Desert grassland, making this issue one of national importance.

—Nathan Newcomer, *New Mexico WILD! Winter 2005*

Come and enjoy Nathan's DVD presentation on Otero Mesa. Learn about the vulnerability of the Salt Basin aquifer, a large, untapped, fresh water resource underlying the area, which faces the threat of contamination from oil and gas development. Hear whether three State Representatives were successful in reintroducing a memorial during the NM Legislature's January session to increase energy access to Otero Mesa, and accelerate oil and gas permits. Also, there will be refreshments!



PLEASE NOTE:
The March 9th meeting will
be held at the REI store,
1550 Mercantile NE.

■■■ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ■■■

Pat and I attended the Albuquerque City Council meeting on Wednesday, February 22, to support a resolution regarding the Valle Vidal. Albuquerque City Councilors Sally Mayer and Michael Cadigan sponsored the resolution to support the Valle Vidal Coalition's Core Values and withdrawal of the area from oil and gas leasing. A solid contingency with diverse interests attended to support the resolution. Seven of us spoke, asking the Councilors to pass the Resolution. The Resolution passed unanimously. Earlier in the week the city

of Las Vegas, NM, passed a similar resolution. Our hope is that the support of the New Mexico city and community governments will add to the existing momentum, and spur our New Mexico Congressional delegation to introduce Federal Legislation to protect the Valle Vidal from uses like coal bed methane development.

Speaking of the Valle Vidal, I forgot to give you all an update on the Carson National Forest Plan Amendment for the Valle Vidal at our February general meeting. As mentioned in the last Newsletter, the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission Surface Water Bureau on December 23, 2005, designated the Valle Vidal as Outstanding National Resource Water (ONRW). I contacted the Carson Forest Office and spoke to a representative, Audrey Kuykendall. She indicated that baseline water quality conditions had been established by New Mexico State Environmental Division. Due to designation of the area as an ONRW, no surface-disturbing activity could be permitted which would cause the current water quality to be degraded. It is possible even with these requirements that coal bed methane development could occur. We must continue to support and lend our influence to having the area withdrawn from mineral leasing. Ms. Kuykendall also indicated that the Forest Plan Amendment is 5 to 6 months behind schedule.

We are having our March meeting at REI (directions provided above). At the conclusion of the March program, let's take some time to discuss meeting location preferences, pluses and minuses.

— Gene Tatum, President

New Members - WELCOME!

- John Gray
- Joanne R. Hertz
- Dave Huberty & Nancy Carrillo
- Mike Morrow
- Cheryl Nigg
- Kent Salazar
- Duane L. Schneider
- Jeff Young
- Pete Wakeland
- Jim Wilson

Renewals - THANK YOU!

- Larry Blair
- Ken & Emily Brudos
- Charles Easton
- Cecil D. Haas – PATRON
- Dale A. Hall
- Jim Hines
- Jim Hubert
- Andy J. Iskra
- Richard E. Leonard
- Ronald Madsen
- Cliff & Joyce Mendel
- Larry & Mariane Miller
- Dennis & Glenda Muirhead
- Kurt B. Nolte
- Bob Nordstrum
- Harold Olson
- Jack Pardee
- Luke Shelby
- Lawrence Smith
- Gene Tatum & Pat Hester – SUSTAINING
- Philip & Aija Thacher
- Dave & Joan Weingarten
- Ellery Worthen
- Bill Zeedyk & Mary Maulsby – SUSTAINING

TO HONOR ALDO LEOPOLD

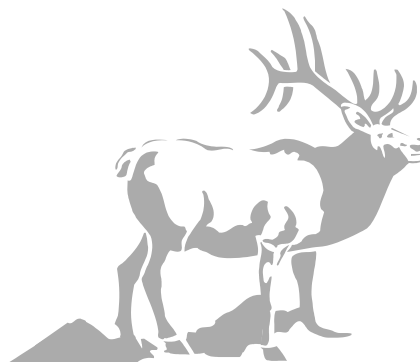
Win a copy of *A Sand County Almanac*!

In Wisconsin, March is “Aldo Leopold Month.” To honor Aldo's legacy here in New Mexico, AWF member Richard W. Becker, PhD, has donated a copy of *A Sand County Almanac* to be given as a “door prize” at the March AWF meeting. Each person in attendance at the meeting can participate in a drawing for this special book written by our organization's founder. Don't miss your chance at this remarkable and famous compilation!

Notable Quote

“In short, a land ethic changes the role of Homo sapiens from conqueror of the land–community to plain member and citizen of it. It implies respect for his fellow–members, and also respect for the community as such.”

—Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*



AWF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President: Gene Tatum
- Vice-President: Barbara Coulter
- Secretary: (vacant) This could be you!
- Treasurer: Glenda Muirhead
- Directors: Larry Dwyer, Pat Hester, Jim Hubert, Dennis Muirhead, Luke Shelby, Bill Zeedyk
- Ex-Officio: Richard W. Becker

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

APRIL 13 – New Mexico Wild Turkey

Back by popular demand! Bill Zeedyk, master hunter, returns with his presentation about the behavior and habitat of the crafty wild turkey of New Mexico, a favorite of hunters and outdoor enthusiasts alike. Equipped with plenty of “visual aids” and a plethora of turkey calls, Bill will share his lore just in time for turkey season!



MAY 20-21 – NMWF Annual Meeting

AWF will host the New Mexico Wildlife Federation’s Annual Meeting for 2006. Plans are in progress to make this a *different* kind of event – with lots of activities, a conservation project, guest speakers, a tour of Whitfield Wildlife Area near Belen – and plenty of good barbecue! Spend Saturday, May 20, at Los Amigos Roundup from 11am-4pm and enjoy food, fun, and festivities! Stay tuned for more details!

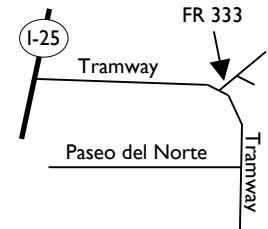
2006 TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE PROJECTS

Saturday – March 4

Piedra Lisa Trail in the Sandias/Cibola National Forest The New Mexico Wilderness Alliance will lead volunteers in maintenance work on the trail, to include installing signs regarding seasonal closure to protect the peregrine falcon. Meet at the trailhead parking lot at 8:30 am. Please bring a lunch and water, a hat, work gloves, and sunscreen, and be sure to wear sturdy boots. Some beverages will be provided. Tools will be supplied by the USFS. Activities will conclude about 2-2:30 pm. Contact Michael Scialdone (NMWA) at 505-843-8696 or scial@nmwild.org, or Barbara Coulter (AWF) at 505-332-8213 or coulter@um.edu for more information.

Directions:

Take Tramway north from I-40 or Tramway east from I-25. You are heading for the “corner” of the mountain. Tramway makes a wide 90° turn. Watch for the sign which says: “Forest Road 333, Tierra Monte, La Cueva PG, Juan Tabo PG.” Take this road 2.0 miles to where it turns to dirt at the junction with Forest Road 333D. After another 0.3 miles, the road ends in the **trailhead parking lot** (actually, the road does not end, but you come to a locked gate). Meet there at 8:30 am.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS ! Here’s what else is planned in 2006:

MARCH 18	Cuba: Willow Planting along the Rio Puerco in conjunction with the Rio Puerco Management Committee. Contact Gene Tatum, 255-1960 or gtatum3@msn.com.
APRIL 1-2	Tijeras Canyon: Cedro Creek Restoration in conjunction with the Quivira Coalition. Contact Glenda Muirhead, 281-2925 or gmuirhead1@msn.com
APRIL 7-9	Stream Restoration in the Gila – Project of the NM Wilderness Alliance
JUNE 2-4	Trampas Trail Head Restoration in Pecos – Project of the NM Wilderness Alliance
JUNE 9-11	Cebolla Canyon Wetland Restoration – BLM, with Talking Talons, Wild Turkey Federation
JUNE 16-18	Bitter Creek Restoration in Red River – USFS/Questa – Project of the NM Wilderness Alliance with Amigos Bravos
JULY 7-9	San Pedro Wilderness Inventory, ATV Trespass – Project of the NM Wilderness Alliance
JULY 14-16	Valle Vidal – Comanche Creek Restoration – USFS/Carson, with Quivira Coalition
JULY 28-29	NM Wilderness Alliance Membership Outings in the San Mateos – USFS/Cibola
AUG 4-6	Red River – Project of the NM Wilderness Alliance with Amigos Bravos
AUG 19-20	Valles Caldera Revegetation – Valles Caldera Trust
SEPT 16	Cedro Creek – USFS/Cibola – with Quivira Coalition and NM Museum of Natural History
SEPT ?	Tijeras Creek Restoration – USFS/Cibola with Tijeras Canyon Safe Passage Coalition and Carnuel Land Grant

AWF Outreach / Activism Activities

Some AWF members are taking positive actions to advocate for our organization and also for issues they believe in. In addition to the visit by Gene Tatum and Pat Hester to the Albuquerque City Council meeting to support the Valle Vidal (mentioned in President's Message), a cadre of AWF/NMWF members journeyed to Santa Fe during the recent Legislative Session to oppose "revisiting" the Roadless Rule. Prepared to testify at a Senate committee meeting, this valiant group found their mere presence at the Roundhouse was sufficient to cause the issue to be dropped altogether! Apparently legislators had underestimated the public's objections, having been influenced to the contrary by a group of off-roaders and outfitters. Thanks to AWF's Gene Tatum and Jim and Margie Hubert, as well as NMWF's Jeremy Vesbach, Oscar Simpson, and Alan Hamilton. Good work, people!

And AWF had the opportunity to meet attendees at the Bob Gerding Sport Show recently at Expo New Mexico, thanks to NMWF's offer to share their table. Members Pat Hester, Jim Hubert, and Glenda Muirhead joined NMWF's Kent Salazar, Ellery Worthen, and Oscar Simpson (in staggered shifts) to interest passers-by in the many issues of importance to both groups. Several people joined NMWF – and also opted for AWF membership!

Happenings at the Rio Grande Nature Center

All events take place at the Nature Center, 2901 Candelaria NW. For those requiring advance registration, or for more information, call 344-7240. The term "free" refers to the cost of the event; non-members of the Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center pay \$3 parking fee.

- Free weekend walks led by volunteer naturalists, no reservations required.
 - Bird walks at 8:30 am. March 4-5, 11-12, 18-19, and 25-26. April 1-2, 8-9, 15-16, 22-23, and 29-30.
 - Nature walks at 1 pm. March 5, 12, 19, and 26. April 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30.
- Twilight Hike on a Full Moon Night. Dates and time: March 14, 6 pm and April 13, 7 pm. Cost: free, registration required. Join a park ranger for a listening walk around the park and through the Bosque.
- Educator Training: Bosque Education Guide. Educators review all aspects of the Middle Rio Grande Valley ecosystem. Date and time; March 31, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 pm. Cost: Training session and all materials free, registration required.
- Cottonwood Champs: Your Scientific Journal. Visitors will examine male and female flowers, discuss pollination, and make an artistic record of spring blooms. Date and time: April 30, 1-3 pm. Cost: \$5 per family, registration required.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, PO Box 1234, Albuquerque, NM 87103 *An Affiliate of New Mexico Wildlife Federation*

- ➔ Please choose between **AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY** or **AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP**. **AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY** does **not** include membership in NMWF and your full dues payment goes to AWF. **AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP** includes **one** voting membership in NMWF, for which \$10 of your dues payment goes to NMWF. For Family Membership, if a second person* desires NMWF voting rights, an additional \$10 payment is required.

name(s) _____

address _____

city, state, zip _____

phone _____ email _____

Gift membership from: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES :

- Student [under 18]\$10 ◀ [AWF Membership Only]
- Individual\$25
- Family\$35
- Sustaining \$50-\$99
- Patron\$100
- Lifetime\$500 ◀ [One-time Payment]

*Second NMWF Member \$10 _____

Contribution \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

THANK YOU!

➔ PLEASE SELECT ONE :

AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY

AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP: Designate NMWF member(s*) _____



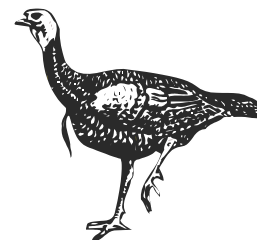
AWF Newsletter

APRIL 2006

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation ■ PO Box 1234 ■ Albuquerque, NM 87103
Affiliated with The National Wildlife Federation and The New Mexico Wildlife Federation

GENERAL MEETING

DATE: Thursday, April 13, 2006
TIME: 7:30 pm
PROGRAM: Learn to "Talk Turkey!"
SPEAKER: Bill Zeedyk, USFS retired



Back by popular demand! Bill Zeedyk returns with his presentation about the behavior and habitat of the wild turkey of New Mexico, a favorite of hunters and outdoor enthusiasts alike. Equipped with plenty of "visual aids" and a plethora of turkey calls, Bill will share his lore just in time for turkey season.

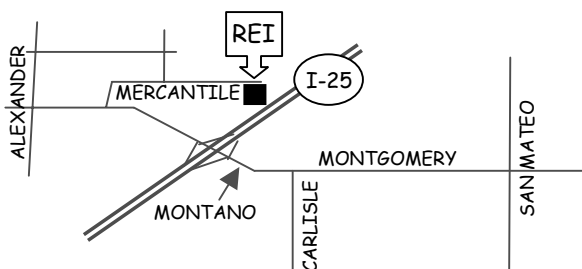
Bill will tell us a little about New Mexico's three kinds of wild turkeys, where they live, and how to find them. He'll cover some key points about their behavior, but most of all their voice and vocabulary and how to call them using a variety of turkey callers. Do you know the difference between a *yelp* and a *cluck*? If you were a turkey, what would you do if you heard a *putt*? How about a *cackle*, a *cut* or a *gobble*? How would you respond? Come learn what it really means to "talk turkey"!

Along the way, Bill will discuss some of the finer points of spring turkey hunting – some techniques to use when listening and setting up, how to hunt safely, how to care for your gobbler after you bag it, and how to get the most enjoyment out of your hunting experience whether you hunt by camera, by gun or by ear. After all, it's "the Gobble, not the Gobbler" that you remember... "Yeah, I heard one just at daybreak. He was still on the roost...must have gobbled a dozen times!" Let's talk turkey about wild turkeys – after all, it's that time of year!



Bill, an AWF member, is a life-long turkey hunter and advocate for wild turkey conservation and restoration, having coauthored a book on biology and management of the wild turkey. Retired from a long career as a biologist with the U.S. Forest Service, Bill developed an early interest in habitat management. Hunting, fishing, and observing wildlife "fostered a sensitivity to habitat needs...[and] taught me how to read a landscape," Bill says.

While in Washington, DC, in the early 1970s, Bill helped draft the first policies for the Forest Service in implementing the Endangered Species Act. During the 1980s, he served as the agency's Regional Director of Wildlife and Fisheries, a position he held for fourteen years. In the 1990s Bill contributed his knowledge to surveys of Gould's Turkey in the Animas and Peloncillo Mountains for the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish.



The April 13 meeting will be held at the REI store, 1550 Mercantile NE.

■ ■ ■ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ■ ■ ■

Ever since California Representative Pombo's Bill, HR 3824, to overhaul the 1973 Endangered Species Act (ESA) passed the House of Representatives in October 2005, there has been an uproar in the conservation/environmental community regarding the detrimental effects of these changes. Of course there is another side—farmers, ranchers, and developers who strongly favor the ESA changes.

These polarized viewpoints had slipped to the back page of the news, but now there is discussion in the Senate to propose an ESA bill. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee chaired by Inhofe (R-OK), another opponent of endangered species conservation, is working on the Senate Bill. Any Senate Bill will have to be reconciled with the House Bill in a conference committee controlled by Rep. Pombo and Senator Inhofe. A moderate Senate Bill could enter conference committee but come out favoring the House Bill.

The prospect of a Senate Bill has reawakened the opposing interests. As a result, much information and opinion can be found. The National Wildlife Federation has an interesting video at this site: <http://www.nwf.org/protectesa/>. The *Albuquerque Journal* ran an article last Sunday, March 26, which seemed to me to present more of the development side of the issue. The February edition of the *High Country News* has an article about Richard Pombo, and the March edition contains two ESA articles.

To sort through these differing views, I looked at:

--the original law (<http://www.fws.gov/Endangered/esa.html>)

--and Pombo's Bill (<http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/z?c109:H.R.3824>).

I must confess that legaleze gives me a headache. So, I have to view this matter from a simpler direction. Who are the opposing interests? — Conservation groups and private property owners. The conservation side includes a wide of array of organizations from sportsmen like the National Wildlife Federation to environmental groups like the Forest Guardians. On the other side are landowners who appear to be concerned about their development rights.

OK, if we just stop here, I have to cast my vote for the conservation side. After all, I represent AWF, which supports the use of the land but in a manner that protects and preserves wildlife habitat. But I also believe in the people's private rights. So here we go back to brain gridlock, and reliance on the law.

Let's consider an additional legal concept or philosophy. The 2005 Quivira Coalition Conference was entitled "Half Public, Half Private, One West." Eric T. Freyfogle, Law Professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago (where during a twenty year career he has taught courses on property, natural resources and wildlife law) is active in state and local conservation groups and has published numerous articles and books. Freyfogle, as the opening speaker, talked about the development of private and public property rights. He stated, "Indeed, it is more apt to talk, not about two distinct categories of property, but instead about the wide variety of ways that the public and private interest can be merged to promote the common good."

I personally believe that the answer to this dilemma is found in the concept of *common good*. To me, the original ESA provides a consideration for the common good, while proposals like Mr. Pombo's favor individual economic interests. My final thought is – if in doubt, err on the side of conservation. If you are interested in more specific information about the ESA, contact me.

— Gene Tatum, President



Luera Peak A Lesson in Serving the Public Interest

Off-the-beaten path in southwestern New Mexico, a large contiguous block of state trust land has been a favorite destination of sportsmen for many years. This beautiful remote location, commonly know as Luera Peak, affords a great opportunity for licensed public hunters to pursue world-class elk and other big game.

[Last year word circulated that a private deal would] effectively lock out sportsmen and other interests from thousands of acres...historically used for hunting and other important outdoor activities. Such a proposal to "privatize" what has traditionally been available to the public hunters would have been a precedent of significant proportions.

Understandably, hunters and outdoor recreation organizations voiced strong opposition. Eventually [it was] announced that there was no deal ...and public hunters would be able to continue their traditional use of the Luera Peak area.

This issue serves as a reminder to all of us that government, as keepers of the public trust, must be mindful that it is in everyone's best interest to conduct business with full transparency and to involve those who have an interest in the outcome.

— Ray Powell, AWF member
Former Commissioner of Public Lands

What's At Stake?

Protect the Endangered Species Act

Like any law that has been around for 32 years, the Endangered Species Act could benefit from updates. We can improve recovery planning and implementation, increase the involvement of states and local governments, enhance incentives for private landowners and also provide the necessary funding to implement the law.

However, the two bills currently in Congress that are attempting to "improve" the Endangered Species Act actually do little to ensure more species recover. Instead they undercut what's right with the law and create...loopholes for developers....

► The House of Representatives recently passed H.R. 3824, sponsored by Rep. Richard **Pombo** (R-Calif.), This legislation...turns the review process over to political appointees, rather than agency scientists. It also:

- ⊙ **requires taxpayers to pay** for developers' speculative lost profits whenever the Endangered Species Act limits the use of land.
- ⊙ **allows the use of harmful pesticides** in endangered species habitat for five years.
- ⊙ **allows logging, mining and other industries** using federal lands to bypass reviews of their projects in endangered species habitat.

- ⊙ **eliminates critical habitat protections.**

Habitat loss is the main reason wildlife populations are declining.

► Introduced into the Senate in December by Sen. Mike **Crapo** (R-Idaho), the "Collaboration for Recovery of Endangered Species Act," S. 2110, also contains a number of alarming provisions:

- ⊙ **requires issuance of a "provisional" permit** authorizing applicants to engage in unlimited habitat destruction or other "incidental take," while requiring no offsetting conservation measures to ensure that no harm is done to endangered species.
- ⊙ **removes the deadlines** for designating critical habitat.
- ⊙ **creates new loopholes** that would allow the Secretary of Interior or Commerce to postpone and even avoid taking action to list a species shown to be threatened or endangered.
- ⊙ **creates new tax deductions and credits** which look good on the surface, as they would compensate landowners for any actions they take to conserve endangered species. Unfortunately, these tax deductions do not distinguish between good conservation projects and bad ones. This hurts people who are doing their best to protect species and helps those who aren't.

Source: National Wildlife Federation Fact Sheet

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

MAY 11 – Defenders of Wildlife / Endangered Species Act

Lisa Hummon, from Defenders of Wildlife, will discuss this organization, its programs, and its take on the future of the Endangered Species Act.

JUNE 8 – Northern Jaguar Project

Jon Schwedler, Manager of the Northern Jaguar Project, will speak about his group which is partnering with one of Mexico's most active and progressive conservation organizations to save jaguars and wildlife habitat in Sonora.

JUNE 17 & 18 – NMWF Annual Meeting

AWF will host the New Mexico Wildlife Federation's Annual Meeting for 2006. Plans are in progress to make this a *different* kind of event – with lots of activities, a conservation project, a gear swap, guest speakers, a tour of Whitfield Wildlife Area near Belen – and plenty of good barbecue! Spend Saturday, June 17, at Los Amigos Roundup from 11am-4pm and enjoy food, fun, and festivities!

**DATE
CHANGE!**

2006 TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE PROJECTS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS !

APRIL 1&2 APRIL 7-9	Cedro Creek Restoration, Tijeras - AWF + USFS/Cibola with Quivira Coalition Stream Restoration in the Gila - Project of the NM Wilderness Alliance*
MAY 19-21	Ute Mountain Public Access - USFS/Questa - Project of the NM Wilderness Alliance*
JUNE 2-4 JUNE 9-11 JUNE 16-18	Trampas Trail Head Restoration in Pecos - Project of the NM Wilderness Alliance* Cebolla Canyon Wetland Restoration - AWF + BLM with Talking Talons, Wild Turkey Fed. Bitter Creek Restoration in Red River - USFS/Questa - Project of the NM Wilderness Alliance* with Amigos Bravos
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SEPT 16 SEPT ?	Cedro Creek Restoration - AWF + USFS/Cibola with Quivira Coalition Tijeras Creek Restoration - AWF + USFS/Cibola with Tijeras Canyon Safe Passage Coalition and Carnuel Land Grant

* Contact Michael Scialdone of the NMWA for details on starred projects (505-843-8696 or scial@nmwild.org).

Wetlands in Danger

Wetlands fill a unique and crucial link in the chain of North American fish and wildlife habitat and our clean water supply. According to government figures, the US suffers a gross loss of about 60,000 acres of wetlands each year...despite relatively strong protections from the Clean Water Act.

Recently the Supreme Court heard cases that call into question the extent of the protections afforded by the Clean Water Act to wetlands. The Court's ruling will have extremely important ramifications for huge numbers of migratory birds and other fish and wildlife species that depend on these wetlands and clean water in general. The Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership has joined with other leading national conservation groups, led by Ducks Unlimited and the National Wildlife Federation, to argue against weakening the protections. A decision is expected from the Court in April.

AWF Outreach / Activism Activity

On May 20 and 21, the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish will sponsor the "2006 NM Outdoor Expo" at the City of Albuquerque Shooting Range Park, on the west side, from 10am-4pm each day.

The NM Wildlife Federation has offered to share their booth with AWF for a display about our group. This is an excellent opportunity to meet Expo attendees, speak with them about AWF, and promote our programs, projects, and mission.

Please think about volunteering some of your time to represent AWF at our table, handing out brochures, maybe signing up a new member or two...Come on, it'll be fun!

AWF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Gene Tatum
 Vice-President: Barbara Coulter
 Secretary: (vacant) *This could be you!*
 Treasurer: Glenda Muirhead
 Directors: Larry Dwyer,
 Pat Hester, Jim Hubert,
 Dennis Muirhead, Luke
 Shelby, Bill Zeedyk
 Ex-Officio: Richard W. Becker

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION– Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, PO Box 1234, Albuquerque, NM 87103
An Affiliate of New Mexico Wildlife Federation

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name(s) _____

address _____

city, state, zip _____

phone _____ email _____

Gift membership from: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES :

- Student [under 18]\$10 ← [AWF Membership Only]
- Individual\$25
- Family\$35
- Sustaining \$50-\$99
- Patron\$100
- Lifetime..... \$500 ← [One-time Payment]

Dues \$ _____

*Second NMWF Member \$10 _____

Contribution \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

THANK YOU!

➔ **PLEASE SELECT ONE :**

AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY

AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP: Designate NMWF member(s*) _____



AWF Newsletter

MAY 2006

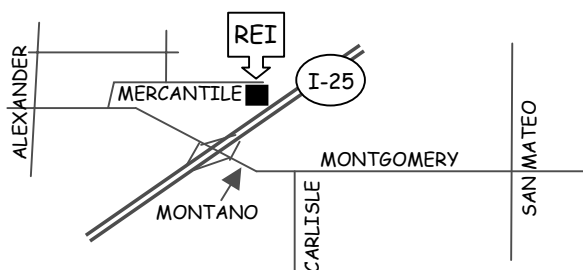
Albuquerque Wildlife Federation ■ PO Box 1234 ■ Albuquerque, NM 87103
Affiliated with The National Wildlife Federation and The New Mexico Wildlife Federation

GENERAL MEETING

DATE: Thursday, May 11, 2006
TIME: 7:30 pm
PROGRAM: Endangered Species Act Threatened
SPEAKER: Lisa Hummon, Defenders of Wildlife

“Since its passage in 1973, the Endangered Species Act has become a symbol of our nation’s commitment to conserving America’s imperiled plants and animals. It is because of the act that animals such as wolves, grizzly bears, manatees and our nation’s symbol, the bald eagle, are again safe for future generations to enjoy. The Endangered Species Act has an impressive success rate—just nine of the more than 1,800 species protected by the act since its passage have been declared extinct.” —*Defenders of Wildlife ESA Brochure*

Join Lisa Hummon from Defenders of Wildlife to learn about the history of the Endangered Species Act and the animals it protects. As you likely know, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill sponsored by Rep. Pombo (R-CA) that would weaken protections for wildlife habitat. Last month’s newsletter offered details from the National Wildlife Federation’s Fact Sheet on the bill, which includes loopholes for developers, pesticide use in critical habitat, and more. Lisa will inform us about the important battle against these threats to wildlife conservation.



The May 11 meeting will be held at the REI store, 1550 Mercantile NE.

New Members - Welcome!

Matt Blair
Dana & Betty Davis
Harold (Hal) & Hope Nelson
Jon Schwedler
Oscar Simpson
Alice Weiss

Renewals - Thank You!

Linda Barbour
Larry Dwyer
Robert & Marge Gerber

■■■ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ■■■

AWF President Gene Tatum has been out of town for several days, visiting family in Montgomery, Alabama, so we’re skipping a formal President’s Message this month. He reports by phone that the contrast between here and there, not surprisingly, is striking: it’s hot and humid, with rumbling thunderstorms, verdant grass everywhere (without irrigation!), amazing trees, and twittering birds throughout. The pecan tree that the family planted in the yard when he was in the third grade is huge now...and in beautiful bloom.

Gene’s message will be back in next month’s Newsletter.

Desert Bighorn Sheep Making a Comeback in New Mexico

History

During the settlement of New Mexico, illegal hunting, competition from domestic livestock, and pneumonia spread by huge domestic sheep flocks caused desert bighorn sheep populations to decline rapidly. Large-scale cattle operations controlled the open ranges, and desert grasslands deteriorated to desert shrub. By the early 1900s, most desert bighorn populations were extinct, and by 1946 only two populations remained. In 1980, the State Game Commission added desert bighorn to NM's list of endangered wildlife.

Management

In 2001, NM Dept of Game & Fish agreed to send up to 60 Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep to AZ over a 5-year period, in exchange for up to 60 desert bighorn sheep. To date, the 50 desert bighorns received from AZ have given the NM herds a much-needed boost.

NMDGF began removing mountain lions from desert bighorn range in 1999, using an adaptive management approach where fewer lions are removed as the bighorn sheep population grows. Since 2001, when numbers hit their recent low, with about 170 animals, desert bighorn population estimates in NM have increased every year, to an estimated population of 337 in fall 2005.

Habitat improvement programs are underway in desert bighorn ranges. Cutting down juniper trees to increase visibility and potentially decrease mountain lion predation has occurred cooperatively with the BLM and State Land Office in the Little Hatchet and Ladron Mountains. Plans are underway for a larger-scale project in the Peloncillo Mountains. Prescribed fires carried out by the BLM and the San Andres National Wildlife Refuge have also been very beneficial for improving habitat on a larger scale.

Monitoring occurs at a high level, including a biologist with several of the herds, monthly fixed-wing flights, and helicopter surveys once or twice a year. Transplant efforts continue from Red Rock and AZ into the wild, as well as removal of mountain lions where appropriate, and habitat improvement to encourage the positive growth trend, with an objective of removing desert bighorn from the endangered species list.

Adapted from *The Bighorn Bulletin 2006 Vol.2 No.1*
Elise J. Goldstein & Eric M. Rominger, authors
New Mexico Dept of Game & Fish

Notable Quote

"Like winds and sunsets, wild things were taken for granted until progress began to do away with them. Now we face the question whether a still higher 'standard of living' is worth its cost in things natural, wild, and free. For us in the minority, the opportunity to see geese is more important than television, and the chance to find a pasqueflower is a right as inalienable as free speech."

—Aldo Leopold
A Sand County Almanac



Outdoor Tips?

Cecil Haas, an AWF member who stays involved even after moving to Maryland, writes:

Have we ever solicited our members for "outdoor tips?" Many of us have a lot of them we could share. (Most of mine were learned the hard way!)

Thanks for the suggestion, Cecil. So, members and friends, how about sharing your good advice with others through the Newsletter? Contact Glenda at 505-281-2925 or gmuirhead1@msn.com, or send via mail to the address on the masthead.

Next State Game Commissioner: Competency, not cronyism

In case you missed it, here are portions of an editorial that appeared in the ALBUQUERQUE TRIBUNE, April 22, 2006:

The dismissal of Guy Riordan from the New Mexico Game Commission offers an excellent opportunity for Gov. Bill Richardson to make a bold statement...by seeking and appointing a competent, knowledgeable game commissioner to fill the vacancy...

The governor should take the time to find the right, experienced person for an important job on the Game Commission, which plays a vital role in managing New Mexico game for the benefit of the entire state. Its decisions have far-reaching natural-resource implications beyond the sportsmen that it has traditionally served...

It would be great to see someone appointed who is not invisible but who is well-informed, energized, proactive and vocal on the relevant issues – someone willing to speak up for game, wildlife, habitat protection and endangered species. Someone who comes to mind as a model commissioner, though not necessarily someone who Richardson should nominate this time, is Oscar Simpson, the outspoken, informed and dedicated president of the New Mexico Wildlife Federation...◇

Project Outings Report

Rio Puerco – March 18

Several AWF members joined forces with the Rio Puerco Management Committee and BLM to plant willow cuttings to stabilize banks at the Meander Cutoff Project on the river near Cuba. Abundant nearby willow growth made for easy material procurement, though a little digging was needed to reach a water cache. Mike Chavez detailed the project's history, with photos and a tour of previous stream-control installations. Thanks to the BLM for providing transportation for the group from Albuquerque. The industrious crew was comprised of:

AWF: members Rich Leonard, Hal and Hope Nelson, Pat Hester and Gene Tatum, Dennis and Glenda Muirhead, plus AWF friend Hamish Thomson

BLM: Steve Fischer and Dave Mattern

RPMC: Charles Wohlenberg, Kavita Krishna and local landowners Jennifer and Terry Johnson

Mike Chavez, Cuba Soil & Water Conservation District
Michael Benson, Navajo Nation Water Management
John Dixon, USFS

Cedro Creek – April 1 & 2

It was quite a sight...over 40 people from multiple groups and agencies scattered along the streambed of Cedro Creek 4 miles south of Tijeras near Otero Canyon, hauling and placing rocks of every size to shape the flow of water. It was all to encourage the restoration of wetlands for wildlife habitat as part of the Quivira Coalition's two-year riparian project funded by an EPA grant. Bill Zeedyk, project leader, explained the methods and the planned outcome, and deployed the eager participants at sites along the creek to build one-rock dams and other diversion structures. We'll be back there again in September!

Coming Up:

May 19, 20, 21 – Ute Mountain Public Access

Project of the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance,
a Team Up For Wildlife Partner

CONTACT: Michael Scialdone at 505-843-8696 or
scial@nmwild.org for more information.

We will be working with the BLM on this recently acquired 14,000-acre gem in northern NM. Ute Mountain is located north of Taos along the Colorado border and the Rio Grande Gorge. Our main project will be to develop a parking area for hiking in to Rio Costilla Canyon. The current parking area is on a sensitive site. We will also mask unneeded and redundant roads to help keep motorized traffic on the sensible network of routes that BLM would like to leave open, and work to control erosion on an old logging road and convert it to a hiking trail. On Sunday, we will take the opportunity to enjoy the area by climbing to the top of the mountain or hiking down to the Rio Grande Gorge.

NOTE: Our camping limit will be 35 people, but we will welcome the help of those close enough to come for just the workday. Maximum: 35 camping, 70 total.

DRIVING TIME: Approximately 3 hours north of ABQ

Among those present: AWF members Nancy Carillo, Barbara Coulter, Pat Hester & Gene Tatum, Mary Maulsby, Dennis & Glenda Muirhead, Bob Nordstrum, Alice Weis and her granddaughter Helen. AWF friends Linda Patterson, Valerie Smith, Hamish Thomson, and Ellie Trotter with several UNM students.

Also represented: Quivira Coalition, Boy Scout Troop 185, NM Friends of the Forest, USFS, NM State Land Office, Fish & Wildlife Service, Cimarron Watershed Alliance, East Mountain High School, Valles Caldera Coalition, various consulting firms.

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JULY 28-29	NM Wilderness Alliance* Membership Outings in the San Mateos - USFS/Cibola
AUG 4-6	Red River - Project of the NM Wilderness Alliance with Amigos Bravos*
AUG 19-20	Valles Caldera Revegetation - AWF with Valles Caldera Trust
SEPT 16	Cedro Creek Restoration - AWF + USFS/Cibola with Quivira Coalition
SEPT ?	Tijeras Creek Restoration - AWF + USFS/Cibola with Tijeras Canyon Safe Passage Coalition and Carnuel Land Grant

* Contact Michael Scialdone of the NMWA for details on starred projects (505-843-8696 or scial@nmwild.org)

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION– Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, PO Box 1234, Albuquerque, NM 87103
An Affiliate of New Mexico Wildlife Federation

➔ Please choose between **AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY** or **AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP**. **AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY** does **not** include membership in NMWF and your full dues payment goes to AWF. **AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP** includes **one** voting membership in NMWF, for which \$10 of your dues payment goes to NMWF. For Family Membership, if a second person* desires NMWF voting rights, an additional \$10 payment is required.

name(s) _____
 address _____
 city, state, zip _____
 phone _____ email _____

Gift membership from: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES :

- Student [under 18]\$10 ◀ [AWF Membership Only]
- Individual\$25 Dues \$ _____
- Family\$35 *Second NMWF Member \$10 _____
- Sustaining \$50-\$99 Contribution \$ _____
- Patron\$100 **TOTAL \$** _____
- Lifetime.....\$500 ◀ [One-time Payment] THANK YOU!

➔ **PLEASE SELECT ONE :**

- AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY
- AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP: Designate NMWF member(s*) _____

AWF Outreach / Activism Activity

Outdoor Expo

On May 20 and 21, the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish will sponsor the “2006 NM Outdoor Expo” at the City of Albuquerque Shooting Range Park, on the west side, from 10am-4pm each day. The NM Wildlife Federation has offered to share their booth with AWF for a display about our group. This is an excellent opportunity to meet Expo attendees, speak with them about AWF, and promote our programs, projects, and mission. Please think about volunteering some of your time to represent AWF at our table, handing out brochures, maybe signing up a new member or two...Come on, it'll be fun! Contact Gene Tatum at 505-255-1960 or gtatum3@msn.com.

AWF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Gene Tatum
 Vice-President: Barbara Coulter
 Secretary: (vacant) *This could be you!*
 Treasurer: Glenda Muirhead
 Directors: Larry Dwyer,
 Patricia Hester, Jim Hubert,
 Dennis Muirhead, Luke
 Shelby, Bill Zeedyk
 Ex-Officio: Richard W. Becker

Roadless Areas

On Wednesday evening, April 26, several AWF members attended an information session at the UNM Conference Center to learn how to speak up for New Mexico’s roadless areas and help preserve the diverse wildlife that lives within them. Our roadless areas aid in preventing wildlife habitat fragmentation and gene pool isolation, act as a barrier to invasive species, minimize erosion, and help reduce human-caused fire danger. Comment deadline was May 1. Thanks to Hal Nelson, Kurt Nolte, Joanne Hertz, Toby Rosenblatt, Larry Dwyer, Patricia Hester, Dennis Muirhead, and Oscar Simpson for participating. Also present was AWF Board member Luke Shelby, in his official capacity as Assistant Director of the NM Dept of Game & Fish.

Wildlife Funding

From April Newsletter of Dona Ana County Associated Sportsmen (DACAS), our fellow NMWF affiliate in southern NM

A strong push will be made prior to the next state legislative session to seek additional funding for wildlife conservation projects in New Mexico. The New Mexico Wildlife Federation is spearheading this effort, which will require a lot of support in terms of letter-writing and phone-calling from the members of organizations such as DACAS [and AWF]. Adequate funding for the Game and Fish Department and wildlife-related projects is long overdue. We should all get behind this effort to insure that New Mexico’s wildlife and wildlife managers have sufficient funding for the future.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS / EVENTS

JUNE 8 – Northern Jaguar Project

Jon Schwedler, Manager of the Northern Jaguar Project, will speak about his group which is partnering with one of Mexico's most active and progressive conservation organizations to save jaguars and wildlife habitat in Sonora.

JUNE 17 & 18 – NMWF Annual Meeting – Bosque Bash on the Rio Grande!


AWF is hosting the 2006 NMWF Annual Meeting (*see below*), and there'll be many opportunities for you to help out—selling tickets, setting up raffle items, organizing the gear swap, and much more! Contact Gene Tatum soon to offer your services for this fun event! 505-255-1960 or gtatum3@msn.com.


JULY – ANNUAL VALLE VIDAL OUTING JULY 14-16 (No monthly meeting)

Comanche Creek Restoration, with USFS/Carson and the Quivira Coalition.

Bosque Bash on the Rio Grande!

Saturday, June 17

 **8:30 –10:30 am** Conservation project on the Bosque to support our hard-working river. Arrive early for coffee, juice and bagels to start the day! Meet at City Open Space Shining River parking area, south of Paseo del Norte and west of Rio Grande Blvd. Be prepared to get your hands dirty! We will plant wolfberry and other shrubs to promote habitat for wild turkey. Sponsored by the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, NM Office of Natural Resources Trustee, and City Open Space.

 **11:00 am–4:00 pm** Come celebrate the Rio Grande! Enjoy demonstrations, raffles, outdoor gear swap, speakers, games, live music, and an all-you-can-eat barbecue meal (12 noon–1 pm).

Outdoor Gear Swap: Bring along your spare outdoor gear to sell (\$10 for sale space).
Hunting, camping, fishing, water sports, hiking – **but no firearms!!**

Games: Enjoy volleyball and horseshoes!

Raffles: Buy tickets for lots of great general raffle items!

Special Bonus Raffle: Special tickets to win a **Rafting Trip for Two on the Rio Chama!**

Los Amigos Roundup
10601 4th Street NW
Albuquerque, NM
(north of El Pinto Restaurant)

Special Guest Speaker:
ALDO LEOPOLD
portrayed by Richard Bodner
sponsored by NM Humanities Council

TICKETS

Tickets for admission to Los Amigos Roundup must be purchased **IN ADVANCE BY JUNE 15.**

Purchase Date	Adults	Children 6-12
By June 2	\$15 or \$20 with 4 general raffle tickets	\$10
June 3-15	\$25 with 3 general raffle tickets	\$12

A fun event for the whole family
Free for kids under 6!



Sunday, June 18

 Tour the **Whitfield Wildlife Area** along the Rio Grande near Belen. Learn about the plans for this great spot! Additional information will be provided at Los Amigos Roundup on Saturday, June 17, or upon request.

To register for these activities, contact Jeremy Vesbach at 505-299-5404 or 264-5500 or an AWF Board Member.



AWF Newsletter

JUNE 2006

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation ■ PO Box 1234 ■ Albuquerque, NM 87103
Affiliated with The National Wildlife Federation and The New Mexico Wildlife Federation

GENERAL MEETING

DATE: Thursday, June 8, 2006
WHEN & WHERE: 7:30 pm at REI, 1550 Mercantile NE
PROGRAM: BIG CATS ! Jaguars and Cougars
SPEAKER: Jon Schwedler, Northern Jaguar Project

Jon Schwedler, Manager of the Northern Jaguar Project, will speak about the efforts of his group which is partnering with one of Mexico's most active and progressive conservation organizations to save jaguars and wildlife habitat in Sonora. Once a regular presence in the American Southwest, jaguars are now the only native carnivore entirely absent from the United States. This past February, a jaguar was sighted in New Mexico, for only the second time in ten years! Jon will talk about restoring American jaguar and in addition will discuss improving New Mexico's cougar management plan. Also, as a member of the Tijeras Canyon Safe Passage Coalition, Jon will answer questions about the wildlife crossings being incorporated into I-40 through the canyon.

■■■ PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE ■■■

A year and a half ago, we began a process to increase our membership. The Membership Enhancement Committee was formed, headed by Dr. Becker with Barbara Coulter, Glenda Muirhead and myself. We are still implementing the recommendations of this committee. Our membership has grown, but still attendance at the monthly programs has been inconsistent. We are fortunate that we attract quality speakers, which adds to my frustration when the attendance is low. We hope there is a good turnout this month. Please plan to attend Jon Schwedler's presentation on Big Cats. (Jon is a new AWF member.)

To increase attendance at our monthly programs, the AWF Board has been evaluating new meeting locations. For at least 15 years, we had been comfortable meeting at the Bear Canyon Senior Center. The space at Bear Canyon is generous, the location is close to our East Mountain members, and the setup is conducive for our December annual meeting/pot luck. In pursuit of greater participation, Barbara Coulter checked on numerous alternate locations. After three meetings at REI, the Board has agreed to stay at REI through November. REI should provide access to a larger audience and has AV equipment for Power Point presentations.

Jim Hubert's

Notable QUOTE of the month

Each generation has its own rendezvous with the land, for despite our fee titles and claims of ownership, we are all brief tenants on this planet. By choice, or by default, we will carve out a land legacy for our heirs. We can misuse the land and diminish the usefulness of resources, or we can create a world in which physical affluence and affluence of the spirit go hand in hand.

— Stewart Udall, *The Quiet Crisis*, 1963

The Board's decision is not without reservation. Our Board meets at 6 PM on the night of the programs, a time of day when the traffic on I-25 and around REI is horrendous. Over half of our Board Members live in the East Mountains or in the vicinity of Bear Canyon Center. However, the Board acknowledges that access to a larger audience is more important. After the November meeting, we will revisit this matter.

Thanks to Bill Zeedyk, our August project will be at the Valles Caldera (August 12-13). We will send more details in the near future. Make time for the Cebolla Canyon project June 9-11 and the Valle Vidal project July 14-16.

—Gene Tatum, President

CEBOLLA CANYON PROJECT

June 9-11, 2006

Camping, good company, beautiful location – Come join us!!

Spend the weekend or a day restoring beaver habitat! Friday is usually an arrival day, but for those who come early, we start around noon. Saturday is the main project day starting around 9 am. Plan for about a 2-hour drive from Albuquerque. At the Cebolla Canyon road, signs will mark the way to the camp and project areas. Sunday is work or play depending on your preference. Visit the spring, hike the creek, or walk over to the Lobo Canyon rock art.

Bring lunches, water, gloves, hat and sunscreen. Drinks and snacks provided. Saturday night will be a pot luck. Burgers (meat or veggie) and brats will be provided.

Bill Zeedyk, renowned riparian restoration consultant and teacher (and AWF member), will supervise. Bill will discuss structure placement, purpose and assembly. Come join the discussion and the fun!



Exit I-40 at Mile Marker 89, south on NM 117 about 25 miles, passing Sandstone Bluffs, La Ventana and The Narrows en route. Turn left between MM 31 and 30 onto a BLM Cebolla Canyon road. We'll sign the route in from there. It's about 3 miles to the camping area (**no facilities**) and 1 mile further to the project site. **To RSVP or ask questions:** Gene Tatum at 505-255-1960 or Glenda Muirhead at 505-281-2925.

2006 TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE PROJECTS — MARK YOUR CALENDARS !

JUNE 2-4	*Trampas Trail Head Restoration in Pecos - Project of the NM Wilderness Alliance
JUNE 9-11	Cebolla Canyon Wetland Restoration - AWF + BLM
JUNE 16-18	*Bitter Creek Restoration in Red River - USFS/Questa - Project of the NM Wilderness Alliance with Amigos Bravos
JULY 7-9	*San Pedro Wilderness Inventory, ATV Trespass - Project of the NM Wilderness Alliance
JULY 14-16	Valle Vidal - Comanche Creek Restoration - AWF + USFS/Carson with Quivira Coalition
JULY 28-29	NM Wilderness Alliance* Membership Outings in the San Mateos - USFS/Cibola
AUG 4-6	*Red River - Project of the NM Wilderness Alliance with Amigos Bravos
AUG 12-13 ↖ ↗	Valles Caldera - Stream Restoration - AWF with Valles Caldera National Preserve NOTE: NEW DATES ←←
SEPT 16	Cedro Creek Restoration - AWF + USFS/Cibola with Quivira Coalition
SEPT ?	Tijeras Creek Restoration - AWF + USFS/Cibola with Tijeras Canyon Safe Passage Coalition and Carnuel Land Grant

* Contact Michael Scialdone of the NMWA for details on starred projects (505-843-8696 or scial@nmwild.org)



NATIONAL TRAILS DAY

June 2, 3, 4

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY SERVICE PROJECT
New Mexico Wilderness Alliance
AWF Team Up For Wildlife Partner

Contact Michael Scialdone at 505-843-8696 or
scial@nmwild.org for more information.

Pecos Wilderness

We will be working with Karen Cook of the Carson National Forest to prevent illegal motorized use from occurring in the Pecos Wilderness. The project will entail installing barriers at the **Trampas Lakes** trailhead, which is in the northwest portion of the Wilderness. We will be staying at a Forest Service campground, but will still need to bring our own drinking water. On Sunday, we will take the opportunity to enjoy the area by hiking up the trail as far as time allows, stopping to admire the work we did the day before.

Maximum participants: 35

Driving time: Approximately 2½ hours drive north of Albuquerque.

The general pattern of NMWA service projects is to camp out on Friday, do the service project on Saturday, and hike or do a little more work on Sunday before heading home. On most projects, we provide meals (with veggie options). You need all your own camp gear, snacks, and water. We will help to the degree possible with car-pooling. Directions and further details for each project will be sent when you sign up.

**Here's another service project of the
New Mexico Wilderness Alliance:**

June 16, 17, 18

Bitter Creek Project

We are joining with Amigos Bravos to help in Red River Watershed restoration. Projects include closing off illegal ATV routes and fencing off riparian areas.

Maximum participants: 35

Driving time: Approximately 3 hours drive north of Albuquerque.

New Member - WELCOME! Linda Patterson
Renewals - THANKS! Steve & Linda Slutz
John & Ann Harvell

Saturday, June 3

NATIONAL TRAILS DAY SPONSORED LOCALLY
IN PART BY R.E.I., OPEN SPACE ALLIANCE
and FRIENDS OF THE FOREST

Elena Gallegos Picnic Area

8:00 am

Celebrate your public lands by volunteering for National Trails Day on Saturday, June 3, at the Elena Gallegos Picnic Area Open Space. Starting at 8:30 am, volunteers can choose from a variety of projects, ranging from reseeding trails in the Open Space system to heavy trail maintenance in the Sandia Mountain Wilderness. Projects vary in level of difficulty and will last throughout the day. According to the American Hiking Society, National Trails Day® is the largest and most influential trails celebration in the nation.

The Elena Gallegos Picnic Area is located at the end of Simms Park Road, east of Tramway, ¼ mile north of Academy. All you need to bring are a hat, water bottle, lunch, sunscreen, and lots of enthusiasm. The Albuquerque Open Space Division and Sandia Ranger District will provide all other equipment/tools and instructions. At the end of the day a meal will be provided along with door prizes donated by the many sponsors. To volunteer, please sign up at Recreational Equipment Inc (REI), located at 1550 Mercantile Ave. (I-25 and Montano), or call them at 247-1191.

For more information, call Jodi Hedderig with the City of Albuquerque, Open Space Division at 452-5210 or visit www.cabq.gov/openspace/calendarofevents.

Outdoor TIP

From AWF member Cecil Haas:

When hunting with a muzzleloader in wet weather, wrap a single thickness of plastic wrap around the lock. It keeps it dry, and you do not need to remove it before you shoot.

If you would like to share your good advice with others through the Newsletter, contact Glenda at 505-281-2925 or gmuirhead1@msn.com, or send via mail to the address on the masthead.

Bear Killed by Vehicle on I-40

In the early morning of May 10, a male black bear was struck by a vehicle and killed as it tried to cross Interstate 40 through Tijeras Canyon. Game specialists expect that more bears will be killed on I-40 as the drought drives more bears from the mountains in search of food.

Bears and other wildlife regularly cross through Tijeras Canyon to travel between the Sandia and Manzano mountains. According to a study done by Marron and Associates Inc. of Albuquerque, at least 11 bears were killed in the canyon between 2000 and 2003. Mule deer, mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes and raccoons also have been killed, according to the study.

Excerpted from an article by Tania Soussan
Albuquerque Journal, May 11, 2006

As human populations continue to increase and we encroach further into bear country, we unwittingly create problems for bears and ourselves. Black bears have a natural fear of humans. They instinctively avoid us, but the scent of easily obtained food is irresistible to bears, especially during periods of food scarcity. A snack left inside a tent, unwashed dishes at a campsite, pet food on the porch, garbage in cans, or even a hummingbird feeder can entice a hungry bear. Normally, black bears do not attack people unless they are cornered or injured. However, contact with human food can radically alter bear behavior. Black bears have been known to invade tents and smash windshields and ice chests in search of an easy meal...The sad truth is that if you introduce human food to a bear it will not be alive much longer. **If you feed a bear, you kill a bear.**



Excerpted from *Black Bears of New Mexico*
NM Dept of Game & Fish Booklet

AWF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Gene Tatum
Vice-President: Barbara Coulter
Secretary: (vacant) This could be you!
Treasurer: Glenda Muirhead
Directors: Larry Dwyer,
Patricia Hester, Jim Hubert,
Dennis Muirhead, Luke
Shelby, Bill Zeedyk
Ex-Officio: Richard W. Becker

TALKING TALONS FINDS A NEW HOME

Talking Talons, an organization serving youth, community, wildlife and the natural environment, has moved from the village of Tijeras to new facilities on Route 66, Rancho Tapojito, an historic ranch with a main house and several out-buildings. A Talking Talons YCC crew provided considerable "muscle" in 2005 at AWF's Cebolla Canyon project, and in recognition of the association between Talking Talons and AWF, the Board voted to make a donation of \$100 to their relocation fund.



Laurie Wearne of Talking Talons accepts AWF's donation from president Gene Tatum on May 26.

Wildlife Crossings in I-40 Plan Carnuel-to-Tijeras Stretch Targeted

By Matt Gomez

Mountain View Telegraph, March 16, 2006

[The work to rebuild Interstate 40 between Carnuel and Tijeras] will incorporate safe wildlife crossings to reduce the number of collisions between cars and animals.

"Primarily, it will consist of game fencing which keeps the wildlife off of I-40 and then funnels them to strategic openings in the fence where drainage structures under the freeway can be used by wildlife to cross back and forth," [according to Mark Fahey, a project engineer for the New Mexico Department of Transportation].

The project also involves clearing brush and non-native plant species from existing underpasses and installing ramps so animals trapped on the interstate have a way to escape. Clearing the brush and non-native plants will help reduce the chances that predatory animals could hide and wait for prey crossing the interstate, Fahey said. This will help make the openings more inviting for animals needing to cross, particularly deer.

Motion sensor lights will be installed at "Dead Man's Curve," said Kurt Menke, co-chair of the **Tijeras Canyon Safe Passage Coalition**. The lights will flash to warn drivers of deer and other large animals on the road...

The stretch of interstate between Carnuel and Tijeras might not be the only area where safe passage construction will take place...The NMDOT is currently looking into a feasibility study for the length of road between Tijeras and Sedillo Hill.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS / EVENTS

JUNE 17 & 18 – BOSQUE BASH on the Rio Grande!

(See below) There are many opportunities for you to help out. Contact Gene Tatum soon to offer your services for this fun event! 505-255-1960 or gtatum3@msn.com.

JULY – ANNUAL VALLE VIDAL OUTING JULY 14-16 (No monthly meeting in July)

Comanche Creek Restoration, with USFS/Carson and the Quivira Coalition.

AUGUST 10 – AUTUMN FISHING IN NEW MEXICO

Ti Piper presents “Hands-On Fly-Tying, Tying Knots, and Telling Lies!” He’ll share where to get more information about New Mexico fishing, and can assess the value of your fishing rods and other gear. Author of *Fishing in New Mexico*, he has taught aquatic education and fishing skills workshops to thousands of children and adults for the NM Department of Game & Fish.

**It's a Party!
Everyone's Invited!**

New Mexico Wildlife Federation presents

Bosque Bash

on the Rio Grande!

Saturday, June 17

★ **8:30 –10:30 am** Conservation project on the Bosque to support our hard-working river. Arrive early for coffee, juice and bagels to start the day! Meet at City Open Space Shining River parking area, south of Paseo del Norte and west of Rio Grande Blvd. Be prepared to get your hands dirty! We will plant wolfberry and other shrubs to promote habitat for wild turkey. Sponsored by the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, NM Office of Natural Resources Trustee, and City Open Space.

★ **11:00 am–4:00 pm** Come celebrate the Rio Grande! Enjoy demonstrations, raffles, outdoor gear swap, speakers, games, live music, and an all-you-can-eat barbecue meal (12 noon–1 pm).

Exhibits: Talking Talons “**RAPTORS & REPTILES,**” duck & turkey calling demos and more!

Outdoor Gear Swap: Bring along your spare outdoor gear to sell (\$10 for sale space).

Hunting, camping, fishing, water sports, hiking – **but no firearms!!**

Games: Enjoy volleyball and horseshoes!

Raffles: Buy tickets for lots of great general raffle items!

Special Bonus Raffle: Special tickets to win a **Rafting Trip for Two on the Rio Chama!**

Special Guest Speaker: **ALDO LEOPOLD** portrayed by Richard Bodner



LOCATION

**Los Amigos Roundup
10601 4th Street NW
Albuquerque, NM**

TICKETS

ADULTS	\$15 by June 2 or \$20 w/4 general raffle tickets
	\$25 June 3-15 w/3 general raffle tickets
CHILDREN	\$10 by June 2 or \$15 June 3-15
(Ages 6-12)	

Tickets for admission to Los Amigos Roundup must be purchased **IN ADVANCE BY JUNE 15.**



Sunday, June 18



Tour the **Whitfield Wildlife Area** along the Rio Grande near Belen. Learn about the plans for this great spot! Additional information will be provided at Los Amigos Roundup on Saturday, June 17, or upon request.

To register for these activities, contact Jeremy Vesbach at 505-299-5404 or visit nmwildlife.org/bosquebash.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION– Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, PO Box 1234, Albuquerque, NM 87103
An Affiliate of New Mexico Wildlife Federation

➔ Please choose between **AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY** or **AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP**. **AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY** does **not** include membership in NMWF and your full dues payment goes to AWF. **AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP** includes **one** voting membership in NMWF, for which \$10 of your dues payment goes to NMWF. For Family Membership, if a second person* desires NMWF voting rights, an additional \$10 payment is required.

name(s) _____

address _____

city, state, zip _____

phone _____ email _____

Gift membership from: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES :

Student [under 18]\$10 ◀ [AWF Membership Only]

Individual\$25 Dues \$ _____

Family\$35 *Second NMWF Member \$10 _____

Sustaining \$50-\$99 Contribution \$ _____

Patron\$100 **TOTAL \$** _____

Lifetime..... \$500 ◀ [One-time Payment]

THANK YOU!

➔ **PLEASE SELECT ONE :**

AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY

AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP: Designate NMWF member(s*) _____



AWF Newsletter

JULY 2006

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation ■ PO Box 1234 ■ Albuquerque, NM 87103
Affiliated with The National Wildlife Federation and The New Mexico Wildlife Federation

AWF's VALLE VIDAL JULY PROJECT ~~CANCELLED~~

Fire Danger Closes Carson National Forest

Carson National Forest announced on June 23rd that Stage III fire restrictions would take effect Monday, June 26, 2006. The USFS press release stated that concern for public and firefighter safety "prompted the move to mitigate the danger to forest recreationists by containing visitors to areas that can be easily patrolled and evacuated in the event of a wildfire." Questa Ranger District will prohibit entrance to all areas, with some exceptions. Unfortunately, the Valle Vidal unit is NOT one of those exceptions, so with much regret, AWF has had to cancel the July 14-16 event.

This is a major disappointment for the many volunteers who were planning a trip up to this special place for a weekend of stream restoration and spirit rejuvenation. At present, the Valle Vidal project has not been rescheduled. Thank you to those people who had already expressed interest...we'll see where the summer leads.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The recent rainfalls have been needed, but typically they have been localized and not widespread. As a result, we've had heavy rainfall in Albuquerque, hail storms in the East Mountains, and not a drop in Cebolla Canyon, the location of our last project. Speaking of the Cebolla Canyon, for those who could not attend, the project was a fun and educational experience. Bill Z did an excellent job of teaching us the "how to" and "what for" about the rock structures we built in the creek. A special thanks to the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance for helping us on the project. It is always a pleasure to work and visit with Scial (Michael Scialdone) and his crew.

The July Valle Vidal project has been cancelled (or postponed) due to the drought conditions. At least the temperatures have dropped, providing some relief and helping the fire fighters with their efforts to control and suppress wildfires. Weather permitting, we still plan for the August 12-13 restoration project at the Valles Caldera (VC). Project Committee Chair, Bill Zeedyk, is working out the details with VC Preserve Manager Dennis Trujillo and the VC staff. We will keep everyone informed.

On the subject of climate, the following is an excerpt from the World Wildlife Fund's June E-newsletter.

Traditionally, AWF schedules no meetings in July because of the Valle Vidal project. But in view of the project cancellation, consider coming to an informal gathering of Board and other AWF members at 6:00 pm on Thursday, July 13, at Il Vicino Restaurant, 11225 Montgomery at Juan Tabo (in plaza at NE corner). It's a chance to socialize and discuss project planning and other issues of concern. Everyone is welcome. Please let Gene Tatum know that you'll be there, so adequate seating can be arranged: 255-1960 or gtatum3@msn.com. If you choose to order, the menu offers pizza, pasta, salads, sandwiches, and more (\$5-\$8). Beer and wine are available too.

An Inconvenient Truth is a film that helps explain what is happening around the world as a result of global warming, and what we can do to help protect our planet from further damage. The film is now playing in many more cities across the nation, because of its tremendous success, to engaged and interested audiences as well as to incredible critical acclaim...you can visit the film's website to see where it is playing near you: www.climatecrisis.net.

Please check out the movie website. It contains a lot more information than just theater locations. The film has been highly recommended by conservation-minded people. It is not just doom and gloom – it concludes with suggestions on actions we all can take.

—Gene Tatum, President



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

July 15 - Install "Lone Tom" Wildlife Drinker

On Saturday, July 15, join in a cooperative project with the BLM and the National Wild Turkey Federation-Middle Rio Grande and San Augustine Chapters. The project site is on the west side of Pelona Mountain, within the Pelona Mountain Special Management Area for wildlife resources, about 30 miles southwest of Datil, NM, at T.7S., R13W., Section 30.

As a project volunteer, you can help to construct a habitat enclosure 2½ acres in size, construct a metal inverted umbrella catchment, and install a metal wildlife drinker. The project is expected to take a full day with a crew of 10-15.

Contact Carlos Madril at 505-838-1281 to participate.

Details:

Meet at the Socorro BLM Field Office, located at the south end of town, at 7:00 am to sign volunteer agreements and transfer to government vehicles heading to the project site. Mileage will be paid to those who drive to the Socorro Field Office or to the project area and lunches will be provided as well. Government vehicles will car pool from the Socorro Field Office for those would like to return to Socorro. We plan to depart from the office no later than 7:30 am. In consideration of high fuel costs, it is important that the group car pool as much as possible. For those who would like to camp out, there are plenty of primitive campsites available at the project location. For those who would like to stay in hunting cabins located just outside of Datil, accommodation can be made with advance notice at a reasonable cost of \$10.00/night and an additional \$7.50 for a hot meal.

NM Wilderness Alliance PROJECTS

NMWA is an AWF Team Up for Wildlife Partner

July 7, 8, 9 - San Pedro Parks Wilderness Trail

Project: We will spend a weekend in this beautiful area on the NW side of the Jemez Mountains. The project is to help the Coyote Ranger District in decommissioning an old road, controlling its erosion, and turning it into a hiking trail leading to the Wilderness. Maximum participants – 30. Driving time – Approx. 3 hours drive north of ABQ.

August 4, 5, 6 - Bitter Creek II Project:

Here's hoping the Carson NF reopens! We are joining with Amigos Bravos to help in Red River Watershed restoration. Projects will include closing off illegal ATV routes and fencing off riparian areas. Maximum participants – 35. Driving time – Approx. 3 hours drive north of ABQ.

Contact NMWA's Michael Scialdone at 505-843-8696 or scial@nmwild.org for more information.

Renewed Members – THANKS!

Dean and Michael Kuehl
Kurt Nolte and Bronwyn Wilson
Jeff Davis

Terry Riley is named to GAME COMMISSION

On June 2, Governor Bill Richardson announced the appointment of Terry Riley to the New Mexico Game Commission. Terry, a wildlife biologist and conservationist, is Vice President of Policy for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, a board member of the NM Wildlife Federation, and a past president of the New Mexico Chapter of the Wildlife Society. Congratulations to Terry, who is also an AWF member.

...and speaking of the Game Commission...

The next meeting of the State Game Commission is scheduled for Thursday, July 13, at 9 am, at the Country Inn and Suites, 7620 Pan American Freeway in Albuquerque. Several agenda items are open for discussion and the draft agenda can be viewed at the Department's website www.wildlife.state.nm.us. Look under the *Commission* tab.

This announcement comes from AWF board member Luke Shelby, who is also Assistant Director of the NM Dept of Game & Fish.

Jim Hubert's Notable QUOTE of the month

"In the end our society will be defined not only by what we create but what we refuse to destroy."

—John Sawhill
The Nature Conservancy

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Wildlife CROSSINGS Growing in Appeal

Tijeras Canyon Safe Passage Coalition, the local group working with NMDOT to integrate wildlife crossings into the rebuilding of I-40 through Tijeras Canyon, sends along the following news about similar efforts in other places.

Washington State

Washington is likely to be the site of a political and legal miracle...a major free-way expansion that is vocally supported by Sierra Club and other conservation activists. The DOT's plans to widen Interstate 90 from four to six lanes...just east of Snoqualmie Pass will incorporate new bridges with room for wildlife to cross underneath. Instead of colliding with cars on the interstate, deer and elk will get what scientists call "ecological connectivity." It's a concept pioneered in the Canadian Rockies, where road kill prompted the building of wildlife passages into the Trans - Canada Highway as it crosses Banff National Park. *(Seattle Post-Intelligencer)*

Tucson, Arizona

In a citizen-led ballot measure in Pima County, Arizona, voters overwhelmingly supported a record \$45 million dollars specifically to fund wildlife crossing structures, which will include enhancements such as expanded culverts or underpasses, overpasses, fencing and signage. According to the Pima County Administrator, "With this funding, we can reconnect vast landscapes, improve wildlife movement through the region and make roadways safer for both animals and people."

Cebolla Canyon Project June 9-11

Perhaps an old wagon trail triggered the deep cut in the landscape of BLM's Cebolla Canyon. Saturday, June 10, Bill Zeedyk led a productive crew eager to help erase the effects of erosion. The nine sizeable rock



Sunday, working on the BIG rock dam: (l to r) Patricia Hester, John Perea, Glenda Muirhead, Michael Scialdone, Bill Zeedyk, Gene Tatum.

structures built in the arroyo bottom aim to capture water, collapse arroyo walls, and fill the incised channel to create a contoured valley floor...over time. On Sunday morning a smaller team built one large, more elaborate dam with rock, filter cloth, and soil to form a pool for beaver habitat. Beaver dams in the channel can hasten the terrain transformation.

Late on Saturday afternoon the group drove to Cebolla Spring to view results from previous years' efforts. Though the area around the spring is looking rather haggard compared to last year's lushness, there is great promise here for Bill's vision of wet meadows...just add rain!

Thanks to the Cebolla Canyon project participants: AWF members Bill Zeedyk, Gene Tatum and Pat Hester, Jim Wilson, Toby Rosenblatt, Dennis and Glenda Muirhead; Ken Jones from BLM; Michael Scialdone of the NM Wilderness Alliance; Karen Orloff, Greg Larman, Ted Gengler, and John Perea.

Bosque Planting Project June 17

AWF joined forces with City Open Space and NM's Natural Resources Trustee to plant potted and bare-root shrubs in a cleared Bosque area south of Paseo del Norte to promote wild turkey habitat. The volunteer turnout was remarkable, as word of the project was widely published. (The promise of coffee and bagels may have helped, too.) Almost 150 plants were put in the ground and watered, trash was collected, and brush and leaves were scattered about as ground cover to provide shade. And many lucky attendees won "out"-door prizes provided by Sportsman's Warehouse, National Wildlife Federation, and REI.

Many thanks to all the terrific participants; to Jodi Hedderig and Jim Sattler and the wonderful man with the power auger from City Open Space; to Martin Heinrich, the Natural Resources Trustee; and to NMWF for funding the morning refreshments. AWF hopes to pursue future projects in the Bosque – it's nearby, right at the core of our city.

NOTE: This Saturday morning field project was part of the planned NMWF Bosque Bash. NMWF was forced to cancel the afternoon events (which included a barbecue meal, speakers, live music, demonstrations, raffles, and more) after ticket sales failed to reach the break-even point for facility rental — a frustrating result for the planning committee, which included several AWF members.

Did you know...?

The New Mexico Habitat Stamp Program is a joint venture between sportsmen and the agencies that manage wildlife and their habitat. Each year licensed hunters, anglers and trappers, on Bureau of Land Management or US Forest Service lands, are required to purchase the stamp or validation from the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. These funds are dedicated to habitat conservation and rehabilitation projects.

Projects are developed from agency planning documents and from public proposals. The responsible state and federal agencies review and submit refined proposals to a Citizens' Advisory Committee. Members of these committees repre-

sent sportsmen and women, ranchers, wildlife advocates, and other outdoor enthusiasts. The committees set project priorities. This final list is recommended to the NM State Game Commission for approval. Project work is completed by the responsible agency. Numerous volunteer organizations and individuals contribute expertise and labor during the work phase.

The Habitat Stamp Program is not just for sportsmen. Anyone interested in New Mexico's wildlife and wildlife habitats is encouraged to purchase the validation and participate in helping wildlife where it counts...where wildlife lives.

UPCOMING 2006 TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE PROJECTS

JULY 7-9 JULY 15	*San Pedro Wilderness Inventory, ATV Trespass - Project of the NM Wilderness Alliance Pelona Mountain Wildlife Drinker - BLM with Wild Turkey Federation Chapters
AUG 4-6 AUG 12-13	*Red River Watershed - Project of the NM Wilderness Alliance with Amigos Bravos Valles Caldera - Stream Restoration - AWF with Valles Caldera National Preserve
SEPT 16	Cedro Creek Restoration - AWF + USFS/Cibola with Quivira Coalition
* Contact Michael Scialdone of the NMWA for details on starred projects (505-843-8696 or scial@nmwild.org)	

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION— Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, PO Box 1234, Albuquerque, NM 87103 *An Affiliate of New Mexico Wildlife Federation*

- ➔ Please choose between **AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY** or **AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP**. **AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY** does **not** include membership in NMWF and your full dues payment goes to AWF. **AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP** includes **one** voting membership in NMWF, for which \$10 of your dues payment goes to NMWF. For Family Membership, if a second person* desires NMWF voting rights, an additional \$10 payment is required.

name(s) _____

address _____

city, state, zip _____

phone _____ email _____

Gift membership from: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES :

- Student [under 18]\$10 ◀ [AWF Membership Only]
 Individual\$25
 Family\$35
 Sustaining \$50-\$99
 Patron\$100
 Lifetime\$500 ◀ [One-time Payment]

Dues \$ _____

*Second NMWF Member \$10 _____

Contribution \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

THANK YOU!

➔ PLEASE SELECT ONE :

AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY

AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP: Designate NMWF member(s*) _____



AWF Newsletter

AUGUST 2006

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation ■ PO Box 1234 ■ Albuquerque, NM 87103
Affiliated with The National Wildlife Federation and The New Mexico Wildlife Federation

GENERAL MEETING

DATE: Thursday, August 10, 2006
WHEN & WHERE: 7:30 pm at REI, 1550 Mercantile NE
PROGRAM: Tying Flies, Telling Lies — Autumn Fishing in NM
GUEST SPEAKER: Ti Piper, AZ Game & Fish Dept

Titus “Ti” Piper, avid fisherman, educator, and author, pays a return visit to AWF to share information and experiences about fishing in New Mexico. He has taught aquatic education and fishing skills workshops to thousands of children and adults for the NM Department of Game & Fish, and is now doing the same for AZ G&F. In the 1980’s he wrote a weekly fishing article in the *Albuquerque Tribune*. He will bring a copy of his popular book, *Fishing in New Mexico*, to raffle during the program. This promises to be an entertaining evening for all!

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

In last month’s newsletter, I put in a plug for Al Gore’s movie, “An Inconvenient Truth.” If you have not seen the movie yet, I hope you will. It’s worth the time. The movie documents that there is consensus in the scientific community that global warming exists and is human caused.

Even with the preponderance of evidence indicating the declining state of our world’s environment, people still argue back and forth about data and beliefs while few take action. One fact that cannot be disputed is that the number of people who occupy this planet is increasing at what seem to be exponential rates.

On the way to the pump, let’s think about what we, the wealthiest, most consumptive nation on this earth, can do to help. One of my concerns is about the oceans and over-fishing. After my second visit to the Monterey Aquarium in California, I reached the point where I will not eat seafood, in spite of my fondness for flat fish, grouper and sea bass. If you have not been there, the Monterey Bay Aquarium is a special place. It’s located along Cannery Row and is a testament to environmental and economic costs of over-fishing.

I got some advice from someone recently, which was, “Just stop eating and you won’t have to worry about the environment, and I will not have to listen to your whining any more.” I have some better advice at least regarding fish consumption. It can be found at the Monterey Bay Aquarium’s website, www.mbayaq.org, link to Sea Food Watch which provides consumer information regarding fish that are being well managed in environmentally-friendly ways. Also, the Marine Stewardship Council (www.msc.org) has developed a certification program which allows consumers to identify well-managed fisheries and to harness consumer preference for these types of seafood products.

The table on the next page came from the article “Which Fish Are Safe to Eat?” published in the August-September 2006 issue of the National Wildlife Federation magazine, *National Wildlife*, an excellent periodical which can also be found online at www.nwf.org.

—Gene Tatum, President

**Jim Hubert’s
Notable QUOTE
of the month**

“We abuse land because we regard it as a commodity belonging to us. When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect.”

—Aldo Leopold
A Sand County Almanac

FISH GUIDE

The three categories below are based on Monterey Bay Aquarium data about fisheries health. Mercury levels, compiled by NWF, are based on US government statistics. Blue type indicates fish with insufficient mercury data.

	BEST CHOICES Harvested Sustainably	CAUTION Fisheries Concerns	AVOID Overfished
LOW MERCURY (less than 0.10 ppm)	Catfish (farmed) Clams (farmed) <i>Crag: Dungeness</i> Crab: Snow (Canada) Lobster: Spiny/Rock (U.S., Aus.) <i>Mussels (farmed)</i> Salmon (Alaska, wild-caught) Salmon (canned) Sardines Shrimp/Prawns (trip-caught) <i>Sturgeon (farmed)</i> Tilapia (farmed)	Clams (wild-caught) Cod: Pacific Crab: Blue Crab: King (Alaska) Crab: Snow (U.S.) <i>Flounder: Summer/Fluke</i> Oysters (wild-caught) Pollock Scallops: Bay Scallops: Sea Shrimp (U.S. farmed and wild) Sole (Pacific) Squid	<i>Caviar (wild-caught)</i> Crab: King (imported) <i>Flounder (Atlantic exc Summer)</i> <i>Rockfish/Rock Cod (Pacific)</i> Salmon (farmed/Atlantic) <i>Shrimp (imported)</i> Sole (Atlantic) <i>Sturgeon (wild-caught)</i> <i>Tuna: Bluefin</i>
MODERATE MERCURY 0.10-0.40 ppm	Bass: Saltwater Bluefish Carp: Common* Catfish (channel)* Halibut Pike: Northern* Tuna: Albacore (troll/pole caught) Tuna: Yellowfin (troll/pole caught) Walleye*	Lobster: Northern/American Mahi Mahi/Dolphinfish/Dorado Tuna: Albacore (longline-caught) Tuna (canned Chunk Light) Tuna (canned White Albacore)* Tuna: Yellowfin (longline-caught)	Cod: Atlantic/Icelandic Halibut: Atlantic Monkfish Snapper: Red Tilefish**
HIGH MERCURY over 0.40 ppm	Bass: Largemouth* Mackerel: King** Tuna: Bigeye (troll/pole caught)	Tuna: Bigeye (longline-caught)	Chilean Sea Bass/Toothfish Groupers Orange Roughy Shark** Swordfish**
*Mercury levels in freshwater sport fish may vary widely, so it is important to follow state fish consumption advisories for locally caught fish; **FDA recommends that women of childbearing age and young children avoid these species.			

Linda Patterson is New AWF Secretary!

Congratulations and welcome – with a great big **T#ANK YOU** – to Linda Patterson, a recent addition to AWF’s membership, who volunteered and was subsequently approved by the Board as our new Secretary. She fills the position left vacant since January by the resignation of Richard Becker due to illness.

Linda retired in 2005 from a teaching career of many years, and has been finding time for new activities and volunteer opportunities ever since.

Here’s Linda, below, enjoying the outdoors at the Bosque, helping a City Open Space crew install irrigation for shrubs she helped plant at the Bosque Bash in June.



TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE PROJECTS

Valles Caldera National Preserve August 11, 12, 13 — SORRY, NO VACANCIES!

AWF’s August project is the first effort of this type on the Valles Caldera, so the VC Board is watching very closely to minimize impacts on resources. As a consequence, AWF has been limited to 25 volunteers. *All 25 spots have already been filled*, according to Gene Tatum, project contact, who has started a waiting list. Our hope is to conduct this project in a manner which will allay the Board’s concerns—and prompt an invitation to return next year!

If you are on the list for the Valles Caldera project, Gene will be sending you detailed information about the weekend and directions for entry onto the Preserve. The projects include meadow restoration and road crossing repair, with instruction and supervision provided by Bill Zeedyk.

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PROJECT of the NM Wilderness Alliance

NMWA is an AWF Team Up for Wildlife Partner

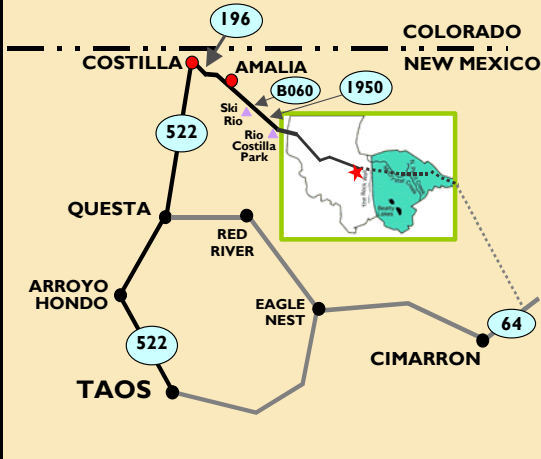
August 4, 5, 6 - Bitter Creek II Project

NMWA is joining with Amigos Bravos to help in Red River Watershed restoration. Projects will include closing off illegal ATV routes and fencing off riparian areas. Maximum participants – 35. Driving time – Approx. 3 hours drive north of ABQ.

Contact NMWA’s Michael Scialdone at 505-843-8696 or scial@nmwild.org for more information.

Valle Vidal PROJECT — GOOD TO GO! Rescheduled for August 25, 26, 27

To get to the Valle Vidal, head north through Taos and Questa on NM Highway 522 to Costilla, one mile south of the Colorado border. Go east through Amalia about 17 miles to the west boundary of the Valle Vidal, where the road becomes Forest Road 1950. Follow the signs to **Shuree Pond**, about 11 miles. Or from the east, take I-25 to exit 419, head west on Hwy 58 to Cimarron. Follow Hwy 64 NE out of Cimarron for 5 miles, then take Forest Road 1950 for 26 miles, through Cerrosos Canyon across the private Vermejo Park Ranch, to the Forest boundary and then watch for Shuree Pond signs.



As part of a multi-agency project to conserve the Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout, we will continue to install mini-exlosures in Comanche Creek to help reestablish riparian vegetation along the streambanks. Led by nationally-known stream restoration specialist Bill Zeedyk, we will also create instream structures to prevent erosion and reduce turbidity which harms the fish and their food supplies.

This is a three-day event beginning on Friday, but you can arrive at your convenience. We'll be camping outside of Shuree Lodge (no facilities); the area can handle tents and small trailers. Please bring your own water supply and camping equipment, plus hats, gloves, work shoes, sunscreen, rain gear, and food for your stay. On Saturday evening, we'll have a pot-luck dinner...bring along your favorite dish to share! (If you wish to extend your weekend, you may camp at the Lodge on Sunday night as well.)

Project activities on Comanche Creek will take place primarily on Saturday. If you arrive after 8:30 am, be on the lookout for signs at the project site on FR1950 near the western boundary.

To register, please contact Glenda Muirhead at 505.281.2925 or gmuirhead1@msn.com by AUGUST 21. If you signed up for the July project which was cancelled, and plan to go in August, please re-register!

BOSQUE PROJECT

Returning to the site of the Bosque Bash shrub planting event in June (west of Rio Grande Blvd and south of Paseo del Norte), three AWF members* joined a small crew from City Open Space on July 25 to begin installing an irrigation system for the young transplants.

First step was digging a trench for the irrigation tubing, which snaked its way among the planting groups; then the tubing was uncoiled, unkinked and placed into the trench. Next, small feeder tubes were inserted and directed to individual plants, and finally all the watering apparatus was covered with soil and the area "naturalized."

The City crew appreciated the assistance, and will notify us when they plan another day at the site to continue with the installation.

*Gene Tatum, Linda Patterson & Glenda Muirhead

New Members Welcome!

Mike Davis - PATRON
Wendy Hageman
Tom Nichols*

*winner of free AWF membership at Talking Talons Wildfest July 22!

AWF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Gene Tatum
Vice-President: Barbara Coulter
Secretary: **Linda Patterson!**
Treasurer: Glenda Muirhead
Directors: Larry Dwyer,
Patricia Hester, Jim Hubert,
Dennis Muirhead, Luke
Shelby, Bill Zeedyk
Ex-Officio: Richard W. Becker, PhD

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

SEPTEMBER 14 – New Mexico Wildlife Law Enforcement

Dan Brooks, Chief of Law Enforcement Division of the NM Department of Game & Fish, will present a program on wildlife law enforcement in New Mexico, with emphasis on poaching regulations.

OCTOBER 12 – Desert Bighorn Sheep in New Mexico

By 1946 only two desert bighorn sheep populations still survived in NM, and in 1980 desert bighorn were added to NM's list of endangered wildlife. Elise Goldstein will offer details of the NM Dept of Game & Fish program, begun in 2001, to exchange NM Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep for desert bighorns from Arizona to reinvigorate NM herds.

UPCOMING 2006 TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE PROJECTS

AUG 4-6	Red River Watershed - Project of the NM Wilderness Alliance with Amigos Bravos
AUG 12-13	Valles Caldera - Stream Restoration - AWF with Valles Caldera National Preserve
AUG 25-27	Valle Vidal - Comanche Creek Restoration - AWF with Quivira Coalition
SEPT 16	Cedro Creek Restoration - AWF + USFS/Cibola with Quivira Coalition

Six great reasons to save the Endangered Species Act

- 1. Bald eagle** — This iconic American bird was nearly wiped out. Only after the ESA was passed in 1973 did it get sufficient protection. With populations rebounding, our National Bird is once again flying high.
- 2. Florida panther** — Without the ESA this elusive big cat might well be extinct today. It can run at 35 MPH...but not fast enough to escape destruction of its habitat!
- 3. Gray wolf** — Hunted nearly out of existence in the lower 48 states, the wolf is now thriving at Yellowstone National Park, thanks largely to the ESA.
- 4. Grizzly bear** — This monarch of the wilderness once reigned supreme in the western forests. Its listing on the endangered species list has been a key to stemming its decline.
- 5. Canada lynx** — A victim of development and trapping, its listing as endangered in 2000 provided a key step in conserving the cat throughout its range.
- 6. Whooping crane** — Once randomly killed for its beautiful feathers, the whooper has bounced back from a low of 21 birds to about 300...a very encouraging rebound! And thanks to the protections they have received under the ESA, a pair of whooping cranes recently hatched two chicks in the wild — the first wild chicks born in the eastern United States in over 100 years!

Source: National Wildlife Federation

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION— Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, PO Box 1234, Albuquerque, NM 87103
An Affiliate of New Mexico Wildlife Federation

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name(s) _____
 address _____
 city, state, zip _____
 phone _____ email _____

Gift membership from: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES :

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Student [under 18]\$10 | ← [AWF Membership Only] | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual\$25 | | Dues \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family\$35 | *Second NMWF Member \$10 | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining \$50-\$99 | | Contribution \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron\$100 | | TOTAL \$ _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime.....\$500 | ← [One-time Payment] | |

THANK YOU!

➔ **PLEASE SELECT ONE :**

- AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY
- AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP: Designate NMWF member(s*) _____



AWF Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2006

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation ■ PO Box 1234 ■ Albuquerque, NM 87103
Affiliated with The National Wildlife Federation and The New Mexico Wildlife Federation

GENERAL MEETING

DATE: Thursday, September 14, 2006
WHEN & WHERE: 7:30 pm at REI, 1550 Mercantile NE
PROGRAM: Wildlife Law Enforcement in New Mexico
GUEST SPEAKER: Dan Brooks

Dan Brooks, Chief of the Law Enforcement Division of NM Department of Game & Fish, will present a program on wildlife law enforcement in New Mexico, including a discussion on poaching regulations. New Mexico's wildlife belongs to all of us, so come learn how the Department protects your interests!

After receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Management at the University of Arizona in 1988, Dan worked for the Arizona Game and Fish Department for three years in research before coming to the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. Dan has published articles in the *Journal of Wildlife Management* and elsewhere. He will relate his 18 years of experience to the importance of law enforcement as a tool in wildlife management, and will also update us on regulation changes.

Gene Tatum's **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** will not appear in this issue, as he is delivering daughter Sara to university in Chicago. It has been a busy month and he needs a break. Who knew retirement would be so action-packed?!

Another Successful Valle Vidal PROJECT

— Bill Zeedyk, Team Up For Wildlife Project Chairman

More than 40 volunteers, including 22 AWF members and recruits, teamed up to install "mini-exlosures" and "post vanes" as fish habitat improvement structures along Comanche Creek on August 26 and 27. Cooperating organizations included The Quivira Coalition, New Mexico Trout, Trout Unlimited, New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, and Defenders of Wildlife.

Jim Hubert's
Notable QUOTE
of the month

"It is difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends on not understanding it."

— Upton Sinclair

Our combined efforts raised the total number of completed structures in the Lower Reach of Comanche Creek to 46 exclosures and 50 post vanes. Three exclosures and 26 vanes have been installed to date on the Middle Reach with more to go. The exclosures serve to promote growth of streamside vegetation, especially willows and alders. Response to date is very encouraging with lots of vigorous, new growth which should help to stabilize streambanks and increase shading to keep the water cooler and more within the range of temperatures favorable to the native cutthroat trout. The vanes are intended to protect the banks from erosion and reduce stream turbidity. Installing the structures was hard work, but we had lots of fun doing it! Logistical support furnished by the Quivira folks and the Forest Service helped to make this project really productive.

continued

Plans are for volunteers from Santa Clara Pueblo to install the rest of the vanes, about 50, and then next year AWF can concentrate once again on the “east side” of the VV.

Saturday evening we enjoyed a bountiful potluck dinner with barbecued burgers and fixings and plentiful offerings from attendees. Thank you to Dennis, Gene and Pat for cooking and thanks also to NMT for providing cash to pay for the meal, and to TU for the excellent green chile stew.

After the dinner, Bill Zeedyk returned in the dark, flashlight in hand, to his open pickup camper only to discover, at four feet distance, a yearling black bear stretched out on his sleeping bag eating dog food and drinking beer. It is hard to say who was more startled: the bear by the beam of light, or Bill by what the light revealed! Bill jumped back and the bear bailed out of the truck. Bill swears he hollered, "BEAR!", but all he was really heard to say was a shaky, “b-b-b-b-.....bear,” many moments later. He does, however, proudly display his trophy Millers can with two opposing canine punctures and pop top intact. Moral of the story: In bear country, put away your food and close up your truck! Don’t create a problem bear...*Be bear aware!*



“Chip”, Hamish Thomson and Dennis Muirhead deepen a fence-post hole with shovel, rock bar, and posthole digger, as part of a fencing enclosure on Comanche Creek.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

September 16 – Cedro Creek Restoration

Our September Team Up for Wildlife Project will be at Cedro Creek near Tijeras. Let’s plan to meet at Otero Canyon Trailhead at 9:00 AM. The area is about 3 miles south of the Sandia Ranger Station on Highway 337 (Old S14). It is well signed and we will mark the site with our usual AWF signs just to be sure that everyone can find the spot.

Once again, we will be building rock dams and other stone structures to help restore small wetlands along the Cedro Creek riparian zone. Due to the plentiful rainstorms and abundant storm runoff this summer, vegetative and channel response to previous work by AWF members and others has been outstanding. New springs have developed and old ones have begun flowing again. Many species of wetland and riparian growth are in evidence and plant growth is lush and vigorous. Several of us have visited the site during recent weeks and seen numerous tracks of deer, bear, wild turkeys, raccoons and other wildlife. With a little help from Mother Nature, we can make a difference. For this project, we will be doing new work on a reach that has not been treated previously but holds lots of potential. Come join the fun at a project close to home.

We'll be on our own for this project, so bring a friend along so we can make a good showing. Dennis and Glenda Muirhead will be touring Ireland at that time so we will need a really good turnout to make up for the loss! Please call Gene Tatum at 255-1960 or Bill Zeedyk at 281-9066, in advance, so we will know how many folks to expect and what tools to bring. Bring your own drinking water, lunches, snacks, gloves, hats, sunscreen, etc. Bill or Gene can give more specific directions, if needed. See you on Cedro!

— Bill Zeedyk

.....

PROJECT of the NM Wilderness Alliance

NMWA is an AWF Team Up for Wildlife Partner

September 30 - Datil Mountains

Project involves removal of fencing at a location in central New Mexico. The adjacent ranch is now a wildlife preserve and the fence has become an impediment to wildlife. This will likely be just a long daytrip, but it may become a campout.

Contact NMWA’s Michael Scialdone at 505-843-8696 or scial@nmwild.org for more information.

We are grateful to the following people for their participation in the Valle Vidal August project:

Marcy & Vincent Amendolagine, David Blagg, Barbara Coulter, Krista Daily, Bill Falvey, Lisa Hummon, Dennis & Glenda Muirhead, Steve & Michelle Noseworthy, Robert Ortiz, Marty Peale, Toby Rosenblatt, Michael Scialdone, Hamish Thomson, Johanna Trejo, George & Polly Long (USFS/Questa), Don Hurst, many, many NM Trout and Trout Unlimited members and volunteers, Steve Carson, Craig Sponholtz, and Quivira Coalition’s Tamara Gadzia and Deborah Myrin.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

Valles Caldera National Preserve — August 11, 12, 13

Twenty-five lucky AWF members and friends enjoyed our first (and, we hope, not the last) project venture on the Valles Caldera in August. Because AWF has no “history” with the VCNP, our group was limited to 25 to minimize impacts on the Preserve and also at the Union Building where we camped and availed ourselves of the excellent facilities...a full kitchen complete with two gas ranges, three microwaves, three refrigerators, etc. Not exactly “roughing it!”

Led by Bill Zeedyk, project activities on Saturday involved diverting stream flow from the channel cut when older earthen dams were breached and the water followed a straighter, faster course located above the natural channel. We installed rock structures and dug a new trench for the stream, though we were unable to observe the completed redirect, because installation of down-hill culverts intended to move the flow under the road had been delayed by rainfall. Saturday evening, as usual, brought another first-rate potluck dinner, with all the great food provided by the attendees.

For those able to stay another day, Sunday saw us at several sites to deal with issues of proper drainage underneath roads to remedy wet meadow depletion on the downhill side. We were able to see practical, on-the-land application of the techniques espoused by Bill in his new book, *A Good Road Lies Easy on the Land...Water Harvesting from Low-Standard Roads*.

It was a great weekend at a beautiful location, with much accomplished!

Many thanks to the following for their very enthusiastic and productive participation: Will Barnes, Beth Coop, Barbara Coulter, Bill Falvey, Kelly G. Gallagher, Patricia Hester, Molly Hopkins, Jim & Margie Hubert, Cliff & Joyce Mendel, Dennis & Glenda Muirhead, Daniel Paulsen, Marty Peale, Toby Rosenblatt, Greg Rust, Sandy Schroeder, John Schwedler, Michael Scialdone, Diane Stoner, Gene Tatum, Hamish Thomson, and Ethan Welty.



One of Sunday's projects: Diversion/overflow rock structure at culvert mouth to help spread upland drainage under the road to the meadow on the other side.

Shining River Bosque Project

On August 30, a second follow-up trip by two AWF members to the site of the June Bosque Bash shrub planting resulted in installation of another zone of irrigation piping, in conjunction with City Open Space Division. It had been suggested that AWF consider “adopting” a 10-acre plot at this location, but the Board decided the liability issues for our volunteers, plus the rigorous requirements of the adoption contract, precluded making a commitment at this time. We do plan, however, to collaborate again with Open Space in the spring of 2007, to replant where this year's shrubs haven't survived.

A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN ABOUT BEAVERS !

Mark Your Calendars! You are invited to attend an informative and fun all-day workshop entitled “**BEAVERS BELONG!**” on Saturday, **September 30**. The morning will be filled with informational talks about the benefits of this keystone species in riparian ecosystems. In the afternoon attend a demonstration of how to humanely live-trap and relocate beaver. In addition you will learn how to install an actual beaver mitigation device which benefits both beavers and landowners.

This event is free and open to the public. Fun for the entire family! Hosted by Animal Protection of New Mexico with representation from non-profit groups and local and state agencies. For more information and to rsvp, please contact Barbara Coulter at 505-205-5740.

NEXT MONTH'S PROGRAM

OCTOBER 12 – Desert Bighorn Sheep in New Mexico

By 1946 only two desert bighorn sheep populations still survived in NM, and in 1980 desert bighorn were added to NM's list of endangered wildlife. Bighorn sheep biologist Elise Goldstein will offer details of the NM Dept of Game & Fish program, begun in 2001, to exchange NM Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep for desert bighorns from Arizona to reinvigorate NM herds.

**New Member
Welcome!**
Ted Gengler

Bird Facts: Did you know...?

Because of the size and position of their eyes, ducks can see everything around them for approximately 340 degrees without turning their heads.

Feathers make up about one-sixth of a bird's weight. Hummingbirds have the fewest feathers, some having less than 1,000. Some swans have more than 25,000.

Birds are the only animals with feathers. When you look at a perched bird, most of the feathers you see are small ones that give its body a warm, smooth covering. When flying, birds show the larger, stiffer wing feathers used for flight.

A single feather may have more than one million parts. Feathers become worn with use and are usually replaced every year. This is called molting and is generally gradual, enabling birds to fly reasonably well. Ducks and geese molt all their wing feathers at once in the autumn and are unable to fly for two to four weeks.

Birds' feet seem impervious to heat and cold because they consist primarily of strong tendons with few nerves and blood vessels.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION — Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, PO Box 1234, Albuquerque, NM 87103 *An Affiliate of New Mexico Wildlife Federation*

➔ Please choose between **AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY** or **AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP**. **AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY** does **not** include membership in NMWF. **AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP** includes **one** voting membership in NMWF, for which \$10 of your dues payment goes to NMWF. For Family Membership, if a second person* desires NMWF voting rights, an additional \$10 payment is required.

name(s) _____

address _____

city, state, zip _____

phone _____ email _____

Gift membership from: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES :

Student [under 18] \$10 ← [AWF Membership Only]

Individual \$25

Dues \$ _____

Family \$35

*Second NMWF Member \$10 _____

Sustaining..... \$50-\$99

Contribution \$ _____

Patron \$100

TOTAL \$ _____

THANK YOU!

Lifetime.....\$500 ← [One-time Payment]

➔ PLEASE SELECT ONE :

AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY

AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP : Designate NMWF member(s*) _____



AWF Newsletter

OCTOBER 2006

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation ■ PO Box 1234 ■ Albuquerque, NM 87103
Affiliated with The National Wildlife Federation and The New Mexico Wildlife Federation

GENERAL MEETING

DATE: Thursday, October 12, 2006
WHEN & WHERE: 7:30 pm at REI, 1550 Mercantile NE
PROGRAM: Bighorn Sheep in NM—Past, Present and Future
GUEST SPEAKER: Elise Goldstein

By 1946 only two desert bighorn sheep populations still survived in NM, and in 1980 desert bighorn were added to NM's list of endangered wildlife. Bighorn sheep biologist Elise Goldstein will offer details of the New Mexico Department of Game & Fish program, begun in 2001, to exchange NM Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep for desert bighorns from Arizona to reinvigorate NM herds.

"It's really a win-win situation for everyone," says Elise. "Arizona needs more Rocky Mountain bighorns and we need to thin out our herds; and Arizona can provide us with more desert bighorns, which we need to build up our herds." Statewide, there are approximately 850 to 930 Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and about 230 to 250 desert bighorn sheep in New Mexico.

Elise has been a biologist with NMDG&F for five years. She has a BS from the University of CA and an MS from the University of Washington in Wildlife Sciences, and has contributed to several publications and articles, including "Bighorn Sheep, Mountain Lions, and the Ethics of Conservation" published in the October 2006 issue of *Conservation Biology*.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

**Jim Hubert's
Notable QUOTE
of the month**

"The land ethic, then, reflects the existence of an ecological conscience, and this in turn reflects a conviction of individual responsibility for the health of the land. Health is the capacity of the land for self-renewal. Conservation is our effort to understand and preserve this capacity."

— Aldo Leopold, often referred to as
the father of conservation

Sorry I was not able to get a message out in the September newsletter. Pat and I went to Idaho in mid-August for family business matters. No sooner had we returned from Idaho than we were off again transporting youngest daughter Sara to Chicago for graduate school.

In the August newsletter, I discussed sustainable fisheries. There are also many other environmentally-friendly food sources to be considered, such as organically-grown produce, grass-fed beef, free range chickens, and wild-caught fish. These types of agricultural products typically rely on fewer chemicals (e.g., fertilizers, insecticides, herbicides, fungicides, growth stimulants, antibiotics) to provide healthy, better-tasting foods.

U.S. consumers have already prompted major stores like WalMart to begin stocking sustainable caught fish. An article in *US News and World Report*, Monday, 9-25-06, discussed the "greening" of WalMart. As the folks at WalMart are good at making money, I consider their change in direction to be in response to expanding market opportunities as well as consumer preferences.

The growth of stores such as Wild Oats and Whole Foods indicates that there are considerable market opportunities in providing organically grown produce. I hope the real consumer trend is not just for healthy

continued

**SOURCES FOR
ORGANIC – HEALTHY – SUSTAINABLE
FOODS**

- ▶ www.eatwild.com/products/newmexico.html
(Eatwild.com provides a listing of grass-fed beef, lamb, goats, bison, poultry, pork and dairy products).
 - ▶ www.lospoblanosorganics.com/index.htm
Los Poblanos Organics is a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) farm located on the historic Los Poblanos Ranch along the Rio Grande in Los Ranchos de Albuquerque. The owners of this high-value real estate have made a commitment to keeping this land in agriculture production.
 - ▶ Arca Organics
181 E La Entrada, Corrales, NM
(505) 898-5518
 - ▶ www.kellersfarmstores.com/naturalmeat.shtml
2912 Eubank Blvd NE, Albuquerque
6100 Coors Blvd NW, Albuquerque
Kellers advertises no chemicals or preservatives, fresh from the farm, humanely raised, grain fed.
 - ▶ La Montañita Co-op (Nob Hill)
3500 Central SE, Albuquerque
2400 Rio Grande NW, Albuquerque
(505) 265-4631; fax: (505) 265-6740
www.lamontanitacoop.com
- La Montañita Co-op Natural Foods Market's mission is:
- to provide to members, at the lowest price possible, exemplary customer service, environmentally sound products, and the highest quality natural and organic food;
 - commitment to ethical business practices, participatory management, and cooperative principles; and
 - to provide the entire community, through responsible business practices and education, a working model for a healthy, sustainable future.

food choices, but toward food production which also promotes a healthy, productive environment using less fossil fuel.

The major problem with big box stores is that they take your money out of state to the CEO, Board of Directors and stockholders. In return, they use their buying power to bring you the cheapest product, for example organic green beans grown in China. What about the energy cost associated with shipping and distribution? The cost of fuel goes up while agricultural jobs are farmed out to other countries where workers are paid starvation wages.

Consumers can influence the market place. By making thoughtful choices, not only will we eat healthier, but we can promote a shift to food production that focuses on quality of life. There are many New Mexico owned and operated businesses that provide organic, healthy sustainable produced food while keeping more of our money circulating around in New Mexico. A short list appears, at left. If you know of other such local businesses, please send me their contact information and I will pass it along.

— Gene Tatum, President

BEAVERS BELONG! (Thanks to Barbara Coulter, AWF's VP, for inspiring this.)

The arrival of trappers in the Rocky Mountains, searching for beaver pelts in the early 1800s, had a tremendous impact on beaver populations. By the late 1800s, beavers were in danger of extinction throughout the United States, and evidence suggests they were virtually eliminated from every stream in New Mexico except for small populations located on the Upper Rio Grande and San Juan drainages. Fortunately, they were wisely reintroduced to most of the suitable habitats throughout New Mexico and are now widespread.

Beavers are excellent engineers and their dams play a significant role in reducing the velocity and energy of streamflow. The sequence of pools created by a series of beaver dams along streams not only serves to mitigate disturbance to channel shape but also affects water tables, promotes establishment and maintenance of riparian vegetation, controls nutrient cycling processes along the stream continuum, and enhances terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat.

Once a pond fills with silt it becomes less useful to beavers, and they move on. The filled pond gradually becomes covered with meadow grasses, and the resulting lush open area produces protein-rich grasses for cattle and horses. Because of their vital role in the environment, beavers have been hailed as tools to improve stream and riparian systems.

Sources: Terrell T. Baker, NM State University: "Management of New Mexico's Riparian Areas"; Fox Creek website

Here's Where Beavers Belong...

... in Cebolla Canyon where NMDG&F, BLM, and AWF are cooperating to introduce beavers into Cebolla Creek where many AWF members have participated in riparian and wetlands restoration projects over the past six years. The creek now has several perennial reaches, and riparian vegetation continues to increase as the water table along the creek continues to rise. The plan is to continue to relocate otherwise "nuisance" beavers here until there is a self-sustaining population.

... on the Valles Caldera National Preserve

Our friend Marty Peale, of the Valles Caldera Trust, writes:

There are many old beaver dams on the Valles Caldera National Preserve, in the Rio de Los Indios (NE corner) and in Redondo and Sulphur Creeks on the west side of Redondo. This past spring, there was evidence of fresh beaver clippings in Redondo, but that individual apparently didn't stay long.

Many observers suspect that fire suppression and competition from elk have eliminated most of the woody vegetation that beavers depend upon (e.g., aspen, willows), in the past few decades. The Valles Caldera Trust is interested in restoring beaver habitat and, if they don't return on their own, in reintroducing beavers—in part because of the role they play in replenishing ground water, increasing wetland habitat, and perhaps increasing the capacity of riparian corridors to serve as fire breaks.

**Season Ends for "TEAM UP
FOR WILDLIFE" PROJECTS**

It was a summer filled with successful, productive field projects for AWF members and friends, and the Project Committee hopes for a similar season in 2007. Committee members will meet in November to develop next year's project schedule, coordinating with the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance. If you have any suggestions for new project locations or partners, please contact Gene Tatum at gtatum3@msn.com or 255-1960 with your ideas.

And many, many **thanks** to all of you—old friends and new friends—who participated with AWF this summer in creating and improving habitat for New Mexico's wildlife!



Join the **Río GRANDE** Celebration!

On **Saturday, October 21**, enjoy a Rio Grande Mother's Day at the **12th Annual Día del Río** celebration. "The Rio Grande is one of the most vital natural resources in New Mexico from which we all benefit," said Mayor Martin Chávez. "It is in every citizen's best interest to contribute to its conservation and Día del Río provides that opportunity."

WHEN: Saturday, October 21
8:00 am - 1:00 pm

WHERE: Shining River Open Space
accessed from Rio Grande Blvd. on the south side of Paseo del Norte

BRING: Gloves, sun protection, water

REGISTER: At REI located at 1550 Mercantile Ave NE or call 247-1191. *The first 100 people to register receive a T-shirt the day of the event!*

Conservation projects will include trail work, vegetation care, graffiti removal and trash clean up. There will also be educational, interactive booths by groups working to protect the River and Bosque, and an interpretive talk about the area.

Are you a boater? Bring your canoe, kayak or raft and help clean trash out of the river. Do you live near the Bosque? Or do you have a favorite area? Organize your own clean up the day of the event. Open Space will provide trash bags and haul off the collected trash.

Help us honor and nurture the vital Rio Grande and its Bosque. **Register for Día del Río at REI** located at 1550 Mercantile Ave NE or call 247-1191. For more information about Día del Río or to arrange your own clean up, call 452-5210.

THE RIO GRANDE...

The very name conjures an image of a vast river with strong currents and leaping fish, unruly and arrogant, but generous—generous with its water and nutrients; generous with its beauty.

The Rio Grande is a matriarch of collective waters, flowing from its headwaters in the Colorado San Juan Mountains to its union with the Gulf of Mexico.

Along its 2,000 mile journey through mountains, canyons, desert and time it nourishes communities of plants, animals and people; feeding the rich natural and cultural history unique to this part of the country.

For the life of the river, the river itself has given life. Though challenged by flood management features, contamination and pressure to provide more water, it continues to nurture and fortify its residents.

It continues to be a good mother.

CONTACT:

Jodi Hedderig
Open Space Division
City of Albuquerque
(505) 452-5210
www.cabq.gov/openspace

AWF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Gene Tatum
Vice-President: Barbara Coulter
Secretary: Linda Patterson
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View at Tres Pistolas Worth Holding On To

Albuquerque Journal — Tuesday, September 19, 2006

Sixty-seven acres of relatively flat land near an interstate in the Sandia foothills can look mighty appetizing to developers. But those acres—adjacent to the city's Tres Pistolas Open Space and the Sandia Mountain Wilderness—serve as a bridge for bear, deer and other wildlife that move back and forth between the Sandias and Manzanos. And this land should be preserved as such.

The New Mexico Land Conservancy—a statewide trust that conserves land on its own or in partnership with others—has an option to find a buyer for the property through July 2007. Owner HawkWatch International wants the estimated \$650,000 from the sale to support its other programs. The city has \$3.8 million in its open-space kitty, and City Councilor Martin Heinrich wants to keep the wildlife on the land and the backhoes off. Sounds like a win-win situation.

Heinrich also has his eye on a land swap with the Carnue Land Grant folks for a complementary one-third of an acre next to the HawkWatch site that features native vegetation, raptors and other wildlife. Put together, Heinrich's proposals promise to add to the city's open-space legacy, and that's a good thing for future generations.

"Lone Tom" Wildlife Enclosure/Drinker Project

Back on July 15, several AWF members joined in a cooperative project with the BLM and the National Wild Turkey Federation-Middle Rio Grande and San Augustine Chapters in the Pelona Mountain Special Management Area southwest of Datil, NM, to help construct a 2½-acre habitat enclosure. Others in the crew placed a metal wildlife drinker and laid the groundwork for the installation of a metal inverted umbrella catchment. In attendance were Gene Tatum and Pat Hester, Jim Wilson, Toby Rosenblatt, and Dennis and Glenda Muirhead.



AWF member Toby Rosenblatt assists with fence construction in the Pelona Mountains.

HAPPENINGS at the Rio Grande Nature Center

All events take place at the Nature Center, 2901 Candelaria NW, Albuquerque. For those events requiring advance reservations or for more information, call 344-7240. The term "free" refers to the cost of the event; non-members of the Friends of the Rio Grande Nature Center pay \$3 parking fee.

- **Free weekend walks led by volunteer naturalists.** Bird walks Saturdays and Sundays at 8:30 am Oct.-Nov. and at 9 am in December. Nature walks at 1 pm Oct.-Dec.
- **Twilight Hike on a Full Moon Night.** Dates and time: Oct. 6, Nov. 5, and Dec. 4, all at 7 pm. Free. Reservations (required) not accepted earlier than two weeks before the event. Join a park ranger or volunteer interpreter on a listening walk around the pond and through the Bosque.
- **Educator Training, Bosque Education Guide.** Date and time: Oct. 14, 8:30 am-4:30 pm. Training and all materials free. Reservations required. Educators review all aspects of the Middle Rio Grande Valley ecosystem.
- **Snakes of the Bosque.** Date and time: Oct. 22, 2-4 pm. Free. Bob Myers of the Rattlesnake Museum offers an overview of the state's rattlesnake species and discusses other snakes often mistaken for rattlers.
- **Make Your Own Scarecrow!** Date and time: Oct. 29, 11 am-3 pm. Cost: \$4/scarecrow. Reservations required. Provided: pumpkin head, straw for the body, and full instructions. Bring scarecrow clothes: a pair of pants, a shirt, a hat, and other embellishments.
- **Beavers of the Bosque.** Date and time: Nov. 30, 7-8 pm. Free. Dan Shaw and his Bosque School students present results of their five-year beaver trapping and survey work.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION — Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, PO Box 1234, Albuquerque, NM 87103 An Affiliate of New Mexico Wildlife Federation

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address _____

city, state, zip _____

phone _____ email _____

Gift membership from: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES :

- Student [under 18] \$10 ← [AWF Membership Only]
- Individual \$25
- Family \$35
- Sustaining..... \$50-\$99
- Patron \$100
- Lifetime.....\$500 ← [One-time Payment]

Dues \$ _____

*Second NMWF Member \$10 _____

Contribution \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

THANK YOU!

➔ PLEASE SELECT ONE :

AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY

AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP : Designate NMWF member(s*) _____



AWF Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2006

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation ■ PO Box 1234 ■ Albuquerque, NM 87103
Affiliated with The National Wildlife Federation and The New Mexico Wildlife Federation

GENERAL MEETING

DATE: Thursday, November 9, 2006
WHEN & WHERE: 7:30 pm at REI, 1550 Mercantile NE
PROGRAM: Undercover for Wildlife: *A Hunt for Justice*
GUEST SPEAKER: Lucinda Schroeder

Join us for a fascinating program as Lucinda Schroeder, a former Fish and Wildlife Service special agent who has worked undercover and in various sting operations, presents details of her dangerous but effective brand of wildlife law enforcement.

Ms. Schroeder was hired by the Fish and Wildlife Service in the 1970s as one of their first female special agents. Throughout her career, she worked hundreds of cases with state game and fish agencies and federal and foreign governments. Some of her undercover cases lasted a few days, while others lasted several years. Her roles included posing as a big game hunter, an interior decorator, and a collector of antique Indian art.

Through her numerous undercover cases, she has gained insight into criminal enterprises seen by very few. As a result of her many successful investigations, Ms. Schroeder has received several awards from state wildlife agencies and the US Fish and Wildlife Service. She retired from the Fish and Wildlife Service in 2004.

Ms. Schroeder is also the author of a book, *A Hunt for Justice*, a harrowing tale of how she infiltrated an international ring of poachers who were slaughtering the biggest and best of the state's wildlife in a remote area in Alaska. It's a rare look inside an illegal big game hunting camp and the crimes, cover-ups and conspiracies committed by hunters and guides who live by the "creed of greed." Copies of her book will be available at the meeting.

Notable QUOTE of the month

***"When one tugs at a
single thing in nature, he
finds it attached to the
rest of the world."***

— John Muir

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have to admit that the rigors of knee replacement surgery have been a greater distraction than I had anticipated. As a consequence, my focus has been on rehab, which has prevented me from writing a message for this month's newsletter.

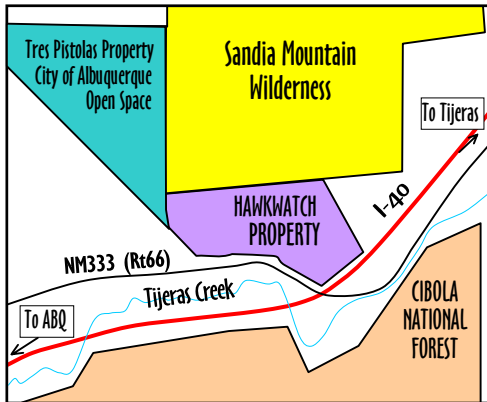
I hope to see everyone at our November program.

— Gene Tatum, President

PRESERVE A WILDLIFE CORRIDOR

On November 6, the City Council will be voting on whether or not the Hawkwatch Property, in Tijeras Canyon, should be protected as Albuquerque Open Space (Bill #R-06-129, written by City Council President Martin Heinrich). Please plan to attend this City Council meeting and voice your opinion in support of protecting this land.

The HawkWatch Property is located just east of Albuquerque, adjoining the Sandia Mountain Wilderness (and Tres Pistolas Open Space, in the area dubbed “Deadman’s Curve” in part because it is a



hotspot for accidents with wildlife. In New Mexico, on average, more than 1,300 car crashes and 20 motorcycle crashes involve animals each year.

The Hawkwatch Property, part of an impaired wildlife corridor that links the Sandia and Manzano Mountains, has been highlighted in several independent studies as crucial to maintaining and

restoring habitat connectivity for species such as deer, black bear, mountain lion, coyote and bobcats, among others.

It is here that animals, funneled naturally down a canyon, often attempt to cross Route 66 in order to access Tijeras Creek. This specific site is being considered by the New Mexico Game & Fish for a future wildlife-dedicated underpass for animals to safely negotiate Route 66. It is important to note that the wildlife underpass could not be constructed until the adjacent land in question is protected in perpetuity.

Protecting this land will also help to preserve the area’s natural and scenic character, which is an asset to the public for outdoor recreation. This property is vulnerable to development—out-of-state developers have already expressed interest in purchasing it for future use.

The New Mexico Land Conservancy currently has a one-year option agreement with HawkWatch International, but only through July 2007. During this window of opportunity, we must find and secure a trustworthy conservation buyer/land manager. Given that Albuquerque Open Space already owns and manages adjacent lands and has an excellent track record for responsible land management, we ask you to support Albuquerque Open Space acquiring this property for public safety and wildlife benefit.

*Excerpts from a message by Kurt Menke
Co-Chair, Tijeras Canyon Safe Passage Coalition*

CHOOSE YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD WISELY!

AWF Board member Jim Hubert offers this tale from a recently retired colleague about his new home in Wyoming. Here are some of the “problems” Dave Paullin encountered soon after moving in:

- ▶ **OVERCROWDED NEIGHBORHOODS.** On our third night here I scanned the fields below our house to do a quick “critter count.” I was counting mule deer, pronghorn antelope, and whitetailed deer and stopped at 350. I moved here to get away from the crowds! What is this!?
- ▶ **NOISY NEIGHBORS.** There is a pair of sandhill cranes nesting in the fields down below our house. Every morning at daybreak we are awakened by their raucous calling. Who needs an alarm clock with noisy neighbors like that?
- ▶ **NOSY NEIGHBORS.** Our first week here two mule deer were standing outside, staring through my bathroom window watching me shave. I can assure you I never had this problem living in the city! Talk about an invasion of privacy!
- ▶ **VANDALISM.** On the third morning after our arrival a woodpecker tried to poke a hole in my brand new house. Where is APHIS when you need them? As a taxpayer I demand...oh, never mind!
- ▶ **TRESPASS.** During our second week I had a crew from town do some improvements to our driveway so we could get up the hill in rainy weather. The very next day a herd of deer went across my new driveway and put divots in it. What ever happened to respecting other people’s property?
- ▶ **TRAFFIC CONGESTION.** We live about 8 miles outside of town. Normally the “commute” is a breeze—except lately. About one mile down the road is a big flock of Merriam turkeys and about half the time I pass this area the turkeys are out in the middle of the road, strutting. I have to slow to a near stop which, depending on the morning, can add significantly to my commute time. I moved to Wyoming to get away from “stop and go” driving and what do I get?
- ▶ **ORGIES.** There is a sharptailed grouse strutting-ground (lek) within view from our deck. It’s about a mile away but in good light and with a spotting scope it can be seen. It contains about 30 males that “dance” on the lek in hopes of luring females to what ultimately amounts to a group sex party in broad daylight. There goes the neighborhood—and what about property values? Geez! Have they no shame?

from Fish & Wildlife Service Retirees News, Oct 2006

CITY COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, November 6 at 5:00 pm in the Vincent E. Griego Council Chambers on the basement level of the Albuquerque/Bernalillo County Government Center building, One Civic Plaza NW.

ISSUE SUMMARY ON NEXT PAGE

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Whitfield Wildlife Area – November 4 and 5 – Shrub Planting

The Valencia Soil & Water Conservation District in Valencia County, NM, will be planting 700 native plant shrubs November 4 & 5, at their Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area.

- TIME:** Volunteer crews start 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day
WHERE: The Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area, Belen, NM
BRING: Warm clothing (layering recommended), work gloves, and a shovel if able.
PROVIDED: Water, beverages, snacks, lunch, and portable restrooms.

DIRECTIONS FROM NORTH ON I-25: The Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area is located on Highway 47 on the east side of Belen. From I-25 south to Belen, take first exit for Belen and follow the road into downtown Belen to take a left onto Reinken Road at the traffic light (Walgreens on right as you get into left turning lanes). Take Reinken Road through town until you cross Rio Grande River bridge and be in left lane to take left at next traffic light onto Hwy 47. Go approximately 1 mile north on Hwy 47 and look for sign 'Whitfield Conservation Tree Planting' at entrance to the site and enter through two sets of gates to lower level of site.

CAR POOLING FROM ALBUQUERQUE: For Saturday, Nov 4, contact Barbara Coulter (332-8213).
For Sunday, Nov 5, contact Glenda Muirhead (281-2925).

HAWKWATCH PROPERTY ISSUE SUMMARY

What's the city's plan?

If approved by the full council, to buy a 67-acre parcel of land that should keep development from severing a critical wildlife link between the Sandia and Manzano Mountains.

How would that help motorists?

The buy itself wouldn't, but the things the state plans to do if the buy happens would. The Department of Game and Fish hopes to build an underpass beneath New Mexico Highway 333 to supplement fencing and motion detectors that alert motorists to passing deer. That should reduce animal/vehicle collisions.

How would that help animals?

Besides not becoming roadkill, the animals would be able to better access water, new habitat and the...er, romantic company of their fellows, thereby bolstering the animals' genetic diversity.

Source: Peter Rice
Albuquerque Journal, Oct 30, 2006

If you plan to participate, please **contact Team Leader Jim Davis at 505-865-2990 wk or 505-681-6872 cell.** Lunch & refreshments will be provided at this event, so please let Jim know as soon as possible if you are coming so they can order the appropriate amount of food.

MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE AT 865-5807.

.....

...and a little closer to home:

Tijeras Canyon – November 4 – Brush Clearing

The Tijeras Canyon Safe Passage Coalition is seeking volunteers for Saturday Nov. 4, to help continue clearing vegetation from I-40 underpasses, so that deer and other animals will feel safe using them in lieu of dodging traffic on the Interstate. You may have noticed that this project has gotten some good press in the local newspapers recently. Work will involve trimming native vegetation and removing non-native trees and brush within the I-40 right-of-way. Bring loppers and pruning saws if you have them. Please wear long pants, hiking boots, and a long-sleeved shirt. Bring lunch, snacks, drinks, hard hat (one will be provided if you do not own one), gloves, rain gear, and sunscreen.

Meet at 9:00 am on Hwy 333 (old Route 66) in the wide, paved area on the south side of the road, just west of the point where Hwy 333 goes under I-40. From the intersection of Tramway and Central, this is about 4 miles to the east, where the road narrows from four lanes to two. If you live in the East Mountains, from the traffic light in Tijeras go west on Hwy 333 to just beyond the underpass at Deadman's Curve, and the meeting place will be on the left. Jeannie Wagner-Greven and Jon Schwedler are coordinating this effort for the Coalition.

Thanks to Dan Benton, a Friends of the Sandias volunteer, for this announcement.

TOO MANY ROADS...

Logging in our National Forests dried up in the early 1990s, and so did the money to maintain the roads. Now there's an estimated backlog of \$10 billion-plus on repairs to National Forest roads nationwide.

In New Mexico there are too many roads in our National Forests to be cared for properly. As roads are neglected, the results can be deadly to fragile fish runs. Old, rusty culverts collapse, and tons of debris wash into streams. Dirt roads leak sand into rivers, threatening to cover and suffocate fish eggs. They also fragment habitat and increase the spread of noxious weeds (one of the top four causes of declining habitat).

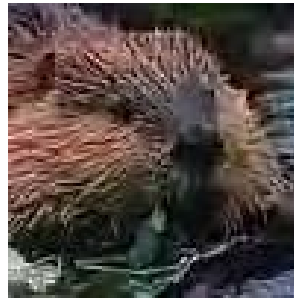
If we are going to make a difference, various groups need to combine their resources and focus on this concern on a "landscape scale."

The Forest Service is currently undergoing a statewide transportation planning process to address ORV/ATV use: trails and roads will be designated as *open* or *closed*. There is a small group working on this issue but it needs more assistance and greater participation. I would like volunteers to help with this very important subject facing New Mexico and the nation.

— Oscar Simpson, President, NM Wildlife Federation
oscarsimpson3@yahoo.com

BEAVER WORKSHOP A HIT!

The *BEAVERS BELONG!* workshop held on September 30th in Taos was a huge success! About 50 people participated including land-owners, conservationists and representatives from



state and federal agencies, pueblos, law firms, land trusts, soil and water conservation districts, and academia. Even former Director of Game and Fish, Bill Huey and his wife Mary, were in attendance!

Post-workshop evaluations gave rave reviews! Requests for more information and to become involved in future workshops have been overwhelming. New Mexicans clearly embrace having beavers on their land and value the watershed restoration effects these engineers provide. There will be future opportunities for AWF involvement in this exciting endeavor, maybe even relocating beavers to one of our favorite restoration sites—Cebolla Canyon. Stay tuned!

— Barbara Coulter, AWF VP

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION — Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, PO Box 1234, Albuquerque, NM 87103 An Affiliate of New Mexico Wildlife Federation

- Please choose between **AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY** or **AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP**. **AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY** does **not** include membership in NMWF. **AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP** includes **one** voting membership in NMWF, for which \$10 of your dues payment goes to NMWF. For Family Membership, if a second person* desires NMWF voting rights, an additional \$10 payment is required.

name(s) _____

address _____

city, state, zip _____

phone _____ email _____

Gift membership from: _____

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES :

- Student [under 18] \$10 ◀ [AWF Membership Only]
- Individual \$25
- Family \$35
- Sustaining..... \$50-\$99
- Patron \$100
- Lifetime.....\$500 ◀ [One-time Payment]

Dues \$ _____

*Second NMWF Member \$10 _____

Contribution \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

THANK YOU!

➤ PLEASE SELECT ONE :

AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY

AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP : Designate NMWF member(s*) _____



AWF Newsletter

DECEMBER 2006

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation ■ PO Box 1234 ■ Albuquerque, NM 87103
Affiliated with The National Wildlife Federation and The New Mexico Wildlife Federation

ANNUAL MEETING & POTLUCK DINNER

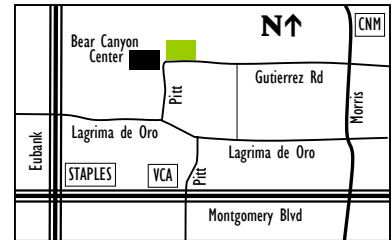
Thursday, December 14, 2006

6:30 pm

Bear Canyon Center, 4645 Pitt NE – Room 4
Albuquerque, NM

It's time for a little business, good food, and a lot of fun!

It's AWF's Annual Meeting, which means election of Board of Directors and Officers and collection of membership dues for 2007, as well as our traditional potluck dinner in celebration of another good year for the organization. We'll be back at Bear Canyon Center for this event. Bring a dish to share; the club will provide plates, utensils, and hot and cold beverages. The Center opens at 6 pm. We will plan on commencing formally at 6:30...but you can arrive earlier to help get the serving table set up.



ELECTIONS: All current Officers and Board members (*see page 2*) have agreed to serve again in their present positions for 2007. In addition, nominations from the floor are welcomed and encouraged...and you can nominate yourself. Consider joining the Board and playing an active role in your club.

MEMBERSHIP DUES: Payable at the meeting; due by January 31, 2007

SEE YOU THERE!

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to thank everyone for their participation with AWF last year. Our organization continues to grow slowly, and we have improved our financial situation from breakeven to a small surplus. The success of our organization is based on the commitment of a small group of members who believe that AWF has an important place in the communities of Northern New Mexico. I must tell you all that if it were not for the dedication of these folks AWF would slowly dissipate into a memory. Although membership growth has not met our hopes or expectation, we do have resolve to continue to provide monthly programs and projects that are educational and attractive to people who are concerned about wildlife habitat and environmental issues. The challenge for the Board is not to become complacent and disillusioned, but to find new ways to promote AWF.

Our programs were exceptional this year. Jim Hubert's efforts in recruiting a diverse host of topical presenters are appreciated. Thanks to the group of 10 to 15 that regularly attend the programs. We are still disappointed in the turnout for the programs. We will explore new venues to advertise the programs.

continued

Jim Hubert's Notable QUOTE of the month

"Conservation is the foresighted utilization, preservation and/or renewal of forests, waters, lands and minerals, for the greatest good of the greatest number for the longest time."

— Gifford Pinchot
First Chief of the Forest Service, 1905-1910

CONSERVATION RESULTS

Are We Taking More Than Nature Provides?

The Earth's regenerative capacity can no longer keep up with humanity's demand; people are turning resources into waste faster than nature can turn waste back into resources. The bottom line is this: By 2050, humanity's demand on nature will be twice the biosphere's productive capacity. WWF constantly evaluates the overall impact of humankind on the planet. This year's Living Planet Report confirms that humans are using the Earth's resources faster than they can be renewed, threatening biodiversity and human well-being. WWF offers solutions to reverse downward trends in both these areas and is working to protect the planet from future ecosystem degradation and collapse.



© WWF-Canon/Peter Prokosch

AWF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Gene Tatum

Vice-President: Barbara Coulter

Secretary: Linda Patterson

Treasurer: Glenda Muirhead

Directors: Larry Dwyer, Patricia

Hester, Jim Hubert,

Dennis Muirhead,

Luke Shelby, Bill Zeedyk

Ex-Officio: Richard W. Becker

Team Up For Wildlife Projects

An advance look at the 2007 Schedule

Feb 24	ABQ Open Space Bosque
Mar 3	Piedra Lisa Trail
Mar 10	Las Huertas
Mar 17	Cedro Creek
Apr 6-8	San Mateo Mountains
Apr 13-15	Rio de las Vacas I
Apr 13-15	Southern NM
Apr 21	Rio Puerco
May 18-20	Cebolla Canyon
June 1-3	Northern Pecos Wilderness
June 15-17	Rio de las Vacas II
June 29-July 1	Red River area
July 13-15	Middle Fork Trail
July 20-22	Valle Vidal - East side
July 27-29	Southern Pecos Wilderness
Aug 10-12	Bitter Creek
Aug 17-19	Valles Caldera
Sept 14-16	Wind River Ranch
Oct 13	Taos area road-to-trail
Nov ?	Sandia trail work

Schedule includes projects of Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, Amigos Bravos, Forest Guardians, and others.

Our projects have been extremely successful. Our partnership with the Wilderness Alliance on projects has broadened our appeal and increased name recognition with the non-sportsman community. Our focus with our partners is working together on common concerns of habitat protection, improvement and restoration. We thank Bill Zeedyk for providing us credibility which has helped significantly with broadening our appeal.

Finally, I hope that information regarding healthy sustainable fisheries and support of local agriculture products has been useful. I think the bigger picture is for us to make thoughtful, considered judgments when we purchase. I hope for the most part that I am not preaching to the choir, but we need to be faithful and diligent regarding sustainability of the earth's resources. Because of development to provide for humans, habitat is lost and species diversity is reduced. At left is an excerpt from World Wildlife Fund November ENewsletter.

I am not fatalistic about such warnings, but regardless of the outcome we do have responsibility as thoughtful, reasoning beings to do our part to correct the problems of the past and to see the future with resolve and hope.

— Gene Tatum, President

Check out Bernardo Wildlife Management Area December 5

Fellow Conservationists,

Some of you have expressed interest in the waterfowl habitat work being accomplished at Bernardo Wildlife Management Area and the "quagmire" area. We have established a tour of the area on Tuesday, December 5th, at 10 am. If you would like to attend, please meet at the Bernardo headquarters barn.

Dale A. Hall, NM Habitat Stamp Program Manager
 NM Department of Game and Fish
 505-222-4725

Whitfield Wildlife Conservation Area, Belen, NM Native Shrub Planting Project November 4, 2006

AWF's Patricia Hester and Barbara Coulter participated ...perhaps that's one of the reasons a task planned for two days took only one!

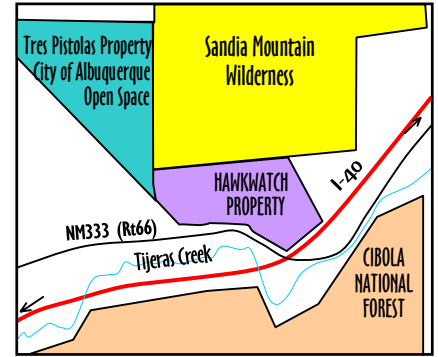
Congratulations to all who attended and made quick work of this project.



PHOTO: Patricia Hester

SUCCESSSES FOR WILDLIFE AND THE LAND

Albuquerque's City Council voted unanimously in favor of the bill to protect the **Hawkwatch Property in Tijeras Canyon** as Albuquerque Open Space at its meeting on Nov 6. According to **Scott Wilber**, Executive Director of NM Land Conservancy, the next step will be "to move forward to facilitate the acquisition of the Hawkwatch property by the City of Albuquerque's Open Space Division ... I expect that we will complete the acquisition by late spring. So thanks again to everyone who got the word out, made calls, wrote letters and showed up...to testify in favor of this acquisition, which will move us one step forward to making the wildlife corridor a reality in Tijeras Canyon."



Great news! The Senate has unanimously passed the **Valle Vidal Protection Act** of 2005, a measure that restricts energy development on this treasured 101,794-acre parcel of land in New Mexico's Carson National Forest.

"Name an animal valued by western sportsmen and chances are you'll find it in the Valle Vidal," said **Terry Riley**, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership Vice President of Policy [and AWF member], who lives in Tijeras, NM. "For years, conserving this special place has been a priority of the hunting and fishing community – with leadership from the Valle Vidal Coalition – and we're incredibly happy that Congress has listened to our concerns. Our deepest thanks go to the act's sponsor, Senator Bingaman, for extending his leadership and support, which built on the momentum built by Representatives Udall, Wilson and Pearce on the House side. We particularly want to thank Senator Domenici, who was critical in getting the measure across the final hurdles and to the finish line."



The Valle Vidal Protection Act will next be considered by President Bush. "We're extremely hopeful that the president will sign this bill into law," Riley continued. "In so doing, he can signify to hunters and anglers that he has heard their concerns that some areas of the West, no matter how much oil and gas may lie beneath them, are too important for their renewable fish and wildlife resources to ever be developed."

Some people will go to great lengths for wildlife! National Wildlife Federation's chief naturalist **Craig Tuft** is one of the three most exhausted employees in the entire organization. "Two of my NWF associates, Dave Strauss, Andrew Pinger and I ran a 50-mile race along the Appalachian Trail and Chesapeake and Ohio Canal in rural Maryland. It was exhilarating, and each of us completed the race in around 10 hours. Not too shabby for running 50 miles!



"Along the way, I kept a log of all the birds I saw or heard and was able to count 33 different species including mourning dove, barred owl, blue jay, white-throated sparrow and four different kinds of woodpecker. Seeing all this wonderful wildlife kept the reason for our run at the forefront: **to raise awareness about the threat of global warming and other threats to America's precious wildlife.** And we knew that although we had to physically run by ourselves, at no time were we running alone. We had the support of thousands of NWF members and employees, and they were counting on us to come through. The race is over now, but the fight rages on."



From Kurt A. Menke, Co-Chair TCSPC



- ✓ **Wildlife Monitoring:** Check tracks in the Canyon to see who's using the underpasses. Call Jon at 270-3637 for more information.
- ✓ **Brush Clearing:** Open passages under I-40 for wildlife. We've cleared two underpasses and have one to go – date to be determined. Call Jon at 270-3637 or Jeannie at 248-6667 for more information.

Underpass cleared of vegetation: Animals will feel safe using an open underpass, with good visibility, in lieu of dodging traffic on the busy interstate.



OUTDOOR
TIP

Winter's coming! For those who enjoy fun in the snow, here's a tip from *Backpacker Magazine*, shared by Barbara Coulter, AWF VP:

AVOID SNOWBURN

As the sun rises, so does the danger level. In the early morning, minimal ultraviolet light is reflected upward. But from mid-morning to mid-afternoon, as much as 90 percent can rebound off the snow, giving you a double dose of damaging rays. The reflected light is not more hazardous than direct exposure; the danger comes from being hit by direct and reflected rays at the same time.

To protect yourself, wear a brimmed hat, an SPF 30 or higher sunscreen (reapply every 2 to 3 hours), and wraparound sunglasses. Don't forget to apply sunscreen to the insides of your nostrils and under your chin. And don't hike with your mouth open — sunburn on the roof of your mouth is excruciating!

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