

# THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque  
WILDLIFE  
Federation

conservationists since 1914

January 2026

## New Restoration Field Guide for the New Year

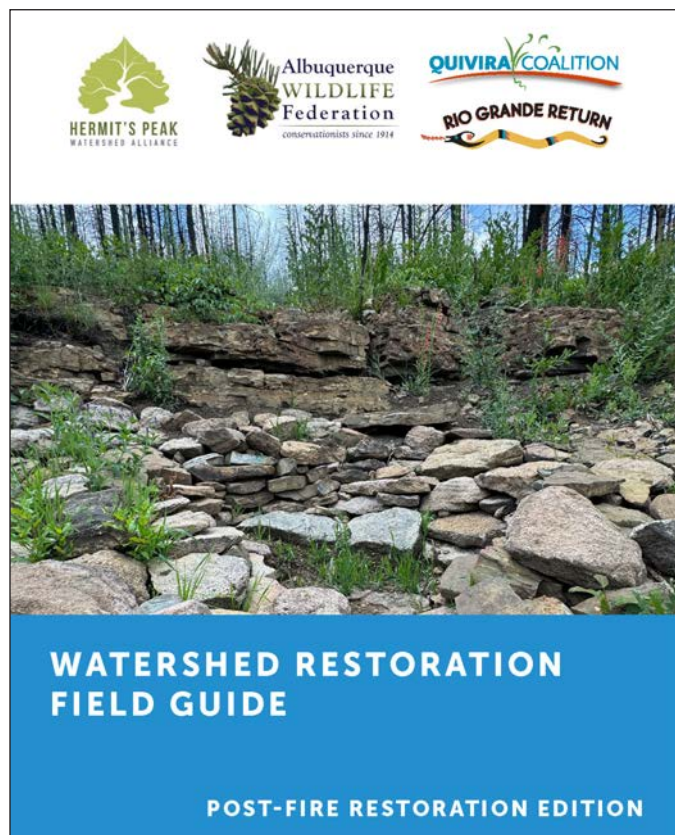
As we enter the new year, we are pleased to announce the publication of a new watershed restoration field guide that was developed collaboratively by AWF, the Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance, Rio Grande Return, and the Quivira Coalition.

The guide showcases many of the restoration techniques that AWF frequently implements during our projects, like one-rock dams, Zuni bowls, baffles, and media lunas. For each type of structure, the guide explains its purpose, appropriate locations for its use, and step-by-step instructions for how to build it. There are also diagrams and sample photos (many of which show structures built by AWF President Phil Carter and his crew at the Hermits Peak Watershed Alliance during their work to restore areas impacted by the Hermits Peak-Calf Canyon fire).

**You can [download a free pdf of the guide](#) or [order a printed copy from the Quivira Coalition's website](#).**

Learning and implementing these techniques is becoming even important as climate change accelerates. Last month was the hottest December on record across New Mexico, with temperatures as much as 25 degrees above normal and many days that broke temperature records. It has also been extremely dry, with snowpack levels currently sitting at less than half of average.

The restoration techniques described in the new guide provide benefits both before and after a fire. Before a



fire, they help hold moisture on the landscape, keeping vegetation wetter and less primed to burn. In the aftermath, these restoration structures can mitigate flooding and sediment run-off into waterways, and speed the recovery of ecosystems.

We hope this new guide will be a helpful resource for those who want to understand these restoration techniques better or share knowledge about them with others. As always, the best way to build your skills with these techniques is to put them into practice, so we hope you'll join some of AWF's restoration projects this year and help us improve the resilience of New Mexico's watersheds.

*Kristina G. Fisher*  
AWF Secretary

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## 2026 VOLUNTEER ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROJECTS

The AWF Projects Committee will be meeting later this month to develop the schedule for this year's volunteer ecological restoration service projects. If you have ideas for projects or would like to be involved in the planning process, please contact AWF President Phil Carter at [philcrater@gmail.com](mailto:philcrater@gmail.com). Look for the initial 2026 project calendar in next month's newsletter!



## NO AWF MEETING IN JANUARY — SEE YOU IN FEBRUARY!

Do you have suggestions of speakers, topics, or educational workshops you would like to see at AWF's public meetings this year? Please email any suggestions to [abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com](mailto:abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com)!



## SHOUTOUT TO THE 2026 AWF BOARD!

As an all-volunteer organization, AWF's board is responsible for organizing our restoration service projects and educational presentations, as well as carrying forward the legacy of this 112-year-old organization. We are grateful to this year's board members for continuing their service into 2026!

### AWF BOARD 2026

#### OFFICERS

*President – Phil Carter*  
*Vice President – Cameron Weber*  
*Treasurer – Laurie Marnell*  
*Secretary – Kristina G. Fisher*

#### DIRECTORS

*Abe Aufdermauer*  
*Rod Flores*  
*Finn Gregor*  
*Lia Griesser*  
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*Michael "Scial" Scialdone*  
*Hamish Thomson*  
*Bob Tilley*  
*Alexcia Trujillo*  
*Bill Zeedyk - Director Emeritus*



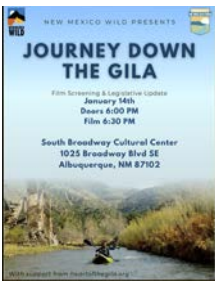
## UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

### Riparian Monitoring in Bandelier National Monument

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 6:30 pm, Christ Lutheran Church, 1701 Arroyo Chamiso Rd, Santa Fe**  
**NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO**

This presentation will outline the objectives of monitoring riparian areas and vegetation within Bandelier National Monument, provide an overview of the first field season, and share a brief look at preliminary data. Ana Casillas Brownson is the Biologist at Bandelier National Monument. For more details:

[https://www.npsnm.org/?event=tuesday-november-11-santa-fe-chapter-meeting-and-lecture-630-pm&event\\_date=2026-01-13](https://www.npsnm.org/?event=tuesday-november-11-santa-fe-chapter-meeting-and-lecture-630-pm&event_date=2026-01-13)



### Journey Down the Gila film screenings

**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 14, 6:00 p.m., South Broadway Cultural Center, Albuquerque**  
**WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 6:00 p.m., Harwood Museum of Art, Taos**  
**NEW MEXICO WILD**

Journey Down the Gila is a stunning and heartfelt film by Albuquerque filmmaker David Garcia that captures both the beauty of the Gila River and the powerful story of three New Mexico teens who lost their lives in service to the wild. The film follows their mothers' emotional voyage down the river — and the ongoing effort to keep the Gila free-flowing and untamed.

After the film screening, stay after for brief remarks from special guests and learn how you can support efforts to keep New Mexico's last free-flowing river wild. More details at:

<https://www.nmwild.org/event/journey-down-the-gila-film-screening-2-2/>

<https://www.nmwild.org/event/journey-down-the-gila-film-screening-taos/>

### Public Lands Rally at the Roundhouse

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2:00-4:00 pm**  
**NEW MEXICO WILD**

Mark your calendars for the afternoon of February 6, 2026 for a Public Lands Rally at the Roundhouse in Santa Fe. Join us as we kick off the legislative session by standing up for New Mexico's wilderness, wildlife, and water when it matters most. For more info: <https://www.nmwild.org/event/public-lands-rally-at-the-roundhouse/>

### Aldo Leopold Writing Contest for Students

**ENTRIES DUE FEBRUARY 13, 2026**

In the Aldo Leopold Writing Foundation's annual student essay contest, students in grades 6-12 are invited to submit an essay on an environmental topic. Learn more about the details of contest and how to participate:

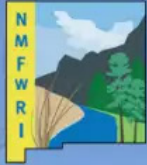
<https://www.leopoldwritingprogram.org/writing-contest.html>

### Aldo & Estella Leopold Residency for Writers

**APPLICATIONS DUE FEBRUARY 16, 2026**

An inspiring retreat for professional environmental writers at "Mi Casita", Aldo and Estella's first home in northern New Mexico, the Aldo and Estella Leopold Residency provides a one-month residency with stipend for writers and respected thinkers interested in reshaping the cultural story about the relationship between humans and Nature. Learn more and apply at: <https://www.leopoldwritingprogram.org/residency.html>

Send your event information to: [abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com](mailto:abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com)!



New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute  
New Mexico Highlands University

New Mexico

Southwest Decision Resources



# Facilitation Trainings

2026



January 27-28

SILVER CITY



February 24-25

ALBUQUERQUE



April 14, 16, 21, 23 (mornings)

VIRTUAL

We are excited to announce SDR facilitation training in NM in 2026! This 10-hour facilitation training workshop is part of an effort to help build collaborative capacity in the state, will be offered in 3 convenient locations, and will help prepare you to design and facilitate successful collaborative efforts in natural resource and community settings.

In this training you will:

- **Explore** the many applications of facilitation to support collaborative efforts
- **Learn** facilitation best practices and methods
- **Practice** skills for designing and facilitating in-person and virtual meetings, from small groups to large public workshops
- **Problem solve** real world situations to help you leave with practical strategy ideas
- **Build** a supportive network of peers, and increase your collaborative capacity

**\*\*This training is FREE with limited space - please click below to indicate interest! \*\***  
(Preference for those working with and/or leading natural resource and community collaborative efforts in NM)

Indicate Interest [HERE](#)

For more information: Crystal Medina, [NMFWR](mailto:cmolina@nmhu.edu) - [cmolina@nmhu.edu](mailto:cmolina@nmhu.edu) | [www.swdresources.com](http://www.swdresources.com)

Co-hosts:



# JOIN US!

## Become a Member of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation

The Albuquerque Wildlife Federation is an all-volunteer organization founded by Aldo Leopold in 1914 and dedicated to protecting and restoring New Mexico's wildlife and habitat.

Our work is only possible thanks to the generous support of our members.

If you like the work we do, we hope you will help keep this legacy going by becoming a member or renewing your membership.



## AWF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation | P.O. Box 20225 | Albuquerque, NM 87154

Yes, I'd like to join AWF!     This is a gift membership from: \_\_\_\_\_

name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

phone: \_\_\_\_\_ email: \_\_\_\_\_

- Student \_\_\_\_\_ \$10
- Individual \_\_\_\_\_ \$25
- Family \_\_\_\_\_ \$35
- Sustaining \_\_\_\_\_ \$50-99
- Patron \_\_\_\_\_ \$100
- Lifetime \_\_\_\_\_ \$500 (*one-time payment*)

Dues: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Extra Contribution: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**