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ALBUQUERQUE, NM
PERMIT NO. 204

NM Wildlife Federation, Inc.
Affiliate Chapter, AWF
3240-D Juan Tabo NE
Albuquerque, NM 87111

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation

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



GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, January 13, 1994

7:00 P.M.

Bear Canyon Senior Center - 4645 Pitt NE, Room 5 & 6
(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro,
one long block, left on Pitt. One short block to BCSC.)

**** ** * JANUARY GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING * ** ****

Historical Wildlife in New Mexico

Environmental historian Dan Surlock will show slides and talk about animals that once lived in New Mexico, emphasizing species currently being considered for reintroduction. He will tell why some species died off or were greatly reduced in number in the past, and will also talk about the comebacks being made by some endangered species.

In addition, Dan will talk about relationships between native Americans and wildlife, and will read historical descriptions of wildlife in New Mexico.

Dan teaches classes on ecology and historical change and conducts field trips for the UNM Community College and the Rio Grande Nature Center.

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President's Message

Since joining the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation just a few years ago, I have come to love and respect the many dedicated individuals and families who have served this organization over many years. Our state wildlife populations have had able "advocates" through your efforts.

1994 will be a significant year as the United States Congress considers reauthorization of the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act. We, as an organization and as citizens, need to continue to remain involved in deliberations in the months ahead.

I look forward to another year of exciting and informative monthly programs and our work projects in the Valle Vidal and elsewhere.

Richard Becker
President AWF

ABOUT YOUR WILDLIFE FEDERATION

With the new year we should be reminded that its been 80 years since the founding of the organization we now know as the "Wildlife Federation". You may have noted on the masthead of the newsletter (also our letterhead) that the Game Protective Association was formed in 1914.

Organizing efforts were undertaken in Albuquerque and Silver City at about the same time. As suggested by the name the concern was protection. Rocky mountain elk in the north and Merriam elk in the south had been eradicated by the turn of the century. Bighorn sheep were pretty well decimated. Antelope and deer numbers were low.

The founders were especially interested in developing a state department that would establish game laws and be effective in enforcing them. There was concern about poaching and predatory animals. New Mexico was especially fortunate in having two young men among those interested in the conservation movement in the state at that time, Aldo Leopold and Elliott Barker. Aldo Leopold developed and articulated the vision upon which much of current day wildlife and ecological management is based. Mr. Barker effectively participated in development of the New Mexico game code and as the New Mexico State Game Warden for 20 years was largely responsible for developing and implementing the policies which have resulted in today's Department of Game and Fish.

Leopold and Barker were, as were their colleagues in the Game Protective Association, hunters. Protection included the premise that game and fish, when available in sustainable numbers, could be harvested. Indeed the funding of protection has historically been from revenues derived from licenses and excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment.

Throughout the years since 1914 there has been a continuing interest in protecting the game of the state. Protection during the first part of the century was to reduce legal hunting and fishing take through new game laws and eliminate market hunting and predatory animal kill. Leopold and others were recognizing by the late 1920's that habitat was also critical. In an unpublished manuscript written about 1928, Leopold identified overgrazing as a significant detrimental factor on the deer populations.

In the mid 1930's a newspaper cartoonist in Iowa, Ding Darling, took his concern with the state of wildlife, and especially waterfowl, to President Roosevelt. The President sponsored two conventions out of which Ducks Unlimited and the National Wildlife Federation were formed.

Ducks Unlimited was to do something about the loss of waterfowl which had been especially severe during the drought. The DU focus has been on providing waterfowl nesting habitat in Canada as well as the United States. DU has been very effective in fund raising from the hunting brotherhood for offsetting the losses to waterfowl habitat from agricultural and commercial water project development.

The National Wildlife Federation was established to be a citizen advocacy group for wildlife. Mr. Barker was one of the founding members of the NWF and continued to take an active part in establishing the policies and organization. Like New Mexico, many states had citizen conservation groups. Those that had compatible goals were included in the new national organization and still establish NWF policy through a representative governing body. AWF is a part of NWF through our affiliation with the New Mexico Wildlife Federation.

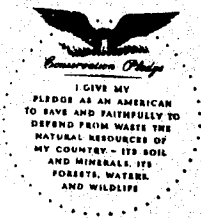
Over the years the organization has broadened the view expressed by the early founders had. It has been recognized that population expansion which puts human housing in wildlife habitat, increased recreational intrusion into wildlife habitat during critical periods, over-exploitation of wildlife populations, and conversion of habitat as a result of industrial use all are continuing threats to viability of wildlife populations. A wildlife advocacy group can help make the conflicts and alternatives visible and part of the public discussion and decision making.

If you want to be a wildlife advocate, the Wildlife Federation is a good base from which to work.

Dave Weingarten
1/5/94

stamp

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GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, February 10, 1994
7:00 P.M.

Bear Canyon Senior Center - 4645 Pitt NE, Room 5 & 6
(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro,
one long block, left on Pitt. One short block to BCSC.)

**** ** * SUBJECTS: NATURE CONSERVANCY - EAGLES * * * ****

The role of the Nature Conservancy in New Mexico will be discussed by AWF member Roby Wallace. He is the stewardship ecologist for the New Mexico Nature Conservancy. Roby also will show slides of some of the Nature Conservancy lands in our Land of Enchantment.

Noted wildlife author and photographer Dan True will show slides and talk about the life of a family of eagles. He has written two books on the subject: A Family of Eagles and Flying Free. Dan also has written a recent book about hummingbirds.

**** ** * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * * ***

President's Message

I have received several responses to my January meeting request for "Dear Richard" letters which I will share with you February 10. It is my hope that as an organization we can share with our families and our membership some of those life stories that have made our outdoor experiences significant parts of our adventure of living, sharing, learning about each other and our beautiful country side. Sharing stories (most of them true) are tools we have to learn from each other.

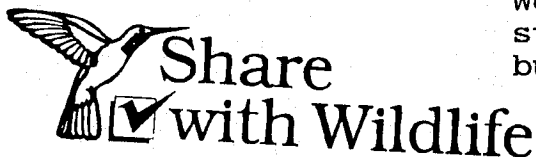
Richard Becker

(P.S. Remember the definition of an old timer --- someone who knows lots of stories...some of them true.)

*** * * * ***

Other AWF Officers and Board of Director members for 1994 are:
Barbara Bergstrom, Yvonne Chauvin, Charles Easton, Cecil Haas, Jim Hubert, Joyce Mendel, Bill Reed, Tony Romero, Bill Zeedyke.

**** Cliff & Joyce Mendel are meeting program coordinators, let them know of a topic of particular interest to you.**



We'll soon be doing our annual duty of filing our state income tax. Starting in 1982, contributions to the NM Dept. of Game & Fish through the income tax refund check-off have benefited our wildlife. The program has been called Share with Wildlife (SwW) and the option for you to contribute a part or all of your refund is available again this year.

The enabling legislation for the Share with Wildlife check-off was introduced by Senator Tito Chavez at the request of John Snowdon. John was the president of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation at that time and requested the legislation on behalf of AWF. Over the intervening years contributions have totaled over a million dollars. The funds have largely been used where federal matching funds can be found so the total available has been two or three times the actual contributions.

The SwW fund has a citizen advisory committee which helps select the species and projects to be covered. SwW funds four general categories: research, wildlife rehabilitation, habitat protection and public education. SwW is committed to helping "wildlife in need", those species with no other source of funding.

Alas, since the SwW check-off was introduced, other check-off categories have been added to the state income tax form. There are now seven funds that ask for your support. This was just one of the factors which contributed to the decline in donations since the first year. The first year donations were about \$250,000; last year about \$50,000.

It is also possible to make a tax deductible donation directly to SwW. You can do this by mailing a contribution to: Share with Wildlife, New Mexico Department of Game & Fish, Villagra Building, P.O. Box 25112, Santa Fe, NM 87504.

Clair Tyrpak, SwW coordinator, sends along her thanks to all of the past contributors, and asks please "Check it off" again.

** ** * ** * ** * ** * ** *

WILDLIFE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE NEW MEXICO ECONOMY

In a previous newsletter it was pointed out that New Mexicans spent \$421M for wildlife related activities - hunting, fishing and non-consumptive - in 1991. This was based on a US Fish & Wildlife report published last year. Subsequently, the NM Dept. of Game & Fish has made available projections on the total economic impacts, developed by Southwick Associates and the Sport Fishing Institute both of Washington, DC. These, again, are based on the figures provided by the Fish & Wildlife Service report but include consideration of the second cycle of the money through state businesses.

Earnings to Residents: \$203M
Jobs in NM: 12,000

Retail Sales in NM: \$404M
Taxes to State: \$28M

DHW 2/2/94

ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION membership application

P. O. Box 1234, Albuquerque, NM 87103

Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 Phone _____ Date _____

Family (\$25)* _____

name of person to be NMWF member _____

additional NMWF member (\$10/member) _____

Single (\$20)* _____

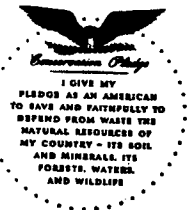
* Includes one NM Wildlife Federation membership.

Additional NMWF memberships for family members can be added for \$10.

ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87112
12413 PLACID NE
MR & MRS DAVID WEINGARTEN
95/06 F L



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GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, March 10, 1994
7:00 P.M.

Bear Canyon Senior Center - 4645 Pitt NE, Room 5 & 6
(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro,
one long block, left on Pitt. One short block to BCSC.)

TOPICS:

*** * * SHARE WITH WILDLIFE * * ***

*** * * HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS * * ***

Claire Tyrpak, Share with Wildlife Coordinator, will show slides and talk about projects funded by the Department of Game & Fish Share with Wildlife program. Share with Wildlife receives funding primarily through state income-tax refund check-offs and matching federal money. Funds are used primarily for threatened and endangered species in the areas of research, rehabilitation, habitat protection and public education.

Beverly DeGruyter, from the Cibola National Forest, Carla Alford from the Socorro District of the Bureau of Land Management, and either Dan Rael or Ben Romero from the Tres Piedras Ranger District of the Carson National Forest will speak and show slides of their area. Each will describe several projects that can be undertaken by volunteers to improve wildlife habitat in their district.

President's Comments

The position of secretary for the AWF is open. If you would like to serve the organization in this capacity and be actively involved with the Board of Directors contact me at 255-7156. Chuck Easton has served us well during his term of office.

I continue to receive letters from our membership recounting an assortment of adventures...WHAT TALES YOU HAVE TO TELL!!!

We have had excellent program presentations this year. If you have been unable to attend I encourage you to "come on down" to our next meeting, re-new friendships, find out about our "happenings".

Richard W. Becker, president

* * * * *

The New Mexico Department of Game & Fish, Conservation Services Division (CSD), budget will be augmented by \$500,000 from general appropriations. This will be in addition to \$2.4 million funding from license fees and federal excise taxes on hunting and fishing equipment. The authorized Department staffing level was increased by 5.

The CSD was established last year by Game Commission action. The 1994 Legislature put the CSD into statute. This means that a new Game Commission can not dissolve the CSD. Representative Raymond Sanchez, Speaker of the House, was the primary sponsor and Max Coll, Chairman of the House Appropriations and Finance Committee co-sponsored the bill. A House Memorial suggests that the Game Commission establish a council to provide public input to development of the CSD charter.

The legislation stipulates the CSD responsibilities. These are stated to be: 1) management, enhancement, research and conservation of public wildlife habitat; 2) lease, purchase, enhancement and management of state wildlife habitat; 3) assist landowners in improving wildlife habitats; 4) development of educational programs related to conservation of wildlife and the environment, including expanded dissemination of wildlife publications; 5) communicate and consult with federal and other state agencies, local governments and communities, and private organizations and affected interests responsible for habitat, wilderness, recreation, water quality and environmental protection to ensure comprehensive conservation services for hunters, anglers and nonconsumptive wildlife users.

Discussions between members of the Game Commission, the Department and wildlife advocacy groups had set higher expectations for FY1994-95 CSD funding and staffing. A goal was \$2 million and 24 staff. Realities of staffing and competition for state general appropriations money for the coming year resulted in the reduction.

If we are to be successful in future requests for additional general appropriations funding, so that the expanded responsibilities of the legislation can be met, it will be up to the CSD to show results of the funding increment and wildlife advocates to show a continuing interest in expanded management of our wildlife resource.

DHW

P.S. As of this writing Governor King has not signed HB557 (establishing the CSD). You may want to let him know of your interest - phone 827-3000. The Governor has until March 9 to sign it.

DHW

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GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, April 14, 1994
7:00 P.M.

Bear Canyon Senior Center - 4645 Pitt NE, Room 5 & 6
(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro,
one long block, left on Pitt. One short block to BCSC.)

TOPICS: * * * Dept Of Game & Fish, Landowner/Sportsman Program * * *
*** * * BLM, Wildlife of McGregor Range * * ***

Ed Sceery, NM Dept. of Game & Fish, will talk about the Department's new landowner/sportsman program which he coordinates. The program was established to improve relations and communication between landowners, sportsmen and the Department, and to address major issues of mutual interest.

Mike Howard, wildlife biologist for the BLM's Caballo Resource Area, will show slides of the wildlife of McGregor Range, which includes large herds of deer and antelope, and of its wildlife habitat. He will also tell about the history of the area, west of the Sacramento Mountains, and discuss management perspectives.

Six hundred eight thousand acre McGregor Range is a Public Land military withdrawal. BLM manages part of the range for multiple use--for wildlife habitat, hunting, grazing, and wildlife viewing. Conservationists have objected to ongoing and proposed military uses of the range where procedures of the National Environmental Policy Act are not being followed. Hunters, ranchers and wildlife observers are concerned that access to the range could be denied to them in the near future.

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HABITAT IMPROVEMENT & OTHER PROJECTS - Bill Zeedyke chairman

- * April 22 - Display booth, see President's Comments, other side
- * May 14 - Water Catchment, Chupadero Mesa, BLM Socorro Resource Area, 5 to 10 people, leave Albuquerque by 7 AM, 3 hrs travel time
- * June 11 - Shrub plantings, Bluewater Creek, Cibola National Forest, any number of participants, good family outing, 2 1/2 hours travel time
- * July 23-24 - Valle Vidal, Carson National Forest, McCrystal Lake
- * August 13-14, Fish barrier, Carson Nat Forest, San Antonio Creek area
- * Sept 10 - Chavez Wildlife Area, water exlosure
- * Sept 21 - Fishing clinic

Call Bill Zeedyke: 281-9066 or Barbra Bergstrum: 298-4628, for meeting place and equipment information. It is helpful to know the participation for equipment planning. Camping is available at most projects.

President's Comments

AWF has been invited to participate in the EARTH DAY CELEBRATION at the UNM Mall area on April 22, 1994. Beverly DeGruyter is hosting our display booth as part of National Wildlife Week. If you can assist Beverly with this effort, please contact her at 761-4650.

Do you have NOTABLE photos from past AWF work projects?? If so, please bring them to our monthly meetings to share with others. Could you share a story about the experience? Remember... YOU WERE THERE!!!

Bill Zeedyk (our culvertologist extrodinaire) is developing several work projects in different state-wide locations. Various proposals for projects were made at our March 1994 meeting by folks from the USFS and BLM. We will need your participation to make these efforts truly successfull.

Richard W. Becker, president

* * * * *

McGREGOR RANGE, by Joyce Mendel

McGregor Range is located about 15 miles south of Alamogordo, east of Highway 54. The approximately 600,000 acres of BLM land was withdrawn for military use in the 1950's, used by the military without authorization in the 1970's, then legally withdrawn in 1986 for 15 years.

About 1/3 of the range is managed by the BLM for multiple use--hunting, grazing and wildlife observation in addition to some military activity. To visit this part of the range, one needs an annual permit and to call a day ahead.

This area includes part of Otero Mesa grasslands, 42,000 acres of Sacramento Mountain foothills and a small part of the Tularosa Basin. The grasslands support one of the finest antelope herds in the state; the foothills are a center of activity for a large deer herd. Other wildlife, such as raptors and prairie dogs, also abounds. A Wilderness Study Area is located at the north end of the range, and there are several black grama grass Areas of Critical Concern.

The other 2/3 of the range is within an impact-zone, although only the extreme southern end is known to be contaminated by military activity. The public has access to much of this land if accompanied by escort.

AWF, along with NM Wildlife Federation, Sierra Club, NM Dept. of Game & Fish, and other hunting and conservation organizations, ranchers, and government agencies, has been objecting to certain aspects of the present and proposed military uses of the range.

Significant increases of annual military activity on McGregor Range are being proposed, including much additional use of the non-impact zone.

We have two major concerns. One is that while the military has published a couple of recent Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) for proposed and ongoing activities, it has not complied with the National Environmental Policy Act by assessing cumulative impacts. It has not done so because significant biological baseline data never were gathered. This makes it impossible to predict or measure impacts of proposed activities, and also makes it impossible to develop adequate mitigation or monitoring. The military has been aware of the need to gather baseline biological data for at least 17 years.

Our other concern is that all of the proposed activities for McGregor Range are likely to result in denial of public access to the range in the near future. Yet the law authorizing the withdrawal states that the land is to be administered for multiple use under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, and a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed by the military agreeing to multiple use of the non-impact area.

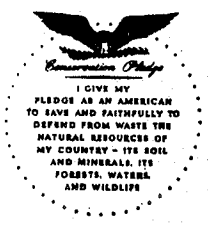
The EIS say that all of McGregor Range is to be an impact area for live firing, thus expanding gun and missile projectile impacts onto the 200,000 or so acres of unimpacted land. Also, the many military activities proposed would effectively occupy the range all year.

You may want to contact Senators Bingaman and Domenici about this issue.

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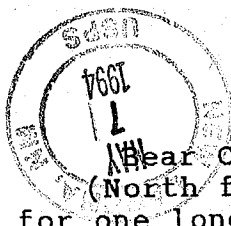


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GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, MAY 12, 1994

7:00 P.M.

Bear Canyon Senior Center - 4645 Pitt NE, Room 5 & 6
(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro
for one long block, then left on Pitt. One short block to BCSC)

There will be time for refreshments and to talk with the speakers following the program.

**** ** * MAY PROGRAM * ** ****

AN ECOLOGICAL BASIS FOR FOREST ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT

Sandy Boyce, special projects coordinator for the Southwestern Region of the U.S. Forest Service, will present a slide program concerning forest ecosystem management. The program presents the results of a recent study that stresses placing greater emphasis on sustaining the long-term viability of ecological systems. Sustainability of natural resources may require an alteration of human activities, such as less dependence on raw fiber.

BASS FISHING BASICS

Bill Elliott, who in 1988 was declared "Angler of the Year" by U.S. Bass, West Region, will talk about the basics of bass fishing and demonstrate lures. He will describe fishing techniques that work for our Southwestern waters and show bass fishing equipment that helped him earn the 1988 title.

AWF VOLUNTEER HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

- May 14: Water Catchment, Chupadero Mesa, BLM Socorro Resource Area
- June 11: Shrub plantings, Bluewater Creek, Cibola National Forest
- July 23-24: Valle Vidal, Carson National Forest, McCrystal Lake
- August 13-14: Fish barrier, Carson N.F., San Antonio Creek
- Sept. 10: Water exclosure, Chavez Wildlife Area

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Libby Haas has accepted the position of AWF secretary. Her participation is very much appreciated.

Thanks to Beverly DeGruyter and assistants for organizing a table at the UNM Earth Day celebration on April 22. Those assisting were Joyce Mendel, Bob Nordstrum, and Tony Romero.

A letter has been sent to the Sandia Ranger District from the AWF Board of Directors in response to an Environmental Assessment for the proposed Tecolote Ridge Trail. Several questions were asked about the proposal and we are waiting for a formal decision on the proposed action.

The AWF Board of Directors agreed to join a coalition of concerned citizens and other organizations in support of efforts by the U.S. Forest Service to acquire the Tres Pistolas area.

The Bureau of Land Management is requesting public comments on Rangeland Reform '94. The comment period deadline is July 28, 1994. A grazing committee is being organized to review the proposed regulations. If you can serve on this committee please contact me at 255-7156 or at the meeting.

Join us in the Socorro Resource Area on May 14 for the Chupadero Mesa experience.

Richard Becker
President, AWF

MAY HABITAT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT: CHUPADERO MESA

We will work on building both a water catchment and a fence to exclude cattle at Chupadero Mesa, on Saturday, May 14. We need your volunteer assistance in this cooperative project with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Bring gloves, hat, food and water. Leave Albuquerque by 7 a.m. or camp overnight at the site. The location is 52 miles southeast of Socorro, three hours travel time. Call Bill Zeedyk, 281-9066 or Barbara Bergstrom, 298-4628 for maps and further information.

CONSERVATION SERVICES DIVISION

At its April 22 meeting, the State Game Commission approved hiring six permanent employees for the Conservation Services Division with the \$495,000 coming to the Game Department from the state general appropriations bill. The positions are: landowner/habitat specialist, to work with landowners requesting assistance; wildlife culturist, to work on the Bernardo Waterfowl Area; invertebrate biologist; Project Wild schoolyard coordinator; Project Wild secretary; and administrative assistant for Conservation Services.

Dave Weingarten represented the New Mexico Wildlife Federation at the meeting to argue for permanent rather than temporary positions.

A temporary employee also will be hired with another \$46,000 from general appropriations to carry out provisions of the N.M. Mining Act.

WILDLIFE WEEK

In celebration of National Wildlife Week, April 17-23, AWF education chairperson Beverly DeGruyter, assisted by Eagle Scout Jeremiah Davis, distributed about 900 Wildlife Week educational kits to Albuquerque schools. The kits are provided by the National Wildlife Federation.

TAKINGS BILLS

"Takings" bills in various forms are being pushed through Congress, as well as in state legislatures, by those wanting to obstruct environmental legislation. Proponents of takings legislation claim that laws designed to protect the environment and public health and safety take away their right to maximize profits from their land.

The most destructive and radical of the takings bills before Congress are companion bills H.R. 3875, introduced in the House by Rep. Billy Tauzin, and S. 1915, introduced in the Senate by Sen. Shelby. The bills would require taxpayers to pay land speculators and developers who claim that endangered species or wetlands protections reduce the potential value of their property by 50 percent or more. The bills also would set up a stifling bureaucratic process when wetlands and endangered species decisions are to be made.

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one long block, left on Pitt. One short block to BCSC.)

TOPICS: * * * Range Reform - BLM * * *
*** * * Sandia and Manzano Hiking Trails - USFS * * ***

Steve Henke, from the Bureau of Land Management's Albuquerque District, will provide an overview of Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt's Range Reform '94 proposal as it applies to grazing on BLM land.

Jane Cropp, trails and wilderness coordinator for the Sandia Ranger District, will show slides and describe trails in the Sandia and Manzano Mountains. She will also tell about trails in other mountain areas near Albuquerque.

The public is invited. There is no admission charge.

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HABITAT IMPROVEMENT & OTHER PROJECTS - Bill Zeedyk chairman

* July 23-24 - Valle Vidal, Carson National Forest

AWF's Annual Volunteer work project at the beautiful Valle Vidal is scheduled for 7/23-24. This will be the twelfth year AWF has had chapter participation in conservation project at the Valle Vidal. Please confirm your attendance with Bill Zeedyk at 281-9066 or Barbra Bergstrum at 298-4628. (Details on other side)

* August 13-14, Fish barrier, Carson Nat Forest, San Antonio Creek area

* Sept 10 - Chavez Wildlife Area, water exclosure

* Sept 21 - Fishing clinic

Call Bill Zeedyk: 281-9066 or Barbra Bergstrum: 298-4628, for meeting place and equipment information. It is helpful to know the participation for equipment planning. Camping is available at most projects.

Valle Vidal - Outing Plans & Directions to Find It

We will set up camp on the grounds at Shuree Lodge below the Shuree Ponds. Bring your tent, trailer or RV. We will have access to showers and restrooms at the lodge but will not be able to bunk there. Members can arrive as early as Thursday afternoon, July 21. Please bring a pot-luck dinner item to share with others at the "cook-out" Saturday evening. The chapter will furnish hotdogs and hamburgers.

Project work will begin at 9:00 am on Saturday and 8:30 Sunday. Projects include fence construction and repair, and repair of fish habitat (log) structures on Rio Costilla. Please bring hats, gloves, sunscreen. If you want to help with the fisheries projects, hip boots or waders will add to your comfort.

To reach the Valle Vidal take NM highway 522 north from Questa to Costilla, exit east through Amalia. Proceed 17 miles to the Forest boundary and follow signs to Shuree. (Again, please confirm your attendance with Bill or Barbra.) (B. Zeedyk)

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President's Comments

I encourage you to join AWF on the Valle Vidal work-project July 23-24.

The July Board of Directors meeting will be held on the 19th at 7:00 pm to review comments on Rangeland Reform '94. If you would like to submit comments, please bring them to our July 14 meeting. You could also come to the meeting 7/19 at the NMWF office, 3240-D Juan Tabo NE.

We are working on a photo/fact sheet to help monitor habitat in New Mexico. If you have had any experience with this or have ideas for a format, please contact me. Richard W. Becker, president

* * * * *

Other News

<<< Our U.S. Senators have been successful in getting funding for purchase of part of the Tres Pistolas property (in the vicinity of Carnuel) included in a Senate appropriations bill. But funding for this is not included in the House appropriations bill, so whether or not it will stay in the bill is up to the conference committee. (J Mendel)

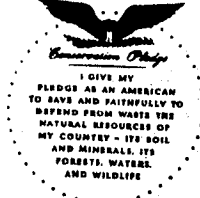
<<< Otero Mesa Update: One less Impact. The Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for Theater Missile Defense (TMD) was the subject of a June 13 meeting between Senator Bingaman's staff, Senator Domenici's representative, the TMD Program Office (Huntsville), representatives from White Sands, the Zuni Mountain Coalition, the Sierra Club and the Wildlife Federation. Joyce Mendel and Cecil Haas attended for AWF and NMWF. This was a followup from a May meeting with Senator Bingaman. Our primary concern is the impact to Otero Mesa. All of the DoD representatives agreed that they would not use Otero Mesa in any way for the TDM test, and that any roadblocks would be only for the duration of the missile shots.

This satisfies the stated concerns of the Wildlife Federation for the TMD test, but we will continue to monitor activities on Otero Mesa. Other activities there still concern us.

Senator Bingaman has been very supportive of AWF and NMWF in this matter. Our thanks to the Senator and Mr. Pat Montoya, his Director of State Affairs. (C. Haas)

<<< There will be a Dept. of Game & Fish meeting July 21, 7 to 9 pm to gather public input on deer and elk management. The meeting is at the DG&F office, 3841 Midway Place NE. Big game seasons will be set by the Game Commission August 30 - 31. (B Reed)

<<< Letters on takings bills were sent to all New Mexico congressmen. A letter reaffirming the position of AWF on the Animal Damage Control Program was sent in reponse to the ADC's Final Environmental Impact Statement. The AWF position is that non-lethal methods of predator control should be used before lethal methods are tried. (J Mendel)



Albuquerque Wildlife Federation

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GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 1994 7:00 P.M.

Bear Canyon Senior Center - 4645 Pitt NE, Room 5 & 6
(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro,
one long block, left on Pitt. One short block to BCSC.)

TOPICS: * * * Sandia District's Forest Plan * * *
* * * Fly Fishing New Mexico * * *

Flyod Thompson, District Ranger for the Sandia Ranger District, USFS, will tell about plans for updating the Sandia District's Forest Plan.

Jan Crawford, who teaches fly fishing clinics, arranges women's fishing trips, and owns the High Desert Angler Fly Fishing Shop in Santa Fe, will tell about fly fishing in scenic New Mexico streams. She's been fly fishing for over 30 years and has caught a lot of big fish in world famous waters. However, she still enjoys climbing into some tiny New Mexico streams and catching little brookies and cutthroats. She's not telling about all her favorites, but enough to keep you entertained for at least a few weekends of good New Mexico fly fishing.

Visitors are welcome and there is no charge for admission.

* * * * *

President's Comments

"ONCE UPON A TIME, a motley crew wandered the hills and valleys of Valle Vidal... " - sounds like an Irish folktale, doesn't it? However this is a true story. For those of us who made the trek to Valle Vidal for our annual work project in July, what a remarkable experience. I can hardly wait to listen again to Barbara Bergstrum recount her sightings of "Blonde," Tony Romero and his "tire," Margaret Friesl and Stefon share "the trail of tears on the shale," Phil Russell "and the one that got away," Ed Machin "and the wire," Joyce Mendel "and the pliers". Special thanks to Cliff Mendel our "Burger Meister," and Bill and Gene Zeedyk our crew chiefs.

This is just my way of saying we have an extraordinary group of people in AWF who prove that people working together in a team can make a difference. Thanks for the memories. Richard W. Becker, president

P.S. Special BOD meeting 8-11-94 at 6:00 pm to review Draft EIS on Grazing Reform at Bear Canyon Senior Center.

HABITAT IMPROVEMENT & OTHER PROJECTS - Bill Zeedyk chairman

* August 13 Tanques Fish Barrier, Carson National Forest

We will construct a fish barrier of peeled aspen logs to block upstream migration of brown trout into native Rio Grand cutthroat trout habitat. All materials will be transported to the site ahead of time by the US Forest Service. At least 10 people are needed to construct the barrier and nearby projects.

Please arrive August 12 or early on the 13th. Bring gloves and waders if you have them.

DIRECTIONS TO SITE: Take highway US 285 north 10 miles from junction of US 64 and 285 in Tres Piedras; turn west on Forest Road 87. After 13 miles, past Stewart Meadows Waterfowl Area, turn left on FR 93. Follow AWF signs 3 miles to camp area or 7 miles to work site.

The camp site is unimproved, bring what you will need. The work site is accessible with a 2 wheel drive vehicle if it doesn't rain. If it rains transportation will be provided to the work site.

There is good fishing for brown, rainbow, cutthroat and brook trout in the area. Laguna Largo is about 6 miles away, Lagunitas about 13 miles. San Antonio creek is about 3 miles from the camp site.

Please call Bill Zeedyk, 281-9066, to confirm your participation.

* Sept 10 - Chavez Wildlife Area, water exclosure

* Sept 21 - Fishing clinic

Call Bill Zeedyk: 281-9066 or Barbara Bergstrum: 298-4628, for meeting place and equipment information. It is helpful to know the participation for equipment planning. Camping is available at most projects.

* * * * *

GRAZING REFORM DRAFT EIS

You have until August 13 to comment on the Rangeland Reform '94 Draft Environmental Impact Statement. Copies of the draft EIS and of the Executive Summary are available from the BLM's Albuquerque office, 435 Montano NE. Send comments to: Rangeland Reform '94 EIS, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 66300, Washington, D.C. 20035-6300.

The DEIS describes five alternatives for BLM and Forest Service management of grazing on federal rangelands. It also describes the grazing reform proposal for revising the formula used to determine grazing fees, along with several other fee alternatives.

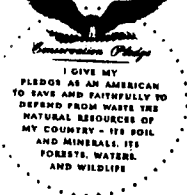
You may want to write in support of either the second management alternative, the BLM and Forest Service proposed action for grazing reform (with modification), or the fourth alternative, for environmental enhancement.

The primary modification needed by the government's range reform proposal for both BLM and Forest Service lands (alternative #2) is the inclusion of grazing suitability standards. Such suitability standards should indicate where livestock grazing is acceptable with regard to environmental and other resource values, and where livestock grazing should not be allowed. Grazing use should be strictly confined to lands determined to be suitable for grazing purposes.

AWF has written, in response to proposed Range Reform rules published earlier, asking that: suitability standards be established, strong national standards and guidelines for livestock grazing be established, the proposed multiple resource advisory councils be set up on an experimental basis, subleasing not be allowed except to members of a family corporation, and terms for permits and leases be limited to five years.

The AWF board supports the proposal to revise the formula used to determine grazing fees, the fee increase to \$3.96 in 1997, and the proposal for an incentive-based fee reduction.

The fourth alternative in the DEIS, for environmental enhancement, is projected to have 602,400 acres of BLM riparian lands in proper functioning condition in 20 years, as compared with 447,100 for the second alternative, the proposed action. This alternative, however, while excluding livestock grazing from areas determined to be unsuitable, would exclude grazing from wilderness areas. Livestock grazing in wilderness is specifically made legal by The Wilderness Act. AWF has not opposed appropriate grazing in wilderness. (J Mendel)



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GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1994
7:00 P.M.

Bear Canyon Senior Center - 4645 Pitt NE, Room 5 & 6
(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro,
one long block, left on Pitt. One short block to BCSC.)

TOPICS: * * * WATCHABLE WILDLIFE * * *
*** * * MEXICAN WOLF RECOVERY * * ***

Jane and Don McCarter will show slides and talk about wildlife and scenery featured in the Watchable Wildlife Viewing Guide, recently published by the **New Mexico Department of Game & Fish**. Jane wrote the guide, under contract with the Department, and Don took most of the photographs. He is assistant chief of Public Affairs with the Department and its official photographer. Don creates the Department's annual art print, sales of which are used for wildlife conservation. The McCarters will have both viewing guides and art prints for sale at the meeting. The guides sell for \$8.95 and the prints for \$11.

Wendy Brown, a wildlife biologist with the **US Fish & Wildlife Service**, will show slides and talk about the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program. She will tell about the natural history of the Mexican Wolf, talk about efforts to recover this endangered species, and discuss the present status of the recovery program. White Sands Missile Range in southern New Mexico is one of two possible recovery areas for the wolf.

Visitors are welcome and there is no charge for admission.

* * * * *

HABITAT IMPROVEMENT & OTHER PROJECTS - Bill Zeedyk chairman

*** SEPTEMBER 10 - CHAVEZ WILDLIFE AREA, WATER EXCLOSURE** - This last field project of the year is in the BLM Socorro Resource District. Chavez Canyon is on the east slope of the Magdalena Mountains. The task is to construct a smooth-wire fence around a recently constructed water catchment on a 3 acre site. Bring a hat, gloves, lunch, sunscreen and water; fencing pliers, post pounder and wire stretcher would be helpful too.

The site is about an hour from Socorro on a fairly good dirt road. Camping is available at the site. Bill believes we will be short-handed at this project; you are encouraged to help if you can.

Please contact Bill Zeedyk, 281-9066, for directions to the site.

+ + + see plans for another project on other side + + +

* SEPTEMBER 21 - FISHING CLINIC AT SHADY LAKES - This activity is being sponsored by the Sandia Ranger District, US Forest Service, on National Hunting and Fishing Day. AWF members have supported the youth clinic for several years as volunteer instructors. Tony Romero is our AWF coordinator.

A meeting of instructors is scheduled Wednesday, September 7, at the Sandia District office in Tijeras at 5 pm. Lillian Gonzales is the USFS coordinator. More volunteers are needed to staff this learning opportunity for future NM anglers. The Saturday activities will start at 8:30 am and end by 3 pm. Topics to be covered at the clinic include: fish biology, where fish live, live baits and lures, rods and reels, tying knots, safety and angler ethics, casting demonstrations and practice, detecting bites, hooking and fighting fish, handling and releasing fish, and local fishing opportunities.

Tony asks you potential fishing clinic instructors, and others who can help, to please call him, 299-5189.

* * * * *

President's Comments

Rubber boots, aspen logs, flowing water, wildflowers, serenading coyotes, and watching Tony Romero and Barbara Bergstrom eat steak for dinner on Saturday night were some of the highlights of a completed San Antonio Creek fish barrier project. Almost forgot the "rock caravan" crew. Again AWF members and friends have made a contribution to wildlife habitat in New Mexico.

Please take note of two forthcoming conferences to be held in Albuquerque. 1) The Wildlife Society is having their national meeting Sept. 20 - 25 at the Hilton Hotel. Jack Ward Thomas, Chief, USFS will be speaking on the 22nd. Contact Dale Jones for more information (864-7223). 2) The NM Riparian Council is meeting Oct. 14 & 15 at the Hilton Hotel. Conference theme is "Enhancing Southwestern Rivers - What Is Our Role and Responsibility as Recreationists"? Registration forms will be available at our general meeting. Richard W. Becker, president

+ + + + +

GRAZING REFORM

The deadline for commenting on Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt's grazing reform proposals has been extended to September 9. If you haven't yet sent in your comments on range reform, this is a final opportunity. Send comments to: Rangeland Reform '94, P.O. Box 66300, Washington DC, 20035-6300.

AWF supports the Secretary's proposal to increase grazing fees from \$1.98 per animal unit month to \$3.96 after three years, reduce the fee to \$2.77 for "good stewardship", and replace BLM's grazing advisory boards with multiple resource advisory councils (although we suggest setting up the latter on an experimental basis).

AWF also strongly advocates the inclusion of suitability standards in the range reform proposal. Such standards should indicate where livestock grazing is acceptable with regard to environmental and other resource values and where livestock grazing should not be allowed. Grazing use should be strictly confined to lands determined to be suitable for grazing.

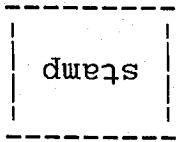
AWF further advocates the addition into the proposal of strong national standards and guidelines for livestock grazing on public lands.

The deadline for comments was not extended for the Rangeland Reform '94 Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The extension is for comment on related documents, containing the proposed rulemaking for the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service (listed as the "proposed action" in the DEIS).

Copies of the BLM proposed rule, published March 5 in the Federal Register Vol. 59, are available from the BLM's Albuquerque office, 435 Montano NE. The strongest comments are those made with reference to particular sections of the proposed rule, citing the section and paragraph, and giving reasons for the recommended changes and additions.

J. Mendel

DON'T FORGET THAT OUR SEPTEMBER PROJECT COORDINATORS, BILL ZEEDYK AND TONY ROMERO, HAVE ASKED FOR HELP ON THE 10TH AND 21ST, PLEASE GIVE THEM A CALL IF YOU ARE AVAILABLE AND CAN HELP ON ONE OR BOTH OF THOSE DATES.



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GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1994
7:00 P.M.

Bear Canyon Senior Center - 4645 Pitt NE, Room 5 & 6
(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro,
one long block, left on Pitt. One short block to BCSC.)

TOPICS: * * * El Malpais National Conservation Area * * *
*** * * Negrita Creek Streamside Rehabilitation * * ***

Steve Fischer, El Malpais National Conservation Area Manager for BLM and Hector Villalobos, BLM Rio Puerco Reserve Area Manager will provide an update of the El Malpais N.C.A. BLM has issued an invitation to parties interested in relocating the buffalo herd that was transplanted from the Fort Wingate Depot.

Mike Gardner, US Forest Service, Reserve District Ranger, will present information about the Negrita Creek Streamside Rehabilitation Project. This project is characterized as being a "holistic, egologically-based ecosystem project" from its inception. The project is overseen by a core group of interested parties which include US Forest Service staff, Friends of the Gila, a timber company representative, a county extension agent and a grazing permittee.

Visitors are welcome and there is no charge for admission.

* * * * *

President's Comments

This is the time of year when AWF members take to the field to enjoy a variety of pursuits. As you stroll along the streamside of the Rio Las Vacas, or while you enjoy conversation around the campfire in the Gallinas Mountains, take a few moments to consider if this locale is a potential work project site for AWF in the next year. Make a few notes with your ideas and pass them on to your Board of Directors.

Speaking of work projects, we should all thank Bill Zeedyk for organizing this year's projects and providing with an AWESOME learning experience. Tony Romero deserves an accolade for the fishing clinic.
Richard W. Becker, president

WHY INVOLVE YOURSELF WITH AWF?

AWF is a volunteer organization. Regular members, guests and your board of directors gives it an identity, a purpose, and opportunities throughout the year to experience New Mexico through our work projects.

I have observed many close personal relationships between members on our work projects and at our meetings. I come to the meetings and feel "at home".

As we enter the fall season, I would ask you to ponder how AWF has impacted your life. Some of us are "old timers", some are "new comers". As a "new comer", I realize how much I have learned from the old timers. You are needed and valuable.

The Nominating Committee will be contacting the membership soon to ask for your interest in serving in the AWF Board of Directors and as an officer. Please give this some thought. To participate in the "governance" of an organization is real experience and a heritage of this republic.

Serving on the board, as a Volunteer on a work project is a way we Adults have of learning in our advanced years. It is also a way of sharing with others the wealth of knowledge you have accumulated over a lifetime.
Richard Becker

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

Last month's newsletter contained an error for which I apologize to Tony Romero, our project coordinator. You may not have noticed it but the fishing clinic date was wrong. In checking back I found that I had carried the wrong date for a couple of months. In spite of my "help", the Forest Service reports that the clinic went extremely well. Dave W.

+ + + + + + + + + + + + + + +

In the January Newsletter I commented that Aldo Leopold had been one of the founders of the Game Protective Association (now AWF) 80 years ago. For those of you not yet familiar with his writing I suggest A Sand County Almanac. It was first published in 1949 but the message and observations are timeless. This "almanac" is a series of essays some of which are about the southwest. The following is an excerpt from "Escudilla". (Escudilla is a mountain in southeastern Arizona, just across the line from New Mexico. It is the bulky volcanic mountain northwest of Hell Roaring Mesa and Steel Flats. The essay is about the taking of the last grizzly bear from the mountain.)

"Since the beginning, time had gnawed at the basaltic hulk of Escudilla, wasting, waiting, and building. Time built three things on the old mountain, a venerable aspect, a community of minor animals and plants, and a grizzly.

"The government trapper who took the grizzly knew he had made Escudilla safe for cows. He did not know he had toppled the spire off an edifice a-building since the morning stars sang together.

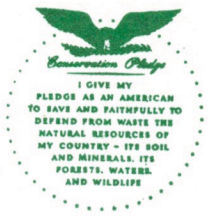
"The bureau chief who sent the trapper was a biologist versed in the architecture of evolution, but he did not know that spires might be as important as cows. He did not foresee that within two decades the cow country would become tourist country, and as such have a greater need of bears than of beefsteaks.

"The congressmen who voted money to clear the ranges of bears were the sons of pioneers. They acclaimed the superior virtues of the frontiersman, but they strove with might and main to make an end of the frontier.

"We forest officers, who acquiesced in the extinguishment of the bear, knew a rancher who had plowed up a dagger engraved with the name of one of Coronado's captains. We spoke harshly of the Spaniards who, in their zeal for gold and converts, had needlessly extinguished the native Indians. It did not occur to us that we, too, were captains of an invasion too sure of its own righteounsness.

"Escudilla still hangs on the horizon, but when you see it you no longer think of the bear. It's only a mountain now."

DAW



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GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1994

7:00 P.M.

Bear Canyon Senior Center - 4645 Pitt NE, Rooms 4 & 5
(North from Montgomery & Eubank, right on Lagrima De Oro
for one long block, then left on Pitt. One short block to BCSC)

There will be time for refreshments and to talk with the speakers
following the program.

** ** * NOVEMBER PROGRAM * * * **

NEW MEXICO RIPARIAN ENHANCEMENT ACT

Andy Dimas, from the New Mexico Riparian Council, will tell
about proposed legislation for improving New Mexico's riparian
areas. The council hopes to have the proposed New Mexico Riparian
Enhancement Act introduced into the next session of the state
legislature.

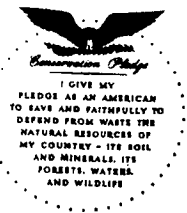
GILA TROUT RECOVERY EFFORTS

David Propst, an endangered species biologist with the
Department of Game and Fish, will show slides and provide a history
of recovery efforts for the endangered Gila Trout. He also will
talk about the issues involved with its recovery, including what
the Game Department believes is causing some people to oppose work
that could lead to downlisting the fish.

The Gila Trout is probably one of the most recoverable of the
species the Department is working with, Propst said. Yet in Grant
and Catron counties there has been vocal opposition to recovery
efforts. Propst believes that much of the opposition is due to
misinformation.

Look for an article about the Gila Trout in this month's issue
of New Mexico Wildlife.

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AWF POTLUCK AND ELECTION

THURSDAY, December 8, 1994
6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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

AWF will celebrate our commitment to wildlife, our efforts in community education and work project accomplishments at our annual potluck and election on December 8.

All members, their families and friends are invited. Bring a dish to share. Call Barbara Bergstrom (298-4628) if you want to know what to bring. AWF will provide plates, cups, plastic ware, and drinks.

Our program will consist of (1) video of this year's work projects by master photographer/noted conservation philosopher Bill Reed; (2) bear stories told by Tony Romero and Barbara Bergstrom; (3) Cliff Mendel will demonstrate proper stream-crossing technique for the benefit of Forest Service personnel; (4) 41 work project participants will be presented certificates of appreciation. Agency personnel have been invited also.

The nominating committee will present a slate of officers/board of directors for your approval. Nominations will be taken from the floor.

A Special Archivist Award will be given to any member of AWF who brings the oldest copy of *New Mexico Wildlife* magazine to this meeting. (Some of us are called "packrats;" actually we are historians.) If not a member, join at the meeting and bring your entry for this contest.

NOMINEES FOR 1995 OFFICERS AND BOARD

| | |
|----------------|-------------------|
| PRESIDENT | Richard Becker |
| VICE PRESIDENT | |
| TREASURER | Barbara Bergstrom |
| SECRETARY | Libby Haas |

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

| | |
|----------------|--------------|
| Judith Engen | Jim Hubert |
| Cecil Haas | Cliff Mendel |
| Bill Reed | Tony Romero |
| David Villegas | |

Nominations for officers and directors will be accepted from the floor. No fewer than four and no more than eight directors are to be elected at the annual meeting. The past president automatically becomes a member of the board.

Affiliated With The National Wildlife Federation

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

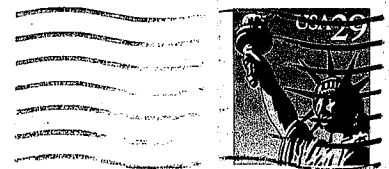
The Bureau of Land Management is proposing to relocate the buffalo herd at El Malpais National Conservation Area to the Taos Pueblo. An Environmental Assessment has been prepared proposing three alternatives: (a) relocation to Taos with the herd designated livestock and not wildlife; (b) no action (remain at El Malpais); (c) living museum display--maintain herd at 20 to 36 with excess available for hunting or sale.

Comments are solicited until December 23, 1994. Please call Hector Villalobos, Rio Puerco Resource Area manager, BLM, at 761-8700, or Randy Legler at 761-8791, and ask for a copy of the Environmental Assessment.

The AWF Board of Directors will have a short meeting after our annual meeting on December 8 to decide on our position concerning the EA. Your comments are welcome.

Richard Becker

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation
PO Box 1234
Albuquerque, NM 87103



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MR & MRS DAVID WEINGARTEN
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ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87112