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Albuquerque Wildlife Federation
PO Box 1234
Albuquerque, NM 87103

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

TOPIC: * * * ALASKA NIGHT * * *

Several of our members have made recent trips to Alaska, and many others of us have expressed an interest in going ourselves. We thought we would try a different kind of program this time; a seminar of sorts on how to get there and what to do. We will have three, and perhaps more, speakers give short talks on their trips. They will talk about how they got information, how they traveled, and what they did and saw when they got there. Some trips were for hunting or fishing, and some were for sightseeing alone. We will have some slides and see maps of where the trips took the travelers. If you hope to go yourself, or just want to hear about someone else's trip don't miss this program. Participants will include Bill Reed and Dave Weingarten of AWF, and Dan Fleming of the Bowhunters. After the presentations we will have refreshments and you can talk to the participants on a one-on-one basis. If you have been to Alaska, why not bring along a few photos and a map to share with the rest of the audience?

Visitors are welcome and there is no charge for admission.

* * * * *

1995 Officers and Board

President: Richard Becker
Vice Pres: Yvonne Chauvin
Treasurer: Barbara Bergstrom
Secretary: Libby Haas

Board of Directors

Judith Engen
Cliff Mendel
David Villegas

Cecil Haas
Bill Reed
Bill Zeedyk

Jim Hubert
Tony Romero

President's Remarks

It is hard to believe the New Year is already here. We are very much aware of the changes ongoing now and who knows what the future holds in the way of opportunities or obstacles. For just a moment reflect on the last 12 months, 5 years, 10 years, 50 years and beyond.

We are so used to thinking in certain time frames (because of budgets, taxes, etc.) that we need to remind ourselves to "measure" some things by seasons, decades, centuries and lifetimes.

Some of us have learned from our Outdoor Adventures that forests grow over centuries, world populations increase/decrease in life cycles, and as we get "older" we tend to enjoy "wild places". How about your experiences? How would you "rate" your experience with AWF?

As an organization I believe we experienced a very "productive" 1994. We accomplished several work projects and recruited a few new members. Our success can also be measured by appreciating the relationships we have built over the years, our willingness to engage in cooperative work endeavors with dedicated public servants in various agencies, and the opportunity to explore and enjoy our vast and varied natural heritage -- New Mexico.

My sincere hope is for each of us to continue to share with each other the learning opportunities available through AWF this year.

Richard W. Becker, president

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THE WOLF: REAL OR IMAGINED

Learn about and meet North America's most fascinating predator, the Wolf. Watch an engaging slide presentation by **Patricia Tucker**, wildlife biologist and educator, that depicts the remarkable natural history of wolves. Hear stories of myth and folklore as **Bruce Weide**, documentary film maker and writer, examines the wolf that stalks through the human imagination. Then meet the real stars of this show--Koani, a hundred-pound Grey Wolf from Montana, and Indy, her dog companion. Following this enjoyable evening of stories and facts, fun and wolves, don't be surprised if you feel an insatiable yearning to howl at the moon.

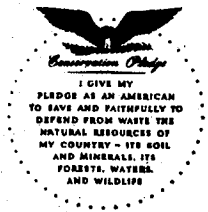
Pat and **Bruce** are part of Wild Sentry which provides environmental education that blends science and the humanities. Primarily, they present their programs in the rural schools and communities of Montana, Idaho and Wyoming where wolf recovery is occurring. Emphasized throughout the program is the inappropriateness of wolves as pets. The program challenges stereotypes and corrects misconceptions. If pictures are worth a thousand words, then the presence of a living, breathing wolf is worth a thousand pictures.

This enriching, spiritual and educational show will be held at:

Woodward Hall on the UNM campus
Wednesday, January 25, 1995 at 7:30 pm
cost is \$4 for adults, \$2 for children and students

All proceeds will be donated to further wolf education in rural areas.

The presentation is sponsored by the UNM Biology Club and Mexican Wolf Coalition. For more information call: Bud Lensing at 873-2218.



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GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 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)

**** ** FEBRUARY PROGRAM ** ****

BOSQUE BIOLOGICAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Jeff Whitney, Middle Rio Grande Bosque Coordinator, will tell about the background of the Bosque Biological Management Plan for the Middle Rio Grande and about ongoing programs and future directions under the plan.

SEVILLETA LONG TERM ECOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROGRAM

UNM associate professor Robert Parmenter, director of the Long Term Ecological Research Program at the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge, will show slides and give an overview of the long-term project as it deals with plants, animals, nutrient cycles and human land use activities. The project is funded by the National Science Foundation to look at long-term biological responses to changes in climate and land use.

One effect being measured is how removal of livestock grazing affects plant and animal species. The Sevilleta was grazed extensively for more than 300 years by cattle, sheep and goats. Livestock were removed in 1973, when the refuge was established.

Some other questions being asked in Sevilleta research projects concern how plants and animals are affected by drought and fire. Several major life zones meet at the Sevilleta, including desert, grassland, shrub-steppe, chaparral and conifer forest.

On Tuesday, Feb 7, 8 p.m., KNME TV (channel 5) will present a program on Sevilleta. Try to watch, as it will provide a good background for Thursday's talk.

Affiliated With The National Wildlife Federation

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

The volunteer efforts of AWF have been recognized by the Middle Rio Grande Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation. AWF was awarded the 1994 Habitat Improvement Award by this organization. Congratulations to each of you who gave of your time and resources to enhance wildlife habitat last year. I would like each of you to personally thank Bill Zeedyk for his work as project leader for work projects.

Bill Zeedyk and the AWF Board of Directors are reviewing work projects for 1995 now and will advise you of the schedule very soon.

David Villegas is serving as our membership chairman. If you have ideas for membership recruitment or retention, please call David at 889-0726.

Tony Romero is serving as chairman for our fishing clinic program. If you can assist, call Tony at 299-5189.

On Feb. 11, 1995, the Middle Rio Grande Chapter of the Wild Turkey Federation will be doing a shrub planting project on the Bernardo area (just south of Belen). If interested in a one day outing, contact Dick Kreiner (865-0244).

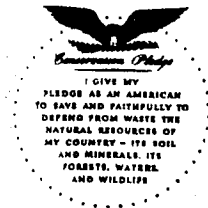
Richard Becker
President

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Members of Congress are attacking the endangered species program on a number of fronts. Discretionary funding across the board, including funding for endangered species programs, is slated to be slashed in the 1996 budget. A cut in funding for implementation of the Endangered Species Act in 1995 also is a strong possibility. Amendments may be added to bills to eliminate funding for protection of particular species. Our Congressmen need to hear that the Endangered Species program is important and funding for it should be a top priority.

Write to: The Honorable Steven Schiff, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC, 20515; The Honorable Jeff Bingaman, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC, 20510; The Honorable Pete Domenici, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC, 20510.

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GENERAL MEETING: THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 1995 7:00 PM

Bear Canyon Senior Center - 4645 Pitt, NE, Room 5 & 6
*North from Montgomery and Eubank, right on Lagrima de Oro,
left on Pitt. BCSC is one block down on the left.*

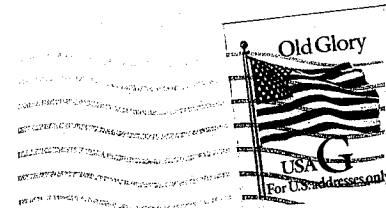
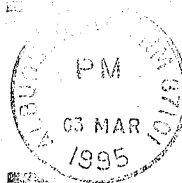
TOPICS FOR THE MEETING:

Neotropical Birds and the Their Habitat Problems in New Mexico and Texas. Jeannie Wagner-Greven, biologist with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, will show a videotape and talk about the birds. Neotropical birds, like Warblers, fly across the Gulf of Mexico to Winter in South and Central America and spend the Summer in the US. The videotape, "Out of the Blue", tells about their migration.

Cattle Grazing Problems in the Gila and Aldo Leopold Wildernesses. Susan Schock, Executive Director of Gila Watch, will present a talk and slide show. Problems caused by cattle grazing by the Diamond Bar Ranch will be documented. The Diamond Bar holds the largest US Forest Service grazing allotment in the Southwest. Gila Watch is fighting in court to prevent stock tank construction in the wilderness and to reduce the number of cattle there. This controversy in Catron County has been the subject of recent TV and newspaper coverage. Come and get the rest of the story.

Visitors are welcome. There is no charge for admission. Free refreshments. Bring a friend and join us for an enjoyable, informative evening.

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95706 F L
MR & MRS DAVID WEINGARTEN
12413 PLACID NE
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87112

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS:

The Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District held a public meeting in February to hear concerns expressed over limiting vehicle access to the ditch and flood control areas along the Bosque. The proposal is to close all vehicular access, which would severely limit recreational use. A task force is being formed to consider these issues. The AWF is attempting to have a member on that task force. Call MRGCD at 247-0234 to obtain information or to give input.

The AWF gives a Wildlife Scholarship to a deserving college Junior or Senior majoring in a wildlife related field. We are asking for a Scholarship Chairperson (or two). Please contact me at 255-7156 if you are interested in this position.

We are finalizing our work projects for this year. A tentative list is included. Bill Zeedyk is leading our efforts again this year. He can be reached at 281-9066. The first project on the Rio Puerco near Cuba will be coordinated by David Villegas. He can be reached at 889-0726.

Richard Becker, President

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN NAMED

David Villegas, one of our new board members, will lead our efforts to increase our membership and our membership involvement. If you have any ideas on this topic or would like to help David, please contact him at 889-0726.

WILDLIFE LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

At last count, there were 14 wildlife-related bills being considered by the New Mexico Legislature. There will be people at the general meeting who will be able to give us an update. On a related topic, we essentially have no Game Commission at present. There are three vacancies, one of which is the chairman. Wildlife and sportsmen's interests are poorly represented, with the exception of one member. This could be a very bleak four years. You can express your concerns to Liz Otten at the Governor's Office in Santa Fe, 827-3000

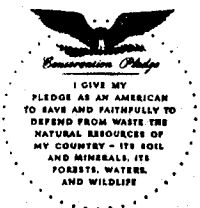
NO HOME ON THE RANGE

The bison on El Malpais will be captured and taken back to Ft Wingate during the week of March 6. They will be held there until a suitable permanent home is found. Cecil Haas will provide an update at the meeting, assuming he survives the roundup.

AWF BOARD ACTIONS

- Voted to oppose bills that would impose quotas on non-resident licenses and further increases in non-resident license fees.
- Voted to support acquisition of Tres Pistolas at fair market value.

In the editor's opinion: Our alleged leaders in Washington said that we had to raise taxes to balance the budget; they raised them and the debt went up. They said that we needed to cut defense spending to make ends meet; they gutted the military and the ends are further apart than ever. The newest target is the environment. Watch this session! Tell your legislator, "Hands off! Dump the deadbeats, not our successful environmental programs." *Not necessarily the opinion of AWF. CDH*



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GENERAL MEETING: THURSDAY, APRIL 13, 1995 7:00 PM

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

TOPICS FOR THE MEETING:

Hiking El Malpais, Mt Taylor, and the Zuni Mountains. Sherry Robinson, New Mexico journalist and author of the book El Malpais, Mt Taylor, and the Zuni Mountains: A hiking Guide and History, will present a slide program on those areas. She will focus on little known hiking areas, as well as provide an overview of the three location and wildlife highlights. Autographed copies of the book will be available.

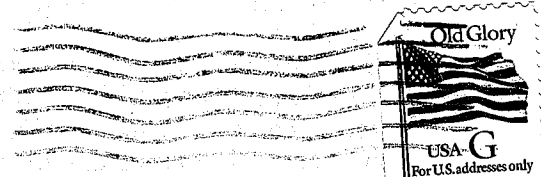
A Short Video: "The Endangered Species Act: An American Legacy" This presentation shows the good things that can be accomplished through the National Endangered Species Act.

Visitors are welcome. There is no charge for admission. Free refreshments. Bring a friend and join us for an enjoyable, informative evening.

APRIL CONSERVATION PROJECT: A NEW WILDLIFE DRINKER AT 3 GUN SPRING

Enjoy a two to three hour round trip hike in the Sandia Wilderness and help wildlife, too! On **Saturday, April 22** we need about a dozen folks to replace the old trough, which is falling apart. Backcountry Horsemen will pack in the tools and supplies, so all you need to carry is your own gear and lunch. We will rendezvous at the Three Gun Trailhead in Carnuel at 8:30 AM. To get there, take Route 66 east, turn left across from Roy's Taxidermy, turn left at the 5th road, and follow the signs to the parking area. Wear good walking shoes and bring heavy work gloves, sunscreen, a hat, and your lunch and drinks in a day pack. Call Bill Zeedyk at 281-9066 or Dave Villegas at 889-0726 to sign up.

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

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS:

Share With Wildlife: Just a brief reminder to consider this program for donations as you prepare your 1994 tax returns.

The AWF gives a Wildlife Scholarship to a deserving college Junior or Senior majoring in a wildlife related field. **Margaret Friesl** has agreed to co-chair the Wildlife Scholarship Committee and is seeking another member to help her. Please contact me at 255-7156 if you want more details or are interested in this position.

AWF 1995 Conservation Projects list will be available at our April 13, 1995 meeting. These are not only worthwhile endeavors, but also enjoyable outings. I hope all of you can join us on at least one this year.

Thanks to our volunteers and Andy Ishra of the BLM for help on our initial 1995 project, the **Rio Puerco Riparian Planting**.

Richard Becker, President

WILDLIFE LEGISLATION

New Mexico: By the time you read this, some very important wildlife-related NM legislation will be dead, vetoed, or signed into law. Also, we expect that several appointments to the Game Commission will be made. Come to the meeting and get info that you may not see in the news.

The Nation: The House passed HR 9, which places severe restrictions on Federal administrative rules that protect health, safety, property, and the environment by requiring a benefit-cost analysis. HR 925, a "takings" bill that would reimburse landowners if Federal agency action results in as little as a 20% reduction of the value of the property, was included in HR 9. The Senate is considering a similar bill, S. 343. The National Wildlife Federation is urging the Senate and the President to reject these bills. Please consider calling both our Senators on these bills. Each have local numbers. See Joyce Mendel at the meeting if you want more information.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NMWF ANNUAL MEETING

Officers for 1995: Bill Reed, President; Chuck Easton, Vice President; Ed Machin, Treasurer; Mary Reed, Secretary.

Steve Padilla was very instrumental in getting essential legislation introduced in the recent session. He received an award from NM Dept of G&F for his efforts. Steve remains our Legislative Liaison.

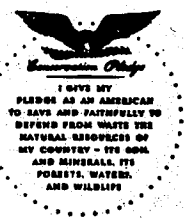
Jerry Maracchini, the new Director of G&F, was the guest speaker. His subject was the challenges facing the Department. He stressed that the Department wants input from the citizens of NM. He challenged all conservation organizations to get back in the business of knowing what the Department is doing.

Mr. Maracchini stated that finances are a continuing problem for G&F. The ability of the Department to put officers in the field is being squeezed. Wildlife damage to private property and the compensation that Departments throughout the West are being ordered to pay threaten to bankrupt the agencies. This problem is exacerbated in NM by our growing elk population.

Larry Bell, Chief of Law Enforcement, and several other members of the Department were also present. Dale Hall gave a short talk on what his office is doing on landowner/sportsman relations.

We all owe Bill and Mary Reed a lot of thanks. They have worked essentially full time for the Federation for free.

In the editor's opinion: As I was driving home recently, I saw a bumper sticker that said, "No livestock on public lands." As a recreational user of public lands, in some ways this sounded appealing. But we have a multiple use policy that is not just an economic benefit but also a necessity if we want to keep public lands. There has been a lot of pressure to "privatize" (read that SELL) public lands. No single group - recreational users, ranchers, loggers, or miners - has the political clout to assure that we are going to keep our public lands. It may sound like a strange coalition, but together we can probably do it, if we all realize that there are many legitimate uses of public lands. *Not necessarily the opinion of AWF. CDH*



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GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, May 11, 1995

7:00 P.M.

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

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

ECOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT OF THE RIO GRANDE BOSQUE

Jeff Whitney, Middle Rio Grande Coordinator for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, will show slides and talk about the ecology and management of the Rio Grande Bosque. He will talk about prehistoric, historic and current conditions in the bosque, about controversial issues, and about the new Bosque Biological Management Plan. The plan contains 21 recommendations relating to wildlife habitat. Because water, habitat, development and population growth are involved, there are plenty of controversial issues.

REINVENTING THE FOREST SERVICE

Art Morrison, Public Affairs Officer for the Southwest Region of the Forest Service, will tell about plans for reorganization of the regional Forest Service office. He also will talk about what is happening nationally, and what other regions already have done.

The Forest Service is among federal agencies expected to reduce its work force. More than 3,000 positions need to be eliminated by 1999 as part of the government downsizing that President Clinton announced when he took office. Congress is now proposing legislation for further downsizing.

How will our wildlife be affected? Will the Forest Service be able to carry out the work we expect from it? What will happen to the Service's wildlife biologists? Mr. Morrison will try to answer our questions.

VOLUNTEER CONSERVATION PROJECT--BLM Land North of Magdalena

Saturday, May 20

Meet at 8:30 a.m, Furr's Cafeteria, Socorro

Join us in helping wildlife while enjoying a great outing too. The project is to build dams that will rebuild the soils at a spring-fed riparian area. The site has been damaged by overgrazing and flooding, but is now fenced and available for wintering and breeding birds, deer and quail.

We need 10 to 15 people to build dams from logs and rocks, and, if time permits, build a small rock dam using ready-mix cement. The project is appropriate for all ages and strengths, but is mainly heavy work. Bring your lunch, hat, sturdy shoes, gloves and plenty of sunscreen. If you like using your own tools, bring them along.

The location is in a pinon/juniper area near Ligon Ranch, where Texas Confederate Forces camped during the Civil War. An interesting rock gorge is nearby for hiking, and camping is allowed outside the fenced area. Before starting work on the project, we'll hear a talk about the area and the hoped-for results from our efforts.

Sign up at the meeting or call Bill Zeedyk, 281-9066, or David Villegas, 343-0100.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Celebrate Life and Living

This is the season where we once again marvel at the wonders of our natural world. Have you noticed the wildflowers sprouting along the roadside? The snow melt is beginning. Watch the water migration from our snow-capped peaks, through our streams and rivers to "yonder" ocean.

If you have children, grandchildren, nephews and nieces, take the time to help them understand how this creation can be appreciated and enjoyed.

Please remember those special people in your life on Mother's Day. Go fishing! (Call Tony Romero for advice.)

Richard Becker, President

H.R. 961: ASSAULT ON OUR WETLANDS

H.R. 961, a water bill introduced in Congress by Rep. Shuster, would strip regulatory protection from nearly all remaining wetlands in the United States.

One provision would change how wetlands would be identified. To be identified as a "wetland," a site would need to have water at the surface for at least 21 consecutive days, during the growing season, in a majority of years.

When a similar proposal was made by the Bush administration, the state Game and Fish Department estimated that from 75 to 95 percent of New Mexico's existing wetlands would lose federal protection. A large portion would fail to meet the criteria because detailed rainfall records are not kept. Even if the records were available, many New Mexico sites aren't wet for a sufficient number of days of the year.

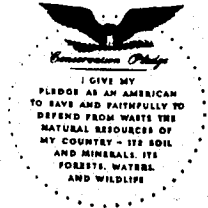
The bill also includes an unscientific and arbitrary classification scheme, that leaves no wetlands fully protected. Dividing wetlands into those of high, medium and low value, the classification scheme is estimated to cost at least \$135 billion.

Also, property owners would have to be paid any time a wetlands regulation reduced "the affected portion" of a piece of property by more than 20 percent. In many cases, taxpayers would not even get title to the wetland.

In a dry state like New Mexico, wetlands are particularly vital for migrating waterfowl and a large number of other wildlife species. Wetlands also are valuable ecologically because their plants and soils help clean polluted water, control floods, and reduce sediment in rivers and streams.

Please contact Rep. Steve Schiff about this bill and let him know our wetlands are important and need protection. Write to: The Honorable Steven Schiff, 2404 Rayburn House Office Bldg., Washington, DC, 20515, or call 766-2538 (Albuquerque office) or 1-202-225-6316 (Washington).

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ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION

GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 1995

7:00 P.M.

Bear Canyon Senior Center - 4645 Pitt NE, Rooms 4 & 5
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** ** * JUNE PROGRAM ** ** *

PEARL BURNS, PLANTS OF THE SANDIA MOUNTAINS

Pearl Burns, noted wildflower enthusiast and photographer, will share her knowledge and experience in a presentation on The Edible, Poisonous and Utilitarian Plants of the Sandia Mountains. Pearl is a gifted story teller and volunteer, USFS.

LARRY SMITH, THE PANDAS OF CHINA

Larry Smith, retired migratory bird coordinator, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, will present a program on the Pandas of China. Larry is a world traveler and has much to share with us.

JUNE 17, 1995 WORK PROJECT

Beverly De Gruyter, USFS Cibola District, has a habitat improvement project in the Gallinas Mountains. At this time, those who can work, will meet at 7:30AM at the Tijeras Ranger Station. We need 6-10 volunteers. Car pooling available (Wildlife water improvement in Gallinas Springs). If you are able to attend, please call Bill Zeedyk (281-9066) or David Villegas (344-0100) for details. More information will be available at our June 8, 1995 meeting; sign-up at the meeting.

One expense that we have each month is supplying refreshments at the monthly general meeting, the second Thursday of every month. Donations for the refreshments or volunteering to provide refreshments at one of the meeting would be appreciated. Contact Sybil Russell (821-1273) or Barbara Bergstrom (298-4628) if you can help.

Affiliated With The National Wildlife Federation

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Have you ever been in a "TIME" crunch? so much to do....so little time. How do you decide? Some decisions are much easier!, harder than others.

Politicians and psychologists constantly remind us to spend more time with our families and friends..... quality time no doubt we all agree on this.

Possible "time" opportunities are AWF general membership meetings and work projects. Consider inviting those special people in your life to join us on a work project (Valle Vidal - July 17th & 18th). You may hear a tale or two from Bill Reed, Barbara Bergstrom and Tony Romero (some of these are really true!)

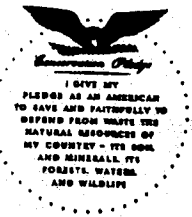
Richard Becker
President

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GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, July 13, 1995

7:00 P.M.

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

SANDIA MOUNTAIN USER FEES

Sandia District Ranger Floyd Thompson will discuss plans for turning over management of activities on Sandia Mountain to a private concessionaire. In conjunction with that change, fees for such activities as parking and picnicking will be charged at developed sites along the Sandia Scenic Byway, Sandia Cave and Las Huertas picnic grounds. Come and hear about these plans and give your views.

SUMMER HOT TIME FISHING

Fishing expert Ti Piper will tell about the best and worst places to fish in New Mexico during the months of July, August, and early September. Ti is the author of *Fishing in New Mexico* and an aquatic education instructor for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING ACT OF 1995 (S. 852)

Dave Weingarten will provide a brief overview of this bill, introduced into Congress by N.M. Senator Pete Domenici. The bill affects BLM lands and could be extended to grazing on Forest Service land. Livestock grazing is the only use of federal land given explicit recognition or protection by the bill. Major environmental laws would be waived, government land managers and the non-ranching public would have little say about grazing practices, and access to public lands could become more restrictive.

Take action! Read the enclosed AWF Action Alert, get more information from Dave, and write to senators Bingaman and Domenici about this bill.

VALLE VIDAL ANNUAL CONSERVATION PROJECT & POTLUCK

July 14, 15, 16 (Friday, Saturday, Sunday)

Located in the Carson National Forest, northern New Mexico, east of the Rio Costillo near the Colorado border

This is an annual event eagerly anticipated by all who have had an opportunity to enjoy this location. We encourage those who have not taken part in this event to add this activity to their calendar.

Meet at Shuree Lodge on Thursday or Friday; depart Sunday or Monday. Bathrooms and showers are available in the lodge for all project participants.

There may be a project on Friday; there definitely will be on Saturday. The goal of the project will be restoration of a wet meadow by stopping erosion and facilitating regrowth of natural vegetation attractive to wildlife. Work includes placing small logs, rocks and filter fabric over eroded meadow areas; filling and placing sand bags; planting sedges; and collecting plant specimens for display. All ages and levels of strength and ability can take part.

Recreational activities include trout fishing, hiking, and viewing of deer, elk, turkey, bear and beaver.

A potluck dinner will be held Saturday evening, July 15, so bring food to share. Otherwise, bring your own food and camping gear. A hat, sturdy shoes, gloves and sunscreen are recommended. Extra tools also are helpful.

Don't miss AWF's big event of the year. Obtain additional information at the meeting or call Bill Zeedyk, 281-9066, or David Villegas, 343-0100.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

As I listened to our speakers at our June program (Pearl Burns and Larry Smith), I was reminded again of the natural heritage of this vast country we live in.

As we celebrate July 4, let us recall the sustained efforts of concerned citizens over the many years to preserve this piece of the planet.

Hope to see you at the Valle Vidal work project July 15 and 16. Expect to hear a few TALL TALES.

Richard Becker, President

SENATE WETLANDS BILL: S.851

A wetlands bill has been introduced in the U.S. Senate by Senators Faircloth and Johnston that is as bad as the wetlands portion of the recently passed House "Clean Water" bill. The bill, S.851, requires that, to be called a wetland, land must be covered with water for at least 21 consecutive days during the growing season. This requirement for wetlands delineation is political rather than scientific, and has been rejected by a recently released National Academy of Sciences study.

It would eliminate federal protection for most of New Mexico's existing wetlands. That's both because rainfall records are not available for most wetlands in our state and because many true wetlands are not saturated for that long a period. Nationally, 60 to 80 percent of wetlands would be redefined out of existence.

The bill also includes an arbitrary classification scheme for wetlands, providing little or no protection for wetlands in the lowest two categories, and orders the Corps of Engineers to reconsider and reprocess all wetlands delineations and permits issued prior to enactment of S. 851.

Furthermore, the bill is full of exemptions for special interests, such as for concentrated animal feeding operations and for various aspects of oil and gas operations, in addition to exemptions for agriculture, ranching and logging.

In our dry state, wetlands have special importance both for resident wildlife and for migrating waterfowl that use the eastern playas in fall and winter.

Our senators Jeff Bingaman and Pete Domenici need to hear from you about this bill, which may come up during floor debate on an unrelated bill. Send letters to:

The Honorable _____
Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

WETLANDS ATTACKED BY HOUSE BUDGET COMMITTEE

The House Budget Committee, in its budget resolution, has recommended the elimination of funds to enforce wetlands protection under the Clean Water Act and the scraping of Swampbuster, the agricultural wetlands protection provisions of the Farm Bill. This recommendation would effectively end federal wetlands protection efforts.

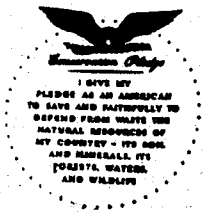
Contact Representative Steve Schiff about this attack on wetlands.

Write: The Honorable Steve Schiff
2404 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation
PO Box 1234
Albuquerque, NM 87103

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation

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OUR WILDLIFE AND NATURAL RESOURCES
P. O. Box 1234
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103



GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, August 10, 1995

7:00 P.M.

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

**** ** * AUGUST PROGRAM * ** ****

SAVING OUR WETLANDS: FACTS AND FICTIONS

This short video explains what wetlands are, tells why they are important, and provides information about their protection. Wetlands have been under attack in Congress this year, with bills to define and classify wetlands out of government protection and to reduce funding for enforcement of wetlands regulations. Yet wetlands provide crucial food, water and living quarters for migrating birds and resident wildlife.

GRAZING TO EXTINCTION

John Horning, from Forest Guardians, will show slides and talk about the effect of grazing on streamside forests in the Southwest and the need to evaluate lands to determine if they are suitable for grazing. Many miles of public streams suffer from ongoing and historic livestock abuses.

Horning also will talk about Sen. Pete Domenici's proposed Livestock Grazing Act. This bill, which makes grazing the dominate use of public lands, recently has been extended to apply to the Forest Service as well as Bureau of Land Management.

HOPEWELL LAKE WET MEADOW CONSERVATION PROJECT ~~AND POTLUCK~~

August 19, 20 (Saturday and Sunday)

Camp at the Forest Service's Hopewell Lake campground arriving Thursday or Friday. The campground is on U.S. 64, about 19 miles west of Tres Piedras. We'll meet at the campground at 8:30 a.m. Saturday for the conservation project.

If you arrive on Saturday morning, go 12 miles west of Tres Piedras on U.S. 64. Turn right (north) on Forest Road 133. Go about three miles to Forest Road 80. Turn left (west) and drive about half a mile to the conservation project which will be beside the road.

The purpose of this project is to restore a wet meadow to its natural ecological function and to recolonization by native plants and wildlife. We'll fill bags with sand and place the bags at marked locations in the meadow. Also, we'll plant sedges and collect plant specimens.

Recreational activities include fishing, hiking, camping and photo opportunities in the high meadows and streams.

~~There will be a potluck dinner Saturday evening, so bring food to share.~~ Otherwise, everyone will supply their own meals and camping gear. A hat, sturdy shoes, gloves and sunscreen are recommended. Extra tools also are helpful.

Obtain additional information at the meeting or call Bill Zeedyk, 281-9066, or David Villegas, 343-0100.

LIVESTOCK GRAZING ACT, S. 852

Senator Domenici's Livestock Grazing Act, S. 852, recently passed the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee with a few changes, including application to Forest Service as well as BLM lands. Senator Bingaman offered a substitute bill in an effort to pull votes away from S. 852 and point out some of its shortcomings.

The opposing bills may come on the floor of the Senate for a vote in September. A House version of Domenici's bill, H.R. 1713, still has not come up for a committee vote.

S. 852 is meant to benefit a small, privileged few who are ranchers. It would do away with the management of public lands for the benefit of all of us. Ranchers would control most rangeland decisions and livestock grazing would dominate our public lands.

The Wildlife Federation always has supported multiple use of public lands, for such uses as livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, recreation, watershed management, and lumber--not domination of our lands by a single user.

The 1994 Rangeland Reform Draft Environmental Impact Statement projects a long-term decline in riparian and wildlife habitat, as well as recreation opportunities, on BLM lands under current grazing management. If the Livestock Grazing Act is passed, that decline would accelerate. At best, current levels of grazing use would be mandated under the bill, maintaining the current rate of decline.

Domenici's bill is meant to prevent Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt's range reform regulations from going into effect. Babbitt's range reform is a watered-down compromise, but at least it was arrived at after several years of broad-based public meetings and public comment and so deserves support.

SOME FEATURES OF THE PRESENT VERSION OF S.852

Public access to rangelands would become more difficult.

The bill would prohibit interference with "lawful grazing user or lawful users" while severely weakening current regulations prohibiting interference with any user or users of the public lands.

It also would prohibit land managers from considering an applicant's willingness to provide access across private land to public land when permits are granted.

S. 852 impedes non-ranching citizens from taking care of their public lands.

Specifically, it eliminates the citizens' category of "affected interests," so that members of the general public affected by grazing decisions would not have their names on mailing lists to be informed about grazing activities, would not receive notice of a proposed grazing decision, and on BLM lands would not be able to appeal decisions. (They could appear as a friend of the court if a rancher appealed a decision, but only with permission to appear as established by the Department of Interior.)

Members of the public could serve on Resource Advisory Councils, but only if they have a "demonstrated commitment to consensus" and are approved by the governor. Grazing Advisory Councils also would be established, with members consisting only of "livestock representatives who shall be lessees or permittees in the area..."

Grazing Advisory Councils would provide grazing management advice at the detailed levels of permits and allotment management plans.

27-Ingredient Chili Con Carne

Served by Mariane Miller at Shuree Lodge July 15, 1995

1 lb. dry pinto beans	1/2 C chopped sweet red pepper
water to cover	1/2 C chopped green pepper
1/2 C butter or margarine	1 9 oz. can pitted ripe olives, chopped
2 medium onions, chopped	1/2 C minced parsley
4 - 6 shallots, chopped	1 12 oz. bottle chili sauce
1 7 oz. can diced green chilies	1 Tb. salt
2 cloves garlic, minced (optional)	1 Tb. garlic salt (optional)
3 lbs. chopped sirloin	2 tsp. black pepper
1 lb. pork sausage	1 Tb. chopped cilantro
2 Tb. flour	1 Tb. oregano
1 1-lb. can baked beans	2-4 Tb. chili powder, to taste
1 4 oz. can pimientos	grated orange peel (small amount)
2 30 oz. cans tomatoes (cut)	1 pt. sour cream
3/4 C chopped celery	
1/2 lb. fresh mushrooms (sliced) (can use canned)	

Wash and drain pinto beans and soak in water overnight. Bring to boil, lower heat, and simmer 2-3 hours or until tender. Drain. Meanwhile, melt butter in large skillet and add onions, shallots, chilies, and garlic. Saute until onion is soft. Add chopped sirloin and cook over moderate heat until meat is brown. Drain. In a separate pan brown sausage and pour off fat. Add sausage to meat mixture and transfer to Dutch oven or 8 qt. kettle. Sprinkle with flour and stir to blend. Add pinto and canned beans and all remaining ingredients except sour cream. Bring just to boil, lower heat and simmer about 45 - 60 minutes. Skim off fat with a cold spoon as it rises to the top if necessary. Serve with sour cream. Serves many people.

PERSONAL NOTES::::: The above recipe makes about two of the large crock pots full of chili. I suggest you make 1/2 a recipe for the first try. Use dry beans if you want. I prefer to add canned beans (4 - 6 cans) at the appropriate time. I say garlic items are optional because I leave them out as I can't eat anything garlic. There was no garlic in the chili at Shuree. I used 4 TB of chili powder in the recipe that I made to take to Shuree. Freezes wonderfully.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

To all of you who participated in the Valle Vidal work project, I extend my hand with a grateful thank you and congratulations for a job well done. We should also recognize the consistent efforts of Bill Zeedyk as work project coordinator. How fortunate this organization is to have him as a "teacher." Those of us there learned much in our streamside classroom.

Further, we all enjoyed the potluck on Saturday night. Mariane Miller will be sharing her "27-Ingredient Chili Con Carne" recipe.

Take a moment and write a personal "thank you" to Ron Thibedeau and George Long, USFS, Questa Ranger District, PO Box 110, Questa, NM, 87556.

Richard Becker, President

[Editors note: Thanks also to several people who have worked hard behind the scenes. Sybil Russel did the AWF food shopping for the Valle Vidal potluck, even though she couldn't attend, and she sees that we are supplied with both refreshments and a door prize every month.

Barbara Bergstrum has folded, stamped and labeled our newsletters for the past several months. Cecil Haas wrote and mailed newsletters earlier in the year. Yvonne Chauvin wrote last month's action alert about Domenici's Livestock Grazing Act.]

SANDIA RANGER DISTRICT PROPOSAL FOR PRIVATE CONCESSIONAIRE

The AWF board voted to oppose the Sandia Ranger District's plan for a private concessionaire to collect fees at picnic and parking areas along the Sandia Mountain Scenic Byway, Las Huertas picnic ground, and Sandia Cave. Duties of the concessionaire would include managing and maintaining picnic grounds, hiking trails, and the Crest observation area; regulating parking; and clearing snow from parking areas.

We have no objection to the Sandia District charging a fee for the use of its parking and picnic areas. However, we fear that giving over the money and the duties normally carried out by Forest Service personnel to a private business would be a step toward privatization of our forests and would be hard to undo. Although permits would be short-term, we have seen how ranchers and ski area operators tend to view leased lands as their own.

The problem is that the Sandia District doesn't have the funds necessary to maintain all of its recreation areas, and the Ranger is expecting a 20 percent cut next year. If the district were to collect fees, under present regulations, almost none of the money would return to the district.

We advocate a proposal being considered by Congress that would allow a certain number of forest districts around the country to charge a fee and be allowed to keep about 80 percent of the receipts. The Sandia Ranger District has asked for inclusion in the proposed pilot project. The proposal is in the appropriations bill for the Department of Interior and Related Agencies.

You can send comments concerning having a private concessionaire manage parking and picnic areas in the Sandias to: Floyd Thompson, District Ranger, Sandia Ranger District, 11776 Highway 337, Tijeras, NM, 87059, with a copy to our congressmen.

at the detailed levels of permits and allotment management plans.

The public would be able to participate in, and comment on, environmental analyses only at the land use planning level. Land use plans are done infrequently and the environmental analyses at this level are very general.

Wise range management would be curtailed by S. 852.

Forest Service and BLM employees would be required to collect range data only in the presence of livestock permittees for the data to be valid in making decisions.

No terms or conditions could be included in a grazing permit other than kind and number of livestock, periods of use, the allotments to be used, and amount of use. This would hamper, if not eliminate, the ability of land managers to place limits on livestock use of riparian and other sensitive areas, and would preclude saying that certain sites could not be grazed. It severely limits the ability of managers to enforce allotment management plans, since compliance with such a plan is usually stipulated as a term or condition.

The burden of proof would be on the federal government when livestock permittees appeal grazing decisions.

Senators Jeff Bingaman and Pete Domenici need to hear from you about this bill. Include in your letters information about how you use public lands. Send letters to: The Honorable _____

Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Contact Representative Steve Schiff at:

2404 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

CALENDAR:

Aug. 19-20, HOPEWELL LAKE WET MEADOW CONSERVATION PROJECT, (see page 1)

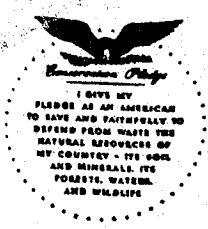
Aug. 19, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., NEW MEXICO STATE GAME COMMISSION MEETING. Albuquerque Convention Center, 401 Second St. NW, Cochiti Taos Room.

Aug. 22, 7-9 p.m., AWF BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING, NMWF office.

Aug. 22, 3-8 p.m., MEXICAN WOLF PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE MEETING, Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, 2401 12th Street NW. Meeting to learn about, and comment on, the draft Environmental Impact Statement for reintroduction of the Mexican wolf. To receive a copy of the draft EIS write to the Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator; Attention EIS; US Fish and Wildlife Service; P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, NM 87103.

Aug. 22, 7-9 p.m., SANDIA RANGER DISTRICT OPEN HOUSE, Presbyterian Church, 10704 Paseo del Norte NE. A public meeting concerning revision of the Cibola National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.

Sept. 9, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., SANDIA RANGER DISTRICT PUBLIC WORKSHOP, Pine Flat Picnic Ground south of Tijeras. A public workshop concerning revision of the Cibola National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan.



Albuquerque Wildlife Federation

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Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103



GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, September 14, 1995

7:00 P.M.

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

** ** * SEPTEMBER 14 PROGRAM * ** **

FALL FISHING IN NEW MEXICO'S WARM WATERS

Bill Dunn, publisher and editor of *New Mexico Fishing Monthly*, will tell us about fishing in New Mexico's warm waters this fall. He'll explain how to do it, where to do it and when to do it. Of course he'll bring along his rods, reels and lures to assist in his presentation.

AND ON SEPTEMBER 22,

ALASKA: LAST CHANCE FOR AMERICA'S RAINFOREST

On Friday, September 22, Tabitha Gregory from Anchorage, Alaska, will be in Albuquerque to present an exciting slide show about Alaska's Tongass and Chugach National Forests.

The free public program about Alaska's beautiful temperate rainforests will be presented at 7:30 p.m. in room H of the UNM Continuing Education Conference Center, 1634 University Blvd. NE. The program is brought to Albuquerque by the Alaska Rainforest Campaign, which is sponsoring several programs throughout the state.

The Albuquerque Wildlife Federation is a local sponsor for this event, and we hope that you will come and also encourage others to attend. Please read the enclosed flyer and circulate it among your friends and acquaintances. Most of us enjoy programs about Alaska, and this one should be especially interesting.

MEADOW RESTORATION, CHIJUILLA MESA NEAR CUBA

Saturday, September 16

Meet at the BLM office on Montano Road, between I-25 and Second Street, at 7:30 a.m. Transportation will be provided by BLM for 10 people, or you may drive yourself.

The purpose of this project is to capture sediments to restore an eroded meadow that is needed as winter range for deer, elk, turkey and a variety of birds.

The project will involve installation of a silt fence, and includes setting posts and attaching fence. BLM will dig most of the trench with a power trencher, but extra tools would be appreciated.

People who can do heavier work are especially needed. Bring lunch, drinks, work clothes, work gloves, shoes suitable for muddy conditions. Come and hear the elk bugle.

Obtain additional information at the meeting or call Bill Zeedyk, 281-9066, or David Villegas, 343-0100.

CHILDREN'S FISHING CLINIC, SEPT. 30

The annual fishing clinic that we help the Sandia Ranger District put on will be held Saturday, Sept. 30, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Sandia Lakes, 11143 Hwy. 85. The event is fun for everyone.

Children, aged 6-12 and accompanied by an adult, rotate through 10-minute mini-classes on such topics as tying knots, baits and lures, and casting. After lunch they have an hour in which to try out their skills and catch a fish. Adult helpers have the pleasure of participating in the children's excitement.

If you can help, please call our fishing clinic chairperson, Tony Romero, at 299-5189.

This year children from single or divorced-parent households are being targeted. The event is free, children must ride a shuttle from Tijeras to the clinic, and space is limited. To pre-register call 281-3304.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

A gentle breeze flows over a mountain meadow, with a meandering stream's gentle waters softly caressing stands of cattails and watercress. My dabble grey mare and black gelding lean against the split rail fence, snoozing in the mid-day sun.

Across the road, the "sand fleas" (AWF volunteers) are persistent in filling bags with sand to be placed in strategic locations for our August work project near Hopewell Lake. Steadily they work, bag after bag, bag after bag. On and on they go. Ah, such persistence. Later they retreat to the fireside to enjoy the crisp mountain air.

Come join us in September for our next "outdoor adventure," then write your own story.

One of our devoted members, Barbara Bergstrom, has arranged for a SPECTACULAR raffle prize. This item will be displayed at our Sept. 14 general membership meeting. Tickets will be available until our December, 1995, annual meeting. Funds raised by this effort will be used for special projects. Come to our next meeting for a first look. One of you is already the winner.

Richard Becker, President

LIVESTOCK GRAZING ACT: CURRENT STATUS

Senator Pete Domenici says he plans to change his grazing bill, S.852, to indicate that hunters, anglers, hikers, etc., have a right to use public lands. But he has said nothing about wildlife nor about the habitat our wildlife needs to survive on public lands.

His bill continues to give control of public lands to the ranchers. Other members of the public would have extremely limited say in management of these lands. Managers of public lands would have difficulty using scientific methods to improve rangelands.

Riparian areas are especially important wildlife habitat. Yet studies show that with present grazing practices, riparian areas will continue to deteriorate. Overgrazing also causes erosion of soil that clogs the streams with sediment.

Domenici's bill would make the situation even worse, since it would make it very difficult for land managers to reduce the number of cows allowed to graze.

AWF was represented in a small group that recently went to talk with Representative Steve Schiff about the House version of the bill, H.R.1713. He doesn't seem to have any firm position on this bill, so your letters and calls to him are needed. Let him, as well as senators Domenici and Bingaman, know what you think.

WETLANDS

We've received a report of a recent Corps of Engineers field study to determine the effect of two Congressional bills on wetlands jurisdiction. The Corps found that the federal government would lose jurisdiction over at least 90 percent of New Mexico's wetlands if either bill becomes law.

In most cases that is because political rather than scientific criteria for designating wetlands would be used. Our wetlands would no longer be considered "wetlands," and would lose federal protection in on private land.

The one bill, H.R. 961, has been passed by the House. It's a water bill that includes a wetlands section. The other bill, S. 851 (the "Wetlands Regulatory Reform Act"), still is being considered in the Senate. Contact senators Jeff Bingaman and Pete Domenici about it.

CONGRESS USES BUDGET TO ATTACK ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS

Besides attacking environmental laws through direct legislation, Congress is trying to undo such important laws as the Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act (which includes wetlands protection) through budget cuts and riders to spending bills. The House spending bill, for example, cuts Environmental Protection Agency enforcement by almost half. The EPA oversees enforcement of wetlands regulations. House and Senate riders to budget bills would prohibit the listing of endangered or threatened species and would prevent implementation and enforcement of laws that protect wetlands from inappropriate development.

ELEPHANT BUTTE AND OTHER RESERVOIRS

The August 27 edition of the Albuquerque Journal had an excellent article about the "Battle for Elephant Butte." Irrigators in El Paso and in the Elephant Butte Irrigation District say they should be given title to Elephant Butte Dam and some of the lands in the state park. Although they say they have paid for it, the government says that taxpayers have paid the major portion.

U.S. Representative Joe Skeen has introduced a bill in Congress that would force the government to turn property over to irrigation districts when dam projects have been paid off. Senator Pete Domenici is co-sponsoring the Senate version of the bill.

If successful, such a change in ownership would affect about 60 other reclamation projects through the West, totaling about 8 1/2 million acres.

SANDIA RANGER DISTRICT USER FEES--STATUS REPORT

Legislation that would allow fees to be collected at certain federal sites around the country, with 80 percent of the fees collected to remain at the site, has been passed by both houses of Congress. It's called the "Recreational Fee Demonstration Project," and is attached to appropriation bills for the Department of Interior and related agencies.

The legislation could mean that the Sandia Ranger District would not have to resort to a private concessionaire to collect fees along the Sandia Crest Road and Las Huertas Canyon. The AWF board voted to oppose that move, because of concerns over increasing privatization of the forest. Since the House and Senate versions differ, the matter will go before a conference committee.

The Senate version increases the number of sites from 30 to 50,

and lengthens the period of time for the demonstration project from one year to three. This is a better version from our viewpoint. It wouldn't hurt to let your Congressmen know your feelings about this issue.

WRITE YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVE

Our national senators and representatives need to hear from you about the bills they are considering.

Write to: Senator Jeff Bingaman Senator Pete Domenici
 703 Hart Senate Bldg. 328 Hart Senate Bldg.
 Washington, DC 20510 Washington, DC 20510

Representative Steve Schiff
2404 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

MEXICAN WOLF REINTRODUCTION

Comments on the draft Environmental Impact Statement for reintroduction of the Mexican wolf are due by Oct. 30. The wolf would be reintroduced into either the White Sands Missile Range of south-central New Mexico or the Blue Range area of East-Central Arizona. There might be a second reintroduction into the area not originally chosen.

Contact the Fish and Wildlife Service, Ecological Services Division, P.O. Box 1306, Albuquerque, NM, 87103, for a summary of the draft EIS and to make your comments.

AWF over the years has supported reintroduction of the Mexican wolf with a non-essential experimental designation.

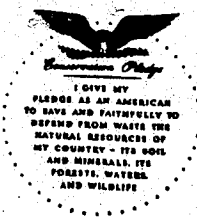
CALENDAR:

Sept. 14 AWF General Meeting, 7 pm, Bear Canyon Senior Center
Sept. 16 Meadow Restoration Project, 7:30 am, BLM office
Sept. 22 Alaska Rainforest program, 7:30 pm, UNM Continuing Ed.
Sept. 30 Childrens Fishing Clinic, 9am-2pm, Sandia Lakes
Oct. 30 Deadline for comments on Mexican Wolf draft EIS

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

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P. O. Box 1234
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103



GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, October 12, 1995

7:00 P.M.

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

**** ** * OCTOBER 12 PROGRAM * ** ****

ELK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Santiago Gonzales from the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish will discuss the department's new plan for managing elk in the state.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE MEXICAN WOLF

Peter Jenkins, who prepared the draft Environmental Impact Statement for reintroduction of the Mexican wolf in its historic Southwestern range, will show slides and provide an update of the reintroduction project. He'll talk about the natural history and status of the endangered Mexican wolf, as well as about the reintroduction effort and the Environmental Impact Statement.

The wolf would be reintroduced into either the White Sands Missile Range of south-central New Mexico or the Blue Range area of East-Central Arizona. There might be a second reintroduction into the area not originally chosen.

The various alternatives in the draft EIS differ according to the amount of management or protection provided for the wolves and according to the extent of the area in which they'd be allowed to disperse.

Comments on the draft Environmental Impact Statement for reintroduction of the Mexican wolf are due by Oct. 30.

CONSERVATION PROJECT: CERRO VERDE ANTELOPE WATERER

Saturday, October 21

Five to ten volunteers are needed to provide a new source of water for recently stocked antelope and for songbirds and quail as well. A pre-fabricated fiberglass catchment is to be assembled and a hole dug in which to place it.

This project is appropriate for all ages and abilities, as it involves both light and heavy work. The area, within the BLM's Rio Puerco Resource Area, has grassy flats with volcanic mesas and hills. Recreation opportunities include hiking and viewing wildlife.

Meet at the BLM office on Montano Road, between I-25 and Second Street, at 8:00 a.m. Transportation will be provided by BLM for 10 people. Bring lunch, water, drinks, and work gear.

You can obtain additional information at the general meeting or by calling Bill Zeedyk, 281-9066, or David Villegas, 343-0100.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

We had a great turnout for our September 95 general membership meeting. Bill Dunn was absolutely entertaining as well as informative about fall fishing in New Mexico.

If you missed this meeting, he is sure to come to the October meeting to see our Very Special Raffle Offering to be drawn at our December Annual potluck and election.

Speaking of elections, the AWF Board of Directors Nominating Committee will be contacting members to serve as Officers and Members of the Board of Directors. My second term as President will end in December so those of your interested in a very educational and thought-provoking experience should contact the Nominating Committee to have your name put on the December ballet.

Nominating Committee:

Bill Zeedyk (281-9066) Chairman

Cliff Mendel (265-3840)

Tony Romero (299-5189)

Judy Engan (344-0100)

Richard Becker, President

DEPREDAATION TASK FORCE MEETS

The newly-formed depredation task force held its first meeting on September 29. The purpose of the task force is to recommend strategies on dealing with depredation to the NM Dept of Game and Fish and the Game Commission. Depredation on private land by deer, antelope, oryx, and elk has become a serious problem. The group, chaired by Jimmy Gonzales of G&F, will make recommendations to the Commission on October 19th. The proceedings are being prepared and more information will be available at the next General Meeting. Cecil Haas is the AWF representative on the task force.

Cecil Haas

FISHING CLINIC

I was somewhat pleased overall with the Fishing Clinic. In spite of the fact that we were told that the Sandia Lakes were well stocked, very few if any of the 40 or so youngsters attending the clinic had any luck.

In any event, the instruction on the rudiments of fishing went very well according to reports from parents of the youngsters who attended the clinic.

Lillian Gonzales of the Sandia Ranger district did a superb job in coordinating the entire event. The sub-sandwiches, cookies and cokes were plentiful. This made-up for the poor fishing results. However, we look forward to next year with the Shady Lakes in mind for guaranteed fishing for that elusive and wily trout.

Many thanks go to Richard Becker and Judith Engen of our group for their assistance during this event.

Tony Romero

SEPTEMBER 22 - ALASKA'S TONGASS RAINFOREST

Tabitha Gregory, an activist from Anchorage, Alaska, presented an informative slide show about the Tongass Rainforest and what problems face this unique area. This is home of brown bears, eagles, salmon runs, whales, wilderness, Tlingit and Haida Indians, rural living. She explained that it is also the biggest money loser in the National Forest system and has this country's only 50 year monopoly timber contract.

The Tongass Timber Reform Act of 1990 had incredible bipartisan support. The House passed it 356-60; the Senate passed it 99-0. President Bush signed it into law. The Tongass Timber Reform Act mandated an end to "timber-at-any-cost" management of the Forest and protected more than one million acres of important fish and wildlife habitat.

The newly elected Alaska Congressional Delegation (Rep. Don Young and Senators Frank Murkowski and Ted Stevens) is working hard to expand clearcutting on the Tongass and undo twenty years of conservation work, including dismantling the landmark Tongass Timber Reform Act of 1990.

There will be hand outs at the next meeting to read more on this situation. Tabitha asked those in attendance at that program, and who opposed this legislation, to sit down at the meeting and write letters to our Senators showing our opposition to these bills. Calls and letters do help!!!!

WRITE YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVE

Our national senators and representatives need to hear from you about the bills they are considering.

Write to: Senator Jeff Bingaman
703 Hart Senate Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Pete Domenici
328 Hart Senate Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Representative Steve Schiff
2404 Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

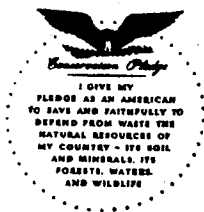
CALENDAR:

October 12 - AWF General Meeting, 7pm, Bear Canyon Senior Center
October 21 - Work Project - Cerro Verde Antelope Waterer-8AM BLM Office

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

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation

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ORGANIZED BY SPORTSMEN IN 1914 TO PROTECT AND PERPETUATE
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GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, November 9, 1995

7:00 P.M.

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

**** ** * NOVEMBER 9 PROGRAM * * * ****

TEAMING WITH WILDLIFE:
WILDLIFE DIVERSITY FUNDING INITIATIVE

Eddie Bennett, conservation education coordinator for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, will present a slide program called *Teaming with Wildlife*. "Teaming with Wildlife" is the motto for a nation-wide campaign to generate over \$350 million annually for the conservation of wildlife that is not hunted or fished. Bennett will explain how members of the public can take part in this effort, called the Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative.

This is an important campaign for AWF members to take part in. Our members led efforts in the state for the Share with Wildlife voluntary tax checkoff program. The checkoff brought in more than \$200,000 a year at its start, but now brings in only \$35,000 due to competition for the funds and to changes in tax-withholding laws. The Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative is the next step toward filling an urgent need.

Currently, game and endangered species receive 95 percent of available wildlife funding although they comprise only 12 percent of the species. The funds for management of sport fish and game animals come from hunters and anglers. The idea behind the Diversity Funding Initiative is to provide an opportunity for other outdoor lovers to conserve watchable, non-game, wildlife through an excise tax on outdoors equipment.

BIRDS OF THE RIO GRANDE BOSQUE
THE RIO GRANDE NATURE CENTER

A representative from the Rio Grande Nature Center will show slides and tell about birds that migrate through, and to, the Center's fields and three ponds, about the Center's bird banding project, and about other ongoing activities at the Nature Center.

Neotropical migratory birds fly through the area and are banded, while many other birds stay for a season or longer. The purpose of the bird banding project is to quantify the timing and volume of fall and spring migration in association with the Rio Grande's riparian habitats.

Affiliated With The National Wildlife Federation

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

We are now in the midst of the fall hunting season. Use this opportunity to demonstrate to others your personal sense of stewardship of our natural resources, respect for private property and safety in the field. For some of us, hunting and fishing expeditions are very gratifying experiences, whether we "bag out" or not! Share your adventure with us at our next meeting on Nov. 9.

Mark your calendars. December 14, at 6:30 p.m. is our annual potluck and election. Remind all volunteer project participants they are invited. Contact Sybil Russell at 821-1273 for potluck details.

Richard W. Becker, President

CONSERVATION SERVICES DIVISION FUNDING

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish will not ask for an appropriation from the state general fund for the Conservation Services Division during the next session of the state legislature. When the Conservation Services Division was created two years ago, the idea was to fund it through money paid in taxes by the general public.

Next year though, the plan is for Conservation Services to be financed with Game Protection Funds. This may be in response to the governor's call for 2.5 percent cuts in department budgets.

The problem is that Game Protection Funds come from hunters and anglers, more of whom have been saying lately that the money should only be spent to manage game animals and fish. Also, revenue from license fees has fallen in recent years.

Game and Fish Department staff developed an idea for providing alternative funding for non-game wildlife last year, in the form of special license plates. However that legislation was vetoed by Governor Johnson.

All of this makes the Wildlife Diversity Funding Initiative, one of the topics at our Nov. 9 program, especially important.

A SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY?

Gary Lawrence, one of the developers of the Sustainable Seattle program, will discuss how to set up such a program at two meetings sponsored by Population Environment Network. Albuquerque is beginning to work on setting up a similar program.

A meeting primarily to inform the Sustainable Community Committee members (others are welcome) will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 8, in the City Council chambers, basement of 1 Civic Plaza. (Directly off the underground parking lot.)

A meeting for the community at large will be held at 7 p.m., also on November 8, at St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, 5301 Ponderosa, NE (off of San Mateo, south of Montgomery).

If you feel that steps must be taken NOW if Albuquerque is to have a sustainable future, please come. Call Chuck Scott (867-6741) or Aija Thacher (898-4345) if you need further information.

[Editors note: We received the above announcement from Aija Thacher, who has been an AWF member for a number of years and who is keenly interested in population problems. She says that the Sustainable Community Committee is trying to get environmental groups involved in protecting Albuquerque's environment.]

CERRO VERDE WATERING PROJECT

Our October 21 conservation project of assembling a fiberglass drinker for antelope stocked on BLM land at Cerro Verde was a success. The group also put a fence around the drinker. The project was organized by Bill Zeedyk for AWF and Andy Iskra for BLM.

MEXICAN WOLF REINTRODUCTION

Although the deadline is past for comment on the draft Environmental Impact Statement for reintroduction of the Mexican wolf, it would be a good idea to let Governor Gary Johnson and state game commission members know your feelings about reintroduction. The governor's address is: State Capitol Bldg., Santa Fe, NM 87503.

Joyce Mendel represented AWF at the hearing in Socorro on reintroduction of the Mexican Wolf. AWF supports reintroduction of the Mexican Wolf into both the White Sands Wolf Recovery Area and the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area, as we believe wolves are an important part of the wild ecosystem.

We also support the reintroduction of wolves with an experimental, nonessential designation. Reintroduction of Mexican wolves, classified as a nonessential experimental population, into one or both recovery areas, is Alternative A in the EIS, and the Fish and Wildlife Service's proposed action. Only those wolves would be released whose loss or removal would not have a significant adverse impact on the demographic or genetic make-up of the present population.

Designation of released wolves as "nonessential experimental" means in certain very specific cases wolves killing livestock could be harassed, captured and moved, or killed. The designation provides greater management flexibility than full endangered species protection and would minimize conflicts. It likely would result in fewer wolves being killed illegally.

VOLUNTEER SITE STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

The State Land Office is looking for a few good people interested in helping look after the State Land Office's resources. Selected volunteers will monitor assigned sites on a monthly basis, and report trespass or damage to a designated land manager. Volunteer groups are being formed for three types of resources: biological, archaeological, and paleontological.

For those interested, a one-day training session will be held Nov. 18, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., in Albuquerque at the N.M. Museum of Natural History, 1801 Mountain Rd. NW. Volunteers will learn about such subjects as ethics, safety and law, tour an important collection for the resource of interest, and have a brown-bag lunch. To reserve a place, call David Deardorff at the State Land Office in Santa Fe, 827-5751.

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.

ACTION ALERT

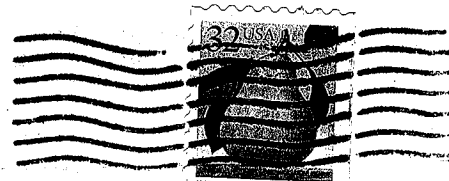
The inclosed "Action Alert" from the National Wildlife Federation tells about cuts in environmental programs put into spending bills proposed by Congress, and also about some of the riders Congress has attached to spending bills that would weaken existing environmental laws or regulations.

There are even more. A rider to the FY 1996 Interior Appropriations bill (H.R. 1977) would increase clearcutting by 44 percent in the Tongass National Forest, a mostly old-growth temperate rainforest in southeast Alaska.

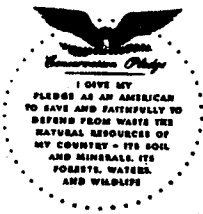
NOMINATIONS

If you would like to run for an office or for the AWF board of directors, or if you know someone you'd like to nominate, call nominating committee chairman Bill Zeedyk at 281-9066.

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



96/06 F L
MR & MRS DAVID WEINGARTEN
12413 PLACID NE
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87112



Albuquerque Wildlife Federation

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AWF HOLIDAY POTLUCK AND ELECTION

THURSDAY, December 14, 1995

6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m.

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

Come and join the party, where we'll eat, reminisce and celebrate the year's conservation efforts. Bring a dish to share. AWF will provide plates, cups, plastic ware, and drinks. If you have questions, call Joyce Mendel (265-3840).

We'll organize the dishes for our annual potluck at 6:30 and hold elections shortly afterward. All members, their families and friends are invited. Agency personnel involved with our conservation projects this year have been invited also.

Awards will be presented and pictures of the 1995 conservation projects shown.

NOMINEES FOR 1996 OFFICERS AND BOARD

PRESIDENT	Clifford Mendel
VICE PRESIDENT	Bill Zeedyk
TREASURER	Barbara Bergstrom
SECRETARY	Cecil Haas

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Joyce Mendel	Judith Engen
Terina Overmeir	Jack Pardee

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.

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Recently I read a reference to a Chinese proverb which stated:

Tell me--I forget

Show me--I remember

Involve me--I understand

This volunteer organization is a wonderful opportunity for all kinds of learning--so get involved and stay involved.

Come to our December 14 annual potluck and election of officers and board of directors.

To all of you who have contributed to the mission of this organization over so many years--I salute you.

Richard W. Becker, President

End-of-the-Year: The Good News and the Bad

The Good:

In early November, Steve Schiff, the Congressman from Albuquerque, and Bill Richardson, the Congressman from northern New Mexico, were among 227 members of the House of Representatives who voted to eliminate 17 riders from an Environmental Protection Agency spending bill. Richardson was one of 20 Representatives to speak in favor of the successful motion to remove the riders.

Representative Sherwood Boehlert from New York called this the most important "green" vote that the House will make this year.

The riders would have restricted the EPA's enforcement of laws regulating such matters as toxic air emissions, wetlands, sewage overflows into surface water, pesticides in foods, and contaminants in drinking water.

New Mexico Senator Jeff Bingaman voted against a provision to authorize oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The Bad:

The bad news is that the oil and gas drilling provision remains in the Budget Reconciliation bill. The amendment Bingaman supported failed on a 51 to 48 vote.

Also, the Congressionally-supported EPA spending bill calls for a 14 percent (\$1 billion) reduction in funding for 1996, including a 21 percent cut in enforcement programs. Working under a similarly reduced budget since October, the EPA says it has scrapped hundreds of inspections and canceled several major enforcement actions.

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