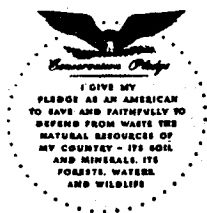


Albuquerque Wildlife Federation

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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 11, 1996
7:00 P.M.

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

**** ** * JANUARY 11 PROGRAM * ** ** ***

ICE FISHING IN NEW MEXICO

Experienced ice fisherman Joseph Finley will discuss ice fishing techniques and equipment, and will show some of his equipment. He also will tell about the best ice fishing locations in the state. Finley is the proprietor of Mountain View Cabins in Eagle Nest. He began ice fishing 30 years ago, when he fished Bluewater Lake with his father. He continues to ice fish, and guides others who fish at Eagle Nest Lake, which is one of the most popular lakes in the state for ice fishing.

TREE NEW MEXICO

Sue Probart, executive director of Tree New Mexico, will tell about her organization and about tree initiatives to be launched soon in Albuquerque and Santa Fe.

Election Results:

1996 OFFICERS AND BOARD

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Ted Bryant	Judith Engen
Andy Iskra	Joyce Mendel
Terina Overmeir	Jack Pardee
Lily Rendt	Richard Becker (Past president)

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Happy New Year! I hope all of you had a good holiday, and thanks to those of you who came to the annual meeting and holiday party. Thanks also to Bill Zeedyk for getting many of our agency friends to join us. Bill awarded plaques to six agency offices for their help in providing work projects. We are grateful to all of these people for looking out for our wildlife.

Bill Zeedyk provided us with the best year of work projects ever. Bill and our good friends at the agencies put together 8 projects. One was snowed out, and one was short on attendance, the others went very well. Bill's work projects are an education for the rest of us. Richard coined the very appropriate acronym BZOU, or Bill Zeedyk's Outdoor University. We cannot thank you enough, Bill.

I also want to thank past president Richard Becker for a job well done for years 1994 and 1995. Finally I want to thank my wife Joyce for an exceptional year of programs for the general meeting.

I want to tell you what my goals are for 1996. These may be modified at the January board meeting. The 1995 board made a decision to stress three primary areas. General meetings, work projects, and what I will call actions for want of a better word. I hope to stick to this agenda. Our meetings are going very well, and are well attended. We will stick to the two part program with an entertaining talk and a shorter informative talk as a general theme. The work projects are also going well, but I hope to get Bill some help so he can emphasize the technical part that most of us cannot provide.

Late in 1995, after we were caught off guard by Senator Domenici's livestock grazing bill, we decided that the metropolitan Albuquerque area needs an effective response vehicle for critical issues. I envision an action committee to coordinate phone and letter responses, and to provide inputs at public meetings.

Now I want to ask you to do something. We need your participation. This is my third stint as president. For the four years before Richard took the helm, either Joyce or I were president. We need new people to help run this organization and we need to increase our membership. Please help us improve your Federation. Come to the general meetings and bring a friend. Come to the board meetings and give us your opinions. Volunteer for a job; most do not take more than a few hours in a month.

We will have regular board meetings, and hopefully they will always be held at the same place. The time and place has not yet been settled, but if you want to attend call me.

Cliff Mendel 265-3840

ENDANGERED SPECIES REGULATIONS APPROVED WITH LAST-MINUTE REWORDING

At a contentious meeting in Las Cruces on Dec. 6, the State Game Commission approved regulations regarding endangered species that included a last-minute change strongly opposed by many environmentalists in attendance.

The regulations describe commission procedures for handling department recommendations at the biennial review of endangered species. At the review decisions are made on whether to continue to list a species as endangered in the state, or to upgrade or downgrade the listed species.

The regulations originally drafted by the department and distributed to the public stated that, relative to making decisions concerning a species' listing, the commission would hear oral testimony only with regard to biology and ecology. Testimony on any social and economic impacts would be taken only in written form, and kept in a repository for consideration should recovery plans be developed for a species.

However, at the commission meeting department Director Jerry Maracchini presented a different version of the proposed regulations. In the new version, oral testimony is to be taken concerning social and economic impacts as well as biology and ecology. Nevertheless, the Game Commission is to consider only the latter when making a decision.

The commission approved the regulations with the new language.

Dave Henderson of the New Mexico Audubon Society said the changed wording significantly changed the purpose of the regulations. The commission overreacted to accommodate the concerns of the oil and gas industry, he said. "This commission is so new that they will have great difficulty separating social from biological information."

Henderson helped draft the legislation that mandated the new regulations. "One thing we really fought for was separating biology from social/economic," he said.

John Crenshaw, the department's chief of Public Affairs, presented a different viewpoint. He said the changed language seemed reasonable and nominal to him, since biology still is to dictate the listing.

Copies of the draft regulations with the changed wording were not available to show either to members of the public or the commissioners. Maracchini quoted the change from memory and scribbled notes.

The Audubon Society and the Sierra Club are appealing the decision, Henderson said. However, the organizations would like to resolve the issue without an appeal, and soon will meet with Maracchini and the department's lawyer.

STATE GAME COMMISSION VOTE ON THE MEXICAN WOLF

State Game Commissioners voted unanimously to oppose the Fish and Wildlife Service's proposed re-introduction of the endangered Mexican Wolf in New Mexico.

1996 STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Dave Weingarten informs us that the Game and Fish Department submitted the following for inclusion in the governor's call for bills to be considered during the upcoming legislative session:

1. Regulation and licensing of guides and outfitters
2. A quota system for elk
3. Game department jurisdiction over negligent use of firearms

_____membership application_____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

family membership \$25 single membership \$20 (circle one)

if family membership, which member should be a member of NM Wildlife Federation?

questions? call 265-3840

ANIMAL DAMAGE CONTROL

The Albuquerque, New Mexico Animal Damage Control District has recently issued an invitation for public involvement. All information received will be considered in an Environmental Assessment analysis that will be tiered to the nationwide programmatic Environmental Impact Statement which was finalized last March.

A mailing from the district states that: "the proposed action is to allow an integrated predator damage management program to be implemented by ADC in the Albuquerque District for the protection of livestock, crops, property, wildlife, and human health and safety."

The public is encouraged to answer the following questions:

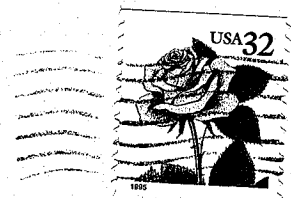
- * How do you desire and expect predator damage to be managed in the Albuquerque Animal Damage Control District?
- * What are your concerns about the management of predator damage?
- * What issues and alternatives do you think we should analyze?
- * Do you have any information to add to the analysis?

Written comments should be received by January 22, and sent to:

Alex Lara, State Director, USDA-APHIS-Animal Damage Control, 2113 Osuna Rd. NE, Suite B, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87113.

For more information, call 761-4640.

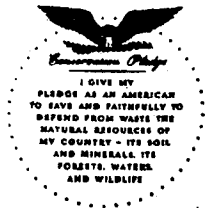
Albuquerque Wildlife Federation
PO Box 1234
Albuquerque, NM 87103



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

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation

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GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, February 8, 1996
7:00 P.M.

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

**** ** FEBRUARY 8 PROGRAM ** ****

Penny Elliston: Wildlife Rescue

Penny will describe Wildlife Rescue, an organization that helps injured birds and animals, and attempts to return them to the wild. She will bring an injured Mississippi Kite. The Kite is a raptor that has recently been removed from the New Mexico endangered species list.

Penny would like to hear from hunters who have old elk or deer meat they would like to be rid of. This meat would be used to feed the raptors.

Dale Hall: NM Game and Fish Landowner-Sportsman Cooperative Program

Dale will talk about the program he coordinates, and discuss future plans for resolving sportsmen's access problems. He would like to get your ideas on ways to improve access.

Presidents Message

We have barely gotten out of one year of attacks on our right to use and enjoy our public lands only to find our rights under attack from another quarter. Senator Domenici's grazing act continues to try wrest control of the National Forest and Bureau of Land Management lands from our professional managers and give that control to ranching interests. Our inputs will be severely limited.

To add further to the erosion of our privileges, US district Judge Martha Vasquez has stopped a legal buffalo hunt at Fort Wingate. The judge did so without even allowing NM Game and Fish, who are responsible for the bison, to present their argument that no environmental assessment is required before a hunt. This could affect all hunting on Federal lands if it is allowed to stand.

It has long been recognized that no Federal environmental assessment is required to hold hunts. These animals belong to the people of the state in which they are located, and not to the landowner, whether the land is private, state, or federal. The decision to allow hunting of animals

is made by professionals in each states Game and Fish departments. This ruling could eventually affect all recreational activities on Federal lands including fishing, horse riding, bird watching, and any other activity that has any impact however slight. Our worst enemy is our inaction. Consider what you can do to help. Write to your legislators and attend meetings.

There are occasionally encouraging signs. Many outdoors people tend to be self reliant and resent bureaucratic intrusions into their affairs. Recent congressional action has interpreted this as implying that these people are against many of the laws themselves, even when the laws protect things we own in common, such as our Federal and State lands, and our wildlife. A recent issue of the Albuquerque Journal had an article about a survey conducted at the request of the Superfund Reform Coalition, which is a business group that is worried about the costs of environmental cleanup. The survey revealed that the majority of Republicans were in favor of wetlands protection, improving water quality, and the endangered species act. Most did not want to see any relaxation of the requirements of these acts.

As a member of AWF, and as a citizen interested in wildlife and wildlands I hope you will get deeply involved in these issues if you have not already done so. This is an important time in the history of our out-of-doors resources. A great deal of progress has been made during the 81 years of AWF's existence, and this progress was bound to see a reaction sooner or later. If we let off now, our children and grandchildren may have to fight this battle again, with many fewer resources to fight for.

Please come to the meetings, bring an interested friend, and help fight for all we believe in.

Cliff Mendel

Funding for Conservation Services

Dave Weingarten and Ted Bryant attended a meeting of the Government and

Urban Affairs committee in Santa Fe on January 19. The Conservation Services Division budget probably will be between 2.5 and 2.9 million dollars this year.

These funds come from license fees, Federal matching money, and could come from state general revenues. The Department of Finance and Administration recommended a budget of \$20.94 million for the Game and Fish Department with no general revenue funds for the CSD. The Legislative Finance Committee recommended a smaller budget of \$19.20 million including \$341 thousand for CSD from general revenues.

AWF has been supportive of general revenue funding of CSD since it is responsible for non-game species. At the meeting Dave spoke in favor of the larger funding for Game and Fish, and for funding CSD from general revenues. The committee supported this position, recommending the adoption of the \$20.94 million budget plus \$341 thousand from general revenues for CSD. This recommendation will probably be considered by the Senate Finance Committee next.

source: Ted Bryant and Dave Weingarten

NM Legislative Information on WWW

If you have access to Internet you can get information from

<http://www.nm.org/> followed by either
legislature/senate_committees.html
or legislature/senate_info.html
or legislature/house_committees.html
or legislature/house_info.html.

source: Dave Weingarten

Grazing Fees Reduced

The Department of Interior reduced the grazing fees on BLM lands to \$1.35 from \$1.61. They are now at the lowest possible level, and will result in a \$14 million subsidy to the ranching industry in 1996. This level is determined by legislation passed in 1978. The reduction is due to low cattle prices.

source: Wall Street Journal

Notes from the January Board Meeting

Bill Reed was appointed to the board by the president, and confirmed by the board. Bill and Cecil Haas will represent AWF and NMWF at NM Game & Fish Commission meetings. Jim Hubert will be appointed before the next board meeting, and will represent AWF on mining issues.

AWF is looking for a membership chairman or chairwoman. They will need access to a computer to handle the membership database. The software and current database will be provided. This is an easy job, requiring two or three hours spread over the month. The software is very easy to use. We would also like someone to greet visitors at the general meetings. The board believes increasing AWF membership from the present 90 members is high priority.

The Actions Committee consists of Richard Becker, Ted Bryant, Lilly Rendt, Bill Reed, and Bill Zeedyk, Joyce Mendel, and Cliff Mendel. This committee will coordinate inputs to agency meetings, legislators, etc. They will need plenty of help, and would like to have members who are not on the board represented. Why not volunteer?

Have an article or information for the newsletter? Let editor Joyce Mendel know: 265-3840.

The board will meet on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00 pm. The site has not been determined. Any member is welcome. Contact president Cliff Mendel (265-3840) for information on board matters.

source: AWF secretary Cecil Hass

Work Projects

Bill Zeedyk has begun to organize this year's work projects. We will have our usual July project at Valle Vidal (Carson), and a March project with BLM on the Rio Puerco. In addition there will be a Bluewater Creek project with Cibola Forest and another BLM project at Carbon Springs. Bill, who is the work project chairman, will be assisted by Richard Becker and Terina Overmeir.

Support for Bison Hunt

AWF supports the three hunts for nine older bull buffalo from a state-owned herd of 60 that the Game and Fish Department had planned to hold this month. Some of the reasons for backing the hunt have been enumerated by AWF board member Cecil Haas as:

- ▶ The hunt area is over 10 square miles; not a small corral.
- ▶ The herd is at the carrying capacity of the range.
- ▶ The old bulls that would be hunted would be difficult, expensive and dangerous to relocate. [They remained at Fort Wingate while the cows and young bulls were moved to El Malpais and back again to Fort Wingate.]
- ▶ Cows and calves will not be shot, and the nine animals to be taken would in no way jeopardize the herd.
- ▶ Hunters, through license sales, paid to bring the animals back to New Mexico and have paid to maintain the herd ever since.
- ▶ Bison are not endangered and are already hunted in at least six states.
- ▶ To control the population, the bison have been sold. Most of them have been killed for meat under conditions less "sporting" than hunting.

Right now, the animals are a financial drain on the Department of Game and Fish. There is sentiment that perhaps we should get rid of the bison. Hunting these animals may be the best way to ensure that New Mexico is able to keep the herd.

Newsletter Banner and Name

We need a good name for our newsletter and a banner for the first page. We would appreciate any ideas you have, and if you are an artist, we would appreciate some help on a banner design.

Bison Hunt Postponed

U.S. District Judge Martha Vazquez has stopped state-sponsored buffalo hunts at Fort Wingate until the Army completes an environmental assessment. The Jan. 26 decision is a serious setback to the state's buffalo program.

Fort Wingate soon will be changing hands, and there is a real probability the herd will have to be moved when the change occurs, says John Crenshaw, the Game and Fish Department's chief of public affairs.

Until the case went to court, there was some chance that the buffalo could have been moved to public lands elsewhere in the state, he said. However, now it's doubtful that anyone will want them if it means a legal fight will start any time there is to be a hunt, he said.

Furthermore, a proposal to loan breeding stock to New Mexico pueblos may

fall through if most of the herd cannot be relocated. If the bison cannot be moved to spacious permanent quarters, the Indians would not be able to repay the loan later through a provision of breeding stock if more buffalo were wanted.

The bison cannot be given away. If they cannot be loaned to the Indians or hunted, someone has to pay fair market value for them and for their roundup and transportation.

If the Army were to conduct the environmental assessment and found "no significant impact," it is uncertain if that would be the end of the matter. The animal rights groups protesting the hunt might ask for a full environmental impact statement.

The Game and Fish Department cannot appeal the court's decision because only the Army was named in the suit. It is not known yet whether the Army will appeal.

To voice your opinion concerning an Army appeal of the decision, contact New Mexico's Congressional delegation and Governor Johnson. Their addresses are:

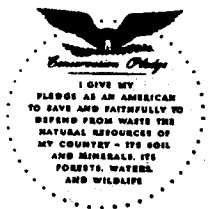
Senator Jeff Bingaman
703 Hart Senate Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

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

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

Governor Gary Johnson, State Capitol Bldg., Santa Fe, NM 87503

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Albuquerque, New Mexico 87103



GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, March 14, 1996 7:00 P.M.

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

***** ** MARCH 14 PROGRAM ** ** ****

SANDIA MOUNTAIN LAND USE ISSUES

Floyd Thompson, Sandia District Ranger, will discuss land issues in the Sandia Mountains. In particular, he will talk about the Del Agua Tract and the Sandia Pueblo Claim. The Del Agua Tract is 160 acres of private land that lies along the Piedra Lisa Trail in the Sandia Wilderness. New owners of this tract plan to develop it if they cannot exchange land with the Forest Service. They have stopped access on the Piedra Lisa Trail where it crosses their property.

Sandia Pueblo is claiming forest land directly east of present Pueblo boundaries, up to Sandia Crest, and has filed a lawsuit against the Forest Service and Department of Interior.

Floyd also can tell about what is being done to bring bighorn sheep back to the Sandia and Manzano mountains, and about the proposal for fee collection at certain developed recreation sites.

HAWKWATCH AND RAPTOR IDENTIFICATION

Amy Goedert and Anne Hinnendael of HawkWatch International will present a slide program about raptor identification, the problems faced by hawks and eagles, and what the public can do to help conserve the birds. They will bring along a live Swainson's hawk.

The HawkWatch annual hawk migration count in the south Sandia Mountains began Feb. 25 and will continue until mid- or late April. You can hike up the trail, starting at the Three Gun Spring trailhead, any day of the week to observe the raptors and see the hawk counting and banding going on. Let Amy and Anne show you how to identify the birds you're likely to see.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

First the bad news. Governor Johnson signed two bills into law (SB 193 and HB304) that will reduce the funding of NM Game and Fish Department. The department is already badly underfunded. The field officers are often unable to go into the field because the department cannot afford gasoline for their trucks. So much for the wisdom of our state legislators and executives. Another victory for poachers. Another defeat for sportsmen and women and for wildlife. See AWF Secretary Cecil Haas' notes from the February board meeting for more.

Now for the even worse news. Senator Domenici's terrible senate bill 852 has been revised to become terrible senate bill 1459. Either bill has the same effect. It gives primacy to one land use (grazing) on our National Forest and Bureau of Land Management lands, and gives the ranching industry control of these lands. The bill will be introduced in the senate on the 18th or the 19th of March. AWF, along with NMWF, the Wildlife Legislative Council, and half a dozen other organizations are encouraging New Mexico citizens to push for this bills defeat. AWF has activated a phone tree to encourage our membership to call Senator Bingaman. We want him to vote against S-1459 and work for its defeat. You should receive a call soon if you have not already done so. There has never been a more important time for you to call your senator. Please call Senator Bingaman and ask him to vote against this bill, and work hard to defeat it. Senator Domenici could not back out of this at this point, but it would still be a good idea to let his office know how unhappy we are with him.

We are taking other actions. There is a large convention of bowhunters in Albuquerque on March 9. We have a booth there to encourage those attending to call and write Senator Bingaman. Before this newsletter is in the mail we will have had a conference call with Senator Bingman.

This bill still restricts the authority of forest managers, gives ranchers preferential treatment, and excludes the public (thats you) from decisions on how grazing will be managed on our public lands. Please let your voice be heard, and also come to the meeting. Bring a friend if you can. Most of all call Senator Bingamans office at 766-3636 or 1-202-224-5521 and urge the senator to vote against and work hard to defeat bill 1459. If you would like to express you dissatisfaction with Senator Domenici his numbers are 766-3481 and 1-202-224-6621.

TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE PROJECT

Tree Planting Along the Rio Puerco
March 16

Plant cottonwood and willow poles in a fenced riparian area and help restore part of the Rio Puerco riparian community. Boots or rubber footwear is appropriate. Meet at the BLM office, 435 Montano Rd. NE, at 8 a.m.

Boots or rubber footwear is appropriate. Bring your own lunch, drinks, drinking water, work gloves, hat, and sunscreen.

Andy Iskra is the BLM coordinator for the project. Work projects with Andy are always great. He's right there working with us and explaining the biological facets of the project.

Besides gaining assistance with riparian restoration, Andy says he likes to get people out and show them things. He'll tell us about the purpose of the pole planting, about riparian restoration in general, and also about problems within the Rio Puerco watershed.

Andy says he never schedules so much planting that there isn't time for some recreation.

TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE 1996 PROJECTS

By Bill Zeedyk, projects coordinator

We have eight projects scheduled for the 1996 field season. All projects are scheduled for the third Saturday of the month. So mark your calendars: THIRD SATURDAY, Team Up for Wildlife Day.

The first project will be March 16, the last on October 19.

For some projects, transportation will be provided from Albuquerque or Tijeras, if you care to take advantage of it. Maps will be provided and the route marked on the ground, as well.

Two projects will be a weekend long with the opportunity to camp out, hike, fish and sit around the campfire, sleep under the stars if you wish.

Briefly, projects after March 16 are:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| April 20 | Tree planting at Tajiue Creek Riparian Area, Manzanos |
| May 18 | David Canyon Wildlife Drinker, Sandia Ranger District |
| June 15 | Riley Spring Riparian Fence, BLM Socorro Resource Area |
| July 20 | Ring Place Wet Meadow Restoration, Valle Vidal, Carson Forest |
| Aug. 17 | Wet Meadow Restoration, Cizneros Park, Tres Piedras Ranger District |
| Sept. 21 | Carbon Springs Riparian Restoration, BLM Socorro Resource Area |
| Oct. 19 | To be announced. BLM Rio Puerco Resource Area |

TAX TIME: YOU CAN HELP WILDLIFE

There's good news for New Mexicans who may be getting refunds on their state income taxes for 1995 and who want to help the state's wildlife. Donating part or all of the state income tax refund to Share with Wildlife can help wildlife conservation efforts, including education. The donation is tax-deductible on next year's taxes.

Share with Wildlife was initiated by the State Legislature in 1981 to provide a means for the public to participate in wildlife conservation efforts through a "check-off" on the state personal income tax form. Donations go to wildlife research, rehabilitation and education.

Current projects being funded are HawkWatch International, Talking Talons, Wildlife Rescue, and The Wildlife Center. Also, funds are being used to survey waterfowl at Stinking Lake on the Jicarilla Apache Reservation; for an Audubon Neotropical migratory birds education program; and for an acoustic census of New Mexico's many species of bats. In addition, Share with Wildlife money is used to study the rare Gila monster and endangered amphibians and reptiles in Guadalupe Canyon, the bunch grass lizard, the dunes sagebrush lizard and the state-endangered spotted bat.

Share with Wildlife is the first check-off fund listed on the 1995 state income tax form, and contributors must also complete the PIT D refund donation form. Share with Wildlife is line 2 on this form, also the first contribution fund listed.

Those not receiving a refund can donate directly to Share with Wildlife, Department of Game and Fish, 141 E. DeVargas, Santa Fe, NM 87503.

STATE GAME COMMISSION

By Cecil Haas

We now have a full slate of game commissioners. Bill Schuler, a businessman from Albuquerque, was appointed to take the position formerly held by Johnny Jones. Gail Cramer, a school teacher from Farmington, replaced Andrea Chavez.

During the last legislative session, a House Memorial was passed encouraging the Game and Fish Department to enter into a contract to transfer the bison herd to the inter-tribal council. Could this have anything to do with some tribes entering the suit to stop the bison hunt? When something doesn't make sense, follow the money. The Commission will take no action until the injunction is

reconsidered. No court date has been established.

By consideration of the AWF Board, we took positions on two items on the Commission's March 2 agenda.

The first was to support an amendment to the Wildlife Conservation Act [the state Endangered Species Act] which would limit comments during formal meetings at which the Commission considers whether to retain a species on the state endangered species list, to downgrade, or to delist a species. Only biological and ecological evidence pertinent to a species status would be heard. Economic and social evidence would be allowed in written form only. This amendment passed.

The second item we supported was to obligate \$1,000 of earnest money to retain the option to buy the GOS ranch in the Gila until all details of the purchase can be worked out. This also passed.

Cecil Haas represented AWF at the March 2 Game Commission meeting. If you have questions about the proceedings, see him at our general meeting Thursday.

AWF BOARD ACTIONS

Jim Hubert was approved as a board member. Jim has a lot of expertise in mining and legislative action regarding it, so he brings valuable insight to the board.

Two bills of interest to AWF were on the governor's desk. The first, HB 304, was to lower hunting license fees, which were raised last year for the first time in over a decade. The other, SB 193, placed limits on nonresident hunters and required guides to be licensed.

The baggage that went with SB 193 was excessive. To become a guide or outfitter would require the endorsement of another outfitter. This would create a closed industry. The other unpalatable provision was that nonresident hunters would require a guide unless they applied with a resident.

We called and wrote the governor encouraging him to veto both of these. Unfortunately, he signed both of them.

We will be initiating a telephone "tree" to get in touch with members for items of immediate interest to AWF. Each board member will contact about 10 members.

Cecil Haas

THANK YOU BARBARA

Barbara Bergstrom resigned as AWF treasurer. She is moving from Albuquerque in April. Barbara has been a dedicated mainstay in our organization and will be greatly missed. Be sure to wish her luck in her new endeavors at the meeting.

With Barbara leaving, we're badly in need of a new treasurer. If you can help, call AWF president Cliff Mendel at 265-3840, or tell someone at the general meeting.

CALENDAR

Thursday, 14 March: AWF general meeting.
Saturday, 16 March: Rio Puerco work project.
Monday, 25 March: board meeting, BLM office.
Thursday, 11 April: AWF general meeting.
Saturday, 20 April: Manzano work project.

EXOTICS: ORYX and IBEX

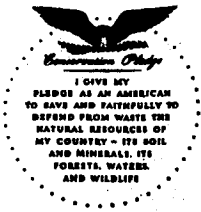
We responded to a Game and Fish Department survey concerning management of New Mexico's exotic oryx and ibex. Our response was in line with the position on exotics that we adopted two years ago.

We supported continued management of both species as trophy big game animals on specific management units specified in a cooperative operations plan that was jointly agreed to by the Forest Service, BLM, and Game and Fish Department. Whenever the species pose a threat to native wildlife, plants, or habitats, we urged that priority go to the conservation of native species and habitats.

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation
PO Box 1234
Albuquerque, NM 87103

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GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, April 11, 1996
7:00 P.M.

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

**** ** * APRIL 11 PROGRAM ** ** ***

DEER MANAGEMENT PLAN

Wally Haussaman, who conducts big game research for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, will tell about a draft version of a long-range deer management plan. He will provide background information concerning deer management in the state, tell about results from past research studies, and discuss how the Game Department hopes to improve deer management in the future. You can suggest improvements to the deer management plan up to May 15.

WILD TURKEYS: WHERE TO FIND THEM; HOW TO CALL THEM

Dick Kreiner, president of the Middle Rio Grande Chapter of the Wild Turkey Federation, will tell about likely places to find wild turkey this year and will demonstrate turkey calls. He also will tell about the federation's habitat improvement projects.

**** ** * TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE PROJECT ** ** ***

Tree Planting at Tajique Creek
Saturday, April 13 [Note date change]

Plant cottonwood and willow trees in the Tajique Creek riparian area on the east side of the Manzano mountains. Fish for stocked rainbow trout if you want to stay longer.

Livestock recently have been excluded from this wetland near the site of the old Manzano Ranger Station. Eight to 10 people are needed. This will be a great family project; bring your kids or someone else's.

Bring your own lunch, drinks, drinking water, work gloves, hat, sunscreen and appropriate footwear. Meet at the Sandraa Ranger Station on Old South 14 (NM 337) in Tijeras at 8 a.m. or at the Tajique Campground, Forest Road 55, at 9 a.m. The Forest Service coordinator is Beverly deGruyter.

More information will be available at the April general meeting, or call Terina Overmier, 345-7666.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

As we feared, the US Senate passed Senator Domenici's Grazing Act (S-1459). The bill was opposed by most Senate Democrats and a handful of environmentally and wildlife oriented Republicans. Senator Bingaman voted against the bill, but unfortunately a small number of western Democrats voted for passage. It would be a good idea to send Senator Bingaman our thanks for his votes.

The bill will now come up before the House of Representatives. This may happen late in April. We need to write or call our representatives. The House version of the bill is HR-1713. Bill Richardsen has a good environmental record, and presumably will vote against passage. Steve Schiff has usually responded well when we have made our views known. Joe Skeen is of the opinion that much of our public lands should be turned over to private interests.

If the Grazing Bill passes the house we hope President Clinton will veto it. Secretary of Interior Babbitt is against it. So are the heads of the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management.

We expect to activate the phone tree when the time comes, and I hope you all will take a few minutes to contact your legislator, and if necessary the president.

Committees and committee chairmen/women were set up at the March board meeting. We would like to have some committee members who are not on the board. If you would like to serve on one of these, contact the appropriate chairperson. The committee list and the chairpersons phone number are listed in the board meeting actions article below.

TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE 1996 PROJECTS

Bill Zeedyk, Wildlife Projects Coordinator

April 13: Tree planting, Tajiue Creek, Manzanos. See page 1.

May 18: David Canyon Wildlife Drinker, Sandra Ranger District.

June 15: Riley Spring Riparian Fence, BLM Socorro Resource Area.

July 20: Ring Place Wet Meadow Restoration, Valle Vidal, Carson Forest. Camping by Shuree Lodge. Camp out as early as July 17 and leave as late as July 22.

Aug. 17: Wet Meadow Restoration, Cizneros Park,

Tres Piedras Ranger District. Area reserved Aug. 15-Aug 18.

Sept. 21: Carbon Springs Riparian Restoration, BLM Socorro Resource Area.

Oct. 19: To be announced. BLM Rio Puerco Resource Area.

ACTIONS OF THE MARCH 25 BOARD MEETING

Terina Overmier was approved as the new AWF treasurer. She replaces Barbara Bergstrom who is moving to Nevada.

Richard Becker presented a letter from the UNM Center for Wildlife Law which states their recommendation for use of part of the Erv Kreisler scholarship money. The board found their plans acceptable.

Courtney White of the Sierra Club (Santa Fe chapter) came to the meeting to request our participation in a May 4 workshop in Santa Fe. The workshop will address citizen actions to protect wildlands in the southwest. An agenda is given below. Richard Becker, Lilly Rendt, and Terina Overmier will attend. Richard will speak on behalf of the AWF.

Bill Zeedyk will review the "Draft Pre-revision Review Topics for the Cibola National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan" and prepare comments.

Committee Appointments

Legislative Actions committee: Jim Hubert (286-2122).

Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Reclamation, Rio Grande Conservancy: Richard Becker (255-7156).
New Mexico Department of Game & Fish: Cecil Haas (271-2103).

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service: Lilly Rendt (291-9245) with assistance from Cecil Haas (271-2103).

U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management: Bill Zeedyk (281-9066).

Membership: Terina Overmier (345-7666).

Meetings and Newsletter: Joyce and Cliff Mendel (265-3840).

Work Projects: Bill Zeedyk (281-9066), Richard Becker (255-7156), Terina Overmier (345-7666).

The committee chairs would appreciate assistance from any members who are interested.

NEW MEXICO WILDLIFE FEDERATION WORK PROJECT

One of our members, Ed Machin, is running a work project for NMWF. This is a somewhat different project intended to help improve wildlife habitat and to improve relations between ranchers and sportsmen and women. The project will be on Gila National Forest land (Rainy Mesa) southeast of Reserve, NM. The land is part of an allotment of rancher Don Cullum. Mr. Cullum has voluntarily decreased his herd to the minimum he can without losing money.

The project will begin on April 20 and 21. Volunteers can camp at a corral off of forest road 503, one-half mile north of the junction of 141 and 503. The project will continue every weekend until the end of May if necessary. If enough people participate there will be a barbecue furnished the first weekend by the Forest Service.

To volunteer call Ed at 898-6264.

WILDLANDS CONFERENCE

SAVING WILDLANDS, SAVING OURSELVES: protecting the Southwest's Wildlands through Citizen Action. A workshop sponsored by the Santa Fe Group of the Sierra Club and the Forest Conservation Council, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, May 4th, 1996 in the main hall of the Unitarian Church, Santa Fe.

Agenda

Morning: The Wildlands Idea

- Steve Gatewood, executive director of the Wildlands Project
 - Prof. Michael Soule, Conservation biologist
- break
- John Talberth, the Southwest Wildlands Initiative
 - Ron Mondt, the Sky Islands Project
- lunch (provided by Sierra Club)

Afternoon: Reaching Out

- Tracy Conner, Land Preservation Lawyer
- Mike Norte, Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited
- Richard Becker, Albuquerque Wildlife Federation
- Jim Winder, Rancher

break

Wrap-up: How to transform talk into action

Lavelle Thompson, Forester, Sportsman, Conservationist, 1912-1996

Longtime AWF member and former board member Lavelle Thompson died from cancer on March 21. He was 84 years old, and remained active until his last weeks.

He worked for the U.S. Forest Service from 1934 to 1969, serving on numerous assignments including Forest Supervisor of the Apache National Forest in Arizona. He was a charter member of the Society for Range Management, where he was active in promoting conservation and wise use of rangelands, and he was an award-winning photographer.

He presented several slide programs at AWF meetings, telling about backpacking trips he took with his extended family during his retirement years. As an AWF board member he looked out for good management of rangelands.

He also was especially interested in helping young people. He directed the Youth Range Camp at Ghost Ranch and for many years worked to obtain camp scholarships for deserving teenagers.

He was a kind and gentle man who will be greatly missed.

At his family's request, memorial contributions may be made to the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation or to Presbyterian Home Healthcare Hospice Services.

CALENDAR

Monday, 25 March: board meeting, BLM office.
Thursday, 11 April: AWF general meeting.
Saturday, 13 April: Manzano work project.
Monday, 15 April: Board meeting.
Saturday, 4 May: Wildlands Conference, Santa Fe.
Thursday, 9 May: AWF general meeting.
Saturday, 18 May: Sandia work project.
20,21 May: NMWF work project.

APPROPRIATION BILL RIDERS

Thanks to Sen. Jeff Bingaman for signing onto a letter asking that environmentally destructive riders be dropped from the Omnibus appropriations bill for 1996. The bill includes funding for the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of the Interior. The undesirable riders include: continuation of an Endangered Species

Listing Moratorium; removal of EPA authority to veto environmentally destructive wetlands permits; allowing destructive logging in the Tongass National Forest.

The bill was passed by the Senate on March 19 and is now in a Congressional conference committee, since a different version was passed earlier by the House.

TAKINGS BILL

A "Takings" bill passed the U.S. House last year as part of the Contract with America. A related bill, S. 605, is scheduled to come for a vote on the floor of the Senate May 6-8.

Whereas the power of eminent domain involves the physical taking of property by the government, for which the landowner must be compensated, the present "takings" legislation refers to regulatory takings. It would pay property owners if government regulations had a negative impact on their property.

If passed into law, takings legislation would severely weaken environmental, health and safety standards and could cost taxpayers billions of dollars. It would require taxpayers to pay industries to obey laws that protect homes, children, air and water. Besides massive costs, passage of the bill would result in red tape and an explosion of litigation. Rep. Steve Schiff opposed a similar bill in the House.

Whom to contact:

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

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

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

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



Albuquerque Wildlife Federation

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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, May 9, 1996 at 7:00 P.M.

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

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

**** ** * MAY 9 PROGRAM * ** ****

JICARILLA APACHE RESERVATION: FISHING AND CAMPING

Jim White, fisheries biologist at the Jicarilla Apache Reservation, will give a slide presentation about fishing at the reservation's five lakes and about other recreational opportunities, such as camping, on the reservation. He'll tell where the fish are biting and how the lakes are being managed. Most of the lakes have rainbow trout; some have cutthroats and browns.

MANZANITA MILITARY WITHDRAWAL: FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN

Floyd Thompson, Sandia District Ranger, will discuss the environmental effects and impacts of possible alternatives for managing National Forest within, and adjacent to, the military withdrawal in the Manzanita Mountains. Information about the alternatives, including a preferred alternative, is published in an Environmental Assessment for the Military Withdrawal Ecosystem Management Plan.

Team Up for Wildlife Project: DAVID CANYON WILDLIFE DRINKER

Saturday, May 18th

This project will take place on the Sandia Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest. We will help install a water catchment, storage tank, pipeline and a drinker trough. Ten or more volunteers will be needed to complete the project in one day. This project will provide permanent water for deer, elk, wild turkey, and other wildlife. Bring your own lunch, drinks, drinking water, work gloves, hat, sunscreen, and appropriate footwear. Transportation will be provided if desired, from Sandia Ranger Station, Old South 14 (NM 337) Tijeras. Be there by 8:00 am. Andy Gredell is the Forest Service coordinator. More information will be available at the May general meeting, or call Terina Overmier, 345-7666.778

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

TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE 1996 PROJECTS

Bill Zeedyk, Wildlife Projects Coordinator

May 18: David Canyon Wildlife Drinker, Sandia Ranger District.

June 15: Riley Spring Riparian Fence, BLM Socorro Resource Area.

July 20: Ring Place, Wet Meadow Restoration, Valle Vidal, Carson Forest. Camping by Shuree Lodge. Camp out as early as July 17 and leave as late as July 22.

Aug. 17: Wet Meadow Restoration, Cizneros Park, Tres Piedras Ranger District. Area reserved Aug. 15-Aug 18.

Sept. 21: Carbon Springs Riparian Restoration, BLM Socorro Resource Area.

Oct. 19: To be announced. BLM Rio Puerco Resource Area.

CALENDAR

Saturday, 4 May: Wildlands Conference, Santa Fe.
Saturday, 18 May: Sandia work project.
Thursday, 13 June: AWF general meeting.

Thursday, 9 May: AWF general meeting.
20 & 21 May: NMWF work project.
Saturday, 15 June: Socorro Resource area project.

Whom to contact on the issues:

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

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

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

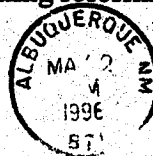
The Game Commission will meet on May 17

Place: State Capitol Building, Room 321, Santa Fe. Time: 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM Topics: Acquisition of the GOS Ranch, Hunting of Desert Bighorns in the Peloncillos, Procedures for listing species under the Endangered Species Act, Habitat improvement on the Urracca Wildlife Area, Depredation Task Force charter, and the antelope transplant in Mexico. For additional information, see Cecil Haas at the General Meeting.

Mining the Taxpayers

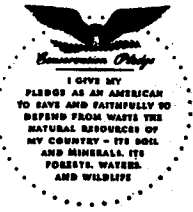
A strong reform bill was passed in the House in 1993, but it died in conference. Congress did, however, pass a one-year moratorium in 1994 on patenting new claims, which put a halt on the outrageous \$5 per acre giveaway. Mining advocates, including Sen Dominici, tried to lift the moratorium, but that was rejected by the House. The moratorium survives this fiscal year as a result of the continuing resolutions.

It is improbable that mining reform will pass Congress this year. HR 357 and S 504, good solid mining reform bills, are being blocked by Congress, while "sham" bills await action. "Sham" bills appear to be reforms, but continue public land giveaways, establish no environmental standards, and provide low or no royalties. Next year will probably require our actions to ensure meaningful mining reforms. *Jim Hubert, AWF Board Member.*



Albuquerque Wildlife Federation
PO Box 1234
Albuquerque, NM 87103

96/12 F B L
CLIFF & JOYCE MENDEL
5119 SUNNINGDALE NE
ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87110



Albuquerque Wildlife Federation

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GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, June 13, 1996 7:00 P.M.

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

** ** * JUNE 13 PROGRAM * ** **

NEW MEXICO ENDANGERED SPECIES MANAGEMENT

Jim Bailey, head of the endangered species program for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, will tell about the state program for management of endangered species. He also will talk about species that are on the state endangered list and some that could be listed, and will describe the state endangered species law. Major changes were made in the law last year by the state legislature.

WILDFLOWERS AND HIKING TRAILS

Wildflower expert Pearl Burns will present a slide program about wildflowers that can be found along hiking trails near Albuquerque and Santa Fe. She will tell about wildflowers that can be found at high elevations and low elevations, and how to identify them.

Pearl is a Forest Service volunteer and will lead a number of wildflower hikes in the Sandias this summer. She has spoken to us concerning other plant topics in the past, and we always enjoy her presentations. She has beautiful slides and knows her wildflowers.

TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE PROJECT: Fencing Riley Spring Saturday, June 15

Help build a fence around Riley Spring, on the Rio Salado west of the Ladrone Mountains. Eight to ten people are needed to fence about 20 acres. The fence is needed to keep cattle out so that a riparian area at the spring can be restored for wildlife.

This is an important wildlife area, with deer, quail, many wintering birds, and an occasional bighorn sheep from the Ladrone herd coming by. Volunteers also will have an opportunity to visit the historic mining and farming town of Riley.

Bring work gloves as you will be working with barbed wire, and fencing pliers if you have them, for working on the fence. Also, bring your own lunch, drinks, water, hat, and sunscreen. Those who want to caravan will meet at the RV campground on the west side of I-25 at the U.S. 60 (Bernardo) turnoff, at 8:15 a.m. Maps will be available at the June 13 meeting or can be mailed. For a map or more information, call Bill Zeedyk, wildlife projects coordinator, at 281-9066. Also, if you can help, please let Bill know by calling, or by telling him at the June meeting.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The JULY meeting will be on the THIRD Thursday, July 18, because Bear Canyon Senior Center will be closed on the usual date.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

I am grateful to vice president Bill Zeedyk, secretary Cecil Haas, treasurer Terina Overmire, and past president Richard Becker for taking care of business while Joyce and I were at the Chesapeake. Two work projects occurred, and I am told both went well. During part of this period Bill Zeedyk was working for the government of Mexico as an adviser on their wildlife resource. Bill tells me the project went well, and he will give a program about this work in the near future.

We are still waiting for the next round (in the House of Representatives) on the grazing bill. When the time is right we will be contacting you, and we hope you will all take the time to contact Congressman Schiff about this bill.

A new matter has come up. There is an effort to acquire the GOS Ranch in southern NM for the Department of Game and Fish. Most of the cost of this purchase will be born by US Fish and Wildlife, and no money will come from the NM general fund or from the game protection fund. Unfortunately, if not unexpectedly, there is pressure on the state from ranching interests to stop this acquisition. AWF member Bob Nordstrum is involved in this acquisition through the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. He has written an article which appears on page 3.

I would like to thank Tony Romero and Richard Becker for arranging for Kreisler scholarships to a UNM and a NMSU student.

Cliff Mendel

KREISLER AWARD TO UNM STUDENT

AWF member, and 1994-1995 president Richard Becker, arranged for AWF to give a \$650 scholarship to UNM student Elizabeth McCourt. Director of the Center for Wildlife Law, Ruth Musgrave, was instrumental in arranging for the scholarship, and finding a deserving student to receive it.

KREISLER AWARD TO NMSU STUDENT

The New Mexico State University 36th Annual Awards Banquet was held at the Double Eagle Restaurant in Old Mesilla, NM on April 18, 1996.

The banquet was sponsored by the school's Department of Fishery and Wildlife Sciences, and was attended by over 150 people from the faculty, the student body, and from other wildlife organizations who were also making scholarship presentations.

I made the presentation of the \$650 scholarship awarded by Albuquerque Wildlife Federation to Joseph Navarro, a senior student at NMSU majoring in Wildlife Studies. Dr. Sanford (Sandy) Schemnitz was unable to attend the banquet due to an out of town commitment. He was instrumental in selecting the senior student for the award.

It was gratifying to me to be a part of this award ceremony. Mr. Navarro and members of the school faculty were most grateful for receiving the scholarship. All in all I felt it was a successful and rewarding trip.

Tony Romero

TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE 1996 PROJECTS

- | | |
|----------|--|
| June 15 | Riley Spring Riparian Fence, BLM Socorro Resource Area |
| July 20 | Ring Place Wet Meadow Restoration, Valle Vidal, Carson Forest. Camping at Shuree Lodge area. Camp out as early as July 17 and leave as late as July 22 |
| Aug. 17 | Wet Meadow Restoration, Cizneros Park, Tres Piedras Ranger District. Area reserved Aug. 15-Aug 18 |
| Sept. 21 | Carbon Springs Riparian Restoration, BLM Socorro Resource Area. |
| Oct. 19 | BLM Rio Puerco Resource Area. |

GOS RANCH

On May 17, 1996, the New Mexico State Game Commission approved the purchase of the GOS Ranch. The ranch is located on the Mimbres River above San Lorenzo in Grant County. It consists of 480 acres of private property with a 35,000 acre Forest Service grazing permit. The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Nature Conservancy will purchase 40 acres which is the base property for the grazing permit. A cooperative agreement is being developed between the Game and Fish Department, RMEF, TNC, and the Gila National Forest.

The final step in this process is the approval of the Board of Finance at their July 9th meeting. There seems to be some resistance to the Department acquiring the property, with the price being stated as the reason. The appraisal has been done by an independent appraiser, reviewed by another, and reviewed and approved by the US Fish and Wildlife Service. USF&W will reimburse the Department for 75% of the acquisition cost as well as 75% of the annual operating costs.

RMEF and TNC would appreciate any support, such as telephone calls or letters to the Governor.

Bob Nordstrum

CONTACTING THE GOVERNOR

Governor Johnson is President of the State Board of Finance. He can be contacted at:

New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson
400 State Capitol Building
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87503

phone (505) 827-3000
fax (505) 827-3057

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

Name _____

Address _____

city, state, zip _____

phone _____ date _____

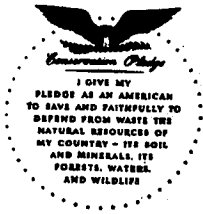
family membership* (\$25) _____

name of person to be NMWF member _____

additional NMWF member (\$10/member) _____

single membership* (\$20) _____

* includes one NMWF membership



Albuquerque Wildlife Federation

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>>>> NOTE DATE CHANGE <<<<

GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, July 18, 1996
7:00 P.M.

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

**** ** * JULY 18 PROGRAM * ** ** ***

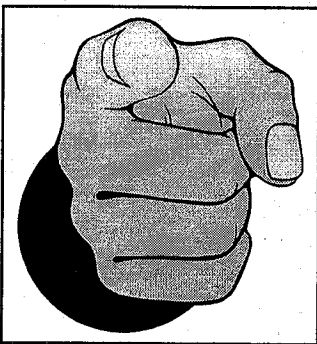
JICARILLA APACHE RESERVATION: FISHING AND CAMPING

Jim White, fisheries biologist at the Jicarilla Apache Reservation, will present a slide program showing the best places to camp and fish at the reservation's five lakes.

He will tell where the largest fish can be caught and where the ideal camping sites can be found among ponderosa pine or pinyon-juniper. Fish include three varieties of trout (some up to 24 inches have been caught recently), and catfish. He also will tell about a major restoration project at one of the lakes.

The reservation lies at an altitude between 7,000 and 8,000 feet, and has rolling hills and sandstone bluffs. Camping is free at most of the lakes if a fishing permit has been purchased. Permits are \$10 a day for adults up to age 55; \$5 for those 55 and older.

Jim was to have given this program in May, but it was postponed because of sudden illness.



WANTED: A computer-literate member to run the AWF Database

At present the AWF database consists of the mailing list which includes renewal date and a few letters to denote type of membership, board membership, etc. A fairly ancient, and not very capable piece of software is used. We will soon buy better software, so that we can include more data. We would like to keep track of the activity of our members (work project attendance for example) and their preferences for activities, programs, actions, etc. At the moment the database is handled by the current president, but he will be away for much of 1997, and thus will be unable to do the job.

At present the job takes about one hour every other week, and consists of sending out renewal notices, membership cards, and printing up mailing labels for the newsletter. With the new database there will be more work, but not much more. If you could handle this job, please consider volunteering. Board membership is available if desired, but is not essential. Call Cliff Mendel at 265-3840 to volunteer, or to get more information.

TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE PROJECT and ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER: Valle Vidal
Friday, July 19 to Sunday, July 21

We will continue with the wet meadow restoration project initiated in 1995. Our Valle Vidal project has been the highlight of our annual work projects since 1982. Let's have another great year! We will once again camp at Shuree Lodge, with access to showers on the 20th (Saturday) only. You may arrive as early as Thursday, July 18, and leave as late as Monday, July 22.

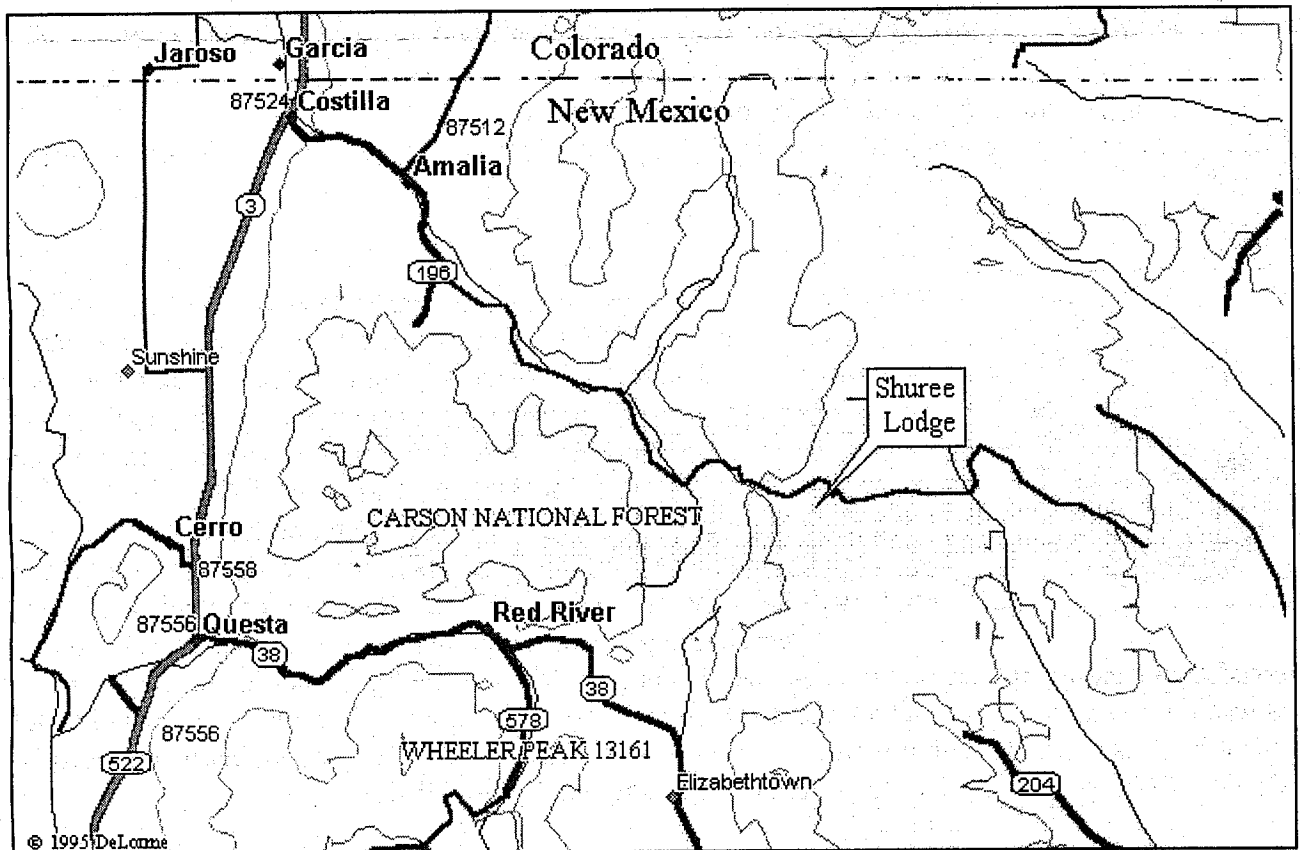
Hike, watch deer, elk, turkeys, bear, and buffalo. Enjoy the scenery. Try stream fishing for native cutthroat trout or fish Shuree Ponds for lunker rainbows. Kids under 12 can fish the children's pond.

We will have our traditional potluck dinner Saturday evening at Shuree lodge. Bring your favorite dish or desert. AWF will provide paper plates, plastic utensils, hamburgers, hotdogs, and soft drinks.

Coordination of this project has again been through George Long, Forest Service Coordinator. We appreciate George's help.

We need to have some idea of how many will be there, so if you know you will be there please call me (281-9066), Terina Overmier (345-7666), or Richard Becker (255-2103) and let us know.

Bill Zeedyk, workproject coordinator.



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

AWF ACTIONS

If your summer is as busy as ours is you probably have trouble finding time to write to family, much less to congressmen and bureaucrats. Nevertheless, some things shouldn't wait, and I hope you were able to respond to Actions coordinator, Jim Hubert's mailing on the GOS Ranch. This was a great opportunity to get some fine land available for public access. I am writing this just before the Finance Committee meeting, so I do not yet know the results of our efforts.

I am not aware of any action on Senator Domenici's grazing bill. There has been a lot of negative reaction, and perhaps the Senator is hoping to just let it die away. We can hope, anyway, and if we need further response you will here from the Actions Committee.

Be sure to go to our annual Valle Vidal project (see next page). This is a project that should never be missed. We will not only do more wet meadow restoration, but Work Project Coordinator Bill Zeedyk will show us just how effective last years project was. Of course we will have our annual potluck at Shuree Lodge.

Cliff Mendel

Letters were sent to the Governor and all members of the State Board of Finance encouraging them to approve the purchase of the GOS Ranch.

A letter was sent to the Bureau of Land Management with recommendations for changes in the New Mexico Resource Advisory Council's Draft Standards and Guidelines.

TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE 1996 PROJECTS

- July 20 Ring Place Wet Meadow Restoration, Valle Vidal, Carson Forest. Camping at Shuree Lodge area. Camp out as early as July 17 and leave as late as July 22
- Aug. 17 Wet Meadow Restoration, Cisneros Park, Tres Piedras Ranger District. Area reserved Aug. 15-Aug 18
- Sept. 21 Carbon Springs Riparian Restoration, BLM Socorro Resource Area.
- Oct. 19 BLM Rio Puerco Resource Area.

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

Name _____

Address _____

city, state, zip _____

phone _____ date _____

family membership (\$25) _____ (includes one NMWF membership)

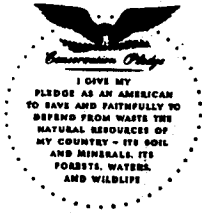
name of person to be NMWF member _____

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Albuquerque Wildlife Federation

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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, August 8, 1996 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 8 PROGRAM * * * * ***

BILL ZEEDYK: DRY STREAM RESTORATION IN MEXICO

We have a special program this month presented by one of our long-time members, riparian expert Bill Zeedyk. Bill will present a slide program about a project he is working on to restore flowing streams along the Rio Laja, in the state of Guanajuato, Mexico, about 100 miles north of Mexico City.

The water is desperately needed by both human and bird populations along the dry streams. In his presentation, Bill will tell about the restoration practices he is teaching and about the techniques he is using to communicate with the peasants. See **THE RIO LAJA PROJECT**, page 2.

Bill retired as a regional Forest Service wildlife biologist and now works as a consultant on riparian problems.

DARREL WEYBRIGHT: DROUGHT EFFECT ON GAME ANIMALS

Darrel Weybright is the big game project leader for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. He's coming from Santa Fe to tell about the effect of the state's drought on game species, from game birds to such big game as elk, deer and antelope. Species vary in their adaptations to drought, and drought effects also vary with location. The Game and Fish Department has a deer model that is used to predict the effect of weather on deer populations.

TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE PROJECT

Wet Meadow Restoration: Cizneros Park in Tres Piedras Ranger District
Potluck Supper
Saturday, August 17

The August Team Up for Wildlife Project is again in a beautiful part of New Mexico, namely the Carson National Forest west of Tres Piedras. Please join us for another fun and useful weekend, or just come for the project on Saturday if need be. See the Map and **WET MEADOW RESTORATION** ..., page 3.

THE RIO LAJA PROJECT

The Mexican wetlands project that Bill Zeedyk will tell us about this month is sponsored through a four-part partnership between the Audubon Society of Mexico, Save the Children, CASA (a group which works with youth in Guanajuato), and the U.S. Forest Service.

Due to overgrazing, streamside agriculture and too many roads, the riparian area along the Rio Laja is in deplorable condition. Water birds and song birds in the Rio Laja need improved riparian conditions for their habitat. The rivers feeding into the Rio have gone from perennial streams to dry arroyos. Poor farming families who live in the area need more water for their health and economic well being. Because of the limited water supply, used for both drinking and watering livestock, the area has the highest infant death rate in Mexico.

The people have no formal education and no money for equipment or supplies. Bill is teaching them how to restore the tributary streams by using native materials, and by better management of livestock and reduction in the number of roads.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

We again accomplished a lot on our annual Valle Vidal Team Up for Wildlife project. The turnout was quite low (about half the usual numbers) due in part to a number of regular attendees who could not make it this year. Nevertheless we did all of the work that was planned thanks to the steady efforts of those who did come. I hope more of you can come to the August project which is also in a very pretty part of New Mexico.

There is good news and bad news on the Wildlife and Conservation front. The bad news is the failure of the State Finance committee to approve the purchase of the GOS ranch. The purported reason, as reported in the newspaper, was that it was too expensive, even though the only state funds came from the sportsmen and women of New Mexico who supported the purchase. This was clearly not the real reason from our own experience, and that of people from the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation who were deeply involved. One of them observed that the appraisal was done right, and that some members

of the committee, in their zeal to defeat the purchase, insulted the woman who had done such a good job on the appraisal. The State Engineer testified that there might be a problem getting water rights, although few doubt that they would be available to a developer with the same property. In spite of the fact that it had nothing to do with his job or expertise, he also said that the cost was too high.

The GOS ranch was not purchased because the state executive branch did not want to buy it, regardless of what New Mexicans wanted. This is not the first, nor is it the most foolish example of the state passing up a good deal for the hunters, anglers, and wildlife observers. The recent purchase of 400,000 acres of the old Vermejo ranch from Pennzoil by Ted Turner reminds us that two decades ago the state could have had all of that plus Valle Vidal for \$26M. Ouch!

The good news is that Sen. Domenici is doubtful that his grazing act can pass.

Cliff Mendel

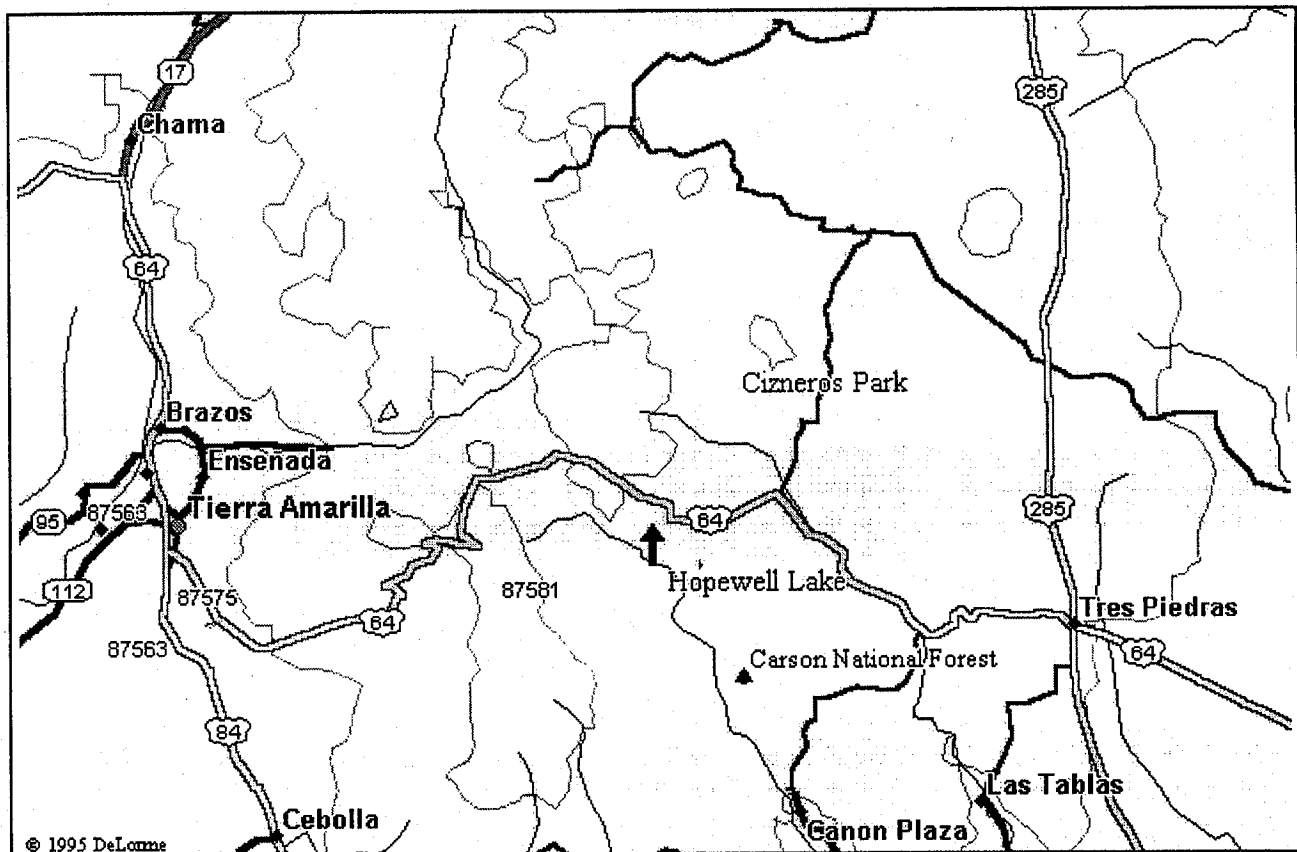
PILOT FEE PROJECT IN SANDIA RANGER DISTRICT

The Sandia Ranger District is one of 50 sites nationwide taking part in a three-year pilot project involving collection of fees at picnic areas along Sandia Crest Road and Las Huertas Canyon. Eighty percent of the fees collected will be used for maintenance and improvement of the fee sites. The rest will be used by the Forest Service for program management.

Fees of \$3 per passenger car started being charged at Cienega and Doc Long picnic grounds on August 1. Other developed sites will be added to the fee area during the year. A season pass will be available by Jan. 1, 1997.

AWF has supported this demonstration project, since the Sandia District does not have the funds needed to maintain all of its recreation areas. We particularly wanted the Forest Service to collect and retain the fees.

Because of concerns over increasing privatization of national forests, the AWF board opposed an initial proposal for having a private concessionaire collect the fees and maintain the picnic grounds.



**WET MEADOW RESTORATION: Cizneros Park in Tres Piedras Ranger District
and Potluck Supper. Saturday, August 17**

Come and help wildlife by restoring a meadow wetland while enjoying high mountain scenery. Most of us will camp at Hopewell Lake Campground, U.S. 64, west of Tres Piedras. Part of the camping area will be reserved for project participants from Aug. 15 through Aug. 18. Besides the work, we will have opportunities to hike and to fish for rainbow trout in Hopewell Lake or for brook trout.

This is one of our favorite annual outings. Bring a dish to share for an outdoor potluck supper Saturday night. Participants are asked to supply their own drinks, plates and utensils.

We had a great time at the Valle Vidal project last month. This should be another good one. Children are welcome. The Forest Service coordinator is Benjamin Romero, and of course Bill Zeedyk is the AWF coordinator.

Let us know at the meeting if you plan to go, or call Terina Overmier at 345-7666 or Richard Becker at 255-2103.

JULY "TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE PROJECT"

Everything worked together for a wonderful weekend during our July 20 "Team Up for Wildlife" project near the Ring Place at the Valle Vidal. The weather was perfect, the scenery gorgeous, the people wonderful and the potluck food delicious--as usual. We saw buffalo and hundreds of elk in the distance, deer and a large bull elk up close. It was hard to tell whether the many children or the adults were more excited.

We worked on restoring a wet meadow--a project continued from last year. Although the number of people who came to work was unusually low this year, we finished in short order, with plenty of time left for hiking, fishing, or relaxing. Next year we will continue building low stone structures to increase the bends in the stream and spread the water.

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

Name _____

Address _____

city, state, zip _____

phone _____ date _____

family membership* (\$25) _____

name of person to be NMWF member _____

additional NMWF member (\$10/member) _____

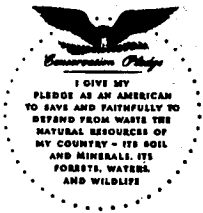
single membership* (\$20) _____

* includes one NMWF membership

TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE 1996 PROJECTS

- Aug. 17 Wet Meadow Restoration, Cizneros Park, Tres Piedras Ranger District. Area reserved Aug. 15-Aug 18
- Sept. 21 Carbon Springs Riparian Restoration, BLM Socorro Resource Area.
- Oct. 19 BLM Rio Puerco Resource Area.

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GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, September 12, 1996

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 12 PROGRAM * ** ** ***

FALL FISHING IN NEW MEXICO'S WARM WATERS

Part 2

Fishing expert Bill Dunn will tell about fall fishing in New Mexico's warm waters. This is a continuation of the great program he gave last year.

Dunn, who is publisher and managing editor of *New Mexico's Great Outdoors*, will tell how to fish in warm water, when to do it and where to do it. He will bring along some rods and reels, and show new lures that are available.

TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE PROJECT CARBON SPRINGS RIPARIAN RESTORATION

The September wildlife project will be in the Socorro Resource Area, Bureau of Land Management. We will continue construction of small concrete and log structures designed to trap sediment and enhance the growth of native wetland vegetation.

Come and see the results of our 1995 project. Fantastic! This place is a favorite wintering area for hundreds of song birds, especially robins, bluebirds, and Townsend Solitaires. Deer love it too.

The route to the site will be marked from Bernardo through the old ghost town of Riley, and from the south via Magdalena. The BLM coordinator is Carla Alford. To let us know you are going, or if you have questions, call Richard Becker (at 255-7156) who will be in charge of this project for AWF, or Terina Overmier (at 345-7666), or come to the general meeting on 12 September.

Bill Zeedyk, Wildlife Project Coordinator

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The New Mexico Game and Fish Department's Scott Brown has been promoted to assistant director of the department. Since Dick McCleskey's retirement almost two years ago, Jim Vaught had been the sole assistant director. Now Brown will oversee public affairs, computer resources, fisheries, wildlife, and conservation resources. Vaught will continue to oversee law enforcement, fiscal operations, and staff in several Game Department offices.

We in AWF have had the pleasure of interacting with Brown on many occasions, and are happy to see him with increased responsibility. More importantly the change will allow more attention for some very important areas. In New Mexico, management of law enforcement alone is a major undertaking, and will keep Vaught plenty busy.

Our August wildlife project was lightly attended, to the extent that Bill Zeedyk considered cancellation. Fortunately there were several people from the Forest Service and from the families of Forest Service personnel to help, and much was accomplished.

Afterwards we looked over the work from the last two years. The good effects were apparent. In addition, it was discovered that there is a great deal of variation in the quality of sand bags used to construct dams.

Cliff Mendel

GRAZING AND MINING ON FEDERAL LANDS

Although both issues have been quiet it is sort of like the calm before the storm. At the appropriate moment we will probably be requesting of each member some phoning and writing to Congressional people.

Grazing: At this time it appears that a "reform" bill will be voted on in mid-September in the House of Representatives. Further, it appears that it is actually a "deform" bill since it will probably closely match the bad legislation introduced in the Senate by Senator Domenici.

Mining: The moratorium on the infamous giveaway of federal lands through the 1872 Mining Act survived another year only by veto

of the budget bill by President Clinton. Reform of the 1872 Mining Act will make headlines again but probably after the November election.

Jim Hubert, Legislative Chairman

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee for 1997 officers and board is Richard Becker, Cliff Mendel, and Terina Overmier.

In the past AWF has had a problem with a narrow group of members doing most of the work (other than for wildlife-projects) involved in running the organization. The 1996 board and officers has a number of members who had not served in the past. We hope to get several new members again this year.

We need more help and new ideas. None of these jobs take a great deal of time. Please consider serving. If you would be willing to serve, call one of us:

Richard Becker 255-7156

Terina Overmier 345-7666

Cliff Mendel 265-3840

Cliff Mendel

NM LEGISLATORS SUPPORT WOLF REINTRODUCTION

During Congressional debates over 1997 funding for the Mexican wolf, New Mexico representatives Steve Schiff and Bill Richardson wrote letters to Appropriation Subcommittee chairman Ralph Regula expressing strong support for the wolf reintroduction program and requesting adequate funding for the continuation of recovery efforts. AWF has helped with the effort to reintroduce the Mexican wolf back into wild areas of New Mexico for a number of years, and we are grateful for the efforts of representatives Schiff and Richardson.

STATE BUFFALO HERD

At the Game Commission's August 28 meeting, action on a proposal to sell off the state's buffalo herd at Fort Wingate was indefinitely postponed. Game Commissioner Steve Padilla argued that the buffalo are a resource paid for by New Mexico's sportsmen. Selling the herd should be only a last resort if a solution to problems caused by the buffalo cannot be found, he said. Game and Fish Director Jerry Maracchini opposed a proposal to give the herd to Indian tribes, saying that other state residents have as much right to the buffalo as the Indians.

Information from Cecil Haas, AWF
State Game Chairman

LOCAL DEPREDATION COMMITTEES

Last year AWF board member Cecil Haas served on a 16-member state Depredation Task Force. The group drafted a charter for the formation of local committees to develop local solutions to depredation problems. Four members of each committee are to be representatives of government agencies. Another six are to be appointed by the Game and Fish Department director from nominations by agricultural and sportsperson groups. Organizational meetings for the committees are being held around the state this week and next. If you are interested in possibly serving on a depredation committee or in attending committee meetings, call Cecil at 271-2103 for more information.

TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE 1996 PROJECTS

Sept. 21 Carbon Springs Riparian Restoration, BLM Socorro Resource Area.

Oct. 19 BLM Rio Puerco Resource Area

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

Name _____

Address _____

city, state, zip _____

phone _____ date _____

family membership* (\$25) _____

name of person to be NMWF member _____

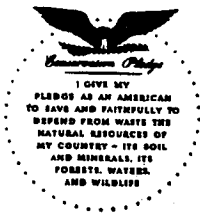
additional NMWF member (\$10/member) _____

single membership* (\$20) _____

* includes one NMWF membership

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GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 1996 at 7:00 P.M.

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

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

**** ** * OCTOBER 10 PROGRAM * ** ****

The Noxious Weed Invasion of the West

Exotic pest plants (noxious weeds) are a serious problem in the United States, causing billions of dollars in damage annually to agricultural, recreational and tourist industries. This video and slide program is designed to educate people about the problem, the impact of weeds, where the weeds came from and what can be done to help control the problem. Andy Iskra of the BLM (also one of your AWF Board members) will present the program.

Team Up for Wildlife Project: Dia del Rio Saturday, October 19th

Our volunteer project for October is the opportunity to participate with other public and private organizations to celebrate the Rio Grande. October 19 has been designated "Dia del Rio", an international event from the headwaters to the Gulf of Mexico to celebrate, preserve and restore the life of the Rio Grande basin. Please join us at Kit Carson Park between Tingley Beach and the Rio Grande zoo for Bosque cleanup from 9:00 AM to 10:30 AM and planting of trees, grass and flowers in the Bosque from 10:30 to 12:30. More information will be available at the May general meeting, call Richard Becker, 255-7156.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE: The president is on vacation.

TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE 1996 PROJECTS

We are nearly finished with our wildlife work projects for the year. The work of you dedicated volunteers is both meaningful and appreciated. It's a little early to think about New Years resolutions, but consider one to participate in at least one of these projects in 1997. We owe special thanks to Bill Zeedyk, our hard-working Wildlife Projects Coordinator, along with Terina Overmeir and Richard Becker, who did much of the coordination.

Whom to contact on the issues:

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

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

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

Affiliated With The National Wildlife Federation

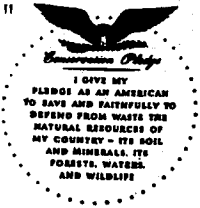
The Game Commission will meet on October 11

Place: State Capitol Building, Room 322, Santa Fe. **Time:** 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM **Topics:** 1997 big game regulations to comply with the non-resident quotas and guide/outfitter licensing regulations. Discussion of the potential sale of the Ft. Wingate bison herd. Management of the Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep and the desert bighorn sheep. Depredation Task Force recommendations. For additional information, see Cecil Haas at the General Meeting or call him at 271-2103.

Depredation Task Force Actions

The depredation task force was formed at the request of the Director of NMG&F. It is made up of members of the BLM, G&F, NM Cattlegrowers, sportsmen, landowners, USFS, and environmentalists. With that diverse group, some would believe that we were lucky to avoid bloodshed. Over the last year, the depredation task force has been working on the problems associated with damage to private property by wildlife. Our increasing elk herd is the biggest problem, and there are localized problems from antelope, deer, and oryx. The recent drought has exacerbated the problems by forcing the animals to congregate near remaining water sources, which are often on private land. We have formed, and are continuing to form, local committees to deal with specific, local problems. We have drafted some recommendations to be presented at the Game Commission meeting. Some of these, if adopted, will result in reducing the animal populations in some areas, and an overhaul of the depredation regulations. We think we have come up with some reasonable compromises. If you can't make it to the Commission meeting, I'll be happy to discuss it at the meeting, or call me at 271-2103. Cecil Haas.

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GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, November 14, 1996

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 14 PROGRAM * ** ****

STATUS OF NORTH AMERICAN WATERFOWL

Jeff Haskins, a waterfowl ecologist with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will talk about the numbers of various types of waterfowl in North America and about waterfowl hunting season prospects. He will show a video with all the graphs and figures, and will answer questions.

PROSPECTS FOR BIGHORN SHEEP REINTRODUCTION IN SANDIA MOUNTAINS

Beverly deGruyter, a Forest Service wildlife biologist, and two other experts will discuss possibilities for the reintroduction of bighorn sheep into the Sandia Mountains. There is disagreement concerning the appropriateness of such a reintroduction.

The NM Game and Fish Department recently approved a long-range plan for management of bighorn sheep. The plan gives a low priority to re-establishing wild sheep in the Sandia Mountains. On the other hand, the Forest Service believes that with public support, it can adequately manage the habitat and recreational impacts to benefit the sheep.

A representative from the Game and Fish Department will be present to provide the department's viewpoint, and a representative from the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep will present the foundation's views. The foundation considers transplanting bighorn sheep to the Sandias to be a high priority.

Beverly says it is time for the public to become involved and indicate the level of its support for reintroducing bighorns to the Sandias.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are about at the end of 1996, and the AWF annual meeting and elections will soon be held (12 December). The nominating committee (Richard Becker, Terina Overmeir, and me) is calling members asking them to serve as an officer or on the board in 1997. I hope each of you will consider serving.

We have made some progress at getting new blood into running the Federation, but we need others to help. It is an opportunity to influence the direction of the organization, and also to be in regular contact with some very capable and knowledgeable people, some who serve on the board, and others who are with agencies such as the Forest Service, BLM, and NM Game and Fish. The work is minimal, and the opportunity to learn is great.

We have had a mixed year. The Grazing bill has been withdrawn from the US House of Representatives due to a lack of votes for passage. This is good, but we need to be watchful, lest it return.

At the state level we had some unfortunate bills that will hurt NM Game and Fish funding, and will discourage out-of-state hunters. One of these was "signed by mistake" by the governor.

We were disappointed with the failure of the Game Commission to support the plan to support the Nature Conservancy and Rocky Mountain Elk plan to acquire the 450 acre GOS ranch and leasing rights to 35,000 acres of federal land, but happily Conservancy has now purchased the 40 acres that controls the 35,000 acres of grazing land.

The work projects went well, thanks to Bill Zeedyk, Richard Becker, Terina Overmeir plus our many agency friends. A few of the projects were short of help this year. Part of this seems to be coincidental, due to many people being out of the state at the same time.

We have had another year of entertaining and informative programs, and I would like to thank my wife, Joyce, for doing most of the work to arrange the speakers and write the news letter.

Cliff Mendel, President

LET THE SUN SHINE IN

A "Patenting Disclosure Petition" was filed with BLM by 12 organizations this past May under the 1872 Mining Law. This action, of which the AWF was unaware, would make public all information that is used to establish the validity and eligibility of mining claims for patenting. Currently, such critical data as the size and value of mineral reserves, methods of extracting, processing, transportation, costs and methods of reclamation are all kept secret from the public---the landowners. If the petition is granted a proposed rule will be published followed by a final rule. Although AWF would liked to have taken part in supporting the petition had we known, it appears that the action stands a good chance of being accepted.

Jim Hubert, Legislative Chairman

DEPREDAATION TASK FORCE ACTIONS

Last year Jerry Maracchini, director of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, formed a Depredation Task Force at the state level to deal with the problems created when too many elk, deer, and antelope congregate in certain areas.

The task force is made up of landowners, sportsmen, representatives of the Game and Fish Department, and representatives of the agencies that manage public lands. The New Mexico and Albuquerque Wildlife Federations were represented by Ed Machin, Bob Nordstrom, and Cecil Haas.

The task force has been busy identifying the problems, achieving consensus between the diverse interests, identifying potential solutions, and determining what impediments there are to implementing those solutions. Implementation of some solutions may require only policy changes in a government agency, some may require regulatory changes by the Game Commission, and some may require legislative changes.

Local task forces are now being started to work on specific problems. The first one formed was in Catron County, where elk are doing damage to private property. A task force

has just formed in Mayhill, where there are both elk and deer problems. Cecil Haas is a member of that group.

Both local and state task forces will be making recommendations at upcoming Game Commission meetings and to the State Legislature through the Game and Fish Department. If you want more information on these activities, or if you would like to become involved in them, see Cecil at the meeting or call him at 271-2103.

LESSER PRAIRIE CHICKEN IN DECLINE

Last year an application to list the Lesser Prairie Chicken as "threatened" was submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Overall, the species is in great decline, especially in New Mexico.

After the moratorium on listing additional species as endangered or threatened was lifted, the application was sent to the Fish and Wildlife Service's Oklahoma office. A meeting was held in August with representatives from the wildlife departments of the five states concerned--Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas and Oklahoma. Other agencies and individuals were included.

Five committees were set up with members from each of the five states. These

committees will aim at outreach, land status, original range and present locations, habitat and habitat needs, etc. The Lesser Prairie Chicken Interstate Working Group (LPCIWG!) needs your help, if you feel that you have the time.

There also is a move to establish a "Non-governmental Organization" for solving the problems of the prairie birds and prairie wildlife. The agencies are in a money crunch and cannot take on additional projects. The Lesser Prairie Chicken is not the only prairie species in threatened or endangered status.

For more information contact Barry Hale with the NM Department of Game and Fish, 827-9908.

By Lois Herrmann

[Editor's note: Lois Herrmann, one of our Santa Fe members, is a member of the Lesser Prairie Chicken Interstate Working Group from New Mexico. Her committee is mapping the bird's range and studying its life history. An avid birder, Lois says she was asked to serve on the committee because she was interested in the prairie chicken and started inquiring about the species.]

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

Name _____

Address _____

city, state, zip _____

phone _____ date _____

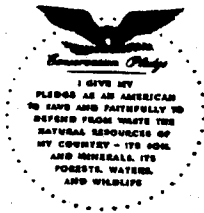
family membership* (\$25) _____

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ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION ANNUAL MEETING and HOLIDAY POTLUCK

Thursday, December 12, 7:00 P.M. 1996

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)

The AWF annual meeting is held every December to elect officers and board members for the next year, and to make any changes to the bylaws. For many years we have combined this meeting with a party and pot-luck dinner. Cecil Haas is going to bring a couple of wild game dishes. We hope you will attend. Bring a dish if you can, but there is always plenty of food, so if it is inconvenient to bring a dish, don't. We hope you will come regardless.

Team Up With Wildlife project director Bill Zeedyk has again invited many of our friends from the agencies to be our guests. We appreciate their dedication to our wildlife and the projects they arrange for AWF.

There have been no proposed bylaw changes this year. The nomination committee (Richard Becker, chair, Terina Overmeir, Cliff Mendel) has assembled the following candidates:

president: none

vice president: none

treasurer: Terina Overmeir

secretary: Cecil Haas

board if directors: Richard Becker
Jim Hubert

Fred Breslin
Carl Peterson

Andy Gredell
Bill Zeedyk

Andy Iskra

The bylaws require us to elect no fewer than four, and no more than eight directors. However, the president can appoint directors (with the concurrence of the sitting board) to bring the total to twelve directors.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

The year has passed quickly, and less has been done than I had hoped. I began the year expecting to retire this month, but soon found out that I was better off retiring in April. That might seem like it would mean more time available for AWF, but if you are retired you know that isn't the way it is.

Nevertheless, AWF did accomplish a great deal. Thanks to Bill Zeedyk, with much help from Richard Becker and Terina Overmeir and our friends in BLM and USFS, we had a

very successful Team Up With Wildlife (work project) schedule once again.

The programs at the general meeting were excellent thanks to my wife Joyce, who arranged most of them, and to the many fine and knowledgeable speakers who were so generous with their time. I do not know of another organization in this state that has had such an extended record of good programs on wildlife and wildlife issues.

We had a mixed year on the legislative scene, but the BIG ONE, the infamous grazing bill of Senator Domenici, has gone our way thus

far. He has indicated that he may try again, so we must not let down our guard.

As you all can see from the report from the nominating committee, we do not have candidates for president or vice-president. If we can get a candidate for president we probably will then be able to find a candidate for vice-president. We do have several new people who have agreed to run for the board of directors. This is encouraging for the future.

The lack of a candidate for president is very serious. The state Federation (NMWF) had the same situation this year. Bill Reed, who has served NMWF in one capacity or another for many years and who was president for the previous two, was president by default. Since he had a job that kept him in northern NM for most of the year, NMWF suffered. We must not let AWF deteriorate for want of leadership. AWF was begun in 1914 by Aldo Leopold, among others. It has changed over the years, as any viable organization must, but has remained active. I am confident we will get through 1997 with our vigor undiminished. However, I hope that others of you will join the new candidates for the board, and help mold AWF's future.

Thanks to all of you who have attended our meetings and helped on the Team Up With Wildlife projects. If you have suggestions on either, we would like to hear them.

Please join us at the annual meeting. We always have a good time, and even if you cannot run for a position, please help elect our new officers and board.

Cliff Mendel, president

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BANDELIER PARK GOES AFTER SANTA FE FOREST LAND

Bandelier National Park is trying to get over 16,000 acres of Santa Fe National Forest land. This land is west of the main body of the park, and is over-populated with elk. If the park is successful the over-population problem will get worse, since hunting is not allowed in the park. Rumor has it that federal legislation will be proposed by one of New Mexico's congressmen. There has been surprisingly little about this proposal in the news, although the effort has been underway for some time. We will look into this further, and keep you informed.

LIBBY HAAS TO EXPAND DATABASE

The AWF database presently includes the names, addresses, phone numbers, the type of membership, expiration date, board of director membership, and not much else. The software does not allow more. Libby Haas has agreed to take over the database from Cliff Mendel, who has run it for about eight years. Using new software she will expand the database to hold more fields. We hope to include data about member interests, length of membership, recent work project attendance (to find help on projects when needed), interests, and other data useful to running the club.