

AWF

*Organized in 1914 to protect
and perpetuate our wildlife
and natural resources.*

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

**GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, JANUARY 8, 1998
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 8 PROGRAM * ** ** ***

NATIVE TROUT IN NEW MEXICO

Mike Norte, president of New Mexico Trout and of the Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited, will tell about the various kinds of trout in New Mexico and about efforts to restore the state's native populations of Gila and Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout.

He'll tell about New Mexico Trout's "native trout restoration program," and also about the particular issues surrounding recovery of the endangered Gila Trout. After nearly a quarter of a century on the endangered species list, the Gila Trout remains at risk. Mike will tell us what changes he believes need to be made to recover Gila Trout populations.

The Gila Trout's closest relative, the Apache Trout, can exceed 20 inches in length and several pounds in weight in proper habitat. Flyfishers can attest to its sporting quality. The Gila Trout is believed to have the potential for similar growth in good habitat.

Associated With The National Wildlife Federation

PUBLIC LANDS ISSUES

A search of the internet site "Thomas" (which covers legislation) for the word "grazing" yielded 33 hits, half of which directly concerned grazing on our public lands. Several referred to bills seeking the transfer of Federal lands to conservancy districts or Indian tribes. The most disturbing was the Smith bill and attendant amendments, which passed the house at the end of October, and has gone on to a Senate committee. It is similar to the Craig Senate bill. These bills are not very different from the Domenici bill which we helped defeat a little over a year ago. They would continue to allow grazing for fees well below market value and well below the cost to the government. More importantly, land administrators like BLM and USFS would lose much of the control to the people who are using the resource, and we would lose much of our ability to influence the use of our public property. This is as senseless as allowing drivers to decide on whether they are obeying traffic laws, or taxpayers to audit their own returns.

The loss of legitimate recompense for the use of the land is unfortunate, but the continued devastation of rangelands and riparian areas by foolish grazing practice is tragic. Loss of habitat due to poor rangeland and farmland practice has contributed to the continuing drop in New Mexico deer population, the major loss in songbird populations over the last two decades, and the loss of fish due to reduction in streamside trees and brush.

We do not yet know the schedule for Senate action. However, you could contact our senators and ask them to work for the defeat of these bills (the Smith bill, HR-2493 and the Craig bill S-1254). Our senator's addresses are:

Senator Pete Domenici
U. S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Jeff Bingaman
U. S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

YELLOWSTONE WOLF REINTRODUCTION HITS A SNAG

The National Wildlife Federation and Defenders of Wildlife have appealed a federal judge's Dec. 12 decision ordering removal of more than 150 reintroduced gray wolves and their offspring now inhabiting Yellowstone National Park and Central Idaho.

At issue is designation of wolves in the area as "experimental populations" of the endangered species, intended as a concession to the livestock industry. The "experimental" designation gives federal managers more flexibility to deal with problems caused by reintroduced wild species. Because of the designation, wolves that prey on livestock can be harassed, relocated or killed.

The experimental designation was challenged by the farm bureaus of Wyoming, Montana and Idaho, which sued as a way of stopping the wolves' return to the wild, and by some environmentalists who want more protection for native wolves. Judge Downe said the designation was illegal because it reduced protection of native wolves that wander into wolf release areas from Montana and Canada.

The Albuquerque Wildlife Federation has been a long-time advocate of wolf reintroduction with the experimental designation. It was advanced as a way of addressing local concerns, reducing opposition and getting the reintroduction underway. The approach has been promoted by NWF and others as a way to bring ranchers and conservationists together to resolve potential conflicts between land use and wildlife protection.

If the judge's order stands, it may result in a government slaughter of the reintroduced wolves, since recapturing the packs would be almost impossible. The decision also raises concern about other efforts to recover endangered species across the country, including what is now the preferred option for restoring grizzly bears to the Bitterroot Wilderness in western Montana and Idaho.

Write to the Farm Bureau: The American Farm Bureau Federation is the primary plaintiff in the lawsuit that produced this devastating decision. Though the winning argument was that the flexible reintroduction

plan had --by designating wolves a "non-essential, experimental population"--improperly reduced protection for native animals, the Farm Bureau's real intent is to derail reintroduction of any kind. Write to their president and tell him your views. Please send a copy of your letter to President Clinton. Be sure to include your name and address for identification.

Dean R. Kleckner, President
American Farm Bureau Federation
225 Touhy Ave.
Park Ridge, IL 60068

or send an e-mail addressed to Mr. Kleckner, care of Joseph S. Fields, Director of Public Relations, joef@fb.com . To send email to President Clinton separately, his email address is president@whitehouse.gov

If you would like to receive more information about the wolf recovery effort, please write:

The National Wildlife Federation
Rocky Mountain Natural Resource Center
2260 Baseline Road, Suite 100
Boulder, CO 80302

or go to their website
<http://www.nwf.org/action/>

PROPOSED PURCHASE OF BACA LOCATION #1

Senator Jeff Bingaman is working on legislation requiring the Federal government to purchase Baca location #1. This beautiful tract of land, often called Valle Grande, since it consists mostly of the huge Valle Grande caldera in the Jemez mountains west of Santa Fe, is prime elk habitat, has many fine trout streams, and is an excellent area for cross country skiing. Because the owners have been careful land stewards, the area is in excellent shape, and is the home of an enormous amount of wildlife.

AWF recently sent letters to our congressmen to encourage them to support this purchase for inclusion in Santa Fe National Forest. You may have seen the letter by retired heads of Game and Fish, Harold Olson (who is

also an AWF member), Bill Montoya, and Bill Huey supporting the purchase and the inclusion of the land into the National Forest system.

Hopefully the government will not repeat the shortsightedness that allowed purchase of the Vermejo property to slip through their hands two decades ago. This would be an excellent time to contact your congressmen, and give them your opinion on the purchase.

1998 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

At the annual meeting in December the members in attendance elected the following officers and directors:

president:	Clifford Mendel
vice-president:	Richard Becker
treasurer:	Terina Overmier
secretary:	Cecil Haas
directors:	Bill Zeedyk
	Dennis Muirhead
	Larry Ruggles
	Vallie Weingarten
	Andy Iskra
	Joyce Mendel
	Dale Hall

AWF in 1998

The date of the January board of directors meeting has not been set because some board members have not returned from their holiday at the time the newsletter was written. However, there will be a meeting before the month is out, and at that meeting we will make decisions that affect the AWF 1998 schedule.

During 1998 I intend to continue our schedule of monthly meetings and our Team Up with Wildlife projects, and hope to expand our efforts on legislative and executive actions affecting our wildlife and wildlands, our access to the enjoyment of them, and our right to influence the administration of our public lands.

If you have any opinions on what AWF should do in 1998, tell any board member or officer, or come to the board meeting. If you want to come to the board meeting, call me 265-3840) and I will see that you know when and where the meeting will be held.

Cliff Mendel, President



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

GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1998

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 12 PROGRAM * ** ****

THE VALLES CALDERA (BACA RANCH) LAND ACQUISITION

The beautiful 95,000-acre area in the Jemez mountains, known alternatively as Valles Caldera, the Baca Ranch, the Baca Location No.1, and Valle Grande, will be the focus of our program. Senator Jeff Bingaman has introduced a bill in Congress for its purchase.

Denise McCaig, Forest Service coordinator for federal acquisition of the Valles Caldera, will present a slide program about the area and tell about the status of efforts for acquiring it. She also will have copies available of the proposed legislation.

The rolling meadows on the property are laced with 27 miles of streams and surrounded by ridges and hills of aspen and ponderosa pine. It is bordered by the Santa Fe National Forest and has an elk herd estimated at 7,500. The Valle Grande, which can be seen from N.M.4, is only the largest of seven valleys within the volcanic caldera.

Bingaman's bill authorizes purchase of the land and placement of most of it under Forest Service management. A portion within the watershed of the Bandelier National Monument would be transferred to the monument.

Owners of the land have given the federal government the first chance at buying it, but it must be done within the next one-and-a-half years.

FEBRUARY TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE PROJECT

Our first Team up with Wildlife project to be scheduled this early in the year is scheduled to take place on Los Heurtas Creek near Placitas on Saturday, 28th February. See the article on page 3 for details, and for the 1998 schedule of projects..

Associated With The National Wildlife Federation

ENDANGERED SPECIES LEGISLATION

A bill to reauthorize the federal Endangered Species Act, S.1180, has been introduced in the U.S. Senate. It has already been approved by a Senate committee, but has several provisions which would seriously weaken the Act.

One of the most serious is that it would codify the administration's "No Surprises" policy with regard to Habitat Conservation Plans, without providing necessary safeguards. It allows private landowners to lock in long-term land management plans, some for as long as 100 years, that exempt them from further conservation obligations for endangered species.

Safeguards need to be included in the bill to allow flexibility to adjust Habitat Conservation Plans in order to address unforeseen species declines.

A second weakness of the bill is that it lacks a secure, reliable dedicated funding source to pay for incentive programs featured in the proposed act. The incentives are designed to get private landowners and states more engaged in species conservation. As written, the bill relies on hard-to-get federal funding to pay for the programs.

Other problems with the bill are that it includes legal loop-holes which eliminate agency accountability in recovering species and it sets up procedural roadblocks that would preclude effective implementation of the Endangered Species Act.

This bill needs to be amended!

Send your opinions on S. 1180 to
President Clinton and Vice-president Gore:

President William J. Clinton
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20240
phone: (202) 456-1414
email: president@whitehouse.gov

The Honorable Al Gore
The Whitehouse
Washington, DC 20500

PROPOSED PUBLIC LANDS LEGISLATION

H.R. 2493, the so-called "Forage Improvement Act," is sponsored by U.S. Rep. Bob Smith. This bill benefits those who use public lands for livestock grazing at the expense of the rest of the public.

It sets forth requirements for grazing on Federal lands that concern monitoring and inspection, subleasing, and grazing fees. It would:

1. reduce public involvement in decisions about grazing use on public lands;
2. hamstring land managers responsible for managing grazing on public lands in their ability to balance the needs of ranchers with grazing impacts on streams, fish and wildlife;
3. lock in low grazing fees that are below comparable state and private fees and do not come close to covering the cost of the program.

This bill already has been passed in the House of Representatives and has been sent on to the Senate.

S. 1254, the "Federal Lands Management Adjustment Act" is sponsored by Sen. Larry Craig. The bill would allow states and nonprofit organizations to manage federal lands that lie within state boundaries, and is intended to allow grazing, mining, and timbering interests more control over public lands. Professional managers from agencies like the National Forests and Bureau of Land Management would lose control of public lands, and organizations like AWF would lose the ability to influence decisions.

Write senators

Senator Pete Domenici
U. S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Jeff Bingaman
U. S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

COTTONWOOD POLE PLANTING PROJECT ON LOS HUERTAS CREEK

1998 TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE SCHEDULE

note: This project is tentative at publication time. If you plan to attend, be sure to call Richard Becker (255-7156) of Terina Overmeir (345-7666) for a project update.

The first Team Up with Wildlife project will be held near Placitas on Saturday, 28 February. Come join volunteers from Placitas and the New Mexico Riparian Council to help plant cottonwood poles along the Los Huertas Creek arroyo. Plantings will help to stabilize eroding streambanks on this tract of Albuquerque Open Space land.

The work will involve digging holes with hand operated power augers, and planting poles in the holes. We plan to plant up to 150 poles. Volunteers will have to walk about ½ mile from the parking area to the worksite.

Let's all meet at the Shopping Center one mile east of I-25 on the road to Placitas (highway 165) at 8:30 am. Bring lunches, drinks, and work gloves. Rubber boots are not necessary.

Please call Richard Becker (255-7156) or Terina Overmeir (345-7666) to sign up for the project.

Bill Zeedyk,
work project coordinator

SENATE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE VOTES FOR BACA MEMORIAL

Senator Dede Feldman has introduced a memorial requesting that New Mexico congressmen work to pass Senator Bingaman's bill that would require the Federal Government to purchase Baca Location 1 (Valle Grande) for inclusion in National Forest. Several individuals and groups (including AWF and NMWF) spoke in favor of the resolution at a committee meeting in Santa Fe. The committee approved the memorial.

February 28: Los Huertas Creek riparian restoration. Albuquerque Open Space. Near Placitas.

March 21: Rio Puerco Cottonwood and willow plantings. Rio Puerco Resource Area, BLM. Near Cuba.

April 25: Reilly Spring enclosure fence. Socorro Resource Area, BLM. Near Reilly.

May 16: Stream structures repair, and riparian plantings. Tajiue Creek, Cibola National Forest.

June 20: Rio Salado Nature Trail. Boardwalk, Rio Puerco Resource Area, BLM. Near San Ysidro.

July 24-26: Valle Vidal wet meadow restoration. Valle Vidal, Carson National Forest. Near Shuree.

August 14-16: Cisneros Park meadow restoration, Tres Piedras Ranger District. Carson National Forest. Camp at Hopewell Lake.

September 19: Elk Springs ACEC. Fence removal. Rio Puerco Resource Area, BLM Near Cuba.

October 17: Dia Del Rio Celebration. Bosque clean up. Albuquerque Open Space. Albuquerque.



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GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1998
7:00 P.M.

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

MARCH 12 PROGRAM

GILA TROUT RECOVERY

David Probst, leader of the recovery effort for New Mexico's endangered Gila trout, will present a slide program telling about the recovery program and its successes and failures. He also will discuss what needs to be done in the future, a subject of much controversy.

This program essentially is "Part 2" of the native trout program presented by Mike Norte in January. Probst will provide another point of view, and his answers to questions which the earlier program may have raised.

SOUTHWESTERN WILLOW FLYCATCHER AND OTHER STREAMSIDE BIRDS

Wildlife biologist Dr. Scott Stoleson will present a slide program about birds in streamside habitats and the importance of such areas for wildlife. He also will show slides from research he conducted of the endangered Southwestern willow flycatcher in the Gila River area..

TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE: RIO PUERCO, MARCH 21

see below

Associated With The National Wildlife Federation

TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE
RIO PUERCO COTTONWOOD AND
WILLOW PLANTING

1998 OFFICERS AND BOARD OF
DIRECTORS

The AWF team up for wildlife project will be on Saturday, March 21. The purpose of the project will be to plant cottonwood trees along a reach of the Rio Puerco adjacent to NM Highway 44 south of Cuba. This will continue the riparian planting project started last year.

Please plan to meet at 8:00 am at the BLM offices at 435 Montano NE. BLM will provide transportation or you may follow along in your own rig. Bring gloves, work boots, hat, lunch, drinks, etc. BLM will furnish the tools.

We need eight or ten people for a good project. Please call Richard Becker (255-7156) or Terina Overmier (345-7666) to sign up.

president
Cliff Mendel
265-3840
vice-president
Richard Becker
255-7156

treasurer
Terina Overmier
345-7666
secretary
Cecil Haas
271-2103

board of directors
Bill Zeedyk
281-9066
Vallie Weingarten
255-8844

Joyce Mendel
265-3840
Larry Ruggles
281-2141

Andy Iskra
294-7516
Dennis Muirhead
281-2925

Dale Hall
Jim Hubert
286-2122

NMWF 1998 ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the New Mexico Wildlife Federation will be held on March 14th at K-Bob's in Albuquerque. The meeting will begin at 10:00 am. All NMWF members may attend and vote for next year's state officers.

**PROGRAM FOR THE
APRIL GENERAL MEETING**

On April 9, AWF board member Bill Zeedyk will present slides giving an update of his work to restore wetlands in Mexico. He will be there for several weeks this month. Besides co-ordinating Team Up with Wildlife projects for AWF, Bill is president of the N.M. Riparian Council and a wetlands consultant.

Also, Carson Forest District Ranger Ron Thibedeau will tell us about plans for the buffalo at Valle Vidal.

**1998 TEAM UP WITH
WILDLIFE SCHEDULE**

March 21: Rio Puerco cottonwood and willow plantings. Rio Puerco Resource Area, BLM. Near Cuba.

April 25: Reilly Spring enclosure fence. Socorro Resource Area, BLM. Near Reilly.

May 16: Stream structures repair, and riparian plantings. Tajique Creek, Cibola National Forest.

June 20: Rio Salado Nature Trail. Boardwalk, Rio Puerco Resource Area, BLM. Near San Ysidro.

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October 17: Dia Del Rio Celebration. Bosque clean up. Albuquerque Open Space. Albuquerque.

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, APRIL 9, 1998
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**** ** * APRIL 9 PROGRAM * ** ** ***

VALLE VIDAL BUFFALO HERD

District Ranger Ron Thibedeau, from the Carson National Forest, will talk about problems with the free roaming buffalo on the Valle Vidal Unit and long-range planning for their management.

You, our members have worked on habitat improvement projects at the Valle Vidal for the past 16 summers. The AWF board of directors believes that you should have a voice in what happens to the Valle Vidal buffalo herd. Come, ask about future plans, and voice your opinions and concerns.

WETLAND RESTORATION

Bill Zeedyk, AWF board member and president of the New Mexico Riparian Council, will present slides giving an update of his work to restore wetlands in an area of Mexico. He will talk about wetland restoration practices being taught to poor farming families along the Rio Laja, in the Mexican state of Guanajuato, about 100 miles north of Mexico City. The project is designed to show the people how to help themselves and bring flowing streams back from dry tributary stream beds.

People in the area are badly in need of water, as are the plants and wildlife. Because of the limited water supply, the area has the highest infant death rate in Mexico. The work is sponsored through a partnership between environmental and humanitarian organizations.

Bill is the AWF Team Up for Wildlife coordinator, and has arranged many wetlands restoration projects for us to work on here in New Mexico.

**TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE: REILLY SPRING ENCLOSURE FENCE
Socorro Resource Area, BLM**

April 25
see page 2

Associated With The National Wildlife Federation

AWF PLANNING MEETING
Saturday, 11 April, 1998 1:30 to 4:30 pm
Norwest Bank Conference Room*
Tijeras, NM

We want all of your ideas about AWF. Where we should be going, what we should be doing, how we should be doing it. All AWF members may attend. The more ideas and opinions, the better. Most of the board of directors should be in attendance.

The board of directors believes it is time for AWF to discuss its future. We need new ideas on what our activities should be, how the organization should be run, where we should find new members, etc. We would like to see more members involved in AWF, as officers or board members, in running projects and meetings, and in pushing for agency and legislative action. We would like you to help make these decisions.

* To get to the bank, leave I-40 at the Tijeras exit, and go south to the stop sign at old route 66. Turn right, and then right again into the bank parking lot.

**APRIL TEAM UP WITH
WILDLIFE PROJECT**

The April Team Up with Wildlife project will involve building a half mile exclosure fence around Reilly Spring. This project is in the Socorro Resource area of the BLM. The corner posts for the fence will be set before we get there, so we will stretch barbed wire and put up the rest of the posts. After the exclosure is built, BLM personnel will remove salt cedar and plant cottonwood and willow poles.

Bring heavy gloves, and heavy pliers (fencing pliers if you have them). Also bring a lunch, water, sunscreen, etc. Rendezvous at 8:30 am at the RV park on the west side of I-25 where it intersects route 60 at Bernardo.

You can sign up for the project at the general meeting, or by calling Bill Zeedyk (721-9066), Terina Overmeir (345-7666), Richard Becker (255-7156), or Larry Ruggles (281-2141).

**GOOD TURN-OUT FOR
MARCH PROJECT**

The March project went very well. We planted about 200 willow and cottonwood poles along the Rio Puerco south of Cuba. The project was done under the Rio Puerco Resource Area of BLM. Andy Iskra of BLM and AWF directed the project. Terina Overmeir and Larry Ruggles of AWF oversaw AWF participation. Others working on the project were Kathy Walter of BLM, Thomas Gow from the Socorro office of BLM, Gwen Ray, Linda Klingman, Larry Miller, Alan Overmeir, Laura Jenkins, Joyce Mendel, and Cliff Mendel.

This project extended work we have done in previous years, and the work of BLM and of other volunteer organization. An elk exclosure will be built to protect the young trees.

**SPECIAL BIG GAME
REGULATION MEETING**

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish has scheduled a series of public meetings to obtain viewpoints about hunting regulations for the 1999-2001 big game seasons. The State Game Commission will set big game regulations for the two-year period in August.

The Albuquerque meeting is scheduled for April 28, 7-9 p.m., at the Department of Game and Fish office, 3841 Midway Place. Department officials will discuss with individuals or small groups the changes they would like to see regarding harvest objectives and hunting seasons. (Directions to Game and Fish office: North on Jefferson off I-25 to Singer. Then head west on Singer to Office. Go north on Office to the intersection of Office and Midway Place.)

STATE GAME COMMISSION MEETINGS

The next meeting of the State Game Commission will be April 24, 1-5 p.m., and April 25, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., in Socorro. The April 24 agenda includes: Landowner Services presentation, bighorn sheep management presentation, Ft. Wingate bison briefing, elk survey techniques, and pronghorn management. April 25 is set aside for Game Commission orientation and training. The department will

give a review of Statutory Mandates and Regulations, as well as review their Operational Procedures Manual for the Commissioners. Public comment will not be taken on this day.

In May, the Commission meets in Santa Fe on May 20. Other scheduled meetings are: June 18, July 25, Aug. 20-21, Sept. 24, Oct. 29, Nov. 19, Jan. 6.

**ANNUAL EARTH DAY
MARCH FOR PARKS
SATURDAY, APRIL 25**

An Earth Day "March for Parks," a walk event to raise money to improve Rio Grande Valley State Park, will be held April 25. The March begins at Rio Bravo and the river (enter on Poco Loco). Marchers can start any time between 9 a.m. and noon. Free refreshments and entertainment will be provided. Local sponsors include Albuquerque Open Space Division, New Mexico State Parks and Recreation, and Rio Grande Nature Center.

If you would like to participate, call Ondrea Linderoth at 873-6620 or Rebecca Tydings at 344-7240.

SMITH GRAZING BILL IN THE SENATE

House bill 2493 by Rep. Bob Smith of Oregon, passed the House of Representatives in October of 1997. It will now go to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, headed by Sen. Larry Craig of Idaho.

This legislation has a number of bad features. It would eliminate public opportunity to monitor grazing use, and reduce the public's role in development of conservation plans for public lands grazing. It reduces federal agency jurisdiction over decision making on public lands, and locks in grazing as a primary use.

There would be a minor increase in grazing fees, but the actual value will still be well below what is reasonable in comparison to other grazing lands. The AWF board has taken the position that the amount of the grazing fee is much less important than range condition issues, riparian protection, and our rights to influence decisions on our public lands.

Committee Chairman Craig is sympathetic to grazing interests, and in addition several western Senators are expected to change

the bill to make it even less acceptable. The outcome of a vote on the Senate floor would probably depend greatly on the public response to the bill, particularly in this election year.

We encourage you to write to Senators Jeff Bingaman and Pete Domenici at:

The Honorable -----
U. S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

or call the Capitol switchboard at 202-224-3121, and ask for their offices.

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WILDLIFE SCHEDULE**

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treasurer: Terina Overmeir 345-7666

secretary: Cecil Haas 271-2103

board of directors:

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Jim Hubert 286-2122

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**** ** * MAY 14 PROGRAM * ** ** ***

RIO GRANDE NATURE CENTER STATE PARK

Betty Smith of the Rio Grande Nature Center will talk about birds likely to be seen at the Center in May and June. She also will provide an overview of the Center activities, including a new farm program. The popular Nature Center has been expanding and diversifying over the years, adding many new features.

FISHING IN NEW MEXICO

Brad Ryan of the New Mexico Game and Fish Department will present a program on fishing in New Mexico, with emphasis on areas near Albuquerque.

AWF PLANNING MEETING PART 2
Monday, 18 May, 6:00 to 9:00 pm
BLM Conference Room*

provided or you may drive. We will be at Tajiue Creek at about 9:30. Please help on this important project if you can. Call Bill Zeedyk for more info.

We will continue the planning meeting begun in April. At that meeting we decided on what we believed AWF problems were. The prioritized list the group settled upon were:

1. AWF does not have a public identity that reflects our mission.
2. We do not have a clear mission statement.
3. AWF is not telling other people about AWF's activities, goals and positions.
4. Rank and file members do not become involved and move into leadership within AWF.
5. AWF has not taken public positions on important issues.
6. We have no clear process for selecting, prioritizing and acting on issues.
7. We do not attract new and younger members in sufficient numbers to meet our goals.
8. Membership is lost due to a lack of socially inclusive activities.

We will now begin to think about solving these problems. All members are invited to participate. Bring pizza of something else you would like to eat if you wish. We are beginning early to have sufficient time. *We need your help to shape our organization!*

* 435 Mantano Rd. NE. North side of Mantano about half way from I-25 to Edith.

TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE PROJECT: TAJIQUE CREEK, CIBOLA NATIONAL FOREST May 16

AWF, along with the Riparian Council and Friends of the Forest, will perform stream structures repair, rock placement for erosion control and riparian plantings. We will also thin junipers from along the streamside. For those who will work on stream structures repair, please bring rubber boots and/or a change of clothes. Tajiue Creek is on the road to Fourth of July Canyon, or meet at the Tijeras Ranger Station at 8:30 AM. Transportation will be

GAME COMMISSION NOTES

The New Mexico Game Commission met in Socorro on April 24. There were three items on the agenda of particular interest to the AWF.

The G&F Department briefed the Commission on the Bighorn Sheep Management Plan. It seems to be a reasonable approach, although it was disappointing how little public involvement there had been.

Also about Bighorn, the Picuris Pueblo wants the Department to give them four bighorn permits in the Pecos. Only eight permits are currently issued. This is a dangerous precedent! No special interest group should get priority over anyone else. This is a very scarce resource. None of the sheep's range is on their land. Call the Commissioners and let your thoughts be known. By the way, the Picuris Pueblo entered into the lawsuit to stop the Ft Wingate bison hunt. No action was taken on this agenda item, but it will be considered at a later meeting.

The Department briefed the Commission on the status of the Ft. Wingate bison herd. Ft. Wingate will be transferred to the Zuni and Navaho tribes soon. The Commission is considering the options for what to do with the bison. Since there appears to be no suitable area for relocation, it appears likely we will lose our only public bison herd in NM.

1998 TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE SCHEDULE

- June 20:** Rio Salado Nature Trail. Boardwalk, Rio Puerco Resource Area, BLM. Near San Ysidro.
- July 24-26:** Valle Vidal wet meadow restoration, Carson National Forest. Near Shuree.
- August 14-16:** Cisneros Park meadow restoration, Tres Piedras Ranger District. Carson National Forest. Camp at Hopewell Lake.
- September 19:** Elk Springs ACEC. Fence removal. Rio Puerco Resource Area, BLM Near Cuba.
- October 17:** Dia Del Rio Celebration. Bosque clean up. Albuquerque Open Space.

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Larry Ruggles 281-2141
Vallie Weingarten 255-8844
Bill Zeedyk 281-9066

TOO MANY ELK!?

When I came to NM in 1973, the thought of having too many elk would have been as much a viable concept as having too much money. We now have so many elk in some areas that they are causing problems. We have more elk in NM now than at any time in over a hundred years. We have worked hard with the G&F Department to help solve some of the problems without damage to the herd. We have more elk licenses and a higher hunter success

than at any time in anyone's memory. When it comes to elk hunting, these are the good ol' days.

Not so with deer. Our deer population is at a historic low. Habitat loss, drought, and predation have taken their toll. Hunter harvest is about 20% of what it once was. Is the mule deer on its way to being threatened or endangered? It is premature to predict that, but it's not too early to worry.

NM STATE GAME COMMISSION

The Game Commission is a body appointed by the Governor to oversee the G&F Department and to regulate hunting and fishing. Commission meetings occur about every other month. The public is welcome. It's the best show in town, and it's free. The next one is on May 20. Contact Cecil Haas for time and place. The Commission does respond to public input. Current members of the Commission are:

Bill Brininstool (Chairman), Jal, 395-2010
Gail Cramer, Farmington, 327-6778
Steven Doerr, Portales, 356-6700
Bud Hettinga, Las Cruces, 524-3551
George Ortega, Santa Fe, 471-6044
Steve Padilla, Albuquerque, 298-0901
Bill Schuler, Albuquerque, 292-1851

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) _____

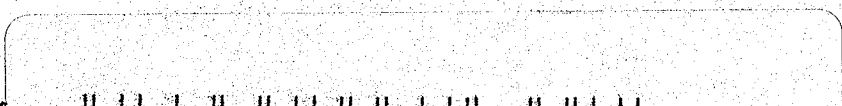
single membership* (\$20) _____

* includes one NMWF membership

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



98 6 F L
David Weingarten
12413 Placid NE
Albuquerque NM 87112



AWF

Organized in 1914 to protect
and perpetuate our wildlife
and natural resources.

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

GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 1998 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 11 PROGRAM * ** ****

HOW TO CATCH A BASS

Bass pro Billy Graves, who has 28 years of competitive bass fishing experience, will be our main speaker for the evening. He will tell where to fish for bass in New Mexico and what equipment and techniques to use. He'll also bring along some of his lures, reels and rods to show you. Graves currently is fishing the Bass Masters Western Invitational Circuit and the Sun Country Bass Association Circuit.

BLM DISPOSABLE LANDS

Debby Lucero, a Bureau of Land Management realty specialist with a background in environmental science, will start the program off with a short talk about lands identified by BLM for disposal. They are identified as such in the agency's Resource Management Plans, with public review.

She will explain why the lands are considered disposable and tell what the priorities are for disposing of the lands. She will also tell about laws which require the BLM to consider applications for disposal of land, such as the Recreation for Public Purpose Act.

AWF PLANNING MEETING PART 3 Monday, 22 June, 6:00 to 9:00 pm BLM Conference Room*

To recap: We met in April to define what we believed to be the problems facing AWF.

The prioritized list the group settled upon were:

1. AWF does not have a public identity that reflects our mission.
2. We do not have a clear mission statement.
3. AWF is not telling other people about AWF's activities, goals and positions.
4. Rank and file members do not become involved and move into leadership within AWF.
5. AWF has not taken public positions on important issues.
6. We have no clear process for selecting, prioritizing and acting on issues.
7. We do not attract new and younger members in sufficient numbers to meet our goals.
8. Membership is lost due to a lack of socially inclusive activities.

We met again on May 18 to start working on solutions to these problems. The first one we

addressed was the Mission Statement (problem number 2). The one we came up with is:
AWF is a participatory citizens' organization dedicated to influencing the enhancement and wise management of our wildlife resources and habitat for present and future generations; providing support for active participation of members in wildlife-related activities; increasing public understanding and appreciation of our wildlife and wild lands; supporting resource managers and cooperating with other citizen organizations; and providing a forum for addressing resource issues of concern to members. Is this the way you see the organization? Please give us your inputs and plan to come to the next meeting. All members are invited to participate. We are beginning early to have sufficient time. *We need your help to shape our organization!*

* 435 Mantano Rd. NE. North side of Mantano about half way from I-25 to Edith.

**TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE PROJECT:
Perea Nature Trail near San Ysidro
June 20**

AWF will construct a boardwalk across the marsh. All you carpenters, carpenter helpers and wannabes, please come out and lend a hand. We will meet at the BLM office at 435 Montano at 8:00 AM to carpool to the site, or meet us at the site at 9:00 AM. The site is where NM 44 crosses Rio Salado near San Ysidro. Bring boots, sunscreen, and bug repellent. Call Bill Zeedyk, Richard Becker, Terina Overmeir, or Larry Ruggles for more information.

**1998 TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE
SCHEDULE**

July 24-26: Valle Vidal wet meadow restoration, Carson National Forest. Near Shuree. This is the "fun" outing of the year in one of the most beautiful settings in New Mexico.

August 14-16: Cisneros Park meadow restoration, Tres Piedras Ranger District. Carson National Forest. Camp at Hopewell Lake.

September 19: Elk Springs ACEC. Fence removal. Rio Puerco Resource Area, BLM Near Cuba.

October 17: Dia Del Rio Celebration. Bosque clean up. Albuquerque Open Space.

**ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE
RANCHING:
IS IT POSSIBLE?**

Contrary to what has been portrayed as our position, the AWF is not against responsible ranching on public lands. The Quivera Coalition is sponsoring free workshops on restoring economic and environmental vitality to ranching in NM. The next one is in Roswell on July 25. There will be speakers from public land agencies, the ranching community, and NMSU. For more information call Courtney White at 982-5502.

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



98 12 F B L
Cliff & Joyce Mendel
5119 Sunningdale NE
Albuquerque NM 87110

AWF

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and natural resources.*

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

GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, JULY 9, 1998

7:00 P.M.

Bear Canyon Senior Center - 4645 Pitt NE

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

**** ** * JULY 9 PROGRAM * ** ****

JIM BAILEY: LESSER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN IN NEW MEXICO

Jim Bailey, assistant chief in the Game Department's Conservation Services Division, will show slides about the lesser prairie-chicken and talk about its status in New Mexico.

The lesser prairie-chicken was hunted in New Mexico until 1996, when the season was suspended until the population increases sufficiently. Bureau of Land Management surveys have shown a significant decline of the birds since 1990. This is believed to be primarily due to poor habitat conditions.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has concluded that federally listing the bird as threatened is "warranted but precluded." The New Mexico Game and Fish Department presently is investigating whether the lesser prairie-chicken should be placed on the state list as threatened or endangered. Bailey is overseeing the investigation.

The possibility of listing the bird has created controversy, with some of the state's ranchers voicing opposition.

DEPT. OF GAME & FISH RECOMMENDED CHANGES IN BIG GAME REGULATIONS

A representative from the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish will give an overview of changes in big game and furbearer hunting regulations to be recommended at the July 25 meeting of the State Game Commission. The recommendations will only be discussed at that meeting, and not voted on until the commission's Aug. 20-21 meetings.

Come with your questions, and find out how you can give your views to the department and commissioners.

TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE: RING MEADOW, VALLE VIDAL ANNUAL POTLUCK DINNER

JULY 24-26

see page 2

Associated With The National Wildlife Federation

RING MEADOW: VALLE VIDAL
Friday July 12th and Saturday the 13th.

We will continue to work on the creek in Ring Meadow above the region we worked on last year. This is one of the most effective projects we have done. Come see the results, and help extend them.

Entrance to the camping area at the lodge will be open beginning at noon on Friday, and you can stay there through noon on Monday.

AWF will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, and soft drinks for the annual potluck dinner on Saturday evening. Bring a side dish if you can, but do not feel obligated. There is always plenty to eat.

This is one of our most popular events. The area is gorgeous, stream and pond fishing is available, and elk, buffalo and other wild creatures are plentiful. We hope to see you there.

For more information, call Richard Becker, 255-7156, Cliff Mendel, 265-3840, or project coordinator Bill Zeedyk, 281-9066.

AWF PLANNING MEETING PART 4

Monday, July 13, following 6 p.m.

Board of Directors meeting.

BLM Conference Room, 435 Montano Rd. NE. (North side of Mantano about half way from I-25 to Edith). All members are invited.

**Planning Meeting Part 3
Summary**

AWF members met for a third planning session on June 22. Most of the session was spent working on a process for identifying, selecting, prioritizing, acting on, and tracking issues (problem #6). Committees were formed to work on the remaining six issues set forth at the first planning meeting in April. Those issues concern publicity, membership, and public positions. If you are interested in helping with this process, come to the next planning meeting, or let us know your opinions.

Thanks to Dale Hall for the excellent job he has done as facilitator of these meetings.

**LANDOWNER DENIES ACCESS
TO PUBLIC LANDS**

By Larry Dwyer

Within the Mt. Taylor Ranger District is an area known as the checkerboard. There are approximately 80 sections of National Forest land intermixed with private land in a checkerboard arrangement. The land was originally a grant to the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company in 1917, however, ownership has changed several times during the ensuing period. The previous owner was a large mining company that allowed complete access to public lands.

Since the present owner's purchase of the private sections within the checkerboard area there has been a systematic reduction of public access to public lands. Locked gates were placed on roads that have been used for public access for decades. Hunters and other users of National Forest lands have been denied access to many of the sections of public lands because the Forest Service failed to obtain rights-of-way from the previous owners. The latest fiasco occurred last August, just days before the opening of the fall hunting seasons. The L-Bar sued the Forest Service because the Forest Service didn't maintain the roads within the checkerboard. The Forest Service signed a settlement agreement that would grant the L-Bar sole access to the prime elk habitat until the roads were upgraded. The L-Bar has since brought action against the Forest Service to halt the upgrades to the road system which would keep the settlement agreement in effect for another hunting season.

The L-Bar sells landowner permits that start at \$3,500.00. L-Bar's actions to deny public access to public lands result in securing the best elk habitat for their hunters.

The L-Bar has hired some big names to achieve such victories over the Forest Service and the public it represents. Currently Frank Bond represents the L-Bar. You may remember Mr. Bond as Senator Domenici's campaign manager. Senator Domenici has used his office to apply pressure on the Forest Service to negotiate a land exchange with the L-Bar. As part of the settlement agreement, the Forest Service has agreed to enter into negotiations for a permanent land exchange. The proposed land exchange would effectively block access to the Marquez Wildlife Area. This has prompted the

Game and Fish Department to consider exchanging this prime real-estate for land that would be more easily managed. If this keeps up, only those who can afford a private landowner permit will have any chance to hunt in suitable elk habitat.

AWF members are encouraged to contact Liz Agpaoa, Cibola Forest Supervisor, to ensure that the public's interests are considered before any land exchange is negotiated.

BACA RANCH

In case you missed it, Albuquerque newspapers have reported that Republican Congressmen in the House and Senate recently voted not to fund the purchase of New Mexico's 95,000 acre Baca Ranch, which encompasses the Valles Grande, and the rest of an extinct volcano in the Jemez mountains. This area of rolling meadows and miles of streams is bordered by the Santa Fe National Forest and has an elk herd estimated at 7,500. The federal purchase was proposed by NM Senator Jeff Bingaman.

CALENDAR

July 9: AWF general meeting

July 13: AWF board meeting followed by planning meeting. Albuquerque BLM office, 435 Montano Rd. NE, 6 p.m. All members are invited.

July 24-26: Valle Vidal

July 25: State Game Commission meeting. Discussion of recommendations for big game and furbearer regulations.

July 25: Ecologically Sensitive Ranching Workshop, sponsored by the Quivira Coalition, Sallyport Inn, Roswell New Mexico, 8:30 am-4 pm. Free. For more information call Courtney White (505-982-5502), Barbara Johnson (505-466-4935), or Jim Winder (505-267-4227)

July 25: Organizational workshop for anyone interested in watershed groups, sponsored by the New Mexico Environmental Department Surface Water Quality Bureau and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Albuquerque Convention Center, starting at 9 am. Free. Contact Neal Schaeffer (505-827-2912) to register. Free lunch for those who register by July 15.

Saturday, Aug. 1 and Sat, Sept. 6: Four-hour tour of Ghost Ranch, west of Abiquiu, with Virgil Trujillo, sponsored by the Quivira Coalition. Learn about range ecology, cattle rotation, biodiversity, history, culture, etc. The group will assemble at 10 am at the Ghost Ranch headquarters, 60 miles northwest of Santa Fe. Take US 84 past Abiquiu and keep going toward Chama. The entrance to Ghost Ranch will be on your right, a few miles past the Abiquiu dam. Bring a lunch, water, hat, and sunscreen. For more information call Vigil Trujillo (505-685-4333) or Courtney White (505-982-5502).

August 13: AWF general meeting

August 14-16: Team up for Wildlife Project

1998 TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE SCHEDULE

July 24-26: Valle Vidal wet meadow restoration, Carson National Forest. Near Shuree.

August 14-16: Cisneros Park meadow restoration, Tres Piedras Ranger District. Carson National Forest. Camp at Hopewell Lake.

September 19: Elk Springs ACEC. Fence removal. Rio Puerco Resorce Area, BLM Near Cuba.

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Bill Zeedyk 281-9066

Thanks to Libby and Cecil Haas for getting the newsletters out in May and June.



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**GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 1998
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 13 PROGRAM * ** ***

**FOREST SERVICE CHECKERBOARD LAND EXCHANGE
CHECKERBOARD TRANSPORTATION MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**Chuck Hagerdon, District Ranger, Mt. Taylor Ranger District
Arnold Wilson, Recreation & Lands Staff, Mt. Taylor District**

Hagerdon and Wilson will talk about a land exchange with the L-Bar ranch in the Mt. Taylor checkerboard area, where the Forest Service is trying to consolidate its lands. The prospective exchange would completely surround the Marquez Wildlife Area, owned by the Department of Game & Fish, with private land. Hagerdon and Wilson will bring maps, describe the prospective trade, tell about the process it will have to go through, and answer questions.

After documentation is finished and the exchange is initiated, the National Environmental Policy Act will go into effect. The forest district will hold scoping meetings to identify issues—the access problem for example—and develop alternatives for dealing with the impacts.

Tom Stromei, L-Bar Ranch manager, will be present to provide the L-Bar's perspective about why the Forest Service land exchange, trading land surrounding the Marquez Wildlife Area to the L-Bar, would be beneficial. He also will talk about the L-Bar's proposal for exchanging the Pipe Ranch for the Marquez Wildlife Area.

See the articles below for more information concerning the Forest Service exchange.

Hagerdon and Wilson also will tell about their district's Checkerboard Transportation Management Plan, which probably will go into effect late this fall. The purpose is to reduce the high road density on Forest Service lands, which impact the elk and increase erosion. It is expected that the plan will lead to a better distribution of elk in the area.

CISNEROS PARK WETLANDS RESTORATION

AUGUST 15

see map and article on insert

Associated With The National Wildlife Federation

MARQUEZ WILDLIFE AREA LAND TRADE POSSIBLE

The Game Department presently is looking into the possibility of trading the Marquez Wildlife Area, in the Grants checkerboard area, for the Pipe Ranch, south of Socorro. Santiago Gonzales, head of the department's Division of Wildlife, said the department is looking into the benefits and costs of such a trade.

The Marquez Wildlife Area, owned by the department, has 15,000 acres. The Pipe Ranch has 10,450 deeded acres and 10,560 acres leased from the BLM. It also has the large house and ranch buildings mentioned in Larry Dwyer's article below.

Jeff Pedersen, the department's wildlife lands specialist, said that the Pipe Ranch appears to have good deer habitat. In the upper regions, there could be bighorn sheep habitat for future transplants.

Luke Shelby, chief of Public Affairs, said the owner of the Pipe Ranch, (who also owns the L-Bar) approached the department about the trade. "Right now, we have very limited access to the Marquez. We can't access the Marquez from the north end anymore [due to the prospective Forest Service land trade with the L-Bar Ranch]. The Pipe Ranch is much more accessible and it would give access to BLM and state land that previously has been difficult to access."

We have a copy of the letter Game Department Director Jerry Maracchini wrote to the Cibola Forest supervisor on April 13. In it he says that an earlier letter from the department's wildlife lands specialist, asking that access from the north be kept open if possible, "might be misconstrued as a request to keep the access for this Department....The Department does not wish to be involved in your settlement negotiations." He goes on to say that the department was looking into other access to the Marquez from the south.

At the May Game Commission meeting, Maracchini discussed two possibilities for access through the south. One was to continue an agreement with the Juan Tafoya Land Grant whereby livestock are allowed to graze on the Marquez in exchange for access to the Marquez area through the grant. He said the department would continue to have the agreement pending

steps that needed to be taken to better manage the area. The possibility of another route through the south also was discussed.

The below article gives the perspective of one of our members, Larry Dwyer, on the Forest Service land exchange with the L-Bar Ranch and the possible Game and Fish trade of the Marquez Wildlife Area.

LOSS OF THE MARQUEZ WILDLIFE AREA

Larry Dwyer

April 13, 1998 was a dark day for New Mexico Sportsmen. It was on that day that Director Maracchini wrote a letter to the Cibola National Forest Service stating that the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish no longer had interest in public access to the Marquez Wildlife Area. What motivated the director to write this letter is anyone's guess. It surely wasn't in the public's best interest. A letter written to the Forest Service by NMGF Wildlife Lands Specialist, Jeff Pederson just six weeks earlier stated, "We (NMGF) do not wish to lose an established right-of-way that the public can, and has used, for hunting on the Marquez Wildlife Area. Other recreational interests, including wildlife viewing and photography, are available also. We would like to see the rights-of-way maintained and kept open, if possible. Before it would be permanently ceded, we would like to see it discussed under the National Environmental Policy Act guidelines, so that the public input and involvement could be gathered and considered." Unfortunately the Lands Specialist's foresight and interest in the public's access to state land was overridden by the Director's letter.

Because of Maracchini's letter, the Forest Service is planning a land exchange with the L-Bar which would give their hunters exclusive hunting rights to some of the best elk habitat in unit 9. The proposed land exchange would landlock the Marquez by surrounding it by private land. And what do you suppose the NMGF proposes to do with the Marquez when public hunters and wildlife watchers can no longer access it. You got it. The NMGF is negotiating with the L-Bar's owner to exchange the Marquez for the Pipe ranch. The Pipe ranch

contains significantly less land than the Marquez. Mr. Maracchini is quick to point out that the Pipe ranch has a beautiful 5,000 sq. ft., two-story, five bedroom, three-bath home as well as a huge bunk house, garage and new shop building. The Marquez only has elk.

What are the effects of the director's actions? The public is excluded from a huge expanse encompassing some of the best elk hunting in New Mexico. The L-Bar will get additional landowner permits to sell to their mostly out-of-state hunters. Most New Mexican's cannot afford to pay the \$3,000 to \$5,000 for an L-Bar permit. Less public permits would be available because the available public lands are reduced.

The Department of Game and Fish has a responsibility to manage its lands and provide hunting opportunities for all of us. The director's actions benefit only one person, the owner of the L-bar ranch.

BACA (Valle Grande) PURCHASE

It now appears that the Baca property will be bought by the Federal Government. Thus far our sole source of information on the agreement being worked out by Sen. Domenici is the Albuquerque Journal article of Saturday, the 1st of August. Although the agreement is being hailed as a breakthrough by many wildlife and environmental groups, and by Sen. Bingaman who has been the prime legislative mover for the purchase, the only details we know of are that grazing, mining, and timbering would continue. This would also have been true if it had been incorporated into Santa Fe National Forest as we had hoped. What we do not know with the new scheme, is what part recreation and wildlife conservation will play in the operation. While all of the direct economic benefits are discussed in the Journal article, recreation is not mentioned.

As has been Sen. Domenici's current bent, he criticizes our National Forests for "poor land management." The well-known sources of rangeland destruction, streamside denuding, wetlands destruction, and forest elimination seem to have escaped him. While being encouraged by the prospect of Baca coming into public ownership, we must watch how it will be managed, and who will manage it. We must also watch Sen. Domenici's announced intention to

reduce public land ownership. His intention to put land into private hands (at well below bargain prices, if history serves), will also be a removal of our access to some of our land.

We had arranged a tour of Baca late in the month, but these tours have been stopped because of the agreement.

1998 TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE SCHEDULE

August 14-16: Cisneros Park meadow restoration, Tres Piedras Ranger District. Carson National Forest. Camp in Cisneros Park.

September 19: Elk Springs ACEC. Fence removal. Rio Puerco Resource Area, BLM Near Cuba.

October 17: Dia Del Rio Celebration. Bosque clean up. Albuquerque Open Space.

STATE GAME COMMISSION MEETING

The State Game Commission will meet Aug. 20-21 in Albuquerque to decide the 1999-2001 big game hunting regulations.

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president: Cliff Mendel 265-3840

vice-pres: Richard Becker 255-7156

treasurer: Cliff Mendel (acting)

secretary: Cecil Haas 271-2103

board of directors:

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Jim Hubert 286-2122

Andy Iskra 294-7516

Joyce Mendel 265-3840

Dennis Muirhead 281-2925

Larry Ruggles 281-2141

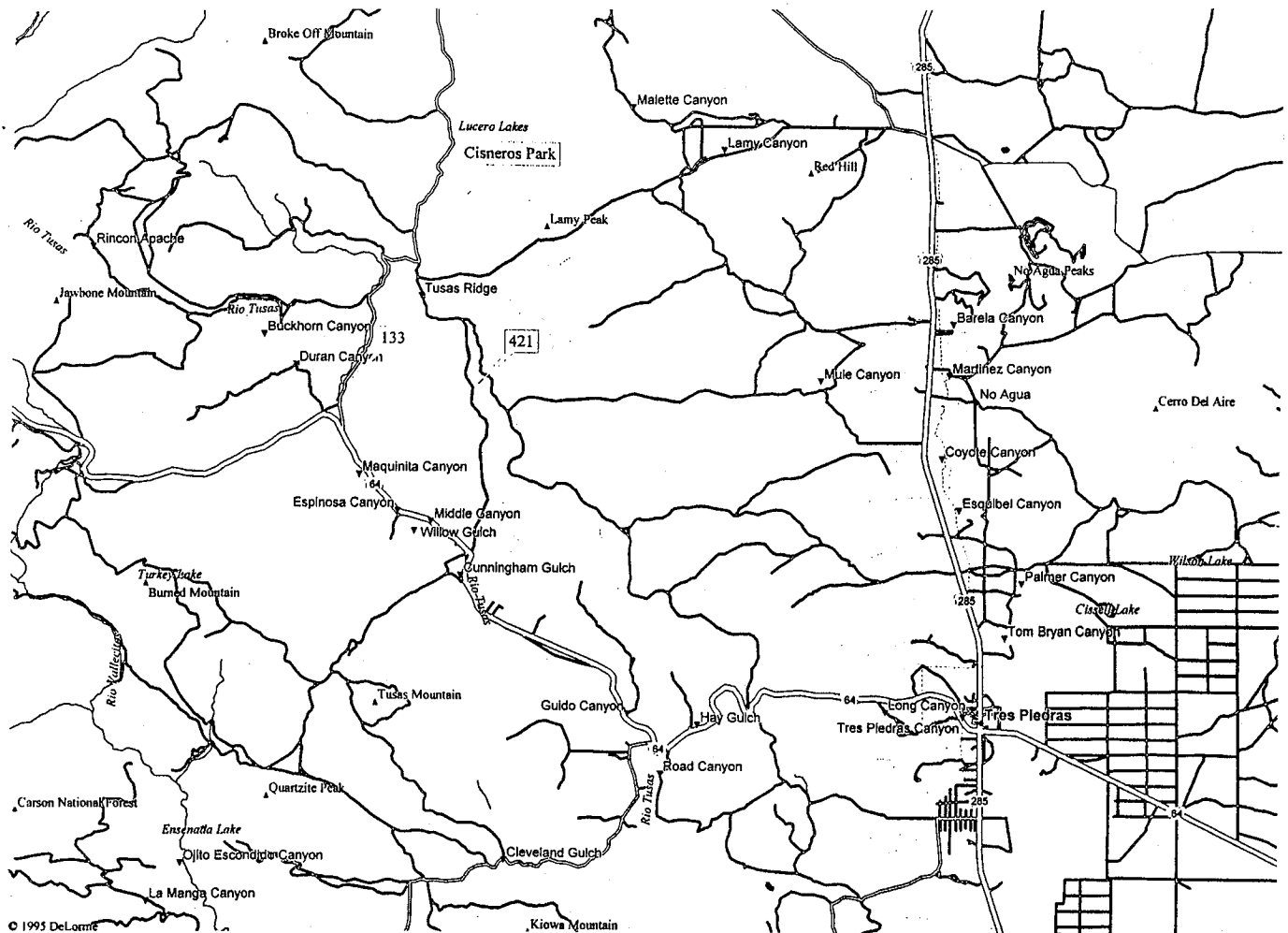
Vallie Weingarten 255-8844

Bill Zeedyk 281-9066

CISNEROS PARK WETLANDS PROJECT

On Saturday, 15 August we will continue our wetlands restoration work in the Carson National Forest west of Tres Piedras. Last year we stabilized a badly eroded road going down a steep hillside, but in 1995 and 1996 we worked in the Cisneros Park area where we will again work this year. The campground at Hopewell lake is being redone, and is not available. We will instead camp in Cisneros Park (no roaring generators, motorcycles, or stereos, but well manage). To get there go 15 miles west from Tres Piedras on Route 64 to Forest road 421. Follow 421 north for about 6.5 miles to Cisneros Park. See the map below. For more information call Richard Becker (255-7156), Bill Zeedyk (281-9066), or Joyce Mendel (265-3840).

We will be working again with our good friends Ben Romero and Silverado Rael of Carson NF. This is another beautiful area, and some of us will be camping there Friday and Saturday nights.



VALLE VIDAL: RING MEADOW WETLANDS RESTORATION

We had a great time at the Valle Vidal wet meadow restoration project last month. We completed 36 rock structures along the meadow drainage on Saturday, before the rain and lightning came our way. That night we had our usual potluck dinner, with many, many good things to eat. Fishing at Shuree Pond was good--Bill Zeedyk's 12-year old grandson, Frank Angowski, caught a large trout right away on Friday night. It was real family affair, with three generations of the Weingarten family participating, and two generations from a couple of other families.

Thanks to the following volunteers who worked on the project: Frank Angowski; Bill Zeedyk; Richard Becker; Carol Chavez; Jim and Marge Hubert; Clifford and Joyce Mendel; Bill and Mary Reed; Delbert and Elizabeth Smith; Lawrence and Virginia Smith; David, Alan, and Jarred Weingarten.

Bill Zeedyk coordinated the project, and George Long, Forest Service wildlife biologist, took care of the Forest Service end.



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

**GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 1998
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**** ** * SEPTMBER 10 PROGRAM * ** ** ***

DEPT OF GAME & FISH RECOMMENDED CHANGES IN FISHING REGULATIONS

Paul Cassidy, Northwest area fisheries biologist for the Department of Game and Fish, will discuss changes in fishing regulations that the department is proposing for areas throughout the state. The proposed changes will be discussed at the Sept. 24 meeting of the State Game Commission, and voted on at the Oct. 29 meeting.

This is your chance to hear what is being proposed so that you can provide your input to the game commissioners.

ROBERT HARRISON: FOXES AND BOBCATS IN THE SANDIA MOUNTAINS

Robert Harrison, a research assistant professor in the UNM biology department, will present a slide program about how foxes and bobcats are affected by development in the Sandia Mountains. Harrison began studying the problem of development because he was concerned about keeping wildlife in the Sandias. He'll talk about things that can be done to encourage foxes and bobcats to continue living in the Sandia foothills.

This program was recommended by our member Bill Reed.

TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE:

SEPTEMBER 19

FENCE REMOVAL

ELK SPRINGS: BLM RIO PUERCO RESOURCE AREA

see below

**TEAM-UP WITH WILDLIFE PROJECT
ELK SPRINGS:
BLM RIO PUERCO RESOURCE AREA
SATURDAY, SEPT. 19TH**

We will meet at the BLM office on Montano at 8:00 am on Saturday. BLM will provide transportation. We are going to remove some more old fencing material. This area is south of Cuba, near the La Ventana roadside area. Bring work gloves (preferably leather), sun protection, lunch, and water. Richard Becker (255-7156) will be in charge of the project for AWF, and Andy Iskra will represent BLM. Please help with this project if at all possible. We did not have enough people for our previous Rio Puerco project this year.

recent planning meetings was that AWF needs broader participation from our membership. It is not a lot of work, and your help would expand our basis for making opinions.

OCTOBER 8th PROGRAM: PIPE RANCH

Much interest was shown at our August meeting in the Forest Service checkerboard land exchange in the Grants area, and in the possibility of a land trade for the Marquez Wildlife Area. We are going to continue the discussion in October, when Jeff Pedersen from the Game and Fish Department will tell us about the Pipe Ranch. It has been proposed for a trade with the Marquez. Pedersen also will discuss possibilities for accessing the Marquez from the south

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The nominating committee for 1999 officers consists of Cecil Haas, Bill Zeedyk, and Dale Hall. Please consider running for an office or the board of directors. One of the primary conclusions of our

**CISNEROS PARK
WETLANDS RESTORATION**

On Saturday, Aug. 15, eight AWF volunteers, four Forest Service workers, and two

guest volunteers constructed 44 rock and log structures in a Cisneros Park drainage. On Sunday, several went back and constructed 13 more, most of them on an adjoining drainage. The purpose of the project is to help wildlife by improving this meadow wetland in the Carson National Forest.

The park was large and beautiful, and except for a very friendly family from the Pajoaque Valley, we had the area to ourselves. We had potluck dinners, and all in all had a great time

Thanks to AWF volunteers Marge and Jim Hubert, Andy Iskra, Ann and Richard Leonard, Joyce and Cliff Mendel, and project leader Bill Zeedyk. Special thanks to the two daughters from the Pajoaque family who came over to help and inspire us. They are Jennie Carson, a high school sophomore, and Makenzie Carson, a 7th-grader. Their parents are Nansy and Steve Carson.

CALENDAR

- Sept. 10: AWF general meeting
- Sept. 19: AWF habitat improvement project
- Sept. 24: State Game Commission meeting
- Oct. 8: AWF general meeting
- Oct. 17: Dia Del Rio Bosque clean-up
- Oct. 29: State Game Commission meeting

1998 TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE SCHEDULE

- September 19: Elk Springs ACEC. Fence removal. Rio Puerco Resorce Area, BLM Near Cuba.
- October 17: Dia Del Rio Celebration. Bosque clean up. Albuquerque Open Space.

1998 officers and board of directors:

- president: Cliff Mendel 265-3840
- vice-pres: Richard Becker 255-7156
- treasurer:
- secretary: Cecil Haas 271-2103
- board of directors:
 - Larry Dwyer 246-8156
 - Dale Hall 828-9432
 - Jim Hubert 286-2122
 - Andy Iskra 294-7516
 - Joyce Mendel 265-3840
 - Dennis Muirhead 281-2925
 - Larry Ruggles 281-2141
 - Vallie Weingarten 255-8844
 - Bill Zeedyk 281-9066

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
PO Box 1234
Albuquerque, NM 87103-1234



Organized in 1914 to protect and perpetuate our wildlife and natural resources.

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

**GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1998
7:00 P.M.**

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

**** ** * OCTOBER 8 PROGRAM * ** ****

**MARQUEZ WILDLIFE AREA ACCESS
POSSIBLE TRADE FOR PIPE RANCH**

Jeff Pedersen, lands specialist for the Game and Fish Department, will discuss the problem of legal public access to the Marquez Wildlife Area. The Marquez is owned by the Game and Fish Department and is adjacent to the Mt. Taylor checkerboard area. Since access from the north presently is blocked, he will discuss the possibilities and problems of access from the south.

Because of the problems involved with accessing the Marquez, the Game Department is considering trading it for the Pipe Ranch, south of Socorro. Pedersen will provide a full description of the Pipe Ranch, and how it would be managed if the Game Department owned it.

Appraisals have been completed for both the Marquez and the Pipe Ranch. Any trade would be subject to the public providing comments and would require state legislative approval.

**OCTOBER PROJECT: BOSQUE CLEANUP
SEPTEMBER 17
DIO DEL RIO**

see next page

**SEPTEMBER TEAM UP
WITH WILDLIFE PROJECT**

The September 19th AWF habitat project was a success. Andy Iskra, BLM wildlife biologist and AWF board member, led the expedition over a "scenic route" to the top of La Ventana Mesa. Volunteers removed four strands of barbed wire and the metal posts from two long sections of fence. Approximately one mile of fence was removed. This area provides winter range and forage for wildlife, particularly deer and elk. In addition to Andy, AWF members included Cliff and Joyce Mendel, Larry Miller, Dennis Muirhead, Bob Nordstrom, and Richard Becker. Bob Norstrom is also an active member of Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and three other RMEF members, Bill Britton, Richard Brown, and his son Bill, also joined in. Bud Wilson of BLM provided vehicle support service in addition to helping with the fence removal.

**DIO DEL RIO
OCTOBER 17TH**

"The song of a river ordinarily means the tune that waters play on rock, root, and rapid:" Aldo Leopold, A Sand County Almanac.

Participate in a celebration of the Rio Grande. Join other volunteers at the Alameda Bridge at 8th Ave. Contact Andrea Linderoth, of Albuquerque Open Space for more information (873-6620).

CALENDAR

- Oct. 8:** AWF general meeting
- Oct. 17:** Dia Del Rio Bosque clean-up
- Oct. 29:** State Game Commission meeting
- Nov. 12:** AWF General meeting
- Dec. 10:** AWF Annual meeting and holiday party.

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vice-pres: Richard Becker 255-7156
treasurer:

secretary: Cecil Haas 271-2103
board of directors:

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- Dale Hall 828-9432
- Jim Hubert 286-2122
- Andy Iskra 294-7516
- Joyce Mendel 265-3840
- Dennis Muirhead 281-2925
- Larry Ruggles 281-2141
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- Bill Zeedyk 281-9066

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AWF

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and natural resources.*

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

GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1998

7:00 P.M.

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

**** ** * NOVEMBER 12 PROGRAM * ** ****

WENDY BROWN: WOLF RECOVERY IN NEW MEXICO

Wildlife biologist Wendy Brown of the US Fish and Wildlife Service will talk to us about the Mexican wolf recovery program in New Mexico. She will present slides and a video tape showing their reintroduction and their habitat, and report on how the reintroduction is proceeding and on the status of the wolves.

1998 ANNUAL MEETING, HOLIDAY PARTY, and POTLUCK DINNER

Remember to reserve Thursday, December 10th for the AWF annual meeting and party. The last few years have been the best in memory with several members bringing delicious dishes prepared with wildlife taken during the hunting seasons.

There will be a short meeting to elect next years officers and board. In addition there are usually a few displays of photographs of Team Up with Wildlife projects, hunting or fishing trips, beautiful scenery, etc. If you have some good photos related to wildlife, please bring them along.

Please consider how you can help as an officer or board member. The nominating committee is listed below.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE FOR 1999 OFFICERS AND BOARD

Cecil Haas, chair	271-2103
Bill Zeedyk	281-9066
Dale Hall	828-9432

CALENDAR

Nov. 12:	AWF General meeting
Dec. 10:	AWF Annual meeting and holiday party.
Jan. 14:	AWF general meeting

ORYX HUNTS CANCELED

The oryx hunts on the White Sands missile range have been canceled due to the discovery of unexploded ordinance. They will be rescheduled after the ordinance has been removed. Call Cecil Haas (271-2103) if you have questions.



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ANNUAL MEETING - THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1998
7:00 P.M.

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

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation Annual Meeting and Holiday Party

It is time once again for our annual meeting in which we will elect the officers and board for 1999. The slate of the nominating committee is presented below. There have been no proposals for changes in the bylaws.

As is our tradition, we will have a potluck dinner after the elections. Bring a dish if you can, but if that is not convenient, please join us anyway. There is always enough food. If you have questions about the potluck dinner, please call Joyce Mendel at 265-3840.

Team Up with Wildlife coordinator, Bill Zeedyk, has invited some of our agency friends to join us. Since we usually see them at the work projects when we are busy, this is a good opportunity to get together with them and talk. We also invite each of you to bring any interesting photographs of work projects, trips you have taken, wildlife, or whatever you believe might be of interest to those in attendance.

This is always a pleasant evening, and the food has been outstanding the last few years, with several people bringing delicious and exotic dishes. I hope you will all find time to attend.

NOMINATIONS OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

This years nominating committee was Cecil Haas, chair, Bill Zeedyk, and Dale Hall. At the time of this newsletter they have not found a candidate for president. The nominations for officers are

- president: -----
- vice-pres: Richard Becker
- treasurer: Andy Iskra
- secretary: Cecil Haas

and their nominations for the **board of directors** are

- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Bill Zeedyk | Dale Hall |
| Larry Dwyer | Dennis Muirhead |
| Jim Hubert | Chris Chadwick |

Cliff Mendel is on the board of directors automatically, as past president. We can elect up to eight board members at the meeting. Nominations from the floor will be welcome. The new president can appoint additional board members, with board approval, to bring the total board membership to twelve.

**TOM GOW TO TALK ABOUT
BIGHORN INTRODUCTION PROPOSAL**

1998 officers:

president: Cliff Mendel
vice-pres: Richard Becker
treasurer:
secretary: Cecil Haas

1998 board of directors:

Larry Dwyer	Dale Hall
Jim Hubert	Andy Iskra
Joyce Mendel	Dennis Muirhead
Larry Ruggles	Vallie Weingarten
Bill Zeedyk	

BLM biologist Tom Gow will speak at a Wildlife Legislative Council meeting about a proposed BLM management plan for the introduction of bighorn sheep in the area called Devil's Backbone, at the south end of the Magdalena Mountains. This is the same area in which the Pipe Ranch is located. The Game and Fish Department is considering exchanging the ranch for the Marquez Wildlife Area. The meeting is Tuesday, Dec. 15, 6:30 p.m., at UNM's Bratton Hall (the law school), in room 2405. Bratton Hall is at the northwest corner of Tucker and Stanford NE.

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