



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

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

ANNUAL MEETING - THURSDAY, JANUARY 14, 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)

\*\*\*\*\* JANUARY PROGRAMS \*\*\*\*\*

The Alameda Wetlands Project in the Bosque: Andrea Linderoth-Hummel

Ondrea Linderoth-Hummel, who is the Natural Resource Planner for the City of Albuquerque, will discuss the Alameda Wetlands Project, and other Wetlands Projects in the Rio Grande Bosque. The Alameda Project is on 18 acres near the north end of Rio Grande Boulevard. It is a creative wetland, but is not to be used to process waste water. The wetland itself will consist of 5 acres. Wetlands vegetation is being introduced, and wildlife are expected to move into the area over the next two years. Eventually there will be a viewing trail and tower allowing some public access. Contributors to the project include US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Reclamation, Intel Corporation, and Phillips Petroleum.

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ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting and holiday party was held on Thursday, 10 December. Attendance was somewhat lower than usual. During the short business meeting, the following slate of officers and board members was elected:

- President: none
vice-president: Richard Becker
Secretary: Cecil Haas
treasurer: Andy Iskra
directors: Bill Zeedyk Dale Hall
Harold Olsen Chris Chadwick
Larry Dwyer Jim Hubert
Dennis Muirhead

This list was done by memory and without the minutes. If it is wrong it will be correct next month. The food at the potluck was good, as always, with several excellent wildlife dishes.

GAME COMMISSION MEETING

Commission Chairman Bill Brinninstool was re-elected as chairman, winning over a challenge by commissioner Bud Hettings. The commission voted unanimously to give director Maracchini the authority to reschedule the canceled oryx hunts, even if they go into the next license year. Oryx hunts on White Sands were canceled after a military person was killed by previously unexploded ordnance. The Governor has re-established the State-wide Depredation Task Force to deal with damage to private property by game animals. The first meeting will be on the TVI campus on January 16. Dale Hall, Game and Fish, is the point contact. Ed Machin of the NMWF is one of the panel members.

The next commission meeting is April 8 in Santa Fe. Contact Cecil Haas at 271-2103 for details.



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**FEBRUARY GENERAL MEETING CANCELED**

Because many officers and members of the board were either away or otherwise occupied, we were unable to get a program for February. The board of directors will meet instead, and the meeting will be held in place of the general meeting. All members can attend board meetings if they wish, and will be welcome.

The board will discuss the present, and hopefully temporary, leadership crisis, as well as current issues relating to wildlife.

We apologize for the lapse. There should be no repeat of the problem for March.

**BOARD MEETING - THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1999**

**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)

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**CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT HERITAGE FORESTS**

In a recent email from Ken Rait, of Help Protect America's Heritage Forests, he described a campaign to help the Forest Service protect 60 million acres of forest. You can learn more about this by looking at their website:

<http://www.ourforests.org>,

and can read media reports about their campaign at

<http://www.enn.com/news/enn-stories/1999/01/011599/roads.asp>

He also listed a number of websites for organizations participating in the campaign. Looking down the list, there are a number of organizations we have helped before. The list is included (right) so you can access their sites.

- Alaska Center for the Environment, <http://www.alaska.net/~jrc/ace.html>
- Alaska Rainforest Campaign, <http://www.akrain.org>
- American Lands Alliance, <http://www.americanlands.org>
- California Wilderness Coalition, <http://www.calwild.org>
- Colorado Environmental Coalition, <http://www.cecenviro.org>
- Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund, <http://www.earthjustice.org>
- emediacy, <http://www.ourforests.org>
- Free the Planet, <http://www.essential.org/freetheplanet>
- Idaho Conservation League, <http://www.wildidaho.org>
- Kettle Range Conservation Group, <http://www.televar.com/~tcoleman/index.html>
- National Audubon Society, <http://www.audubon.org>
- National Environmental Trust, <http://www.envirotrust.com>
- Natural Resources Defense Council, <http://www.nrdc.org>
- Northwest Ecosystem Alliance, <http://www.ecosystem.org/~nwea>
- Oregon Natural Resources Council, <http://www.onrc.org>
- Save Our Wild Salmon, <http://www.wildsalmon.org>
- Southwest Forest Alliance, <http://www.sw-center.org/swcbd/swfa/default.htm>
- The Wilderness Society, <http://www.wilderness.org>
- U.S. Public Interest Research Group, <http://www.pirg.org>



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**ANNUAL MEETING - THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1999  
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)

\*\*\*\*\* MARCH PROGRAM \*\*\*\*\*

**RIPARIAN RESTORATION IN BOSQUE DEL APACHE NWR**

Gina Dello Russo, an ecologist in charge of riparian restoration on the Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge, will tell about the restoration plan she is working on. She will show slides of the various habitat types that refuge workers hope to restore, and show drawings of the restoration plans.

The plans concern restoring native vegetation along 12 miles of river within the refuge, but also will address restoration within the larger area surrounding the refuge. Restoration will occur in a series of small projects which will be tied into a comprehensive plan for restoring river hydrology and vegetation.

Dello Russo also will give us an update on outcomes of the 1996 refuge wildfire. Following the fire, she studied factors that encourage cottonwood regeneration in the bosque.

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**NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

**MARCH TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE PROJECT**  
*SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 2*

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

STATE SENATE BILLS 89 AND 736

Two bills have come to our attention that may be of interest to our readers. One, S736, submitted by President Pro-Tempore Manny Aragon, is an amendment to the law that controls the Department of Game and Fish. The law would be amended to add:

*"The state game commission shall direct the department of game and fish to conduct studies on economic, social and cultural impacts of wildlife management decisions. The department shall conduct hearings within any communities that may be affected by wildlife decisions of the department or the commission."*

The Department feels that this would be extremely expensive both in dollars and in use of manpower. Several AWF members have been contacting members of the Senate Conservation Committee to encourage them to work for the defeat of this bill. It was to be heard in the Committee meeting on Thursday, 4 March but we have not yet heard the results. If the bill is passed by the committee it will go before the full Senate. Please call your State Senator and let them know your opinion on this bill.

Another bill is S89, submitted by Senator Patrick Lyons. As originally written it appeared to be intended to get private land owners involved in providing improved big game habitat, and seemed to be similar to laws in states like Colorado. The bill has been totally changed by amendments. The original words *"big game propagation and maintenance on public and private lands"* now read *"big game management and maintenance on public and private lands."* The words *"cooperative projects on private and public lands to conserve, control, and manage big game"* now read *"cooperative projects on private and public lands to control, and manage big game."* The words (NMG&F) *"may enter into cooperative agreements with other state agencies, federal agencies, or private persons for the purpose of maximizing big game production on public and private property"* now reads *"may enter into cooperative agreements with other state agencies, political subdivisions of the state, federal agencies, or private persons for the purpose of managing big game on public and private property."*

In making these changes the bill's supporters have changed something that could have improved big game habitat to a bill intended to reduce impact of big game on grazing operations. The alarming thing is that it passed the Senate by a vote of 30 to 5, and is on to the House Appropriations and House Energy and Conservation Committees. We will watch this bill, and I hope you will contact your Representative and let them know how you believe they should vote on it.

We will also try to find how each Senator and Representative votes on these issues, and let you know the results.

MARCH WORK PROJECT

Work project coordinator, Bill Zeedyk, has us off to an early start this year with an Albuquerque Open Space project in the Rio Grande Bosque on Saturday, March 25<sup>th</sup>. We will clean up a lot of dead material that is causing a high fire hazzard, particularly with the dry conditions this year. We will meet at the site at 9:00 am. Take Rio Bravo west from Interstate 40. Turn off Rio Bravo to the north at the last road on the east side of the river (Poco Loco), and then drive parallel to Rio Bravo toward the river until you reach the parking lot.

Bring the usual gear (gloves, water, lunch) and if you have cutting tools such as an axe or bow saw you might also bring them.

If you have questions, come to the general meeting, or contact Bill Zeedyk (281-9066), Richard Becker (255-7156), or Andrea Linderoth-Hummel of City Open Space.

CALENDAR

- March 8: AWF board meeting, BLM office.
- March 11: General meeting, Bear Canyon Senior Center.
- March 20: Team Up with Wildlife Project, Rio Grande Bosque.
- April 8: General meeting. Spring Turkey hunt workshop.
- April 17: Team Up with Wildlife Project, David Canyon, Sandias.

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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 8, 1999  
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)

\*\*\*\*\* **APRIL PROGRAM** \*\*\*\*\*

**ELLIE TOWNES, REGIONAL FORESTER  
USFS SOUTHWESTERN REGION**

The impact of Forest Service policies on New Mexico's wildlife will be the subject of our April meeting. Ellie Townes, Regional Forester for the U.S. Forest Service's Southwestern Region, will talk about Forest Service policies in New Mexico and how well she believes the Forest Service is doing with regard to improving wildlife habitat. Forest Service policies and Forest Service cooperation with Game and Fish Departments have been important in the improvements seen in forest habitat over the past few decades. Here is a chance to hear first hand about the future of such policies, and to get your questions answered by one of the chief architects of these policies in this region.

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**APRIL TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE PROJECT**

**April 17**

*SEE ARTICLE ON PAGE 2*

## **APRIL TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE PROJECT**

**Saturday, April 17th**  
Bill Zeedyk

This project will be a David Canyon wet meadow rehabilitation. Sandia Ranger District, Cibola National Forest. (Monzanita Mountain off Raven Road). Contact Beverly DeGruyter, 281-3304 or Bill Zeedyk, 281-9066. Meet at Sandia Ranger Station, Tijeras at 8:00 am to carpool to the site, go south (8 miles) on NM377 (old south 14) and turn right on Raven Road. Follow signs to work project (about 3 miles). Bring gloves, hat, sunscreen, water, and lunch. This will be a good project for kids.

## **MARCH TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE PROJECT**

We began our project schedule on Saturday, March 20. Six AWF members and three Albuquerque City employees cleared excess dead wood from the area around the planned nature trail on the east side of the Rio Grande River, just north of Rio Bravo. The city provided a large chipper and dump truck. The purpose of the project was not just to make the area around the trail more accessible and attractive, but also to reduce the very high fuel load in the area. A fire there would burn extremely hot, and a great many cottonwoods would be killed by the heat. We filled the large dump truck with chips twice. Although we cleared a substantial area very well, a great deal remains to be done. Fortunately there are a number of other groups also contributing workdays to the project.

The weather was excellent, and being so close, this was a good project to begin the year with. We will may do similar project early next year.

## **NATIONAL FOREST / L-BAR LAND TRADE UPDATE**

Larry Dwyer

Julie King of the Cibola National Forest Service Grants office reports that several alternative actions will be added to the initial proposed action. The proposed action is a trade of National Forest lands for L-Bar land in which the northern half of the checkerboard would become National Forest and the southern half private (L-Bar land). Because

of concerns brought forward during the initial NEPA public comment period, four additional alternatives will be included for consideration. The alternatives, which are very preliminary, would allow the National Forest Service to purchase part or all of the private lands within the checkerboard area on Mt. Taylor. Another alternative would divide the land with a north-south border.

The three alternatives will be included to address concerns that the public would not have access to the southern half of the checkerboard which includes water and a variety of habitat, predominately rolling hills with oak mott/grassland savanna. The AWF is on record for supporting a solution that allows the National Forest to maintain ownership to all or part of the southern half of the checkerboard.

The Forest Service is currently working on the environmental analysis and copies will be sent to interested parties in early May. Another thirty day comment period with an open house in Grants and Albuquerque will allow those interested an opportunity to give input on the proposed land exchange and preferred alternatives.

## **1999 TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE PROJECTS**

Project coordinator, Bill Zeedyk, has set most of this years projects. Although it is already completed, the list includes the March project for your information. Contact Bill Zeedyk, 281-9066, to sign up.

**March 20:** Fuel hazzard reduction. Albuquerque City Open Space along Rio Grande Bosque. Poco Loco parking area off north side of Rio Bravo Blvd. at east side of Rio Grande river. Albuquerque Open Space contact Ondrea Linderoth-Hummel, 873-6620.

**April 17:** David Canyon wet meadow rehabilitation. Sandia Ranger District, Cibola National Forest. (Monzanita Mountain off Raven Road). USFS contact Beverly DeGruyter, 281-3304.

**May 15:** Construct raised boardwalk nature trail across Rio Salado wetland. San Ysidro, Rio Puerco Resource Area, Bureau of Land management. San Ysidro Rio Salado at NM 44 bridge crossing. BLM contact Andy Iskra, 761-8789.

**June 19:** Jemez Ranger District, Jemez Springs, Santa Fe National Forest. To be announced. USFS contact Buck Sanchez, 829-3535.

**July 9, 10, 11:** Continue Ring Place meadow restoration Valle Vidal, Carson National Forest. Camp at Shuree Lodge. USFS contact George Long 586-0520. Note that this project is on the second Saturday of July instead of the customary third Saturday.

**August 20, 21, 22:** Construct small fenced enclosures to protect cottonwood and willow sprouts from grazing. Cisneros Park, Tres Piedras Ranger District, Carson National Forest. USFS contact Ben Romero, 758-8678.

**September 18:** Return to Carbon Springs. Construct additional rock header (masonry) dams. Socorro Resource Area, Bureau of Land Management. BLM contact Carla Alford, 835-0412.

### **URGENT MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION**

NWF is urging opposition to the latest takings bill. Although the AWF board has not had time to discuss this bill, we have opposed takings bills in the past. The following is from NWF.

Please urge your U.S. Representative to oppose the extreme anti-Endangered Species Act "Takings" bill described below-- and urge others to do the same -- House Resources Committee Chairman Don Young (R-AK) introduced the bill on March 17, 1999, with 25 cosponsors and has scheduled an April 14 hearing before his Committee.

Chairman Don Young (R-AK) has scheduled an April 14 House Resources Committee hearing on his Endangered Species Act (ESA) takings bill, H.R. 1142, the "Landowners Equal Treatment Act of 1999." Under the bill, UNLESS WE PAY COMPANIES TO OBEY THE ESA, they would be free to exterminate sea turtles, salmon, whooping cranes, and other endangered species.

H.R. 1142 would create new property rights to extinguish species by wiping out every acre of their habitat. Developers could bulldoze nesting beaches, factories could poison fish in lakes and rivers, and companies could chop down eagle nesting trees--unless we pay them not to.

H.R. 1142 would pay corporations and developers even when, according to the Supreme Court, no property has been taken. The Court's unanimous 1993 Concrete Pipe ruling (508 U.S. at 644-45) reaffirmed that a law does not "take"

private property just because it diminishes the property's value, and that takings analysis must look at an overall parcel of property, not just the affected portion. In contrast, H.R. 1142 would pay companies when there is a 25% reduction in the value of a "portion" of property.

This would require payments where there is almost no effect on the overall property value. For example, allowing condominiums or a strip mine on 99.9% of a 1000 acre tract would not be enough, payments would be required for the one acre wetland buffer zone next to a salmon stream.

Furthermore, H.R. 1142 WOULD BLOCK AND DELAY ESSENTIAL ACTIONS TO SAVE SPECIES BY DEMANDING EXTREME BUREAUCRATIC PROCEDURES AND RED TAPE. Agencies would have to "make every possible effort to avoid, minimize, or mitigate" even extremely minor impacts on property. The bill would also prohibit a wide variety of emergency actions that are essential to save species, unless and until federal agencies have "given 30 days notice to each owner of the property directly affected . . . ." This could require the federal government to inventory every acre of land for potential habitat and to compile a "Big Brother" database identifying every owner of property.

Here's how to contact your Representative:

The Honorable Heather Wilson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Capitol Switchboard: 202-224-3121, or to send an e-mail, visit NWF's web site at <http://www.nwf.org/action/ reps.html>

### **CALENDAR**

- April 8: General meeting. See page 1.
- April 12: AWF Board meeting, 7:00 pm, Norwest Bank, Tijeras.
- April 17: Team Up with Wildlife Project, David Canyon, Sandias. See above.
- May 13: General meeting.
- May 15: Build boardwalk on BLM nature trail near San Ysidro.
- June 19: Team Up with Wildlife project, Jemez mountains, Santa Fe NF.
- July 10: Team Up with Wildlife project, Valle Vidal.

# ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION

P.O. Box 1234 Albuquerque, NM 87103

## GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, MAY 13, 1999, 7:00 PM

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.)

### \*\*\*\*\* MAY PROGRAM \*\*\*\*\*

FISHING! FISHING! FISHING! Come learn about the fun of fishing with Bill Dunn. Always entertaining. Always informative. Few people know more about fishing in NM than Bill. New gear and how to use it. Where to go and when. Also, Chris Chadwick of the NM Department of Game and Fish will fill us in on fishing records in NM, new rules and regulations, and new fisheries management programs. See you there!

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## MAY TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE PROJECT, SATURDAY, MAY 15

AWF members will construct a raised boardwalk nature trail across the Rio Salado wetland on the Bureau of Land Management Rio Puerco Resource Area near San Ysidro. We need 8 - 10 volunteers. We will begin at 9:00 AM on the west side of highway 44, north of where it crosses the Rio Salado. If you prefer the BLM will provide transportation leaving at 8:00 AM from the BLM office on Montano. Bring a hat, sunscreen, gloves, bug repellent, and shoes and clothing suitable for muddy work. Contact Andy Iskra, 761-8789 or Bill Zeedyk, 281-9066.

## REMAINING 1999 TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE PROJECTS

*For more information on these projects, contact Bill Zeedyk, the AWF Project Coordinator, at 281-9066, or the agency points of contact (POC) listed.*

**JUNE 19:** Jemez Ranger District, Santa Fe National Forest. Details in the next newsletter. USFS POC is Buck Sanchez, 829-3535.

**JULY 9, 10 & 11:** This combines our annual get-together on Valle Vidal with the continuation of the wet meadow restoration on the Ring Place. We camp at Shuree Lodge on this fun, educational and worthwhile project. USFS POC is George Long, 586-0520. *Note that this project is on the second weekend instead of the customary third weekend.*

**AUGUST 20, 21 & 22:** AWF will construct small fenced enclosures to protect cottonwood and willow sprouts from grazing. This project is at Cisneros Park, Tres Piedras Ranger District, Carson National Forest. The USFS POC is Ben Romero, 758-8678.

**SEPTEMBER 18:** This is a follow-up project at Carbon Springs on the BLM Socorro Resource Area to construct an additional rock header (masonry) dam. BLM POC is Carla Alford, 853-0412.



**NEW MEXICO STATE GAME COMMISSION MEETING**

May 22, 1999, 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
Hoffmantown Church, Building E, 8888 Harper, NE, Albuquerque

The NM Game and Fish Department will present to the Commission a recommendation to increase the number of elk licenses for the upcoming and possibly the following license year. With the concern about the size of the elk herd and continued depredation problems, the Department has been asked to reconsider the lowering of the number of licenses available. The Bighorn Sheep regulations will also be considered. This is sure to be an intense meeting, with strong views on each side. *It's the best show in town, folks, and it's free.* For more information, contact the Division of Wildlife at 827-7885 (Santa Fe).

ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
P.O. Box 1234  
Albuquerque, NM 87103



12 1999 F  
Cliff & Joyce Mendel  
5119 Sunningdale NE  
Albuquerq

MEND114 10/110202/ 1347 10 03/13/99  
MENDEL  
PO BOX 515  
BELLE HAVEN VA 23306-0515





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

June, 1999

We apologize for the late newsletter. Most of the officers were away or busy, and there was no general meeting this month. There will also be no general meeting in July as many of us will have left for the annual Valle Vidal work Team Up with Wildlife project, camp out, and potluck on the regular meeting date. I hope you can join us.

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June Team Up with Wildlife project
Santa Fe National Forest, Jemez Ranger District
Saturday, 19 June, 1999

This month's project will involve placing wire structures around cottonwood trees on the lower Jemez river riparian area. These structures will protect young trees from destruction by beavers. In addition we will repair fish structures in the stream.

Our contact with Santa Fe National Forest is biologist Buck Sanchez. If you are joining us on the project you are invited to camp at Vista Linda campground, where Buck has reserved campsites 6, 7, and 8 for us for Saturday night.

For the project we will meet at the Vista Linda campground at 9:00 am Saturday morning. The campground is about four miles north of Cañon, which is in turn about 3 miles north of Jemez pueblo.

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1999 TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE PROJECTS

June 19: Jemez Ranger District, Jemez Springs, Santa Fe National Forest. See article on page one. USFS contact Buck Sanchez, 829-3535.

July 9, 10, 11: Continue Ring Place meadow restoration Valle Vidal, Carson National Forest. Camp at Shuree Lodge. USFS contact George Long 586-0520. Note that this project is on the second Saturday of July instead of the customary third Saturday.

August 20, 21, 22: Construct small fenced enclosures to protect cottonwood and willow sprouts from grazing. Cisneros Park, Tres Piedras Ranger District, Carson National Forest. USFS contact Ben Romero, 758-8678.

September 18: Return to Carbon Springs. Construct additional rock header (masonry) dams. Socorro Resource Area, Bureau of Land Management. BLM contact Carla Alford, 835-0412.

CALENDAR

- June 19: Team Up with Wildlife project, Jemez mountains, Santa Fe NF.
July: No general meeting due to Valle Vidal project.
July 9-11: Team Up with Wildlife project, Valle Vidal.
Aug. 12: General meeting. Subject to be announced.
Aug. 20-22: Team Up with Wildlife project, Carson National Forest.



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THERE WILL BE NO GENERAL MEETING IN JULY

Because the annual Valle Vidal Team Up with Wildlife Project is on the second Saturday of July this year, it is on the weekend following our usual general meeting date. Some members intend to go to Valle Vidal on Thursday afternoon, and can not attend the meeting. For this reason the board decided to forgo the July general meeting. We will resume the general meeting schedule on Thursday, Aug. 12.

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ANNUAL VALLE VIDAL, CARSON NATIONAL FOREST, TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE PROJECT and POTLUCK DINNER

Saturday, 10 July, 1999

Camping near Shuree Lodge available to workers Thursday evening until Sunday

Please try to attend this annual project. It is at one of the most beautiful areas in the state. AWF has been doing projects there every year since 1982, and our work in the Ring meadow over the past several years has been very effective at improving the stream in the meadow bottom. The improvement is apparent each time we return.

AWF will continue working at the Ring Place meadow this year. We will build an elk enclosure around some young willows in the meadow drain, and continue building diversion dams to increase sinuosity in the creek. George Long, of Carson National Forest, says that we will need to wheelbarrow the rocks for the dams from the nearby hillside. If you can join us, bring work gloves, water, and lunch for the Saturday project.

We will hold our annual potluck dinner at the lodge on Saturday evening. If you are attending, consider bringing a dish to share. Hot sliced ham, rolls, condiments, and soft drinks will be provided.

If you plan to attend, please tell Cliff or Joyce at 265-3840.

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TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE PROJECTS

July 9, 10, 11: Valle Vidal, Carson National Forest. See above.

August 20, 21, 22: Construct small fenced enclosures to protect cottonwood and willow sprouts from grazing. Cisneros Park, Tres Piedras Ranger District, Carson National Forest. USFS contact Ben Romero, 758-8678.

September 18: Return to Carbon Springs. Construct additional rock header (masonry) dams. Socorro Resource Area, Bureau of Land Management. BLM contact Carla Alford, 835-0412.

CALENDAR

July 9, 10, 11: Team Up with Wildlife project, Valle Vidal.

July 23: Game Commission meeting, Las Cruces.

August 12: AWF general meeting.

August 17: Game Commission meeting, Santa Fe.

Sept. 9 & 10: Game Commission meeting, Santa Fe. Big Game Amendment-Approval.

Oct. 15: Game Commission meeting, Farmington.

Nov. 18: Game Commission meeting, Roswell.

ECOLOGICALLY SENSITIVE RANCHING

A free workshop sponsored by the Quivira Coalition, a group supported by AWF Saturday, Aug. 7, 8:30 am-4pm, at the Sheraton Uptown (NE corner of Menaul and Louisiana) in Albuquerque

The purpose of the Quivira Coalition is to show that ecologically healthy rangeland and economically robust ranches can be compatible. An excellent slate of speakers is scheduled for the day. They are: authors Dr Bill deBuys and Dan Dagget; ranchers Jim Winder and Terry Wheeler; range scientist Dr. Kris Havstad, and coalition executive director Courtney White. Lunch will be provided by the Quivira Coalition. We encourage everyone to take advantage of this opportunity to learn from experts about conservation ranching. If you'd like more information call: 820-2544.

LAND AND WATER TRUST FUND

You can help influence vitally important legislation that will provide secure, long-term funding at the state and federal levels for wildlife and wild places. If passed, this conservation funding legislation would rank in achievement with the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts.

Republicans and Democrats in both houses of Congress are sponsoring legislation to permanently

devote significant revenues to conservation. President Clinton has put forward a companion Lands Legacy Initiative.

All of the conservation funding proposals Congress is considering would devote to conservation part of the public revenue from Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas drilling leases. That revenue is projected to be \$4.59 billion in the year 2000. The legislation Congress is considering would devote from 25 percent to 60 percent of that revenue to conservation annually, amounting to between \$1.3 billion to \$2.75 billion in the year 2000.

All of the conservation funding proposals Congress is considering include provisions for the complete, or nearly complete annual funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). Congress created the LWCF in 1965 to preserve wildlife habitat and wildlands, protect cultural and historical sites, and provide outdoor recreational facilities. The original legislation allows Congress to appropriate up to \$900 million of the revenues from Outer Continental Shelf leases for the LWCF.

However, over the past 10 years, total annual appropriations to the LWCF have averaged only about \$300 million. Since 1995, the state and local segment of LWCF, which helps fund parks and recreation facilities, has received no money at all. Instead Congress has used revenues that should be placed in the LWCF for other things.

All of the conservation funding proposals Congress is considering include significant resources for the states. All support a permanent source of conservation funding, instead of relying on the fluctuating Congressional appropriations process. All of the funding proposals are designed so that a portion of the funds could be used for nongame wildlife--that is, wildlife that is not hunted or fished, and that is not endangered or threatened. About 90 percent of all animal, bird and fish species in this country are nongame wildlife, but only about 5 percent of all wildlife funding is devoted to nongame species.

The conservation funding proposals all include specific provisions to mitigate the effects of offshore drilling on coastal states.

The elements for conservation funding cited above are included in the following proposals:

- Conservation and Reinvestment Act of 1999 (S.25 and H.R. 701)
- Permanent Protection for America's Resources 2000 (H.R. 798 and S. 446)
- Lands Legacy Initiative (Clinton administration's budget request)

However both the House and Senate versions of the Conservation and Reinvestment Act (H.R. 701 and S. 25) contain unnecessary and damaging restrictions on the use of LWCF funds. These restrictions include: a requirement that two-thirds of federal LWCF funds be spent east of the 100<sup>th</sup> meridian; a requirement that all federal land acquisitions above a certain cap receive approval by a vote of Congress; a provision that all land purchases be within existing borders of federal holdings; and a provision that funds the Urban Parks and Recreation Recovery program from a portion of the money intended for LWCF instead of providing a separate fund for the Urban Parks program.

You can help by writing to Senator Bingaman, Senator Domenici, and your Congressional representative (Heather Wilson in Bernalillo County) regarding support of the conservation funding proposals and removal of restrictions on the use of federal LWCF funds. You might also suggest that the bills guarantee funding for LWCF at the authorized \$900 million level, and divide LWCF funds equitably between federal and state programs.

The addresses and telephone numbers of our senators and Representative are:

Representative Heather Wilson  
US House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Senator Jeff Bingaman  
703 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-0001  
(202) 224-5521

Senator Pete Domenici  
328 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-0001  
(202) 224-6621

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



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

**GENERAL MEETING - THURSDAY, August 12, 1999**

**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)**

**SAVING AFRICAN WILDLIFE: Slide Program by Randy Logan**

New Mexico attorney Randy Logan, chairman and founder of the Zambezi-Kavira Conservation Foundation, will present a slide program showing how his non-profit organization is helping to restore elephants, zebra, cape buffalo, antelope, giraffe, and sable within a 300-square-mile area in northwestern Zimbabwe. Many animal species were pushed out or poached out as a consequence of Zimbabwe's war for independence from the late 1960s into the 1980s.

Logan, an enthusiastic hunter, started the foundation in 1996. A major goal is to develop programs that will help the native people of the Tonga tribe benefit from the existence of wildlife in their area. He says that controlled hunting is one of the best programs for bringing economic benefit to the natives.

Part of the money raised by the foundation is used to assist the poverty-ridden tribal people, and thus gain their trust. They are learning to see the economic value of wildlife and have become involved in anti-poaching efforts.

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**TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE PROJECT  
TRES PIEDRAS SECTION OF CARSON NATIONAL FOREST  
SATURDAY, AUGUST 20  
see pages 2 and 3**

## CONSERVATION FUNDING

If you haven't contacted New Mexico's U.S. senators and representatives regarding funding for purchase of additional public lands, discussed in last month's newsletter, there still is time. It is especially important to contact Senator Bingaman and Senator Domenici immediately. They both sit on the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee which will vote on a conservation funding bill (S.25) soon after the senators return from their recess on Sept. 7.

The National Wildlife Federation asks that you call or write our senators to urge their support for conservation funding and ask that the final legislation include three essential elements. They are:

- permanent funding for conservation activities from a dedicated source rather than year-to-year appropriations;
- support for state wildlife management programs, with a special emphasis on "non-game" species that are not hunted and fished, such as songbirds; and
- full funding, with no new restrictions for land purchase, for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, in which half the money would go to the federal government to purchase fragile habitat and critical wild lands.

If the Land and Water Conservation Fund receives a permanent full appropriation, it could lead to the purchase of New Mexico's scenic 95,000-acre Baca Ranch (part of which is the Valle Grande), which many of us had hoped for last year.

Call or write senators Domenici and Bingaman at:

Senator Jeff Bingaman  
703 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-0001  
(202) 224-5521

Senator Pete Domenici  
328 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510-0001  
(202) 224-6621

You also can call their Albuquerque offices, but a quick letter would be best.

## AUGUST TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE PROJECT Saturday, August 21

For this project we will again work with our friend Ben Romero of the Tres Piedras Ranger District of Carson National Forest. Go west from Tres Piedras on US 64 to forest road 133, and then north (see map, page 3). We will be constructing enclosures to protect willows in the region where we built rock structures last year. If you attended that project you may remember the group of willows perhaps one quarter of a mile from the road. If we finish there soon enough we may build another enclosure in Biscara Canyon.

Friday and Saturday nights we will camp at the Cisneros Park area which we used last year. It is within walking distance of the project. It is more pleasant than the Hopewell Lake campground, which is closed for refurbishing in any case.

This is a delightful project in a beautiful area, and we will be working with some nice people from the Forest. Although we do not have an organized meal, Saturday night is usually something of a social event. Please join us. We like to have an idea of how many will attend. If you believe you might join us, please call Cliff or Joyce at 265-3840, or let us know at the general meeting.

## HELP NEEDED

As you'll may recall, we still do not have a president, which makes it hard to keep this group going. Past president Cliff Mendel takes over some of the presidential duties during the few months that he's in town, but he's gone about half of the year. The various board members have taken on responsibilities for programming and publicity, the Hass' have taken care of membership, and Bill Zeedyk has set up work projects. Andy Iskra sees that bills are paid, gets the mail, and keeps us informed on BLM matters. However, all of these people are very busy, and we need help to coordinate things and make sure that at least the basic work gets done (programs, publicity, newsletter, etc.) If you can provide this oversight, or if you can help with programs, publicity, or writing or mailing the newsletter, call Cliff at 265-3840 or Richard Becker at 255-7156.

Those of us who have been with AWF for many years are seriously concerned that the organization is near its demise. This is unfortunate for an organization that has among its founding fathers the great Aldo Leopold. If it is to survive we need to expand the leadership, and also we need to find ways to appeal to a wider, and hopefully more diverse audience.

## TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE PROJECTS

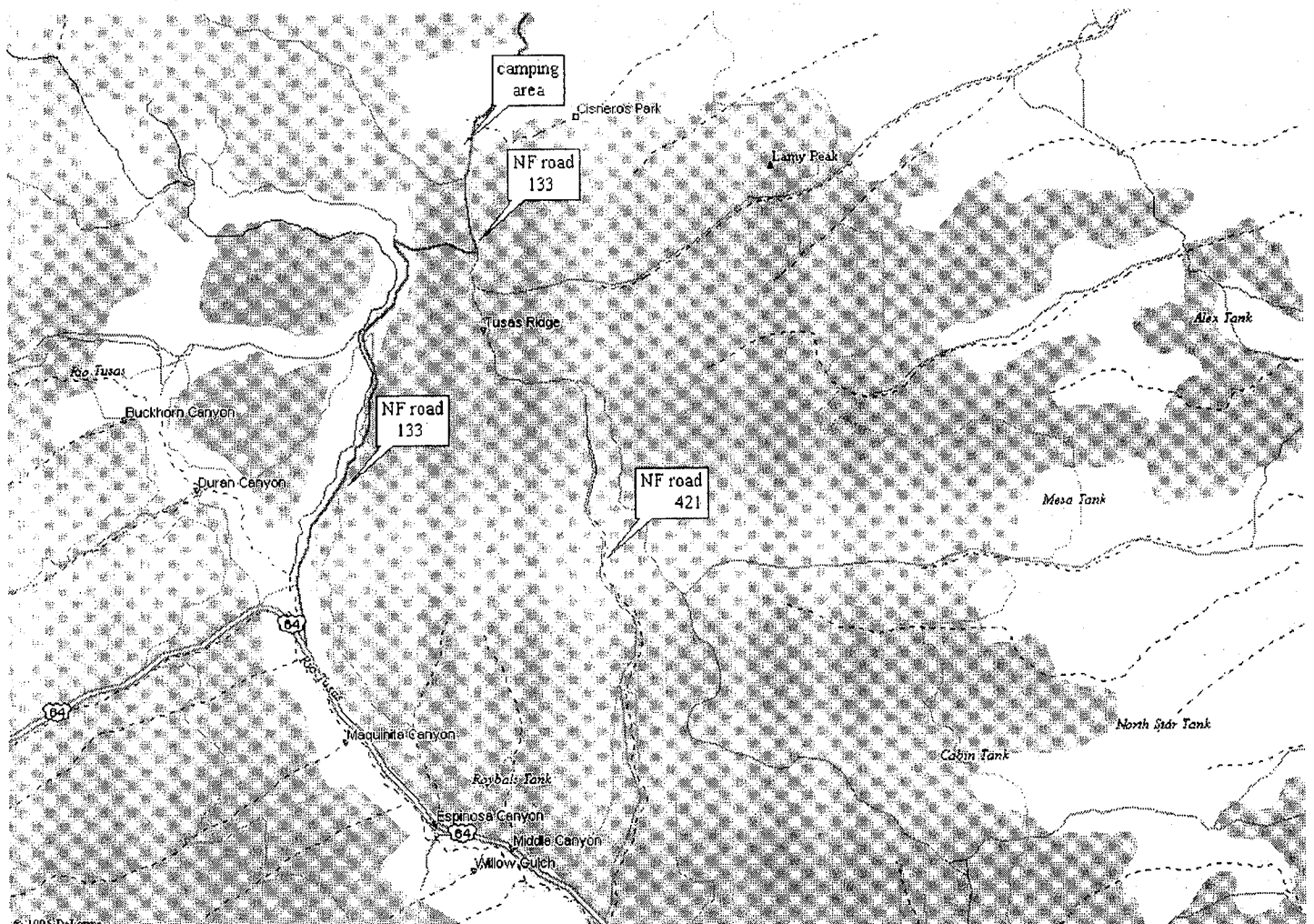
**August 21, 22:** Construct small fenced enclosures to protect cottonwood and willow sprouts from grazing. Cisneros Park, Tres Piedras Ranger District, Carson National Forest. USFS contact Ben Romero, 758-8678.

**September 18:** Return to Carbon Springs. Construct additional rock header (masonry) dams. Socorro Resource Area, Bureau of Land Management. BLM contact Carla Alford, 835-0412.

### CALENDAR

- August 12: AWF general meeting.
- August 17: Game Commission meeting, Santa Fe.
- August 21: Work project (see below).
- Sept. 9 & 10: Game Commission meeting, Santa Fe. Big Game Amendment-Approval.
- Oct. 15: Game Commission meeting, Farmington.
- Nov. 18: Game Commission meeting, Roswell.

### MAP TO AUGUST TEAM UP WITH WILDLIFE PROJECT, CARSON NATIONAL FOREST





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

**GENERAL MEETING - OCTOBER 14, 1999**

**7:00 P.M.**

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

**\*\*\*\*\*OCTOBER PROGRAM\*\*\*\*\***

**WATERFOWL CALLING AND SAMPLES OF DECOY COLLECTIONS**

Two collectors of Waterfowl Calls and Decoys will be our program. Norman Harris will display his collection of calls and provide demonstrations of calling techniques.

Jim Young will bring to us some of his decoy collection and discuss the history of water fowling and decoy development. Jim is also a talented caller and has been collecting decoys for most of his adult life. After retiring from the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Jim has been an active volunteer for Ducks Unlimited.

The collection of calls and decoys are impressive and are sure to get most waterfowl enthusiasts excited.

Please join us on October 14, 1999.

Our condolences to Bill Zeedyke. His wife "GENE" past away last month. We all send our best wishes to Bill and his family.

Our work programs for the year were successful. The September project was canceled. We appreciate the enthusiasm and support from all of our members who participated in these efforts.

Our November program on 11/11/99 will include a presentation from Jerry Maracchini, Director of the NM Department of Game and Fish.

**CALENDAR**

Oct. 15, Game Commission Meeting,  
Farmington, NM

Nov. 18, Game Commission Meeting,  
Roswell, NM





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

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

GENERAL MEETING

7:00 P.M. THURSDAY, November 11, 1999

New Mexico Department of Game and Fish Office
3841 Midway Place NE

(from I-25, take Jefferson exit west, left on Singer Street, right on Office Blvd., to Midway Place)

NOTE THE CHANGE OF LOCATION

ELK HUNTING IN NEW MEXICO

New Mexico has the reputation for the best elk hunting in the nation. Our program will cover elk management and hunting.

Ken Swaim, past president of New Mexico Council of Outfitters and Guides, will share his tips on how to find the big bulls. Ken owns Beaverhead Outfitters, Inc. which provides hunting services throughout the state. His company specializes in elk, antelope and trophy deer hunting.

Scott Brown, Assistant Director of New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, will talk about elk management. Specifically, he will describe the system that provides a method for landowners to partner with the state in managing elk on private lands. The State Game Commission has recently liberalized the rules for these private land hunts, which will be of interest to landowners and hunters alike. Director Brown will be available to field questions about other game or fish topics important to the audience.

Note the change in location: Bear Canyon will be closed on this date

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GAME COMMISSION REFUSES TO CONSIDER PRAIRIE CHICKEN RECOMMENDATION

The State Game Commission voted in September to table the NM Game and Fish Department's recommendation to list the lesser prairie chicken as a threatened species under New Mexico's Wildlife Conservation Act. Commissioners Doerr, Hettinga, Emery, Ortega, and Padilla voted to table the recommendation; commissioners Cramer and Brininstool voted against tabling it.

Twelve organizations and three individuals asked the Commission to reconsider its decision. They included Southwest Consolidated Sportsmen, Quail Unlimited, New Mexico Sportsmen, the Audubon Society, a former director of the Game and Fish Department, and Dr. Charles Davis, pre-eminent prairie-chicken biologist of New Mexico State University. However, when the request was brought up by Commissioner Cramer at the October Commission meeting, following an informative presentation of field data concerning the prairie chicken, her motion failed.

The recommendation to list the species was based upon a two-year study, which culminated in a 159-page report. The report concluded that the

most recent decline of the bird has been due to several causes, including overgrazing, oil and gas development, shinnery oak removal, inbreeding in small isolated populations, and lack of effective conservation programs.

Roadside surveys conducted by the Game Department in 1998 and 1999 indicate that prairie chickens are gone from 83% of their ancestral range in the state. BLM surveys and Game Department data on prairie chicken harvests also show the decline in prairie chicken numbers.

Commissioners Doerr and Hettinga said they wanted additional research to be conducted. They and Commissioner Ortega expressed concern for private landowners.

The state's Wildlife Conservation Act directs the Game and Fish Department to prepare a recovery plan after a species is listed. The Act does not authorize the state to restrict any land uses for the protection of endangered species habitat.

Dr. Jim Bailey, who oversaw the two-year study on the status of the prairie chicken, says that "delaying official recognition of the poor status of prairie chickens in New Mexico will diminish urgently needed conservation and recovery efforts. Some of New Mexico's populations of prairie chickens are small, isolated, and in danger of extinction."

## NEW MEXICO HATCHERIES BEING TESTED FOR WHIRLING DISEASE

*The following is from a Department of Game and Fish news release dated Oct. 28.*

SANTA FE, NM Preliminary tests show two state-operated trout hatcheries could be contaminated with whirling disease, and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish has suspended stocking any fish from those facilities. In addition, no fish are being transferred between any state hatcheries.

Mike Sloane, assistant chief of fisheries for the Department, said trout from the Lisboa Springs Hatchery near Pecos and the Seven Springs Hatchery in the Jemez Mountains tested positive for whirling disease earlier this week. Additional tests to confirm the presence of the parasite that causes whirling disease are being conducted at all six New Mexico hatcheries. The results should be available in two to three weeks.

"We sampled the sickest fish we could find during a routine health inspection," Sloane said, "and these two hatcheries have indications they may have whirling disease."

Whirling disease is spread by microscopic spores found on the bottom of ponds, lakes and rivers. It cannot be contracted by humans. The spores are eaten by tubifex worms, and develop into *Triactinomyxons* while inside the worms. The *Triactinomyxons* are released from the tubifex worms into the water, where they cling to the bodies of trout and burrow into the fish's nervous system. Another metamorphosis within the fish results in a mature spore attacking the cartilage right behind the fish's head. After several weeks, that results in spinal deformities and "whirling" motions by the fish. Black tails are additional evidence of a whirling-disease infection.

Sloane said no fish showed any symptoms of whirling disease at any hatcheries. He said juvenile spores were found in the recent tests, which could indicate this is a recent infestation. "But we'll know more after we get confirmation," he said. "And this could be just a false positive."

Young rainbow trout, which are raised at all six New Mexico hatcheries, are particularly susceptible to whirling disease. The disease has decimated several good fisheries in Colorado, Wyoming and Montana. This is the first time whirling disease has been suspected in any public waters in New Mexico. It has been found in several private ponds in Northern New Mexico, and was traced to private hatcheries which had stocked trout in private ponds. Hatcheries that test positive in other states continue to produce fish, however, stocking those fish is confined to contaminated waters.

"It's too early to postulate about where this came from," Sloane said. "However, the indications of whirling disease were found in river-water raceways at Lisboa Springs."

Seven Springs Hatchery was tested in March and was found whirling-disease free at that time. It's possible that rainbow trout moved from Lisboa Springs to Seven Springs spread the suspected contamination. Sloane said the state has suspended all transfers of fish within its hatchery system.

New Mexico operates trout hatcheries at Parkview, Red River, Rock Lake and Glenwood in addition to Seven Springs and Lisboa Springs. Game and Fish stocked almost 4 million rainbow trout in the last fiscal year.

You can visit the Game and Fish Department home page at its Web site/Internet address:  
<http://www.gmfsh.state.nm.us/>

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation  
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# AWF

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## **ANNUAL MEETING and PARTY 6:30 P.M. THURSDAY, December 9, 1999**

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)

### **ANNUAL MEETING**

We will hold a short meeting for the annual elections, and to address any issues the membership might like to bring up. *See nominating committee slate below.*

### **HOLIDAY PARTY and POTLUCK**

We will hold our annual holiday party again this year. Bring a dish if you have time. Game dishes have been welcome features at recent annual meetings. AWF will provide soft drinks, tea, coffee, plastic utensils, and paper plates. Also bring photos or stories of recent interesting outings if you can.

We will again have some of our agency friends who supply wildlife projects joining us. These meetings are always fun and well attended. Please join us.

### **COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS**

#### **Officers:**

president: ?  
vice president: Richard Becker  
treasurer: Andy Iskra  
secretary: Cecil Haas

#### **Board:**

Bill Zeedyk	Dennis Muirhead
Larry Dwyer	Chris Chadwick
Dale Hall	Jim Hubert
Harold Olson	
Cliff Mendel (past president)	

Nominations from the floor will be welcome. Please consider running for an office or for the board. Our Federation is badly in need of help.