

ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION

AWF Newsletter

APRIL 2008

Founded by Aldo Leopold in 1914 to protect and perpetuate our wildlife and natural resources

GENERAL MEETING

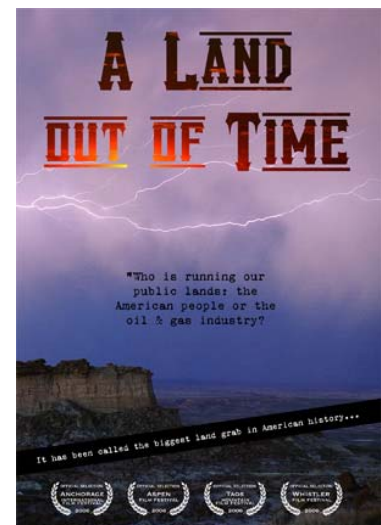
WHEN: Thursday, April 10, 2008 — 7:30 pm
WHERE: Manzano Mesa Center (map p2)
PROGRAM: Pizza and a Movie — “A Land Out of Time”

*Here's something different...*AWF will bring some pizza and we'll all watch a movie! Enjoy a slice or two while viewing “A Land Out of Time,” an important film based on New York Times reporter Timothy Egan’s accounts of overzealous drilling for oil and gas in the West. Released in September 2006, it won the “Best Environmental Film” Award at the Taos Mountain Film Festival, and the “Spirit of Activism” Jury Award at the Wild & Scenic Film Festival. The movie runs about 55 minutes.

“A Land Out of Time” depicts how time is “running out” for vast swaths of the Rocky Mountain West as the administration opens millions of acres of public land for oil and gas drilling. The oil and gas industry has already leased more than 35 million acres of federal land, and industry is moving aggressively to lease millions more before the next election.

Westerners on the land for generations expose the dramatic changes to the landscape and their heritage and spark a backlash. Over 100,000 oil and gas wells have already been drilled from Montana to New Mexico, and plans are under way to drill another hundred thousand. The drilling blitz threatens some of America’s last, best wild lands: the Red Desert, Rocky Mountain Front, Roan Plateau, canyon lands and Otero Mesa. Just who is in charge of our public lands, the oil and gas industry or the American people?

Join us for a thought-provoking...and delicious...evening!



**Jim Hubert's
NOTABLE QUOTE
of the month**

The oil and gas industry, which continues to enjoy historic profits, should not be allowed to drill New Mexico land with little regard for protecting the environment.

— Gilbert Gallegos, spokesman for Governor Bill Richardson, March 2008

The voices captured in this film are not your stereotypical environmentalists or big money Hollywood stars. They are real people who make their living off the land and have roots that go back generations. Ranchers, hunters, sportsmen, county officials, educators—this film documents the diverse and growing coalitions of local folks who are fighting to save their way of life.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As mentioned in the March Newsletter, there is a lot of information available in various forms of media for us to consider. There is also an abundance of misinformation. Misinformation is often embedded in interesting subject matter.

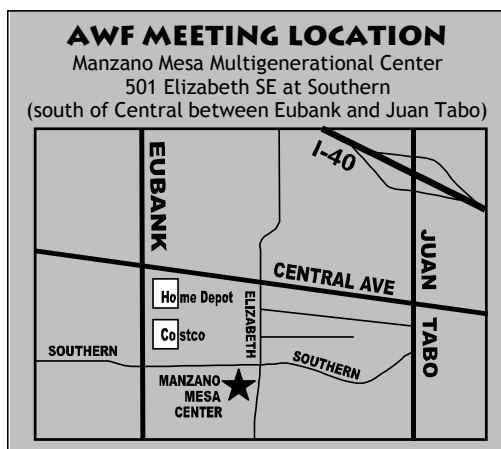
“Red Herring” is a term used to describe such literary diversions. Wikipedia defines red herring as “a metaphor for a diversion or distraction from an original objective. In other words, this means it diverts you from your goal. The term originates from the tradition whereby young hunting dogs in Britain were trained to follow a scent with the use of a ‘red’ (salted and smoked) herring (see *kipper*). This pungent fish would be dragged across a trail until the puppy learned to follow the scent.”

Good science can be used as a carrier for distortion and diversion. The information is usually interesting, and must be derived from principled sources to be an effective diversion. For example, I was recently sent an e-mail that made reference to an article in Science Magazine, “Long-Term Sea-Level Fluctuations Driven by Ocean Basin Dynamics”. The magazine article reported that sea levels had dropped since the Cretaceous period as a function of the lowering of the sea beds. The e-mail author stated, “sea levels have fluctuated greatly over much longer time scales, and glaciers and ice caps have had little to do with it. Instead, the changing size and depth of the ocean basins is responsible, as a study by R. Dietmar Muller of the University of Sydney and colleagues shows.”

The statement is a distortion of facts. The study by Muller et al is based on geological time, not human time. On this time scale, shrinking or expanding glaciers and ice caps are just a blip. Of course, humans are just another blip. The implication is that we need not concern ourselves about global climate change because during the next 1,000,000 years the sea level is expected to be lowered. So just wait, continue to consume and pollute. However, in the mean time, the short term, human time realm, chunks of ice the size of Manhattan are breaking off the Antarctic ice cap, and continued warming of Lake Tahoe will eliminate the Lake's cold water fisheries.

Certainly there are many interesting phenomena, such as the earth's geology or sunspots, which are beyond our control. Being not a fatalistic person, my comfort zone is to try to change the things I can and accept those things beyond my control. Republican Presidential candidate John McCain says, on the subject of global change, that even if you all are wrong about global warming, energy efficiency is the right thing to do.

— Gene Tatum



AWF OFFICERS AND BOARD

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Turkey season
opens April 15

CITY OPEN SPACE DIVISION

8th Annual Foothills Spring Cleanup

Each Saturday in April
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Help clean up your favorite Sandia Foothills Open Space area! Arrive early to register and enjoy coffee and snacks!

- ◆ April 5: Copper
- ◆ April 12: Indian School
- ◆ April 19: Menaul
- ◆ April 26: Piedra Lisa

COORDINATOR NEEDED FOR THE ALDO LEOPOLD CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

To mark the 2009 centennial of Aldo Leopold's arrival in the Southwest, a year-long series of events is being planned by a diverse group of organizations in New Mexico and Arizona. A Coordinator will be hired for 20 months, starting in May 2008, to better organize these events. Enthusiasm, self-discipline, people skills, energy, and a passion for Leopold and conservation are required!

To read the job description and apply, visit: www.leopoldcelebration.org

APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 22, 2008

2008 FIELD PROJECTS "TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE"

APRIL 18-20 ● CEBOLLA CANYON

(Albuquerque Wildlife Federation / NM Wilderness Alliance)

Located on BLM land in the Cebolla Wilderness of El Malpais National Conservation Area, Cebolla Canyon is a favorite AWF project location. We'll go back to the same spot as last year to build more rock structures in a deeply incised arroyo, to help raise the level of the stream bed and form pools. Bill Zeedyk, riparian restoration consultant, will lead the group and oversee structure placement and assembly. The word is that beaver sign has been observed: *fresh footprints and cuttings on willows!*

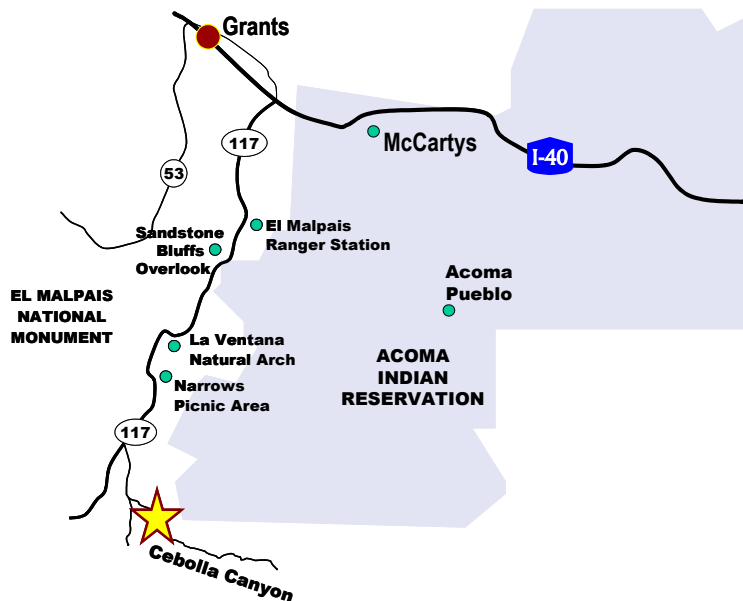
This is a weekend outing, with Saturday being the primary project day. You can arrive Friday afternoon, camp two nights, and leave Sunday...or attend as your schedule permits. If you plan to drive out on Saturday, it is about a 2-hour drive from Albuquerque. **We will assemble for orientation at 9 am.** Sunday is work or play depending on your preference. Visit the spring, hike the creek, or walk over to view the Lobo Canyon rock art.

EQUIPMENT: Wear sturdy boots/shoes and bring gloves, hats, and sunscreen. If you plan to camp, bring appropriate gear.

FOOD: On Saturday night we'll have a pot luck meal. AWF will grill burgers (meat and veggie) and bratwurst. Please bring a dish to share. For all other meals, please provide your own food and beverages. We will supply snacks and drinks during the project activity.

DIRECTIONS: Exit I-40 at mile marker 89, and drive south on NM117 about 25 miles, passing Sandstone Bluffs, La Ventana, and The Narrows en route. Turn left between MM31 and MM30 onto a BLM road. We'll have signs from there. It's about 3 miles further to the camping area (no facilities).

CONTACT: For more information and to sign up, Gene Tatum at gtatum3@msn.com or 505-255-1960. Glenda Muirhead at g.muirhead@usfamily.net or 505-281-2925.



2008 PROJECT SCHEDULE

APR 5	SAN MATEO MTNS (QU)
APR 5	SANDIA FOOTHILLS (NMVFO)
APR 18-20	CEBOLLA CANYON
APR 19-20	FREY TRAIL (NMVFO)
APR 26-27	CORONADO ST MON (NMVFO)
MAY 2-4	☼ SAN FRANCISCO RIVER
MAY 16-18	☼ LIMESTONE CYN
JUNE 20-22	RIO DE LAS VACAS
JULY 18-20	VALLE VIDAL
AUG 15-17	VALLES CALDERA
SEP 19-21	WIND RIVER RANCH

☼ Project of NM Wilderness Alliance—Contact Michael Scialdone at 505-843-8696 or scial@nmwild.org

PARTNER PROJECTS

April 5 ● San Mateo Mountains

(Southwest New Mexico Chapter Quail Unlimited)

Springtime Guzzler Reconstruction: Add storage tank and replace wildlife drinker, repair of existing enclosure fence. Day trip; habitat improvement project funded by the Habitat Stamp Program. **CONTACT:** David L. Heft, Wildlife Biologist, Magdalena Ranger District, Cibola National Forest at 505-854-2281 or dheft@fs.fed.us.

April 5 ● Sandia Foothills

(New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors)

Join Open Space's Spring Cleanup at the Copper Trailhead. We'll perform trail maintenance, plant cacti, pick up trash and other tasks. **CONTACT:** Jason Koschmeder 505-265-4358 or thekosh@netzero.com.

April 19-20 ● Frey Trail

(New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors)

Join the NMVFO and the Jemez Ranger District as we help Banderlier National Monument by working on the Frey Trail. **CONTACT:** Heather Gordon 505-842-7851 or gordonh@saic.com.

April 26-27 ● Coronado State Monument

(New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors)

Please help us with the construction of a landing dock so Tamaya Resort can access Coronado from the Rio Grande. **CONTACT:** Curtis Hogue 505-348-4186(w), 505-797-2861(h) or Curtis.Hogue@wilsonco.com.

May 2-4 ● San Francisco River (NMWA)

Continuation of a US Fish & Wildlife riparian restoration project near Reserve. We will plant willows and cottonwoods on an eroding river bank to promote stability. **CONTACT:** Michael Scialdone at 505-843-8696 or scial@nmwild.org.

DEPREDACTION RULE ABUSE SEEN IN NORTHERN N.M.

About two weeks ago, I found out about an abuse of the NM State Wildlife Depredation Law 17-2-7.2. The law is implemented under NM Game Commission Rule 19.30.2. In accordance with this law and rule, private land owners have the right to kill wildlife that damages their property. Recently, a farmer in the northern part of the state has killed close to 30 antelope for grazing his winter wheat field. The NMDG&F has been negotiating with the man for fencing intervention. The farmer appears not to be negotiating in good faith. Apparently he would like an expensive game fence as opposed to a more reasonably priced fence which will block antelope ingress.

This may not sound appalling to you. Well, the devil is in the details. The NMDG&F has repaired part of this individual's fence, but he will not agree to repair of the rest of it. It was explained to me that the antelope enter the property through the damaged fence. The antelope are then herded by ATV—not off the property, but to the side of the property where the fence has been repaired and the animals cannot escape. The animals are then shot with a shotgun using a variety of shot size ranging from double 0 to 7. Several of the animals have still been alive several hours later when the NMDG&F field personnel arrive to retrieve and dispose of the carcasses. In accordance with the Rule, this individual is within his rights and his means of control are acceptable.

The next Game Commission meeting is in Santa Rosa on Friday, April 11. On the schedule is AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Opening the Depredation Assistance Rule, 19.30.2, NMAC, to Develop Reasonable and Appropriate Adjustment Recommendations (presented by R.J. Kirkpatrick). The Department will ask the Commission to open the Depredation Rule to initiate public outreach efforts to develop adjustment recommendations that improve and expand options the Department has to resolve complaints. Let's support the reopening and modification to the Rule.

— Gene Tatum

"THE IMPACTS OF UNMANAGED OFF-ROAD VEHICLES ON FEDERAL LAND"

Oversight Hearing on Thursday, March 13, 2008
The House Natural Resources Committee
Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands

*Opening Statement by
Subcommittee Chairman Raúl Grijalva (D-AZ)*

...We are more frequently seeing media reporting that the use of ORVs on public lands is growing rampantly, as are the impacts of their unchecked use on both federal lands and private lands. We are hearing concerns from citizens across the spectrum, including ranchers, sportsmen, law enforcement agents, emergency room doctors, property owners, tribal leaders, archeologists, and wildlife biologists, as well as environmental advocates.

News reports [indicate] what many of these stakeholders already know — that the unmanaged use of off-road vehicles is a crisis that federal land management agencies are failing to address.

While many Americans enjoy using ORVs responsibly, the negligent use of ORVs is rising rapidly with troubling results: damaged cultural sites, disturbed wildlife habitat, and destroyed private property. Many ORV riders — knowingly and unknowingly — zoom off designated trails and run over fragile areas, harming resources, and threatening public safety. Some ORV users are spilling out beyond boundaries of federal lands onto nearby private property or tribal lands. The rapid growth of this recreational activity has resulted in use that overburdens law enforcement and local communities and tarnishes the recreational experience for those off-road users who respect the land.

Although ORV use on federal lands is legal on designated roads and trails, it has increased so dramatically that federal managers seem

unable to keep up. A recent poll of federal land enforcement agents reveals that they view off-road vehicles use as one of the biggest threats facing our public lands.

According to one report, ORV use has increased as much as 147% since 1993. One BLM official in Utah has stated that in order for the agency to address the impacts of ORVs on public lands, "you would have to have Patton's army".

As funds for federal land management agencies have been cut year after year, staffing has dwindled and resources have been stretched thin, leaving our cultural and natural resources unmonitored and unprotected. Agencies such as the Bureau of Land Management and the Forest Service cannot adequately enforce existing regulations or provide for public safety.

In those cases where regulations can be enforced, penalties are too weak to be an effective deterrent for those irresponsible off-road vehicle users who damage resources.

Closure of public access is obviously the issue that polarizes this debate. One side thinks that their right to ride is being infringed, while the other side wants to close areas to ORVs, but this is not what this hearing is about. While that debate is important, this is about the agencies' inability to manage the areas that are being overrun. This is about managing the legal use of ORVs. This is about creating a culture of responsible recreational use.

...ORV users are flocking in record numbers to federal lands, and addressing the impacts of the ORVs across the west goes to the heart of the sound stewardship of our public lands and the public trust. This is a problem that is in need of urgent attention and long term solutions.

MEET OUR MEMBERS

KURT NOLTE

AWF Board Member

Born/grew up where? I was born in White Plains NY and grew up in the northern New Jersey town of Lincoln Park not far from where Bill Zeedyk grew up. It was a rural community becoming suburban when I was a kid. Now it is a suburban community that is urbanizing.

Age: 51

Marital status: Married to Bronwyn Wilson for 19 years. Bronwyn is an internal medicine physician in the UNM School of Medicine.

Children: We have 2 daughters. Cailin is 14 and a freshman at Albuquerque High. Averill is 11 and a 5th grader at Bandelier Elementary School. Both of them came to the work project at Wind River Ranch last year. Cailin likes to hunt. Averill likes to fish. They both enjoy backpacking but inexplicably view day hikes like the Bataan Death March.

Education: BA: University of Pennsylvania - Philadelphia
 – MD: Albert Einstein College of Medicine - New York
 – Internship Internal Medicine: Pennsylvania Hospital - Philadelphia
 – Residency Pathology: Massachusetts General Hospital - Boston & Pennsylvania Hospital - Philadelphia
 – Fellowship Forensic Pathology: Office of the Chief Medical Examiner - North Carolina - University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.

Occupation/how long? Forensic Pathologist for 20 years with the last 18 at the NM Office of the Medical Investigator (OMI) and the UNM School of Medicine where I am currently Assistant Chief Medical Investigator, Professor of Pathology, and Assistant Vice President for Research.

Previous jobs: Medical Examiner for state of Connecticut 1988-90; General Practitioner - Indian Health Service, US Public Health Service, San Carlos, AZ 1983-84.

How long in New Mexico? 18 years.

Favorite place in NM: Valle Vidal, grasslands by Des Moines.

Favorite outdoor activities: Hunting grouse in the Jemez and Sangre de Cristo Mountains; fishing very small back-country streams; hiking anywhere.

Greatest adventure: My greatest adventure is the 3 months I spent in a bush hospital in upcountry Liberia in 1982. It was the year after Samuel Doe came to power in a bloody coup. I observed and treated common (malaria) and obscure (leprosy, Lassa fever) tropical diseases. I learned about the fragility of life, the importance of public health, and the long-lasting effects of colonialism (in this case by Americo-Liberians).

Favorite book(s): *Angle of Repose* by Wallace Stegner, *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver, *The Sun Also Rises* by Ernest Hemingway, all of Edward Abby's books.

Favorite magazine(s): *Bugle*, *Smithsonian*, *National Geographic*.

Hobbies/free time activities: Hunting, fishing, hiking, growing tomatoes, attending NM Symphony concerts. I spend a lot of time at my daughters' concerts, soccer games, and other activities.

Other organizations you belong to: Nature Conservancy, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, NM Trout, Trout Unlimited; American Academy of Forensic Sciences, National Association of Medical Examiners.

Personal goals: Bag an elk with a recurve bow, learn how to collect wild mushrooms.

AWF member since: I can't remember – probably around 2004.

Origin of my interest in wildlife: Critters in my childhood backyard – deer, squirrels, raccoons, skunks, birds. As a kid I loved to take animals apart to see the comparative anatomy. I loved to clean fish and small game and would also bring home road kill to dissect in the back yard. (I suspect that these habits were formative in choosing forensic pathology as a career!) I progressed from appreciation of the organism alone to appreciation of the organism in the context of its habitat and other organisms when I majored in Biology in college and took an ecology course.

Why did you join AWF? I was pulled in by the desire to get involved in service projects and to involve my children in service projects. I was pleased that AWF was a conservation group that was supportive of hunters but not solely focused on wildlife issues that were important to hunters.

Goals for AWF: I would like to see the AWF membership grow and involve more children and teens. I like our focus on habitat improvement and would like to find a way to pull in more hunters and anglers. I have wondered if we could work with NM Game and Fish to develop some sort of master hunter/master angler program that would require an element of habitat work in exchange for enhanced hunting or fishing opportunities.



Free Workshop Co-Sponsored by NM Environment Department and Animal Protection of New Mexico

COEXISTING WITH BEAVERS BY PREVENTING DAMAGE

May 21, 2008 – Santa Fe, New Mexico

Beaver dams sometimes cause problems on roads or properties near streams. Flow devices can be built and installed relatively quickly and inexpensively to let water flow in the presence of beavers, allowing them to continue to maintain the beneficial ecological habitat that they provide, without damaging roads or property.

The public is invited to Day Two of this free workshop. Participants will hear from speakers regarding live trapping, flow devices, beaver biology, and habitat restoration, and will also see a completed device constructed on Day One of the Workshop (limited to government and tribal agencies) and observe how to properly live trap beavers.

9:00 AM – NMED Harold Runnels Building Auditorium, Santa Fe, NM

- SPEAKERS:** **BILL ZEEDYK**, Zeedyk Ecological Consulting
SHERRIE TIPPIE, Wildlife 2000
DENISE SMITH, USF&WS, Partners for Fish & Wildlife
BARBARA COULTER, NM Department of Game & Fish Depredation Coordinator
SKIP LISLE, Beaver Deceivers™ Int'l
DAVE FOREMAN, Rewilding Institute

Please RSVP to Debbie Risberg of APNM at debbie@apnm.org, 265-2322 x 25, or 205-5740; call or email if you need more information.

ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION
 PO BOX 1234, ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87103
 TO SUBMIT MATERIAL FOR
 THE AWF NEWSLETTER:
 Please contact Glenda Muirhead
 505-281-2925 or g.muirhead@usfamily.net

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION, PO BOX 1234, ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87103

An affiliate of New Mexico Wildlife Federation

Please choose between **AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY** or **AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP**. **AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY** does **not** include membership in NMWF. **AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP** includes **one** voting membership in NMWF, for which \$10 of your dues payment goes to NMWF. For Family Membership, if a second person* desires NMWF voting rights, an additional \$10 payment is required.

➤ **PLEASE ✓ ONE :** AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP ↴

Designate NMWF member(s*) _____

name(s) _____

address _____

city, state, zip _____

phone _____ email _____

Gift membership from: _____

✓ MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

- Student [under 18]..... \$10 ◀ [AWF Membership Only]
- Individual..... \$25
- Family..... \$35
- Sustaining..... \$50-\$99
- Patron..... \$100
- Lifetime..... \$500 ◀ [One-time Payment]

Dues \$ _____
 *Second NMWF Member \$10 _____
 Contribution \$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____