

ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION

# AWF Newsletter

## AUGUST 2008

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

## GENERAL MEETING

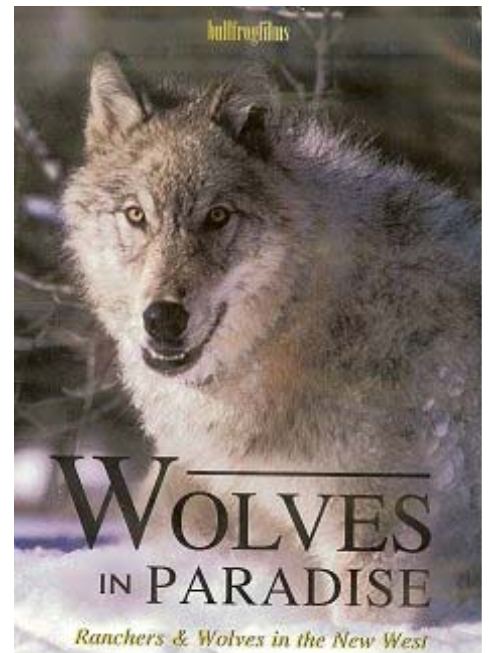
**WHEN:** Thursday, August 14, 2008 — 7:30 pm  
**WHERE:** Manzano Mesa Center (map p6)  
**PROGRAM:** **MOVIE NIGHT — “WOLVES IN PARADISE”**

This month we will be showing the film **“WOLVES IN PARADISE—Ranchers & Wolves in the New West”**. Set in the soaring mountains and majestic valleys of Southwest Montana, *Wolves in Paradise* is a tale of survival as ranchers face the challenge of living with wolves in the decade after the top predator was restored to Yellowstone National Park.

The documentary follows the growing wolf packs as they leave the sanctuary of the park and make their first incursions into Paradise Valley, where rancher Martin Davis copes with the frustration of running livestock in wolf country while fending off another threat to his way of life: encroaching development. His traditional family outfit is contrasted with the vast Sun Ranch in nearby Madison Valley, operated as a conservation experiment that tries to accommodate both wolves and cattle, with unexpected, dramatic results.

Meanwhile, as the action plays out in the remote reaches of Greater Yellowstone, a surprising alliance grows between traditional enemies—livestock growers and conservationists—who find common ground in the need to protect open space in this last, wild corner of the West.

Come and gain some insight into these issues and relationships, which are unfolding similarly right now in southern New Mexico.



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

**Those who contemplate the beauty of the earth find reserves of strength that will endure as long as life lasts.**

— Rachel Carson  
*Help Your Child To Wonder, 1956*

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Valle Vidal was a very good project again this year. I was excited about the number of volunteers: AWF had 29 (with help from NM Wilderness Alliance), while the Quivira Coalition had 60. Long-time AWF members Cliff and Joyce Mendel returned for their 26th and 25th year respectively.

Of course, bears are still living in the area. There are no bear stories this year that can quite match the bear that broke into Bill Zedyk's camper and had a beer. However, a bear did find a vehicle with food inside and a window slightly open. The window went from “barely open” to “bear opened.”

(Continued on page 2)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*(Continued from page 1)*



*A bear investigates the environs of Shuree Pond at Valle Vidal. Gene Tatum took this photo from his campsite in a nearby meadow.*

Several people walking near Shuree Lodge encountered bears at uncomfortably close range. Concern was expressed about the bears becoming too comfortable around people. The majority of the time people are the problem, not the bears. The bears live there, we visit. It is our responsibility to practice safety and avoidance, and to keep our campsites bear proof.

To emphasize this, George Long, Wildlife Biologist on the Carson National Forest and long-term AWF friend, told about the "Curse of Campsite 19" at the Cimarron Campground. He related how every year some campers at this site leave food accessible. Bears find the easy pickins' and become habituated to the picnic basket. George indicated that in the last few years four bears have been removed due to behavior that started at Campsite 19.

Bears are a greater problem when we move into, not just visit, their habitat. The Department of Game and Fish devotes a lot of resources to managing bear populations. The Department's goal is to manage for sustainable bear populations while allowing for hunting opportunities. At the last Game Commission meeting, there was a discussion about current bear populations. A Game Commission Biologist ascribed the large number of bear road kills this

year to population increase, while a member of the public who has been collecting population data suggested that the driest spring in 60 years forced the bears to lower elevations in search of food, resulting in more vehicle fatalities.

The science used to manage wildlife populations such as bears is not exact. If there is a bear-people conflict, DG&F will err on the side of human safety and the animal will be removed. As bear habitat is reduced and fragmented, drought and human interaction take a greater toll, making managing for sustainable populations increasingly difficult.

— Gene Tatum

## SABINOSO WILDERNESS BILL PASSES THE HOUSE

*Bill Would Protect 2<sup>nd</sup> Wilderness Area in New Mexico in More than 20 Years*

[On June 9, 2008] the Sabinoso Wilderness Act of 2008, H.R. 2632, passed out of the House of Representatives. If passed out of the Senate, this will be the second wilderness bill in New Mexico to be considered for passage in more than 20 years.

Introduced in 2007 by Congressman Tom Udall (D-NM), the Sabinoso Wilderness Act seeks to designate the majestic canyons and rugged beauty of one of the finest intact Great-Plains ecosystems left in New Mexico. Just 40 miles west of Las Vegas, New Mexico, the Sabinoso Wilderness Study Area encompasses approximately 20,000-acres of public land and is home to a variety of wildlife, including the American kestrel, savannah sparrow, red-tailed hawk, broad tailed hummingbird, coyote, mountain lions, mule deer and gray foxes.

"New Mexico's varied wildlands enhance our quality of life and create a powerful incentive for attracting new businesses to our state by creating the kind of environment where people want to live, work and enjoy free time with their families," said Nathan Newcomer, Media Director with the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance. "Wilderness is a cornerstone of our heritage."

The Sabinoso Wilderness Act is widely supported by local governments, business and economic development interests, sportsmen, conservation groups, and state officials. More specifically, the New Mexico State House of Representatives, San Miguel County Commission, Village of Wagon Mound, and the Town of Springer have passed resolutions supporting the designation of the Sabinoso wilderness.

*Source: New Mexico Wilderness Alliance Press Release*

*Welcome!* **NEW MEMBERS**

**Marcie & Vincent Amendolagine and Family**

**Lisa Hummon**

## 2008 FIELD PROJECTS — TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE

### AUGUST 15-17 ● VALLES CALDERA NATIONAL PRESERVE

*Sponsored by Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, NM Wilderness Alliance, and Native Plant Society of NM  
with support from NM Environment Department and Los Amigos de Valles Caldera*



**THE PLACE:** The Valles Caldera National Preserve was a private ranch until 2000, when Congress created it from the “Baca Ranch” in New Mexico’s volcanic Jemez Mountain Range. This 89,000 acre property is studded with eruptive domes and features Redondo Peak (11,254 feet). Though open to the public, access to the preserve is strictly controlled. Coming on this project is a great opportunity to stay on the preserve without charge and see areas not generally available to the public.

**THE PROJECT:** This project will occur at a fascinating location — **Alamo Bog!** See the Earth shake under foot as you walk across the bog (Hydrosol). Smell the fumes of Purgatory (sulfur gas bubbling up through opal-colored acidic pools). See bears, elk, deer and wild turkey, maybe.

**Alamo Bog** is home to the rare Bog Birch. This is the species’ only known location in New Mexico. We will build three small exclosures to protect the largest patches, each with about 40 to 60 plants. The structures are to exclude elk, which have browsed the vegetation quite heavily.

**EQUIPMENT:** Wear sturdy boots/shoes and bring gloves, hats, and sunscreen, and appropriate gear for camping. Be prepared for rain. Knee-high wading boots will be useful, as this is a wet area. Bug repellent is a good idea, too.

**FOOD:** AWF will supply snacks and drinks during the project day. Please bring food and water for the duration of your stay. There will be a potluck meal on Saturday evening: AWF will grill burgers and brats (veggie options also), so bring along an appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share.

**TO SIGN UP:** Glenda Muirhead at 281-2925 | g.muirhead@usfamily.net  
OR Gene Tatum at 255-1960 | gtatum3@msn.com

**DRIVING TIME:** 2 hours north of ABQ; 2 hours west of Santa Fe

***All attendees must sign up in advance to receive directions to the campsite and the combination to the locked gate leading onto the Preserve.***

**DID YOU KNOW?**

It is generally known that the Valles Caldera is an ancient volcano, and most believe it was created from a huge eruption, one that blew its top and scattered ash and debris for thousands of miles. In reality, geologic studies suggest just the opposite — the caldera was formed when a rapid outflow of lava left a large cavity deep underground, causing the central part of the region to collapse into that void. Mountain peaks that once existed are now buried deep in the heart of the caldera.

What is most astonishing is the speed at which this process took place... this cataclysmic collapse may have occurred in only a few days — an infinitesimal geologic period.

*Source: Sunday Journal, July 27, 2008  
— by Dave Menicucci*

UPCOMING 2008 PROJECTS	
AUG 15-17	VALLES CALDERA
AUG 22-24	RED RIVER WATERSHED
SEP 19-21	WIND RIVER RANCH
SEP 27-28	NAVAJO LAKE STATE PARK
OCT 24-26	CEBOLLA CANYON II

- Albuquerque Wildlife Federation
- NM Wilderness Alliance
- NM Volunteers for the Outdoors

### PARTNER PROJECT

#### August 22-24 ● Red River Watershed *(New Mexico Wilderness Alliance)*

**THE PLACE:** This watershed is in northern New Mexico in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. We have partnered with Amigos Bravos who are working to restore it from historical abuses.

**THE PROJECT:** Past projects have included closing off illegal ATV routes and fencing off riparian areas. The Forest Service is still prioritizing projects for this summer.

**MEALS:** Provided (with the possible exception of lunch).

**Contact:** Rachel Conn at 505-758-3874, rconn@amigosbravos.org.

**Driving Time:** 3 hours north of ABQ, 1 hour north of Taos

# VALLE VIDAL 2008 IN PHOTOS



*Cliff & Joyce Mendel break for lunch with their grandson, in a meadow near the Comanche Creek project site. Nice view!*



*The AWF crew, guided by Bill Zeedyk and ably assisted by the Forest Service's George Long, work on fence exclosures and a large in-stream post vane.*

PHOTOS BY DENNIS MUIRHEAD



*Vincent Amendolagine and two of his sons find some welcome shade along with their afternoon snacks and drinks.*



*BUILDING A POST VANE: Left to right, Bob Tilley rests after drilling a starter hole with a rock bar, as Chris Sanderson pounds down another post. Bill Zeedyk crouches to place a stabilizing stone between posts, while Gene Tatum and George Long pass along additional rocks.*

**THANKS TO ALL THESE GREAT VOLUNTEERS!**

Marcie & Vincent Amendolagine and sons Eli, Alec, & Marco	Patricia Hester Lisa Hummon Christine Laudadio Roman Lopez Silvia Marinas Cliff Mendel Joyce Mendel Michelle Miano Dennis Muirhead	Glenda Muirhead Joel Nance Alejandro Nieto Toby Rosenblatt Chris Sanderson Michael Scialdone Gene Tatum Bob Tilley Bill Zeedyk
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**AWF OFFICERS AND BOARD**

**PRESIDENT** — Gene Tatum  
**VICE PRESIDENT** — Barbara Coulter  
**SECRETARY** — Linda Patterson  
**TREASURER** — Glenda Muirhead

**DIRECTORS**

Stephen Bohannon Larry Dwyer Patricia Hester Greg McReynolds Dennis Muirhead	Kurt Nolte Toby Rosenblatt Jon Schwedler Luke Shelby Bill Zeedyk
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## TRAVEL MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE SANTA FE NATIONAL FOREST

Santa Fe National Forest officials unveiled a proposal...that would cut in half the roads available to motorized travel and practically eliminate off-road or off-trail use of motorized vehicles. And then they stepped back to brace themselves for public reaction. "I understand that every time we make a big change, people are really emotional about it," said Forest Supervisor Daniel Jiron. "We're trying to leave Santa Fe National Forest for future generations in the best shape possible."

The public outcry already has been heard for at least two years, the time that has lapsed since local officials first started work to conform with motorized travel regulations issued for forests nationwide. People who use the forest — including off-road trails that appeared through usage but never were official routes — complained that their recreational opportunities were being closed down, while those who oppose the noisy machines, especially in areas where they live, have said not enough was being done to keep them out of the forest.

Jiron said he expects to hear more of the same, even though Forest Service officials tried to develop the plans by taking into account input they've gotten so far from the public. On Glorieta Mesa, where there has been controversy over ATV use, no cross-country travel will be allowed, but there will be "minor" camping corridors and one loop trail where motorized vehicles will be allowed, Jiron said. "We've tried to do our best in balancing competing interests."

Near Cañada de los Alamos east of Santa Fe, Forest Road 79 will remain open, but only to highway-legal vehicles, according to Dolores Maese, public affairs officer. Some residents there had complained about motorized recreational traffic around the small village. Under the law, Jiron noted, roads that lead to private land, which dots much of the forest, have to remain open. Some of those roads have been left open to highway-appropriate vehicles, but closed to ATVs and motorcycles, he said. That also means, he noted, that people who complained about such vehicles around their private land also will not be able to use their own ATVs there if others are banned.

...The proposal got a good review...from Cyndi Tuell of the Center for Biological Diversity, based in Tucson. "To us it looks like the forest has taken a really good first step at preserving open space, allowing space for quiet recreation, protecting the forest for future generations and allowing people to get into the forest without having to hear off-road vehicles everywhere they go," she said.

Source: *Albuquerque Journal*, Friday, July 11, 2008  
— By Jackie Jadrnak, Journal Staff Writer



**MIKE BOCHNIA**

### City of Albuquerque Open Space Division

#### **SURVIVAL SKILLS — August 9th — 10:00 am to 2:00 pm — Free**

Is it possible to live comfortably in the wilderness, and for how long? A day, a week, a month, a year? If you are curious about such information, there is a man who can answer your questions and elaborate on not only how to do it, but how to do it with comfort! Turn the wilderness into your "Living Room" using basic skills such as orienteering, finding water, building shelter, discovering a source of food and developing a sense of peace in untamed environments with naturalist and tracker Mike Bochnia.

For the last year Mike Bochnia has been living primitively in the Pine Barrens of New Jersey working with Tom Browns Tracker School. He will cover a number of subjects starting with surviving an emergency situation to living close to the earth. Come enjoy this beneficial program.

**CONTACT:** Joshua Willis, Open Space Division, 505-897-8831, jrwillis@cabq.gov.

*The Open Space Visitor Center is located at 6500 Coors Blvd. NW between Montaña and Paseo del Norte at the end of Bosque Meadows Rd. Call 505-897-8831 for more information or visit [www.cabq.gov/openspace/visitorcenter.html](http://www.cabq.gov/openspace/visitorcenter.html).*

## NM GAME COMMISSION MEETING

I went to my third Game Commission meeting on July 25, in Las Vegas. These meetings are a learning experience for me, particularly the public participation process. For example, the Uplands Game Rule was passed which included a lesser prairie chicken hunt. Many members of the public are concerned about hunting a species which until recently was being considered for listing under the Endangered Species Act. BLM State Director Linda Rundell had written a letter to the Game Commission and NMDG&F Director Bruce Thompson requesting that the hunt not be initiated. It seems that the public either did not comment to the rule in a timely fashion or public comments were not sufficient in light of Department science.

— Gene Tatum

The next New Mexico State Game Commission meeting will be on August 21, 2008, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

State Bar of New Mexico  
5121 Masthead, NE  
Albuquerque, NM 87199

*The following is an abbreviated list of agenda items.*

*The full agenda can be seen at [www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/index.htm](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/index.htm).*

*The agenda briefing can also be found at this site.*

*As of July 31, the new agenda briefings were not yet posted.*

- ▶ **NO. 7 — Fiscal Year 2008 4th Quarter and Annual Depredation Report.** Presented by Barbara Coulter
- ▶ **NO. 9 — Biennial Review of New Mexico State-listed Wildlife (19.33.3, NMAC).** Presented by Renae Held. Another required 14-days comment period on the Biennial Review before a final recommendation is presented to the Commission for approval.
- ▶ **NO. 13 — Update on Progress of Depredation Assistance Rule, 19.30.2, NMAC, Amendment Development Process.** Presented by R. J. Kirkpatrick. Potential amendments to the Depredation Assistance Rule and the development of a “Depredation Response Manual”, designed to improve the Department’s effectiveness at resolving wildlife damage complaints.
- ▶ **NO. 14 — Update on Progress of Big Game Rule Development Process.** Presented by R.J. Kirkpatrick, for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 hunting seasons.
- ▶ **NO. 15 — Update on Antelope Harvest Management Review and Planning.** Presented by R.J. Kirkpatrick. The Antelope Private Land-Use System (A-PLUS) Program and how it will inform and interface with the concurrent pronghorn antelope rule development for initiation in the 2009-10 hunting season.
- ▶ **NO. 16 — Overview of Roswell Area Pronghorn Antelope and Deer Population Management Action Plan.** Presented by R.J. Kirkpatrick. Circumstances leading up to the need for an antelope and deer population management initiative in the Roswell area and the multi-faceted action plan developed to address the situation.
- ▶ **NO. 18 — Review of Conservation Organization Recommendations for Wildlife and Sportsmen Considerations in Petroleum Development.** Presented by Terra Manasco. Recommendations for Responsible Oil and Gas Development prepared by Sportsmen for Responsible Energy Development. Overlapping Department operations, both current and planned as relates to those recommendations will be highlighted, and opportunities to augment Department operations based on recommendations will be noted.

## BLACK BEAR BENEVOLENT BUREAU

AWF Member Craig McClure is President of the Black Bear Benevolent Bureau. For over four years, the group has been researching bears in New Mexico. Among their areas of study are numbers of black bears, availability of key foods and water, mortality rate of females and cubs, home range and habitat characteristics, and potential adverse impacts on bears.

At the July Game Commission meeting, Craig presented the report and findings of the BBBB’s field observations, especially in Bear Hunt Area #1 (consisting of Jemez Ranger District and environs).

BBBB made several recommendations to the Commission, detailing their concerns about over-hunting, game wastage, habitat encroachment, accurate reporting of bear deaths, and more.

The report concludes as follows:

*“It is not the job of the state of New Mexico to insure peoples’ income and implement Game and Fish regulations with any mind towards the end of protecting game related businesses. The game of this state has to be regulated and managed completely apart from any and all influences by the guiding and outfitting industry. The bears, the elk, the deer, the lions, and all other game are not bargaining chips in a state/ private game industry cooperative. It is incumbent upon the State Game Commission to exercise the utmost caution to avoid that image or possible notion by the citizens of this state.”*

### AWF MEETING LOCATION

Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center  
501 Elizabeth SE at Southern  
(south of Central between Eubank and Juan Tabo)



**A DIFFERENT POINT OF VIEW**

*AWF member Ron Madsen sends this message: "Gene made a compelling argument in his last "President's Message." However, I was skeptical when I saw the data came from a congressional report. That's from a Congress controlled by Reid and Pelosi. Here's a rebuttal." —Ron*

*(The following is an edited version of an editorial posted online by INVESTOR'S BUSINESS DAILY | Thursday, July 17, 2008)*

**LAST BUT NOT LEASED**

[The "Drill Responsibly in Leased Lands Act" seeks] to block offshore drilling. The fact is, these offshore rigs may be the ticket to saving both our coasts and our economy.

The act would deny oil companies any new leases unless they can show that they're diligently exploring and drilling in existing holdings...Sixty-eight million acres of existing leases...are being used and are already of limited duration. A lease is merely a permission slip to look for oil, not a guarantee of finding any.

Between 2000 and 2007, drilling of exploratory wells increased 138% while domestic crude oil production fell 12.4% to its lowest level since 1947. According to the American Petroleum Institute, 5,219 oil wells were completed in the second quarter, up 17% from a year ago and the highest second-quarter oil activity since 1986.

If 68 million federal acres are already leased, what are 2,000 additional acres in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge going to hurt? We know oil is there, lots of it. The old estimate of 10 billion barrels in ANWR is based on old technology and old drilling techniques and therefore may be way too low.

These 68 million acres...pale in comparison to the 1.76 billion acres of the Outer Continental Shelf. The OCS is estimated to contain some 86 billion barrels of recoverable oil and 420 trillion feet of natural gas.

[Democrats] won't go after the 1.3 billion barrels of recoverable oil off the California coast, largely because of an oil spill off Santa Barbara in 1969. ...Offshore drilling can actually reduce the amount of oil reaching our beaches by relieving the pressure that forces oil to seep from the ocean floor. According to data from the National Academy of Sciences, just 1% of oil found in U.S. waters comes from drilling and extraction, vs. 63% from natural seepage, 32% from cars and boats, and 4% from tankers. According to the Department of the Interior, since 1985 more than 7 billion barrels of oil have been produced in federal waters, but less than 0.001% was spilled. It's likely that more oil has been leaked by cars, SUVs and motor homes traveling to these pristine beaches, or from the boats and jet skis rented by tourists, than has been or will be leaked getting the oil to fuel them.

...Off Louisiana's coast, not far from our Strategic Petroleum Reserve, 3,200 offshore oil platforms survived Hurricane Katrina without leaking a drop of oil. A study by Louisiana's Sea Grant college found 50 times more marine life around oil platforms, which act as artificial reefs, than in the surrounding mud bottoms. About 85% of fishing trips there involve fishing near these offshore rigs.

Drilling in ANWR and offshore would reduce our dependence on foreign oil, boost supply, cut energy costs and create U.S. jobs. We might even be able to afford to take the family down to the beach.

**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 \$** \_\_\_\_\_