

ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION

AWF Newsletter

JUNE 2008

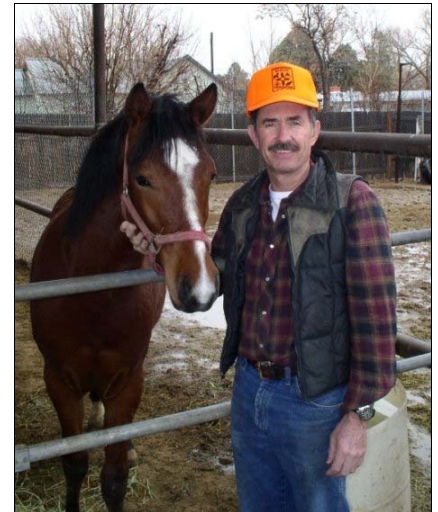
Founded by Aldo Leopold in 1914 to protect and perpetuate our wildlife and natural resources

GENERAL MEETING

WHEN: Thursday, June 12, 2008 — 7:30 pm
WHERE: Manzano Mesa Center (map p4)
PROGRAM: Oil & Gas Industry in New Mexico—The Issues
SPEAKER: Oscar Simpson, NMWF Conservation & Policy
Chair and NWF Public Lands Organizer

Nationally, the price of gas, energy independence, alternative energy and global climate change are major subjects for discussion. Here in New Mexico severance taxes from oil and gas production make major contributions to our economy. Because of the significant amounts of oil and gas in our state, the environmental concerns are high. Is our ground water vulnerable to pollution from oil and gas development? What measures is the oil and gas industry taking to protect New Mexico's wildlife from the negative consequences of exploration, development and operation of facilities? How do the procedures in practice by the oil and gas industry in New Mexico compare to other Rocky Mountain States? Oscar Simpson will talk about the environmental consequences from oil and gas development, and what we should do to ensure that reasonable measures are implemented to minimize or mitigate these consequences. After his presentation he'll also be available to answer questions on a variety of issues.

Oscar is a native New Mexican and an avid outdoorsman who loves New Mexico's majestic landscapes and diverse scenery. His passion for hunting, fishing, outdoor photography, equestrian trail riding and packing into wild and remote areas in the Southwest is the driving force for his efforts to protect our public lands. The majority of his conservation endeavors for the past 25 years have entailed the conservation and preservation of wildlife and



habitat on a local, state and national level. Preventing oil and gas development in the Valle Vidal is one of Oscar's notable accomplishments.

Oscar's previous experience includes 25 years in design, inspection, environmental regulation, enforcement and remediation of public and private water systems and other water resources. He was involved from 1981-84 in environmental regulation of the Oil & Gas Industry in New Mexico, and has focused on conservation organizing for the past ten years.

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

An old Cherokee once told his grandson about a battle between two wolves that goes on inside us all. He said "One is Evil, made up of anger, envy, sorrow, greed, arrogance, guilt, superiority and ego. The other is Good, made up of joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, truth, compassion and faith." The grandson asked, "Which wolf wins?" The old Cherokee replied, "The one you feed."

— Author unknown

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

If you have not read Jeff Jones' article in the May 29th *Albuquerque Journal*, "1,000 Antelope in Roswell Hunt Plan," you should. My first thought was, why did antelope have to get into Mrs. Garcia's flowerbed before population control was proposed? I can imagine Mrs. Garcia out in her front yard tagging her antelope...only 999 more. Her next door neighbors breathe a sigh of relief as the family flak jackets are put away. Private land owner permits may be part of the problem; are they the only solution?

The article sort of does justice to the issue if you are a farmer in the Roswell area. But critical points are missed. The current system provides financial incentive – big game permits – to private landowners. Since 1985 when the private land big game permit system was promulgated, it became increasingly difficult for New Mexico residents to get a public big game permit while the number of private land owner permits increased. The conflict between landowners and wildlife – elk, deer, oryx, antelope – is not simple and needs additional discussion and input from sportsmen. After all, the funding for these landowner programs is derived from public hunting and fishing permit sales. Profits to land owners from the private permit system have prevented discussion of other options for solving these kinds of human and wildlife problems.

Have you tried to get an antelope permit and failed? Do not feel alone: hundreds of NM hunters each year can not get a permit. However, you might be able to purchase a private land owner permit for as much as \$2500. One Roswell farmer receives 18 antelope landowner permits from the Game and Fish Department to compensate for crop loss. Those farm-fed antelope might be easy prey. By increasing the certainty of success, more out-of-state hunters would be attracted, and the price for a private land permit would increase, leaving resident NM hunters without a permit but still paying the tab.

Of course, wildlife was here when the west was settled. Settlement affected many species. For example, elk were eliminated from New Mexico in the 1900's to provide more forage for livestock. Settlement continues; we build homes and plant crops on former wild lands, reducing wildlife habitat. Livestock grazing on public lands has increased competition for forage, reducing quantity and quality and causing more stress to wildlife. Government farm subsidies provide incentives for agriculturists to farm more and more land. Wildlife populations continue migration to graze or browse, as they have done for millennia. The antelope herds around the Roswell area are trapped between exurbia, expanding farming operations and over-allocated public lands.

The burgeoning Roswell antelope population is proof that private land owner permits can be ineffectual as a population management tool. The Roswell area is a relatively large block of consolidated private land. So under the current system, private land owner permits have been the primary population control around Roswell. The result has been increasing antelope dependency on private land.

Sportsmen are paying twice for the private land owner permit system. First, revenues from the sale of public hunting permits fund the salaries of Game and Fish employees to manage and implement the private land owner permit system while the funds would be better spent on management of the public permit system. Second, public hunting permits have been reduced to provide permits to private land owners.

It is time for sportsmen to be heard. The New Mexico and Albuquerque Wildlife Federation will be meeting with Game and Fish Department officials within the next three weeks regarding the Roswell antelope population control situation.

– Gene Tatum



GLOBAL WARMING: A THREAT TO HUNTING & FISHING

The e-publication *Seasons' End* (www.seasonsends.org) details the impacts of global warming and climate change on the health, habitat and distribution of fish and game in the United States, and implications for sustainable hunting and fishing. Geographic ranges of fish, wildlife and habitats are likely to shift. Big game will have to adapt to changes in their forage base and alter their migration patterns. Changes in water quality and quantity will affect both saltwater and freshwater ecosystems and fisheries. Wetland losses in the prairie pothole region will severely reduce waterfowl productivity in North America's duck-breeding "factory." Invasive species, parasites and disease-causing organisms may flourish in warmer temperatures, profoundly affecting the habitat and survival of upland game birds. How much sporting opportunity our children and theirs will continue to enjoy will depend on how we address the challenges of global climate change now.

State fish and wildlife management agencies will need the dedicated funding to develop and implement management to help fish and wildlife adapt to climate change. On Monday, June 2, the U.S. Senate began debating the Lieberman-Warner Climate Security Act of 2008 (S.3036). The act will provide billions of dollars to help wildlife and habitats survive a changing climate. The act includes an innovative provision to ensure that the dedicated wildlife funding is used to:

- Carry out scientific research to find out how wildlife is being impacted by climate change;
- Acquire and manage habitats in the face of climate change; and
- Take a host of additional steps to help wildlife survive the impacts of climate change.

Source: Theodore Roosevelt
Conservation Partnership

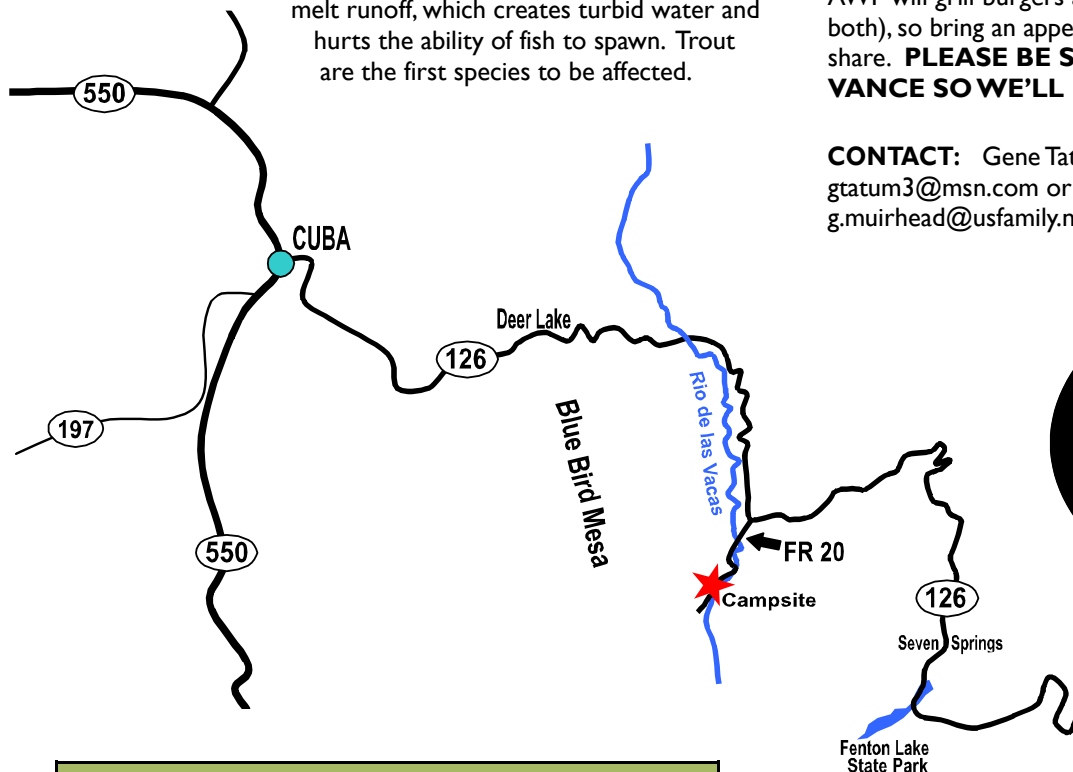
2008 FIELD PROJECTS — “TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE”

JUNE 20-22 ● RIO DE LAS VACAS

THE PLACE: In the Santa Fe National Forest, southeast of Cuba. This is a new project location for AWF. The Rio de las Vacas starts at the upper reaches of the Jemez River watershed in the San Pedro Parks Wilderness east of Cuba. It flows south between the Sierra Nacimientos and the Jemez Mountains, joining the Rio Cebolla to become the Rio Guadalupe. AWF had scheduled a project here last year but it was cancelled pending completion of paperwork to preserve extensive archaeological sites in the valleys near the water.

THE PROJECT: As part of ongoing projects by the NM Environment Department and the Forest Service, we will be planting willows and completing fence enclosures to restore riparian habitat.

BACKGROUND: Streamside plants send down long roots that stabilize the banks, preventing erosion and keeping water clear. Without root structure, soil enters the streams with rain or snowmelt runoff, which creates turbid water and hurts the ability of fish to spawn. Trout are the first species to be affected.



Historically, unmanaged cattle use damaged habitat, and exotic trout species introduced in the lower watershed reduced the native cutthroat population. The Rio de las Vacas has been identified as a priority recovery area for Rio Grande cutthroat trout, with its upper reaches containing one of 13 remaining core populations.

EQUIPMENT: Wear sturdy boots/shoes and bring gloves, hats, and sunscreen, and appropriate gear for camping.

FOOD: AWF will supply snacks and drinks during the project day. Our project partner NM Wilderness Alliance will provide breakfast burritos on Saturday morning. Please bring food and water for the rest of your stay. There will be a potluck meal on Saturday evening: AWF will grill burgers and brats (also veggie options of both), so bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share. **PLEASE BE SURE TO SIGN UP IN ADVANCE SO WE'LL HAVE ENOUGH FOOD!**

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

Come for the whole weekend, or plan a Saturday arrival.

Bill Zeedyk says the fishing is good!

2008 PROJECT SCHEDULE

JUNE 20-22	RIO DE LAS VACAS
JULY 11-14	☉ PECOS WILDERNESS
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

DIRECTIONS TO RIO DE LAS VACAS

Head north from Albuquerque to Bernalillo, and follow Hwy 550 north to Cuba. At Cuba, take Rte 126 east and then south about 17.5 miles to Forest Road 20. Follow FR20 south for 2 miles to the campsite along the creek.

MEET NMWF

MICHELLE BRISCOE

Development Director, New Mexico Wildlife Federation

Michelle grew up exploring her family's small tract of virgin timber on the Cedar River in central Iowa. She learned from her grandfather and father at a very early age the responsibility she and every person has to protect wildlife so it may be enjoyed by future generations of hunters, anglers, photographers, and observers. After graduating from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, with a business marketing degree and a focus in environmental science, she worked with a variety of non-profits in the Washington, DC, area. Michelle moved to New Mexico in 2003 in search of a lot less concrete and is thrilled by the opportunity to once again be working to preserve the responsible use of wild lands.



City of Albuquerque Open Space Division

June 15th: Bird Hike in the Bosque — 8:00 am to 11:00 am

The Bosque is home to many species of birds. Naturalist, author, and educator Verne Huser will lead you through the Bosque to find a variety of these beautiful and interesting creatures. Bring binoculars. This is a free program and part of the Open Space Division Summer Series. All events take place at the Open Space Visitor Center located at 6500 Coors Blvd NW between Montano Rd and Paseo del Norte at the end of Bosque Meadows Road. Call 505-897-8831 for more information.



NM WILDERNESS ALLIANCE

Building Community Series Continues

FILM NIGHT at O'Niell's Pub — Tuesday, June 17, 7-9 pm

(4310 Central Ave SE, Central at Washington in East Nob Hill)

In May, the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance launched its Building Community Program in Albuquerque, which seeks to bring its supporters and the broader public together for a fun night of food, drinks, and camaraderie. On June 17, NMWA invites you to a presentation by Mexico-based Naturalia on their work to conserve the Jaguar.

Founded in 1990 by a group of people concerned about the environmental situation in Mexico, Naturalia is a civil nonprofit association that works to protect biodiversity in Mexico. They plan and develop conservation projects that preserve ecosystems and endangered species, and have been committed to restoring the northern Jaguar to Mexico.

O'Niell's Pub has graciously agreed to host a second film night for this presentation, and will be offering a selection of food from their menu. **Contact: Nathan Newcomer at 505-843-8696, ext. 1006, or nathan@nmwild.org.**

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Steve Carson — Patron

**Tree Huggers Club,
Rio Rancho Mid-High School**

Laura Vogel, Advisor

Miranda Hutchinson

Ashley Winkler

Emmett Leinheiser

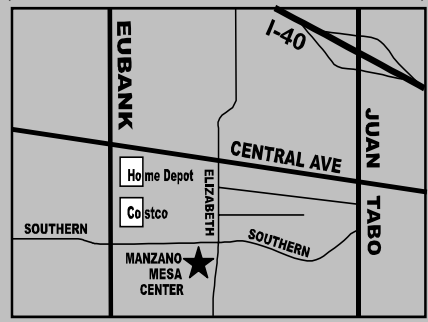
Maya Distasio

Brianna Ireland

Alexis Hines

AWF MEETING LOCATION

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



AWF OFFICERS AND BOARD

PRESIDENT — Gene Tatum

VICE PRESIDENT — Barbara Coulter

SECRETARY — Linda Patterson

TREASURER — Glenda Muirhead

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Jon Schwedler

Luke Shelby

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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 \$ _____