

# AWF Newsletter

OCTOBER 2008

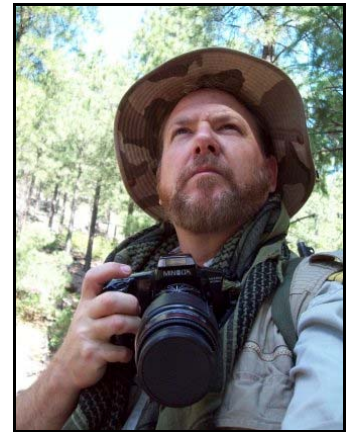
Founded by Aldo Leopold in 1914 to protect and perpetuate our wildlife and natural resources

## GENERAL MEETING

**WHEN:** Thursday, October 9, 2008 — 7:30 pm  
**WHERE:** Manzano Mesa Center (map p2)  
**GUEST SPEAKER:** Craig McClure  
**PROGRAM:** Black Bears in New Mexico and Other Bear Stories

Join us in welcoming Craig McClure, founder of the Black Bear Benevolent Bureau, who will present a Power Point show about bears and bear management in NM. The mission of the Bureau is to maintain and improve black bear populations and to acquire and secure habitat throughout the American Southwest. They also create experiential opportunities where disadvantaged children can enjoy natural resources and wildlife while building confidence and broadening perspectives.

The group works to ensure that black bear populations are healthy and self-sustaining, to minimize loss of their forested habitats, and to improve the quality of existing habitats. In addition, they monitor wildlife regulatory and conservation agencies to ensure the most ethical and publicly acceptable practices. Craig has presented data and recommendations to the New Mexico Game Commission.



After his presentation Craig will field questions about bears and talk a bit about his work in Alaska as a Federal US Fish and Wildlife Officer—and tell some fun bear stories, too.

Being raised in the belt of wild lands between the Navajo Nation and the Ute Mountain Tribe along the Colorado/New Mexico border, Craig spent much of his youth in the back country of the Southwest. His time in the military and federal and local law enforcement took him to all regions of the US and to many foreign countries. As the first Law Enforcement Wildlife Inspector in Alaska with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, he became the “bear guy.” In the following years, as a special education teacher in Albuquerque’s south valley, then a school administrator, and currently a District Hearing Officer adjudicating cases involving inner city youth, Craig has offered his time to two groups needing help: youth with no idea of the world of beauty and wonder outside the city; and of course his beloved bears.

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

**“There are only three recorded collisions (deer or bear) since the project's completion about a year ago. There has been a vast improvement.”**

— Kurt Menke, co-chair of the Tijeras Canyon Safe Passage Coalition, noting that 125-150 vehicle collisions were recorded in the previous decade. September 2008

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Several years ago, after accepting that overfishing was devastating many fish species to the point of extinction, I stopped eating commercially caught fish. However, after learning of the Marine Steward Council sustainable fisheries certification program, I began eating commercially caught fish again, but only if MSC certified.

(Continued on page 2)

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

Here is an update on another species that has been fairly commonly consumed in the US and the rest of the world. The September/October edition of *Focus*, the World Wildlife Fund magazine, has a short article, "Tuna Stocks in Perilous Decline," which explains that overfishing of the Atlantic Ocean and the Mediterranean Sea is causing tuna populations there to collapse, thereby increasing world fishing for Pacific tuna. As a result, Pacific big eye and yellow tuna populations have plummeted, and the average size of the fish caught is also declining, indicating "that these tuna desperately need strong conservation measures."

WWF has met four times in the last year with the commission which has the responsibility for conservation and management of tuna and other fish species in the east Pacific Ocean, but failed to gain agreement on conservation measures to allow recovery of overfished tuna populations. The WWF has started working in the west Pacific tuna spawning areas with communities and governments to build sustainable managed fisheries. WWF is also working with international financial institutions and the seafood industry to transform fisheries management.

In 2007, the San Diego based American Albacore Fishing Association was certified by the MSC. You can find more info about MSC certified tuna at [www.americantuna.com](http://www.americantuna.com) or for information about sustainable fisheries, [www.msc.org](http://www.msc.org). When you purchase fish look for the MSC symbol.



— Gene Tatum



Photos from *Smithsonian Magazine*, September 2008.

Above: 1957 Goliath grouper and large sharks

Right from top: 1958, 1983, 2007 Displaying reduction in size of sportsmen's catch and change in species caught. Currently most of the catch is snapper, and the goliath grouper is endangered.



## SUPPORT NMPLAN'S OHV CONTROL EFFORTS

ENJOY PRESENTATIONS & LUNCH  
OCTOBER 22

You are cordially invited to participate in the Second Annual Meeting of the New Mexico Public Lands Action Network (NMPLAN) on Wednesday, October 22, from 11 am to 2 pm at the Albuquerque Museum of Art and History, located at 2000 Mountain Road NW near Old Town Plaza.

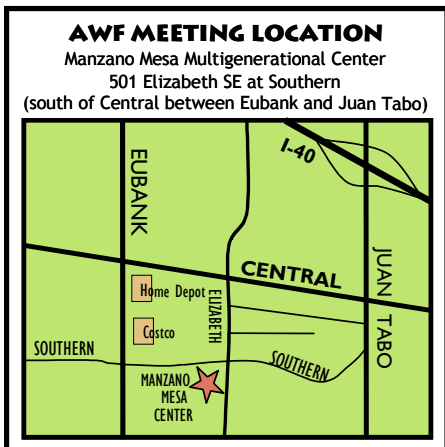
The meeting will include speakers, local and national updates, information, policy issues and education efforts related to reckless and illegal off-highway vehicle use. We are dedicated to curbing reckless OHV use and we need your help.

Please let us know if you can attend by October 10. A free lunch will be provided to participants. We have limited seating, so your RSVP is important!

Emily M. Romero  
Director, NMPLAN  
505.459.4304  
[info@newmexicoplan.org](mailto:info@newmexicoplan.org)  
[www.newmexicoplan.org](http://www.newmexicoplan.org)

Sign up for the Meeting and join AWF's Gene Tatum, Linda Patterson, and Glenda Muirhead ...we'll be there.

Our primary concerns are safety, public education and enforcement. We are a coalition of people from diverse backgrounds, including public health, water systems, acequias, land grants, public safety, people who enjoy the outdoors, and private property owners.



## 2008 FIELD PROJECTS — TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE

October 25th is National  
"Make a Difference" Day!

### OCTOBER 24-26 • CEBOLLA SPRINGS

**THE PLACE:** Cebolla Springs is in Cebolla Canyon within "El Malpais Conservation Area" on BLM-managed lands south of Grants. AWF has been volunteering here for many years. In fact, this is our second project at Cebolla in 2008. The effects of all these efforts are evident in many locations, and Bill Zeedyk remembers every structure we've built there!

**THE PROJECT:** We will be building structures on the wetlands downstream of the Spring, where water escapes into the creek. These sand-bag structures are intended to block that flow and retain the water in the wetlands. Water will pond behind them and allow ground saturation to increase and expand. In addition, we plan maintenance on the livestock enclosure around the spring and riparian pasture which has been damaged by past flooding. We'll also take a look at picket structures installed downstream for necessary repairs.

We'll plan to do project work on Saturday, and possibly Sunday morning, but *come when you can and leave when you wish*. Saturday morning arrival works fine. Access to the camping area is suitable for 2-wheel drive vehicles, campers, etc. However, the road to the worksite requires 4-wheel drive and high clearance...we'll carpool there from the camping area.

**EQUIPMENT:** Wear sturdy boots/shoes and bring gloves, hats, and sunscreen, and appropriate gear for camping. Be prepared for rain. It can't hurt to have waterproof boots. Also, it will be the end of October and cooler weather can be expected...*so have warm clothes and bedding*.

**TOOLS:** We can use fencing pliers, shovels, rock bars, picks, and maybe wheelbarrows. As we get closer to the date, we'll let you know for sure. Please mark all your tools so they can be identified as yours.

**FOOD:**  
Please provide *your own meals* for  
**Friday dinner**  
**Saturday lunch**  
**Sunday breakfast and lunch**

We'll fix **BREAKFAST BURRITOS** for everyone bright and early Saturday morning, and have snacks and drinks during the project day. Saturday evening there will be a **POT LUCK MEAL**—AWF will grill burgers and sausage (veggie options too), so bring along something to share with the group...appetizer, salad, vegetable, dessert.



**To get there,** take NM 117 south from I-40. Go about 25 miles south, passing Sandstone Bluffs, La Ventana and The Narrows en route. Turn left between MP 31 and 30 onto a BLM road. Watch for AWF signs along the route from there. It's about 3 miles in to the camping area.

The drive from Albuquerque takes about 2 hours.

**TO SIGN UP: Gene Tatum at  
255-1960 or gtatum3@msn.com**



## SEPTEMBER AT WIND RIVER RANCH

AWF's second project at Wind River Ranch (last year was our first) brought out a large crew of excellent volunteers, ready to get their feet wet and hands dirty to seed and mulch and plant willow cuttings around some newly created waterfowl ponds alongside the Mora River.



On Saturday, Ranch Director Brian Miller explained what the needs were and provided seeds and hay for mulching around the pond's upper edges for several feet in all directions. The intent was to get some growth going quickly for erosion control, as a good deal of earth was exposed in the creation of the ponds.

Other tasks that occupied much of the day were gathering willow cuttings from nearby stands, transporting them to the ponds' edges,

and inserting 2-3 cuttings per hole deeply enough to touch water. In many instances, the banks were very steep so planters created gentler slopes with shovels—or feet—for better plant placement.

On Sunday, those willing and able to spend some more time at the Ranch drove to another site to build a few rock structures in a canyon where previous bank-stabilizing rock work, in one spot, had allowed a beautiful field of colorful wildflowers to grow.

### Our Thanks to:

- Craig Sponholtz and Steve Vrooman for their guidance, especially with Bill Zeedyk unable to attend the project.
- Peter and Okmi Blemel for bringing out and housing (tenting?) three members of a UNM Korean Students group, who thankfully claim to have enjoyed the activity.
- Gene Tatum, Michael Scialdone, Pat Hester, and Dennis Muirhead for their procurement and/or preparation of foods for Saturday's meals.
- Everyone for their enthusiastic participation...and for all the delicious food we enjoyed at Saturday evening's pot luck meal! (Many camp cooks especially seemed to appreciate their access to the stove, oven, and microwave at the Ranch.)

### THANKS TO ALL THESE GREAT WRR VOLUNTEERS!

Lara Black	Steve Ginsberg	Sang Joon Park	Gene Tatum
David Blagg	Patricia Hester	Becky Pierce	Hamish Thomson
Peter, Okmi, Insun and Hyunju Blemel	Christianne Hinks	Laura Robbins	Bob Tilley
	Analisa Johnson	Sarah Rose	Steve Vrooman
	Toby Jorrin	Toby Rosenblatt	Jim Wilson
Peter Callen	Jieun Jung	Michael Scialdone	Soyoung Yang
Phil Carter	Denis Muirhead	Jesse Slocum	
Conor Flynn	Glenda Muirhead	Craig Sponholtz	

## City of Albuquerque Open Space Division 14<sup>th</sup> Annual DÍA DEL RÍO

### *A Celebration of the Rio Grande and its Bosque*

**Saturday, October 18 – 8:30 am to 1:00 pm**

There is a river that runs through our great and growing city that links us to thousands of years of history and traditions. This river has gone by many names: Mets'ichi chena (Keresan); Posoge (Tewa); Paslápaane (Tiwa); Hañapakwa (Towa); Rio Bravo; Rio del Norte, among others. Today the **Rio Grande**, as it is known by most, is a struggling yet vibrant river that sustains thousands of miles of wildlife habitat and allows millions of people to thrive in the desert southwest.

On **Saturday, October 18th**, join City Open Space from **8:30 am to 1:00 pm** for a celebration of the Rio Grande and its precious cottonwood Bosque during the **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Día del Río**. Arrive early for sign-in and snacks!

This year's Día del Río event includes educational tables from organizations working to protect the Rio Grande and Bosque, and a variety of conservation activities, all taking place at the **Rio Bravo Riverside Picnic Area**, located in Albuquerque's South Valley on the east side of the river. To access the Rio Bravo Riverside Picnic Area, take Rio Bravo Blvd west from Broadway. Before the bridge, turn right onto Poco Loco Rd and follow it directly west into the parking area.

There will be activities for all ages, from trail work and revegetation to trash pickup and graffiti removal.

**Are you a boater?** Bring your canoe, kayak or raft and help clean trash out of the river. Call 452-5200 to RSVP. (Please follow all NM State Parks boating regulations. Call 1-888-NMPARKS for full regulations.)

Do you live near the bosque? Or do you have a favorite area near the river? **Organize your own clean up the day of the event.** Open Space will provide trash bags and haul off the collected trash.

Help us honor and nurture the vital Rio Grande and its bosque! Pre-register for Día del Río today! Register at REI located at 1550 Mercantile Ave NE or call 247-1191.

For more information about Día del Río or to arrange your own clean up, call 452-5200.

### AWF OFFICERS AND BOARD

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

### DIRECTORS

Stephen Bohannon	Kurt Nolte
Larry Dwyer	Toby Rosenblatt
Patricia Hester	Jon Schwedler
Greg McReynolds	Luke Shelby
Dennis Muirhead	Bill Zeedyk

## VALLES CALDERA — A PRIVATE HUNTING PRESERVE??

### A Message from the New Mexico Wildlife Federation

*Jeremy Vesbach, Director*

The Valles Caldera National Preserve has been working with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish on a proposal for the Valles Caldera **to begin charging access fees to your public lands of \$5,000 to \$7,000 for some elk hunts.**

This would set a precedent of exorbitantly-priced preferential access to hunting on publicly-owned lands, to help meet budget shortfalls. The Valles Caldera National Preserve Board of Trustees has the ability, given to them by Congress, to charge excessive access fees to your public land. But the New Mexico Game Commission and our congressional representatives can help put a stop to this misguided plan.

Current plans are to take 25% to 40% of the first mature bull hunts for archery, muzzleloader and rifle at the Valles Caldera National Preserve and charge vastly higher prices for those hunts. Current plans are to charge up to \$7,000 per hunter.

All citizens—not just those of us who hunt—should be opposed to this plan. This sort of thinking goes against the principle of our public lands, and sets a precedent that could be applied to charging unreachable access fees for fishing, hiking, sightseeing, or other opportunities on our most prized public lands.

Congress should consider a new model for management of the Valles Caldera National Preserve. The current management system for the Valles Caldera National Preserve was mandated by Congress as an experiment. The Caldera was given a Board of Trustees and a goal to raise their own funding through access fees and other methods, as if the Valles Caldera National Preserve were a private ranch, instead of a part of our national system of public lands. This goal set by Congress failed to take into account the strong and growing economic input that our public lands and public wildlife make to New Mexico's local and state economies. For instance, just the direct economic contribution of outdoor recreation based on our publicly owned lands and publicly owned wildlife brings \$2 billion each year to the New Mexico economy—and that's just the recreational input. In addition, recent studies have proven that the strongest economies in the Western United States are in those places where high-quality, protected public lands are most accessible to the general population. A new management model that increases public access to the Valles Caldera will help our economy.

*“What next? Must we retire the old setter, shelve the gun and meekly take our whipping? Not unless we entirely lack the ability to organize.”*

*—Aldo Leopold  
1925*

*Jeremy's words have an impact...*

## UDALL WEIGHS IN ON VALLES CALDERA HUNT PROPOSAL

*from an article by SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN, Associated Press Writer  
Las Cruces Sun-News — September 20, 2008*

U.S. Rep. Tom Udall, D-N.M.,...sent a letter to the preserve's board of trustees on Friday, just days after the New Mexico Wildlife Federation and other sportsmen began voicing concerns about the proposal. "I echo my constituents' concerns that this will take away from the already limited number of tags available to those of a moderate income, thus making a portion of the caldera's natural resources available only to an elite few, rather than the general public as was intended in the trust's creation," Udall wrote.

...The Valles Caldera trustees are considering charging a special access fee of about \$7,500 for 15 of the preserve's 77 elk permits—five each from the archery, muzzle and rifle hunts. The fee would include a stay at the Valles Grande lodge and three catered meals each day.

...Jeremy Vesbach, director of the New Mexico Wildlife Federation, said he appreciates that Udall is listening to sportsmen. He urged the congressman and other federal lawmakers to take another look at the act that spells out how Valles Caldera should be managed. "What we really need is for Congress to change the management structure and do away with this silly idea that New Mexico's Yellowstone needs to be run like a private dude ranch," Vesbach said.

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