



## MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday, April 8, 2010 — 7:30 pm  
Manzano Mesa Center (map p5)

### Wild Turkey Time in New Mexico

Guest Speaker: **Tim Mitchusson, Game Bird Programs Manager**  
NM Department of Game & Fish



*Merriam's Turkey*

Grab your turkey call and come to our April meeting. Turkey season opens April 15, so here's your opportunity to pick up some pointers for attracting the pick of the flock...or to show us what you can do! Tim Mitchusson, the Game and Fish Department's game bird guru, will be on hand to fill us in on wild turkey management in New Mexico, with details about populations, transplanting efforts, and hunting outlook. He has also offered to demonstrate turkey calling using various types of gear. And you can take a turn, too, even if you're not a hunter...let's see who can produce the most realistic turkey imitation!

A New Mexico native, Tim began working for the NM Department of Game and Fish in 1981 as a summer intern while earning his Bachelor's of Science degree in Wildlife Management from New Mexico State University. He was hired full time in 1984 and served as the Socorro District Wildlife Officer for 12 years. In 1996 Tim became a Wildlife Specialist responsible primarily for the Migratory Game Bird program and, in 2006, was promoted to Game Bird Programs Manager overseeing the Migratory Game Bird, Upland Game/Turkey, and Lesser Prairie-chicken positions. He is an avid hunter and fisherman specializing in archery big game, waterfowl, quail, turkey, predator calling, and small stream trout fishing.

Next month: Dale Hall will talk about the Habitat Stamp Program.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Didn't the last few beautiful days of March make your thoughts turn to restoration projects with AWF? Fortunately our Cebolla Canyon outing is coming up on April 16-18, just in time to satisfy those conservation urges. Dennis and I will miss the springtime Cebolla project again this year—we'll be running in southern Illinois as part of an 8-person relay team covering 80 miles between the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers. But we'll be thinking of you all at that special New Mexico location, enjoying Scial's breakfast burritos, putting in some great hours at the creek building wooden and rock structures and planting willows...and having a terrific Saturday evening gathering. Have fun, everyone, and take lots of pictures!

Glenda Muirhead

*Jim Hubert's*

### Notable Quote

*of the month*

*"The hand of the late Stewart Lee Udall, who made his home in Santa Fe, can be seen across the nation. It can be seen in the enactment of major environmental laws, including ones to protect endangered species. He helped write the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and the Wilderness Act of 1964 which protects millions of acres from logging, mining and other development."*

— Editor, Albuquerque Journal  
March 24, 2010

## Volunteer Project #3

# CEBOLLA CANYON — South of Grants

## Weekend Project: April 16-18, 2010

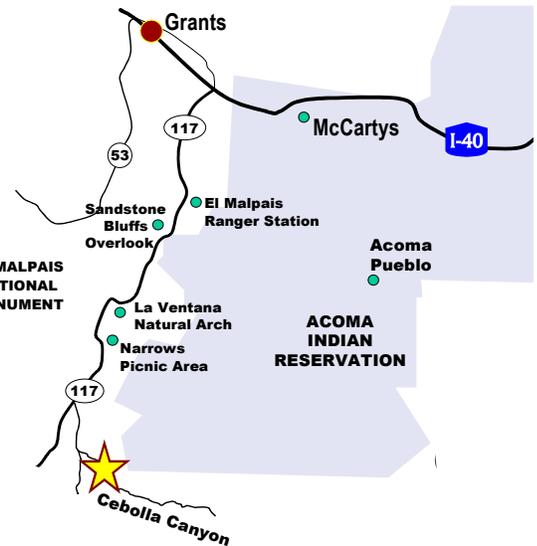
The third planned project of AWF's 2010 Season is at Cebolla Canyon within "El Malpais Conservation Area" on BLM-managed lands south of Grants.

**THE PROJECT:** We'll return to the site of last April's project to build more wicker baffles and weirs with juniper poles. The baffles are to add sinuosity to the stream which will help collapse steep arroyo walls and provide sediment for easing channel depth. The weirs also will assist with raising the stream bed, as will additional rock structures. Planting willows is on the agenda as well.

We'll plan to do project work on Saturday starting at 9 am, 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 and small campers. Bill Zeedyk, riparian restoration consultant and AWF volunteer, will lead the group and oversee structure placement and assembly.

**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 may be cool and windy...so bring warm clothes and bedding.

**FOOD:** Please provide **your own meals for Friday dinner — Saturday lunch — Sunday breakfast and lunch.** Wake up to **BREAKFAST BURRITOS** for everyone on **SATURDAY MORNING.** We'll also provide 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.



**DIRECTIONS:** 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 5 miles in to the camping area; between miles 3 and 4, you'll need to turn left...so don't go straight.

The drive from Albuquerque takes about 2 hours.

**TO SIGN UP: Contact**  
Glenda Muirhead — 505-281-2925  
or [g.muirhead@usfamily.net](mailto:g.muirhead@usfamily.net)



One of last year's wicker baffles doing its job— capturing debris and sediment and shifting the course of the creek toward the arroyo wall.

Photo March 29, 2010

## Camping With Us? Here's What to Bring

- ✓ Gear for camping ( tent / trailer / vehicle )
- ✓ Warm bedding and clothing (*be prepared for possible freezing temperatures*)
- ✓ Rain gear (*it may rain*)
- ✓ Sturdy work/waterproof **BOOTS** and work **GLOVES**
- ✓ **HAT** and **SUNSCREEN**
- ✓ **BACKPACK** or daypack for your stuff
- ✓ Clothing and footwear changes (*it may rain*)
- ✓ **FOOD** for yourself for Friday dinner, a Saturday bag lunch, and your meals for Sunday
- ✓ **DISH TO SHARE** at Saturday night meal
- ✓ **WATER** adequate for your needs + 1-2 gallons to share for dishwashing station
- ✓ **YOUR OWN PLATE, bowl, flatware, & coffee cup**
- ✓ Towel to dry your own dishes
- ✓ **CAMP CHAIR** and **HEAD LAMP** or flashlight

## Cedro Creek Project Didn't Happen!

Inclement weather forced cancellation of the Cedro Creek project scheduled for March 20. Our thanks to all those who had signed up...we appreciate your patience and understanding of the circumstances. Your safety and convenience are of primary importance, and cold wet snow on the roads and at the project site would have been hazardous to all participants...and kind of messy, too.

The Cedro Creek project has been re-slotted into the schedule as our final outing of the year, and will now be held on October 16. We will also use this day to celebrate the conclusion of a productive season, so look forward to some festivities after the project.

## 2010 PROJECT SCHEDULE

February 20	Tree Planting at Aldo Leopold Forest ( <i>Albuquerque Bosque</i> )
March 20	CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER
April 16-18	Cebolla Canyon I
May 14-16	Limestone Canyon ( <i>San Mateo Mountains</i> )
June 18-20	Rio de las Vacas
July 16-18	Valle Vidal
August 20-22	Valles Caldera National Preserve
September 17-19	Cebolla Canyon II
October 16	Cedro Creek ( <i>East Mountains</i> )— RESCHEDULED FROM MARCH — and End of Year Celebration

To sign up for any of these projects, please contact Glenda Muirhead at 505-281-2925 or [g.muirhead@usfamily.net](mailto:g.muirhead@usfamily.net) by Monday prior to the project weekend.

## AMERICA'S WETLANDS — Vital Yet Shrinking

More than half of the estimated 221 million acres of wetlands originally existent in the United States have been lost. In 1972, the passage of the Clean Water Act played an important role in stemming the rate of loss. Even with the law's protection, however, wetlands most important to fish and wildlife continue to decrease by 80,000 acres per year.

According to Tom Franklin, director of policy and government relations for the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP), "America's wetlands control floods and erosion, hold and cleanse water, and give us places to hunt, fish and enjoy the outdoors...Furthermore, many plant, fish and wildlife species depend on wetlands for survival. ...Wetlands rank among the most productive and threatened habitats in the world."

In 2009, the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works passed an amended version of the Clean Water Restoration Act (S. 787). This legislation would restore federal clean water and wetlands protections to levels originally intended in the Clean Water Act, clarify agency jurisdiction on wetlands protections and slow the trend of wetland loss. The TRCP and members of the Working Group on Wetlands currently are pressing the House of Representatives to advance legislation and work with the Senate to pass a bill for the President's approval.

## PROJECTS COMMITTEE *On the Land*

- ▶ *Below left:* Committee members met in sunny Placitas on March 21 to formalize the layout of AWF's "Camp Central" with a mock set-up. (Ironically, this was the day after we cancelled the Cedro Creek project because of snowy weather.) In attendance: Michael Scialdone, Patricia Hester, Phil Carter, Kristina G. Fisher, Adam Zipkin, Hamish Thomson, and Dennis & Glenda Muirhead.
- ▶ *Bottom right:* Projects Chair Gene Tatum led a field trip to Cebolla Canyon on March 29th to plan for the April 16-18 outing there. Also in attendance: Matt Schultz (NM Environment Dept), Adam Zipkin and Glenda Muirhead (AWF Projects Committee), Jenn Schramm (BLM Park Ranger at El Malpais NCA) and her colleagues Tim and Jim.
- ▶ *Top right:* One rock dam in Cebolla Canyon getting buried in sediment...just right!



## LEGACY ROADS AND TRAILS

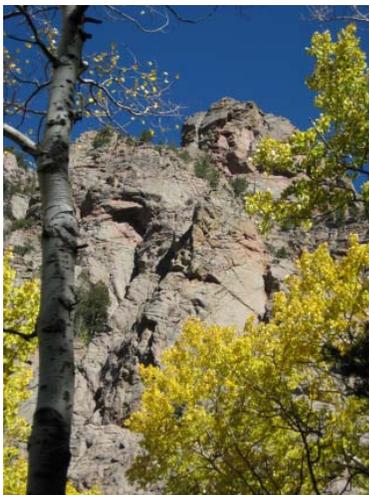
From The Wilderness Society

The Legacy Roads and Trails Remediation Initiative is a funding source that has been included in federal appropriations bills the past three years. This funding has allowed the Forest Service to improve stream habitat, repair culverts, and maintain or decommission thousands of miles of unwanted and environmentally destructive roads, trails and user-created routes. This initiative was funded at \$90 million in FY 2010, and the program is up for renewal in the FY 2011 budget.

The main threat to water quality in many national forests is the Forest Service's vast and crumbling road system, an environmentally-harmful vestige of the agency's industrial logging era.

With The Wilderness Society's strong support, Congress has stepped forward with new funding to address the problem, including \$90 million in the Forest Service's FY 2010 budget for urgent road decommissioning and repairs.

Since creating the Legacy Roads and Trails Remediation Initiative three years ago, Congress has appropriated \$179.4 million for this work. This funding source will create or retain green jobs protecting water quality and enhancing wildlife habitat by obliterating unnecessary old roads, performing critical maintenance on important roads, and maintaining culverts. With so many excess old logging roads, determining which ones receive maintenance funding can be difficult. Funds can also be used to perform the travel analysis necessary to determine which routes are unneeded, and the environmental review that is required before such work can begin.



### Legacy Roads Facts

The Forest Service is responsible for over 380,000 miles of roads, but due to funding limitations it is only capable of maintaining about 20 percent of its road system to environmental standards. Aging roads that are not properly maintained bleed sediment into rivers, endangering public drinking water supplies as well as fish and wildlife habitat. We think it is necessary that Legacy Road work is framed within an effort to right-size the road system. In 2001, the Forest Service estimated that its system was 20-35% oversized. It adopted a long-term roads policy requiring a systematic assessment of which roads needed to remain on the system and which ones needed to be reclaimed. This assessment, which would lay out the road map to rightsizing the system, is a critical step to provide a coherent framework for future Legacy Roads expenditures. However, it remains incomplete in about 80% of our national forests. A right-sized road system will facilitate recreational access and forest management while protecting rivers and fisheries. It will cost much less in the long-run to manage, saving taxpayer dollars in the future. It will also focus road maintenance expenditures on priority roads, ensuring the maintenance of the roads we do need.

The first two years of the Legacy Roads program resulted in projected accomplishments including 1,147 miles of stream habitat improved, 820 culverts repaired, 3,089 miles of roads maintained, 2,194 miles of roads decommissioned and over 126,000 acres of habitat improved nationwide. Legacy Roads funds are facilitating access to popular recreational destinations, helping bring the Forest Service road system into compliance with the Clean Water Act, protecting habitat for threatened and endangered species, decreasing the fiscal burden of the road system to taxpayers by reducing the system and storm-proofing roads, and creating restoration jobs in rural community.

In addition to protecting water quality and access to popular trailheads, road reclamation on national forest lands creates high-wage, locally-based jobs that benefit rural economies. Economists estimate that for each \$1 million spent on road decommissioning, 14.5 direct jobs for heavy equipment operators and for other forest workers are supported. Road decommissioning will also save taxpayers money in the long-run: the Forest Service estimates that road reclamation and culvert repair would save taxpayers up to \$1,200 per mile in reduced maintenance costs annually.

### RENEWED MEMBERS

Bill Zeedyk & Mary Maulsby—Patron

### NEW MEMBER

Lloyd Wood

Thank  
You!

## NON-LETHAL *Solutions* WHEN BEAVERS TAKE UP RESIDENCE

From ANIMAL PROTECTION OF NEW MEXICO (APNM)



APNM holds field workshops that demonstrate effective, nonlethal solutions to problems beavers sometimes create for landowners. Federal, state, and municipal agencies, landowners and others have been able to learn about ways to prevent flooding, tree damage and other unwelcome results that sometimes come with sharing the landscape with beavers.

Beavers are a keystone species, meaning that they are so integral to the ecosystem that their removal leads to a loss of habitat for other species dependent on that habitat and a breakdown of ecological integrity. In addition to beavers' intrinsic value, their status as a keystone species makes coexisting with them even more imperative. Robust beaver populations lead to more water, more plants and wildlife, and the development of wetlands. Historical records suggest that the Southwest was once full of wetlands before beavers were extirpated.

APNM's new **Landowner Guide** provides details on whom to contact for assistance, resources to consult, materials needed, and where to purchase them for long-term solutions such as tree-wrapping and flow devices.

The new **Landowners' Guide to Nonlethal Beaver Solutions: How to help beavers and benefit from them at the same time** can be viewed and downloaded from APNM's website. The public is encouraged to share this information with friends and neighbors who may not be aware of these inexpensive, long-term, and beneficial solutions. <http://www.apnm.org/campaigns/beavers/BeaverLandOwnersGuide.pdf>.

## TRAVEL MANAGEMENT *in Mountainair District*

From an article by Dianne Stallings, *Ruidoso News*—March 23, 2010

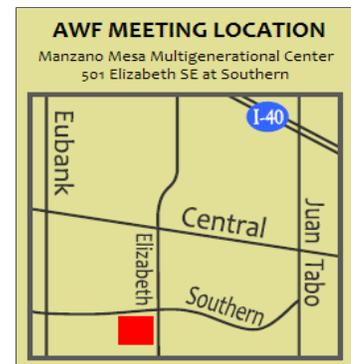
With more than 400 miles of roads listed for the Mountainair District of the Cibola National Forest, from gravel down to two ruts, Forest Service officials are trying to eliminate those no longer useful or appropriate for motorized travel.

The Cibola includes the Datil, Gallinas, Magdalena, Bear, Manzano, Sandia, San Mateo, Mt. Taylor and Zuni Mountains; four wilderness: the Sandia Mountain, Manzano Mountain, Withington, and Apache Kid; and is divided into four districts: the Mt. Taylor District, the Magdalena District, the Sandia District, and the Mountainair District that includes the Gallinas and Manzano Mountains.

The comment period on the environmental assessment for travel management on the Mountainair District ends April 3, according to District Ranger Karen Lessard. It is published on the Cibola National Forest Web site. Many comments already have been received, she said. "Some complained there still were too many roads and others that there were too few," she said.

Many of the roads proposed for closure no longer exist. Some were developed in the 1930s. "We went out to pinpoint whatever appeared on the maps and to meet with people who might use them or want them for recreation," Lessard said. "We eliminated 62 percent of what were termed roads. Many were redundant and crisscrossed along slopes in the 1920s and 1930s, or paralleled main roads. Some created access across private lands and must be closed, because the public can't get to them."

Campers and hunters are allowed to go off-road for hunting. "We're not changing off-road camping, except in the wilderness," Lessard said, again emphasizing the closures pertained only to motorized vehicles. "We identified areas that were especially popular for people off-road where they can get a more primitive experience and still be environmentally sound."



### AWF OFFICERS AND BOARD

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**VICE PRESIDENT** — Gene Tatum  
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**TREASURER** — Dennis Muirhead

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ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
 PO Box 1234 ■ Albuquerque, NM 87103

<http://abq.nmwildlife.org>

# COMMUNITY EVENTS



## CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE OPEN SPACE DIVISION

Open Space Visitor Center | 505-897-8831 | www.cabq.gov/openspace

### BOSQUE WILD: Guided Nature Walk — First Sundays

Sunday, April 4 — 7:30 am – 9:00 am — FREE

Join our naturalists for a walk into the riverside forest that so many of us pass on our way through the city. Space is limited, so preregistration is encouraged: 897-8831.

### ART FROM THE STREETS: a recycled art workshop

Saturday, April 17 (Time TBA)

Make something out of nothing! An ArtStreet artist will teach creative techniques and appropriate tools to create magic from what others consider “trash”. Materials will be provided to create your own 3-D shadow box BYOT Bring your own recyclable materials if you like! The workshop will be appropriate for children & adults.

### BACKYARD COMPOSTING

Saturday, April 17 — 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

You may not have thought recently about the wealth of vitamins, minerals and energy that passes through our everyday lives in the form of garbage. Yet a seasoned gardener will tell you just how important soil amendment is. Learn here the most effective composting system for our dry New Mexico climate.

(Registration required: 897-8831)



### WOLF MEET AND GREET — Wanagi Wolf Fund

Sunday, April 18 — 12:30 pm – 2:00 pm

Stephanie Kaylan will be at the Open Space Visitor Center Sunday, April 18th from 12:30pm to 2:00pm. She will have up to three of her wolves/wolf-dogs for an up close and personal discussion of these beautiful animals and the importance we as humans have in the lives of these creatures.

## WOLF REINTRODUCTION FALTERING

From Sierra Club, Northern NM Group

The end of 2009 count of Mexican wolves in the wild is sadly disappointing. In Arizona, the number went up from 23 to 29, but the count in New Mexico is down from 29 to only 15.

It is to be expected that some wolf pups will not survive their first year, but losing 24 of the 31 wild-born puppies is unusual and the causes are not known. Two wolves were confirmed illegally shot in 2009 and the cause of death of an additional six is under investigation. To their credit, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is no longer killing and removing wolves that prey on cattle as a matter of policy.

It is only fitting that Mexico is now planning to reintroduce lobos into their own country because the last Mexican wolves known to be in the wild were captured there in the late 1970s and placed into captivity to save the entire species. Five wolves will be released into the Sierra San Luis Mountains about 100 miles south of the Arizona/New Mexico border.

Wolves are capable of roaming and leaving their prescribed boundaries. No one knows what they will do, but a hundred miles is not so great that these Mexican Lobos couldn't roam north into the United States. In this area, there are sections of the Border Wall that only exclude vehicles.

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

An affiliate of New Mexico Wildlife Federation

I'd like to belong to AWF ONLY or  I'd like to belong to AWF + NMWF: 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Contribution \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Application