



# ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION

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

# AWF Newsletter

JULY 2010

**MONTHLY MEETING – No meeting in July!**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We take a vacation from our monthly meetings in July, but please plan to join us for our August 12 meeting, where Phil Carter will discuss his experiences advocating for wolves, and also his current work with equines for Animal Protection of New Mexico. Mark your calendar!

I would like to commend Larry Dwyer, Chair of the Wildlife Issues Committee, for representing AWF in the continuing taskforce meetings with NMDG&F to revise A-PLUS, which will modify how future antelope tags are allocated between public hunters and private landowners. Decision is scheduled for the September 30 Game Commission meeting. Thanks for this and all your other fine work, Larry.

Glenda Muirhead

*Jim Hubert's*

### Notable Quote

*of the month*

*Upon his departure from the Cabinet in 1969, Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall wrote: "After 8 years in this office, I have come to the conclusion that the most important piece of unfinished business on the nation's resource agenda is the complete replacement of the Mining Law of 1872."*

NEWS FROM NMWF

## NMWF TESTIFIES ON BEHALF OF VALLES CALDERA MANAGEMENT SWITCH

New Mexico Wildlife Federation's Executive Director, Jeremy Vesbach, was invited to testify before Congress on the proposal by Sens. Jeff Bingaman and Tom Udall to end the experimental management system at Valles Caldera, a management system that has led to numerous attempts to charge \$10,000 or more for hunters to access our own public land for elk hunts.

The federal government corporation (known as the Trust) that manages Valles Caldera is now charging \$1,950 in access fees for nearly half the turkey hunts on the preserve. This would end under the new legislation and hunting opportunity would come back within an affordable range for everyone. At the hearing June 30, Jeremy said the legislation will "restore America's great tradition of hunting equality." He also said that hunting on the preserve is "an ecological necessity" and praised the senators for including language that mandates hunting be allowed.

**NMWF has stood up for sportsmen since the experimental management system was set up.** After the Trust

in 2002 ignored the resident quota and provided a majority of bull licenses to nonresident hunters, NMWF demanded that the Trust start following state law and provide 78 percent of bull elk licenses to residents. NMWF has also been able to prevent the Trust's efforts to change state wildlife law so it could implement an elite access program charging \$10,000 for the best elk hunts on public land.

**More than 1,000 hunters have called on our congressional delegation for a change in Valles Caldera management** over the past two years and asked our senators to ensure in legislation that, no matter which agency manages the preserve, hunting and fishing be mandated to continue. The Senate bill meets these standards and calls for turning Valles Caldera into a National Preserve managed by the Park Service and requires that hunting and fishing continue. It would be the nation's 19th national preserve since 1974, including most recently the Great Sand Dunes national preserve in Colorado — where hunting is also mandated by the authorizing legislation.

— Joel Gay, NMWF

## Volunteer Project #6

# VALLE VIDAL : July 16-18, 2010

Next up in AWF's 2010 Season is our annual outing to the beautiful Valle Vidal in Carson National Forest. In 2007 AWF celebrated 25 years of volunteer projects here, so you know it's a special place for us.

**THE PLACE:** We will camp at Ring Place Meadow again this year, along the tree-lined edges of the open field. Some parking restrictions will apply, so please abide by directions for locating your vehicle to minimize impacts to this vulnerable area. Portable toilets will be provided by USFS.

**THE PROJECT:** Our partner George Long, Questa Range District Wildlife Biologist, will be on vacation during AWF's project at Valle Vidal, but he has established this year's priorities and shared them with Gene Tatum, Projects Committee Chair. There are three important tasks for us.

- Build new enclosures in the Ring Meadow. This year the holes will be pre-dug for us, which will allow us to build two new enclosures and extend the existing construction, compared to last year when we were only able to add on to the first one. These structures are very important as they maximize the benefits of surface water and vegetation.
- Assist the Forest Archeologist with restoration of the old Shuree Lodge. The lodge is on the National Register of Historic Places which means it has irreplaceable value as part of the history of this region and our country. A portion of the lodge was accidentally burned by a careless camper. Our tasks will be to rebuild the burned portion and replace some logs on unburned portions of the walls.
- Clean out an irrigation ditch which provides water to maintain and replenish the meadows at the Ring Place. These ditches provide water from the only known New Mexico water rights designated exclusively for wildlife. This water also has the potential to reach the enclosures downstream where we have been working.

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

Plan on having breakfast burritos provided by AWF on Saturday morning, with plenty of coffee for all. **SATURDAY EVENING** we'll have a potluck meal, so please bring a dish to supplement grilled bison burgers and chicken sausages (plus veggie options). **SUNDAY MORNING**, if there are leftovers from Saturday, we'll put them on the table... plus coffee for sure.

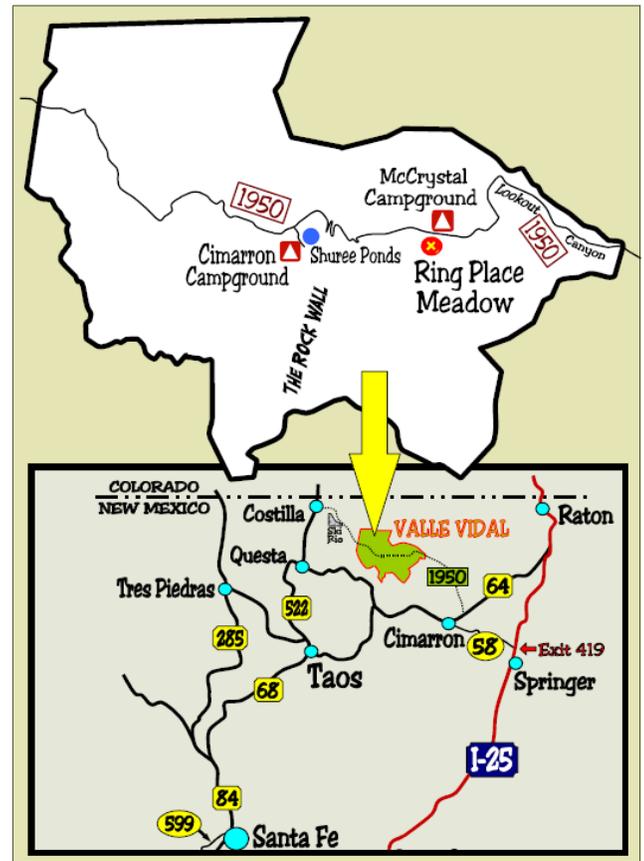
**DRIVING TIME:**

4½ hours north of ABQ; 2 hours NE of Taos.

### TO SIGN UP: Contact

Glenda Muirhead — 505-281-2925 or  
g.muirhead@usfamily.net

*Additional details and directions will be provided during the week before the project.  
...make sure we have your email address  
so you'll get them!*



### Projects Chair Takes a Field Trip

Gene Tatum took a trip up to Valle Vidal on Monday, June 28, to meet with George Long, Questa Range District Wildlife Biologist, to preview the project tasks for this year.



Here's a photo Gene took of George inspecting a one-rock dam at Ring Place Meadow which has successfully captured sediment and promoted some nice vegetative growth.

Project Recap

# RIO DE LAS VACAS in June

What a beautiful weekend for a project at Rio de las Vacas...except for the fact that we were missing some very key people — project designer Bill Zeedyk, absent due to health issues; and Gene Tatum and Pat Hester, off to Portland, OR, for daughter Rachel’s wedding. But because of Nina Wells, NM Environment Department, who was guided by detailed notes from Bill Z, and our crew leaders Michael Scialdone, Phil Carter, Toby Rosenblatt, and Hamish Thomson, quite a bit was accomplished (lots of rock positioned, fencing repaired, and willow cuttings harvested and planted). Whether locations were appropriately chosen, only a retrospective review by Bill will tell!



We sure missed Bill, Gene, and Pat, but many thanks to those who stepped in to make the weekend a success nonetheless, and to all our wonderful volunteers, without whom we couldn’t do what we do. We also enjoyed the company of several newcomers...excellent!

Being sidelined by a broken little toe was a big disappointment to me, though I did hobble out to the river close to camp to plant some willows...and watch a snake open wide to ingest a (comparatively) sizeable fish. See below for a photo by Bob Tilley, who arrived after the deed was done: note the broad area where the snake’s markings are quite distinct...that’s dinner making its way through.

Every project has its own stories. This time, John Canaris’s clever yet infamous dog, Gnarley, out-did himself by getting into a soft-sided cooler Friday night to ingest 16 buns, six large bagels, and a dozen mini bagels...truly amazing! But John graciously drove to Cuba to replace the supplies and Saturday dinner was lavish and delicious as always. Join us at Valle Vidal this month and be part of the next story.

— Glenda Muirhead

RIO DE LAS VACAS Participants		
Marcie Amendolagine	Kylie Diver	Michael Scialdone
Vincent Amendolagine	Tracy Diver	Adam Stern
Eli, Marco, and Alec Amendolagine	Kristina G. Fisher	Noah Stern
Howard Bradley	Brian Fox	Marilynn Szydlowski
Misako Bradley	Thomas Henry	Hamish Thomson
John Canaris	Cliff Mendel	Bob Tilley
Monica Canaris	Joyce Mendel	Nina Wells, NMED
Phil Carter	Glenda Muirhead	Respect the Rio staff:
Eric Collins, NM Trout	Averill Nolte	Evelyn Aguilar
Barb Diver	Kurt Nolte	Nichole Carnevale
Rich Diver	Francis Peter, NM Trout	Rikki Seguin
	Toby Rosenblatt	



PHOTO BY NINA WELLS



Nina Wells, standing, reviews plans for the day.



PHOTO BY BOB TILLEY

Here’s Marilynn taking a rest while she transports willow cuttings to the planting sites.



PHOTO BY BOB TILLEY

Yum! (See text)



## EAST MOUNTAIN BEAR UPDATE

From Jan Hayes, Sandia Mountain BearWatch

“NMDG&F and one Tijeras man have now destroyed seven East Mountain bears. We’re not sure what is happening, but believe that there has been a berry crop failure due to the late spring frosts and zero rains in early summer. The Department says there are just “too many” bears for the habitat...and I might go along with that if we had seen a gradual increase of bear problems in the last several years...but there was only one bear killed by a car last year and very few reports of bear sightings over the past three years.”

Jan urges everyone to be **BEAR SAFE and BEAR WISE!** For more information, log onto [SandiaMountainBearWatch.org](http://SandiaMountainBearWatch.org).

### CAMPING IN BEAR COUNTRY

*Bear sightings are not unusual at Valle Vidal, location of our July project. Here’s some sound advice for staying safe.*

- Use a designated camping area.
- Select a campsite away from berry patches, oak groves, animal trails.
- Place sleeping tents at least 100 feet from food storage and cooking areas.
- Set up tents with reasonable space between.
- Keep a flashlight and bear pepper spray readily available.
- Store all food, including pet food and garbage, by hanging at least 10 feet from ground and 4 feet from top and side supports.
- If a campsite bear-proof receptacle is available, use it.
- Avoid storing food in your car—bears can pop windows out and do major damage to the interior of a car.
- As a last resort, store your food in your car trunk.
- Keep a clean campsite at all times.
- Keep sleeping area, tent and sleeping bag free of food and related odors.
- Don’t sleep in clothes worn while cooking or handling fish or game.
- Don’t use perfumed hair sprays, gels, shampoos, lotions, or similar products
- Keep pets on a leash.

## NM ASKS EPA FOR HELP MEASURING OFF-ROAD VEHICLE IMPACTS

**NMED requests \$150,000 to assess water quality damage to rivers and streams from unauthorized ATV use in New Mexico’s National Forests**

New Mexico Environment Department Secretary Ron Curry sent a letter to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requesting assistance with the unauthorized use of off road vehicles that is threatening fragile rivers and streams in national forests in New Mexico.

The letter details the Secretary’s concerns about the impact to the environment and water quality that results from the use of unauthorized trails and roads by off road and all terrain vehicles in those forests. In addition, Secretary Curry requests \$150,000 in EPA funding to conduct an assessment of water quality impacts caused by ORV and ATV use in the Jemez Mountains within the Santa Fe National Forest.

“These informal motorized routes follow or criss-cross streams, damaging stream bank integrity and riparian vegetation, accelerating erosion and creating deep gullies and headcuts that are particularly devastating in New Mexico’s fragile arid landscape,” Secretary Curry states in the letter. “I personally toured an area of the Jemez Mountains affected by ORV and ATV use in 2009 and expressed my concerns to the Santa Fe National Forest supervisor regarding the impacts I observed to state surface water resources. One year later, ORV and ATVs are still uncontrolled on our national forest public lands, destroying the fragile soils and riparian ecosystems that have been entrusted to the Forest Service.”

More than 100 miles of perennial water bodies are impaired by suspended or bedded sediment in the Jemez Ranger District of the

Santa Fe National Forest. The department would use requested EPA funding to hire a technical contractor to quantify the contribution from ORV/ATV activity to turbidity/sediment impairments through collection of stream discharge, turbidity and geomorphic assessment data. The funding would also be used to identify those areas where ORV/ATV activities have the greatest impact on water quality in order to focus mitigation efforts.



The Forest Service has been working with NMED through its 319 program to address impacts in particular areas within the Rio Cebolla, East Fork of the Jemez River, Rio de las Vacas and the Rio Guadalupe, according to the letter. However, a significant potential contributor to forest-wide water quality impacts, ORV and ATV use, remains unaddressed.

The department is awaiting the release of the Santa Fe National Forest’s Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Forest’s Travel Management Plan for public comment.

— From an NMED Press Release  
June 30, 2010

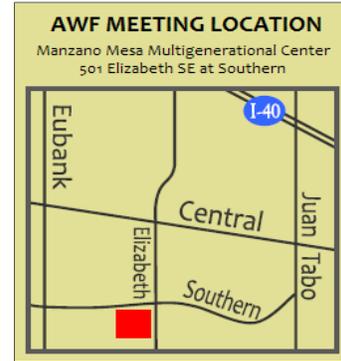
## Items Donated or Loaned to AWF

We would like to acknowledge the generosity of those who have helped build AWF's inventory of materials for projects and meetings:

Larry Dwyer	set of two-way radios
Laurie Marnell	table
Glenda Muirhead	airpot for camp coffee
Cece Niemczyk	7-gallon insulated water cooler
Toby Rosenblatt	large tent
Jenn Schramm	table
Michael Scialdone	table, assorted kitchen items, utility boxes
Gene Tatum	storage boxes, tools
Nina Wells	kettle, coffee cups
Jim Wilson	plates and kitchenware

*Thank You!*

In addition, these people and many others transport and allow AWF to use such items as camp stoves and grills, propane cylinders, butane igniters, tables, water jugs, canopies, coffee makers, kettles, dishpans and washup supplies, pots and pans, Scial's trailer ...and the list goes on. (Sorry for any inadvertent omissions.)



## 2010 PROJECT SCHEDULE

February 20	Tree Planting at Aldo Leopold Forest (Albuquerque Bosque)
March 20	[ Cedro Creek — CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER ]
April 16-18	Cebolla Canyon I
May 14-16	Limestone Canyon (San Mateo Mountains)
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 (East Mountains) 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 by Monday prior to the project weekend.

### AWF OFFICERS AND BOARD

**PRESIDENT** — Glenda Muirhead  
**VICE PRESIDENT** — Gene Tatum  
**SECRETARY** — Patricia Hester  
**TREASURER** — Dennis Muirhead

### DIRECTORS

Stephen Bohannon	Linda Patterson
Larry Dwyer	Michael Scialdone
Brian Gleadle	Luke Shelby
Kurt Nolte	Bill Zeedyk

ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
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<http://abq.nmwildlife.org>

## 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