

## MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday, September 9, 2010 — 7:30 pm  
Manzano Mesa Center (map p6)

### East Meets West in the Zuni Bluehead Sucker

Guest Speaker: Eliza I. Gilbert, NM Department of Game & Fish

In the Late Pleistocene, a headwater tributary of the Rio Grande flowed over the Continental Divide, enabling one of its residents, the Rio Grande sucker, to intermingle with the bluehead sucker. Thus was created the **Zuni bluehead sucker**, an especially significant species because of its rare origins as a hybrid between an Atlantic slope sucker and a Pacific slope sucker. Native to the headwaters of the Little Colorado River, this fish is currently found in New Mexico only in three rather isolated locations within and above Zuni Pueblo.

The subspecies is considered endangered by the state of New Mexico and is a federal Endangered Species Act candidate. Our guest speaker, Eliza Gilbert, will discuss the natural history and conservation measures currently underway for the Zuni bluehead sucker. The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish began surveying for this species in the 1990s, and multiple agencies and organizations are involved in its conservation, including the US Forest Service, Zuni Pueblo, US Fish and Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, and private land owners. AWF plans a small, by-invitation-only project October 1-2 to help protect habitat for this unique species.



Eliza Gilbert at the Pecos River

Eliza has been with NMDGF for almost two years, and handles permits/biological information in the Conservation Services Division. Her previous professional experience was in the southeastern United States where she worked in the fields of marine/coastal ecology and research as well as restoration of the Everglades. She is originally from northern New Mexico and is very pleased to have the opportunity to work as a biologist in her home state, especially with such an interesting native species.

*Jim Hubert's*

### Notable Quote of the month

*When questioned about why the Fish and Wildlife Service has listed only three species during President Obama's first year in office, the agency's spokeswoman Valerie Fellows had this to say:*

"The agency's listing and critical habitat budget has been usurped by lawsuits and court-ordered actions for nearly a decade. We essentially lost all of our own discretion to use funding for listing candidates and making petition finding, as we were completely driven by court orders. The agency intends to finalize listings for at least 50 species in the coming year."

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The end of our project season is rapidly approaching, so don't miss your chance to participate in the two remaining outings of this year. September brings us back to CEBOLLA CANYON for our second project in 2010. This will be a weekend event at an interesting location not too far from Albuquerque, involving the construction of picket baffles and weirs in the creek where past AWF efforts have made a substantial difference. If road conditions permit, we'll also transplant bullrushes near the spring.

Then, for our final project on October 16, we'll be in the East Mountains just outside of Albuquerque for a one-day outing at CEDRO CREEK to plant trees and build rock structures. We'll also have our END-OF-SEASON CELEBRATION and we hope to make it a special one! After the project day, we invite everyone to join us for a potluck dinner at a nearby campground, where we'll grill bison burgers and sausage just like we do on our weekend projects. Please put this on your calendar, and plan to be there for the party, whether you can get to the project or not. It should be a great way to wrap up another successful, rewarding season of restoration work. And maybe you'll get to meet some more members of the AWF Board, too.

Glenda Muirhead





AWF / Los Amigos campsite at Alamo Canyon



At the campsite, Steve Vrooman (center, with the shovel) demonstrates the construction of a Zuni bowl for project participants.



Placing the large rocks...



...finishing up with small rocks...



...and one of the many final products.



Peggy Gautier, Joe Thompson, and Hamish Thomson admire the tumbling descent of the large boulder they "freed" from its perch above the arroyo.



Jack Crane, Steve Vrooman, and Jen Zawacki take a well-deserved break from a day of shoveling and rock-moving.

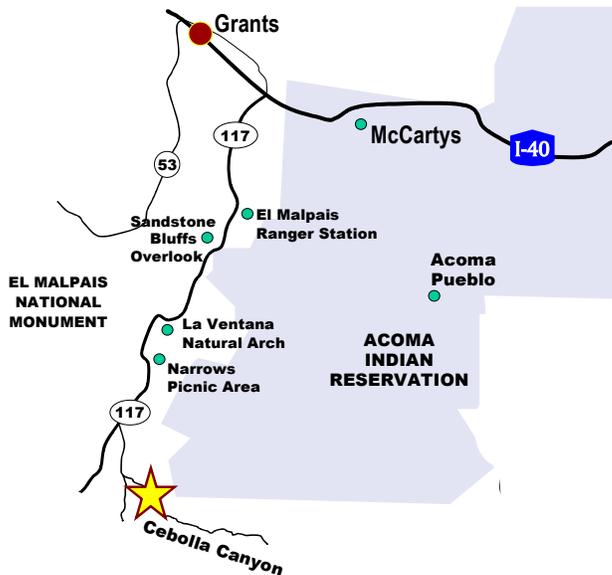


As Scial (far left) prepares to grill bison burgers Saturday evening, many of the crew gather in a semi-circle around the kitchen to rest and await a fine potluck dinner.

## Volunteer Project #8

## CEBOLLA CANYON II

Weekend Project: September 17-19, 2010



**DIRECTIONS:** Take NM 117 south from I-40, east of Grants. 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.

Our final weekend project of AWF's 2010 Season is at Cebolla Canyon within "El Malpais Conservation Area" on BLM-managed lands south of Grants. This is our second project in 2010 at Cebolla.

**THE PROJECT:** We'll return to the site of last April's project to build more wicker baffles and weirs with wooden 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** and coffee for everyone on **SATURDAY MORNING**. We'll also provide snacks and ice water in coolers 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. Coffee and leftovers will be on the table **SUNDAY MORNING**.

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

- ✓ Gear for camping ( tent / trailer / vehicle )
- ✓ Warm bedding and clothing
- ✓ RAIN GEAR
- ✓ Sturdy work/waterproof **BOOTS** and work **GLOVES**
- ✓ **HAT** and **SUNSCREEN**
- ✓ **BACKPACK** or daypack for your stuff
- ✓ Clothing and footwear changes (*it may rain*)
- ✓ Refillable **WATER BOTTLE**
- ✓ **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

### TO SIGN UP: Contact

Glenda Muirhead — 505-281-2925 or [g.muirhead@usfamily.net](mailto:g.muirhead@usfamily.net)  
Additional details will be provided during the week before the project.

### 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](mailto:g.muirhead@usfamily.net) by Monday prior to the project weekend.

## A-PLUS REVISIONS STALLED — GAME COMMISSION DELAYS DECISION

— Extracts from a report by Joel Gay, New Mexico Wildlife Federation

Sportsmen who were hoping to see viable alternatives to the lopsided allocation of antelope hunting opportunity in New Mexico came away disappointed from last Saturday's State Game Commission meeting in Albuquerque, where intense public interest in the planned revisions to A-PLUS (Antelope Private Land Use System) led to a protracted session of comments from hunters, landowners, and outfitters. Landowners fear the loss of monies they can realize from the sale of transferable antelope tags allotted to them by the Dept. of Game & Fish.

In recent years about 70 percent of all licenses have been taken out of public ownership and given to landowners to sell, give away or discard. NMWF supports Option 3 which would put virtually all licenses in the Big Game Draw, and would let landowners, not the state, determine how many hunters they want to allow on their land.

This straight draw system is used in most other western states. Colorado, for example, sets aside just 15 percent of its antelope licenses

as transferable permits for landowners, a higher percentage than any other western state except New Mexico.

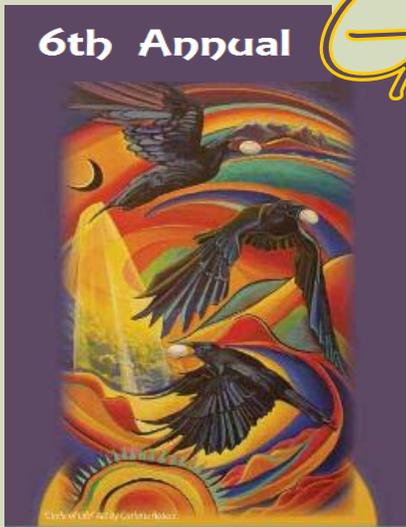
Greg McReynolds [*Trout Unlimited and former AWF Board member*] countered concerns raised by "some members of the commission and the directorate that Option 3 is an attempt to tell landowners who they can allow on their property.... Landowners always have the right to control access to their property, and Option 3 does nothing to inhibit that right," McReynolds said. "You can own property and you can dictate who goes on that property, but the public owns the wildlife, and transferable tags are a clear violation of that."

The department had promised to post its final recommendations on A-PLUS on its website by Tuesday, Aug. 31, giving the public 30 days to comment before the final vote in Ruidoso on Sept. 30. But the Ruidoso meeting has been postponed "to allow for additional time to review and analyze public comments, and formulate rule changes as may be warranted."

6th Annual

Gila

## RIVER FESTIVAL September 16-19, 2010



*Celebrating the Gila's Web Of Life*

The Gila is New Mexico's last free-flowing river, winding its way from its headwaters in the Gila Wilderness Area, through water-carved canyons and valleys before flowing out of the Lower Box into Arizona. Annual snowmelt and monsoonal floods sustain the Gila, one of North America's biodiversity hot spots, with many plant and animal species that are found nowhere else.

For the armchair naturalist, a variety of lectures will be presented at the comfy Silco Theater. Come hear about **JAGUARS, THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON GILA TROUT, ECOSYSTEM TIPPING POINTS, MOUNTAIN LIONS, WOLVES**, and much more. Kieran Suckling, founder of the Tucson-based Center for Biological Diversity, will talk about "What We're Losing, How to Save It All."

Festival attendees can get more hands on with workshops on **WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY, ANIMAL TRACKING, "WRITING FROM PLACE"** with keynote speaker Mary Sojourner, and **BACKYARD HABITAT RESTORATION**.

Learn about the Gila's historical biodiversity with an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour of the internationally acclaimed **COLLECTIONS OF PREHISTORIC MIMBRES POTTERY** at the Western New Mexico University Museum. You can also discover clues to ancient biodiversity on a field trip to the **DRAGONFLY PREHISTORIC ROCK ART SITE** near Fort Bayard.

For the artist in you, **VISIT DOWNTOWN SILVER CITY GALLERIES** featuring work inspired by nature.

For the first time ever, the Gila River Festival is partnering with the **RED HOT CHILDREN'S FIESTA** to bring nature activities to kids right in downtown Silver City. Raptors will be on hand to connect children to the wildlife around them.

Registration is required for most festival events. The complete festival schedule and on-line registration are available at [www.gilaconservation.org](http://www.gilaconservation.org).

For more information about the Gila River Festival, call 575-538-8078 or email [info@gilaconservation.org](mailto:info@gilaconservation.org).

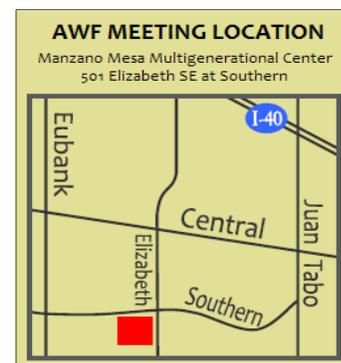
This year's Festival begins in Silver City's historic Silco Theater with a keynote address by author, activist, and teacher Mary Sojourner: "Connections: the Marvelous Complexity of Place."

For the first time, the **WILD AND SCENIC ENVIRONMENTAL FILM FESTIVAL** is part of the Gila River Festival. At this event, the nation's largest environmental film festival, a variety of exciting films will be featured.

Participate in one—or more—of the numerous field trips to the Gila National Forest and Gila River. Try the **CREEPY-CRAWLIES HIKE** or the evening **BAT FIELD TRIP**. Head to the Gila Cliff Dwellings for a visit to a **BEAVER DAM** or to the Gila River to the site of future **RIVER OTTER** reintroduction. **GO FISHING** with New Mexico Game Commissioner and author Dutch Salmon. Join the **GILA RIVER NATIVE PLANT FIELD TRIP**. A **GILA RIVER KAYAK TRIP** is the perfect way to relax and experience one of the Southwest's last wild rivers. This is just a sampling of the guided trips offered.

# AWF BOARD OPPOSES SPRING BEAR HUNT

The Wildlife Issues Committee of AWF evaluated information regarding the Spring bear hunt and increased animal take limits being proposed by the NM Department of Game and Fish, and advised the Board that the department's justification, including bear population estimates, was unconvincing at this time. The Committee's recommendation to the Board was to oppose the proposal as presented. This is also the position of Sandia Mountain BearWatch and Animal Protection of New Mexico. A majority of the Board voted to accept the Committee's recommendation, and AWF President Glenda Muirhead sent a letter to members of the State Game Commission, as well as to the department, to state AWF's opposition to their proposal.



**Open Space:  
A View with Room**  
*Curated by Marilyn Drake & Lee McVey*

**"Little Gems" by Plein Air Painters of New Mexico**

**Open to the Public  
from September 4 - October 28, 2010**

Hours: Tuesday - Sunday, 9:00am - 5:00pm

Don't miss this unique opportunity to see and purchase paintings of your favorite Open Space. All sales benefit the Open Space Alliance. As they're paid for, "Little Gems" may be taken home by the purchaser.

City of Albuquerque  
**Open Space Visitor Center**  
6500 Coors Blvd, NW, Albuquerque  
*(between Montaña Blvd. & Paseo del Norte at the end of Bosque Meadows Rd.)*

For more information, call 505-897-8831 or visit [www.cabq.gov/openspace](http://www.cabq.gov/openspace)  
Parks and Recreation Dept.  
Open Space Division  
Mayor Richard J. Berry

**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**  
PO Box 1234 ■ Albuquerque, NM 87103  
<http://abq.nmwildlife.org>

**NEW MEMBER**  
Kaisa Lappalainen

Welcome!

Membership Application

**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**

<input type="checkbox"/> Student [under 18]..... \$10	← AWF Membership Only
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual ..... \$25	
<input type="checkbox"/> Family ..... \$35	
<input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining ..... \$50-\$99	
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron ..... \$100	
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime ..... \$500	← One-time Payment

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

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