



MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday, April 14, 2011 – 7:30 pm
Manzano Mesa Center (map p2)

DESERT BIGHORN SHEEP MANAGEMENT IN NEW MEXICO: RECOVERING AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

Guest Speaker: Elise Goldstein, NM Dept of Game & Fish

In 1980, with fewer than 70 wild desert bighorn sheep in New Mexico, the species (*Ovis canadensis mexicana*) was listed as “state endangered.” Thanks to a successful management program by the NM Department of Game and Fish, population numbers have rebounded to a level that allowed the delisting process of desert bighorn sheep to begin in July 2010. This is an amazing conservation success story, due in large part to the cooperative partnership between New Mexico’s sportsmen and the department.

Our guest speaker, Elise Goldstein, has been the bighorn sheep biologist with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish for the past 10 years. She has worked towards maintaining healthy populations of Rocky Mountain bighorn sheep, and is conducting the desert bighorn sheep delisting investigation with the assistance of a peer review panel.

Elise has a M.S. from the University of Washington in wildlife sciences where she researched causes of Rocky Mountain bighorn lamb mortality, and a B.S. from the University of California, Berkeley, in forestry and wildlife management. Elise serves as Treasurer of the New Mexico Wildlife Society, and is a member of the National Wildlife Society, Desert Bighorn Sheep Council, New Mexico and National Chapters of the Wild Sheep Foundation, and the Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council.



Jim Hubert's *Notable Quote of the Month*

"Sound land management centers on preserving the integrity, stability and beauty of the public biotic community. Misuse of ORVs—even to a minor degree—can have a scientifically undeniable negative impact on wildlife, wildlife habitat and the watersheds that supply our drinking water. This not only has long-term ecological consequences, it has a long-term negative impact on the local southwestern New Mexico economy".

Garrett VeneKlasen,
Conservative Conservationist
OpEd in Albuquerque Journal, March 14, 2011

IN THIS ISSUE

AWF President Gene Tatum is taking a break from his President's Message for April, but look for a new message from Gene next month.

We are sorry to report that our April project, scheduled for April 29-May 1 at Cebolla Canyon has, unfortunately, been canceled, pending resolution of concept and goal issues for the area between AWF and the Bureau of Land Management. But for those of you who need to be out on the land nonetheless, we offer some options for getting your hands dirty helping other organizations. Check out page 3 for details.

There are announcements of several local events and programs that might interest you—read on to learn about all of them!

And **EARTH DAY** is this month! Technically, it's April 22, but local observances happen throughout the month. See page 2 for a couple of happenings in April to mark the celebration.



US FOREST SERVICE NM YOUTH FORESTRY CAMP

USFS is sponsoring NM Forestry Camp—a five-day resident camp for youth aged 13-17 who are interested in the outdoors and natural resources. The camp will be held June 5-10 at the Rancho del Chaparral Camp near Cuba, NM. Please pass along this information if you know of someone who may be interested.

For more information and details about how to apply, please visit: nmforestrycamp.org

TALKING TALONS WILDFIRE AWARENESS WEEK

Help prevent forest fires in your own backyard! Talking Talons Youth Leadership is engaging East Mountain members in a brand new **Forestry Sciences Program (FSP)** starting this Spring. Participants will learn forestry management strategies where science class belongs, outside! Current program students will participate in boots-on-ground **forest health and ecological monitoring activities**. The data our students collect will make a real difference in reducing the likelihood of catastrophic wildland fires.



HAPPY EARTH DAY!

Here are two great ways to celebrate:

21st Annual Celebrate the Earth Festival

When: April 17, 10 am – 6 pm

Where: La Montanita Coop

3500 Central SE (on Silver between Carlisle and Tulane)

The Co-op's "Celebrate the Earth" festival is a great way to spend a day. There will be information booths, ongoing entertainment, music, dancing, face painting and other fun activities for kids. And there will be the same jam packed booths that have information such as where to buy biodiesel. Call (505) 217-2027 for more information.

Children's Seed Festival

When: April 23, 10 am – 2 pm

Where: Rio Grande Botanic Garden

Children can learn about the interdependence of seeds, plants and humans in this hand-on event. Kids can walk through a seed's life journey at the Fantasy Garden, and get their hands dirty in the seed lab inside the giant pumpkin. Along the way, there will be hands-on discovery stations where children learn the importance of sunlight, water and soil in the growing process. At other stops along the way, children can explore through art, storytelling and more. The event is a great way for kids to get their gardens started. Price to the seed festival is included with regular admission. For information, call (505) 848-7180.

ALBUQUERQUE OPEN SPACE DIVISION WORKSHOP

BUILD A BACKYARD HABITAT

Saturday, April 9

10:00 am — FREE

Do you wish to bring open space into your backyard? To create habitat that attracts birds, bees, butterflies, toads, turtles and more? Whether your yard is large or very small, there are things you can do to provide the necessities for habitat: food, water, cover, and a place to raise young.

Wes Brittenham, featured in a backyard habitat DVD and a regular speaker at the New Mexico Xeriscape Conference and Expo, will give an indoor presentation on creating a wildlife habitat wherever you live in Albuquerque. He will cover the necessary elements required to support birds, bees, butterflies, toads, turtles, and more. Contact Jodi at jhedderig@cabq.gov for more information.

BERNALILLO COUNTY OPEN SPACE

↓ [Sorry we're so late with this announcement.
Maybe you can think about applying next year!]

MASTER NATURALIST PROGRAM

It is time to apply for the Master Naturalist training! This program is ideal for individuals who have a love for the outdoors, curiosity of the natural environment, and desire to work with others and help support conservation measures that improve land health. Select participants go through 55 hours of free in-class training this June and July and then complete a service project on Bernalillo County Open Space. **Space is limited to 25 participants and applications are due on April 1, 2011.** Visit the Open Space website (www.berco.gov/openspace) to apply today.

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT —LOCAL SUCCESS STORY

We sent out a notice early in February that the Great Backyard Bird Count would take place nationally February 18-21. It was good to hear from one of our friends that he took part and contributed his input to the results:

Thanks for the heads-up, Glenda. I participated from my own backyard [in Placitas], with 20 species, and dozens of birds. Congrats to New Mexico being in the top ten in species recorded!

Peter Callen

Pathways—Wildlife Corridors of New Mexico

CEBOLLA CANYON PROJECT CANCELLED

We have decided to cancel the project at Cebolla Canyon scheduled for April 29-May 1. AWF and the Bureau of Land Management are attempting to reach consensus regarding goals and objectives for the area where AWF has worked for many years planting willows and building rock structures to mitigate a deeply eroded channel, and we will wait until both agencies reach a common vision before returning to this location, possibly in the Fall.

We apologize for this change in plans and for any inconvenience it causes you, our loyal volunteers. In the meantime, please check below for a couple of different opportunities for applying your energy.

2011 PROJECT SCHEDULE

MARCH 19	Montessori of the Rio Grande—Wetlands
APRIL 29-MAY 1	CANCELED—Cebolla Canyon I—CANCELED
MAY 20-22	Bear Trap Canyon—Magdalena RD
JUNE 17-19	Rio de Las Vacas
JULY 15-17	Valles Caldera I
AUGUST 19-21	Valles Caldera II
SEPTEMBER 16-18	Cebolla Canyon II
OCTOBER 15	Cedro Creek + End-of-Season Celebration

ALTERNATE PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES



The Quivira Coalition

QUIVIRA COALITION

**Red Canyon Reserve Erosion Control Volunteer Workshop (Socorro County, NM)
April 29-May 1, 2011**

Help us restore the grasslands of Red Canyon Reserve. RCR once had intact grass-covered valleys with no incised channels. The meadow areas and hill slopes are now gullied, reducing the amount and vigor of the grassland vegetation. To restore these areas, numerous rock structures will be installed. These structures are designed to stop down-cutting and spread the water over more surface area, increasing grassland vegetation. Volunteers will help build one rock dams for grade control, Zuni bowls to heal headcuts, rock rundowns for rill control, and media lunas to spread water and create sheet flow. All rock structures will be seeded with native grass seed. **Register online at <http://www.quiviracoalition.org>.**

WILDEARTH GUARDIANS

Restore Waterways in the Valle Caldera Preserve

WildEarth Guardians invites you to join us as we continue our 2011 tree planting events. With your help, we will be planting over 100,000 trees this spring to help restore our rivers. The result? You will be making a difference for hundreds of species and creating a healthier, more beautiful environment. Our Stream Team planting days, held throughout Northern New Mexico, are a great way to get involved for the sake of the environment and re-connect to the water and wild rivers that sustain us all.

These tree-planting sites are in the amazing [Valle Caldera National Preserve](#). Spend a day with us in this incredible, and often difficult to access, part of New Mexico. Join us for our Valles Caldera National Preserve Tree Planting Days:

**April 12 thru 16, 9 am to 4 pm
Valles Caldera — Redondo Creek**

**May 9 thru 13, 9 am to 4 pm
Valles Caldera — Rito Penas Negras**

RSVP is a must. Maximum 10 participants per day. RSVP to Angelisa Espinoza at aespinoza@wildearthguardians.org (subject: Stream Team RSVP) or call 505-988-9126 x1151.

Wear work clothes. Bring gloves, water, and warm and water-resistant clothing as the weather may be unpredictable. Let us provide you lunch by RSVP'ing today! We hope to see you there!

Project Recap

MONTESSORI OF THE RIO GRANDE *in March*

AWF's first Volunteer Service Project of 2011 was a great success. The Montessori of the Rio Grande Charter School has a wetland they developed over 10 years ago with a grant from the Fish & Wildlife Service. This is the second public school which AWF has helped with maintenance of wetlands/natural areas that have been developed to give students a hands-on learning experience. Long-time AWF volunteer Marcie Amendologine gave us the heads-up and we were happy to do it as it fits right in with our mission to educate about the importance of habitat. Moss Templeton, a school teacher who has taken on responsibility for the area, developed the list of tasks needed. Bonnie Dodge, the school's principal, welcomed our efforts. Both gave up their Saturday to join us for the project.

When the pond was originally dug and lined, a surrounding mound was created, and covered in plastic and planted. Over the years, much of the overlying dirt had washed away and the plastic was decaying in the sun. Being isolated and lined, the pond was in danger of being completely overtaken by cattails. Another area was surfaced with lava rock that was no longer desirable. By the time our group of 20 volunteers had finished, we had removed all the plastic and lava rock, cut back the cattails, and covered nearly everything with the supply of wood chips that had been delivered. The school's students will finish where we left off.

It was an excellent way to kick off the 2011 season. We have six more projects this year and we hope to see you on one or two...or five!



Volunteers spread cattail rushes and wood chips along the berm that backs up the wetlands pond at Montessori School of the Rio Grande.



Yards of deteriorating plastic which lined the ground have been removed from beneath layers of lava rock, to make way for a more water-friendly mulch of wood chips.

PHOTOS BY MOSS TEMPLETON

Thanks to all of these MONTESSORI WETLANDS PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

Marcie Amendologine	Doreen Jameson	Michael Scialdone
Siona Briley	Doug Loescher	Marilynn Szydowski
Nancy Carrillo	Laurie Marnell	Moss Templeton
Tanya Critchfield	Glenda Muirhead	Hamish Thomson
Bonnie Dodge	Bob Nordstrum	Carl Weik
Todd Hiermaier	Linda Patterson	Marilyn Weik

AWF OFFICERS AND BOARD

PRESIDENT — Gene Tatum
VICE PRESIDENT — Michael Scialdone
SECRETARY — Patricia Hester
TREASURER — Glenda Muirhead

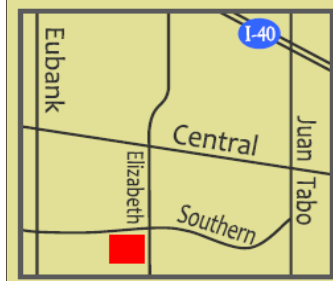
DIRECTORS

Stephen Bohannon	Kurt Nolte
Larry Dwyer	Linda Patterson
Brian Gleadle	Luke Shelby
Dennis Muirhead	Bill Zeedyk

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

AWF MEETING LOCATION

Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center
 501 Elizabeth SE at Southern



RENEWED MEMBERS

Howard & Misako Bradley
 Van Clothier
 Brian Gleadle
 Cecil Haas—Patron
 Crawford MacCallum
 Ron Madsen
 Kurt Nolte
 Linda Patterson
 Michael Scialdone
 Aija & Philip Thacher—Sustaining

SPRING FORTH TO SEE BOBCATS AT "BOBCAT PALOOZA"

April is exciting because spring is well on its way. Birds are chirping, the days are longer, and the cats are back – the bobcats, that is. What better way to spend one of your longer, warmer evenings than by becoming inspired by wildlife - in this case, beautiful bobcats?

You are cordially invited to "**Bobcat-Palooza**" hosted by WildEarth Guardians, the Sierra Club Rio Grande Chapter, Animal Protection of New Mexico, the Southwest Environmental Center, and the Wildlife Center of Española.

April 5th, 6 to 8pm
South Broadway Cultural Center
Multipurpose Room
1025 Broadway Blvd SE
Albuquerque, NM

April 6th, 6 to 8pm
Santa Fe Public Library
Main Community Room
145 Washington St
Santa Fe, NM

April 12th, 6 to 8pm
Southwest Environmental Center
275 Downtown Mall
Las Cruces, NM

Did you know bobcats are excellent swimmers? Learn lots of other interesting facts at Bobcat-Palooza!

Over a series of three nights in New Mexico, you will enjoy our speaker Kevin Hansen, a wildlife biologist, park ranger, writer and Las Cruces resident.

All events are free and are open to the public. See some special guests: Ambassador wild animals from the Wildlife Center will attend the Santa Fe and Albuquerque events. Food, drink, and cake at the Albuquerque and Las Cruces events.

Kevin has studied birds of prey in Oregon, alligators in Florida and mountain lions in Arizona. He is the author of *Bobcat: Master of Survival*, a definitive book on the natural history and management of bobcats.

Come and listen to Kevin's inspiring presentation. You'll learn about bobcats, their fascinating world, and how you can protect these amazing creatures. There also will be a trap-opening demonstration for pet and human safety.

For more information or to RSVP call Angelisa at (505)



PHOTO BY DAVID C. JONES

Proposed National Forest Planning Rule —Does it go far enough?

From information provided by NM Wilderness Alliance

Our national forests are public land, "Land of Many Uses." They belong to all Americans, everywhere; they are a resource that must be stewarded for future generations; and they are a refuge for flora and fauna under ever-increasing pressure from development and human population growth.

The public comment period is underway on the Obama Administration's new revisions to the National Forest Management Rule. The revised rule aims to improve management of watersheds and "viable" wildlife populations, but gives too much discretion to local forest managers.

Attend the Public Roundtable on April 5th.
The National Forest Planning Roundtable will be held at the ALBUQUERQUE MARRIOTT, 2101 Louisiana Blvd NE.

ROUNDTABLE SESSIONS
1:00-4:30 pm and 6:00-9:30 pm

Here is a chance to speak up for increased protections for forests. Demand strong standards for our National Forests based on the latest research and thinking and validated by external scientific review. Speak up for guidelines that identify the highest-quality watersheds and make protecting these key watersheds a priority.

CREATE PUBLIC ACCESS TO BLM LAND IN SAN PEDRO MOUNTAINS

East Mountain Regional Trails Council (EMRTC)
Turquoise Trail Preservation Trust (TTPT)

The San Pedro Mountains contain over 2,200 acres of BLM public land available for recreation, but not accessible around its perimeter. It is currently completely ring-fenced by private land.

To resolve this situation, we have been working with Santa Fe County Open Space and Trails for the last two years. They share our vision of the importance of the San Pedro Mountains becoming a multi-use trail hub. Their long-term master trails plan shows a trail system ranging south to Edgewood, north to Lamy and the Pecos, and west to the Sandias.



At the April 26 County Commission meeting, Santa Fe County Open Space and Trails will recommend that the Commissioners vote to purchase a 160-acre parcel of private land adjacent to the west boundary of the BLM land. This land would be used as a multi-use, non-motorized trailhead for public access to the BLM land.

If you are a user group (hiker, mountain biker, equestrian) or advocate, please consider sending a letter or email to Beth Mills expressing your support.

Suggested Subject: Support Purchasing 160 Acre Parcel
(Providing access to BLM Public Land)

Address:
Beth Mills
Open Space and Trails Program, Santa Fe County
P.O. Box 276
Santa Fe, NM 87501

Email: bmills@co.santa-fe.nm.us

Correspondence must be received by **April 8, 2011**, so that letters can be submitted as an evidence packet for the meeting. You don't have to be a Santa Fe County resident to have a voice.

Thank you for your support, and please forward this to your friends.

ADD 1000 ACRES TO OPEN SPACE IN THE EAST MOUNTAINS

From Linda Barbour, East Mountains Resident:

A once-in-a-lifetime opportunity has come up to add 1000 acres dedicated to open space in the East Mountains at no cost. The City of Albuquerque owns a 1000-acre parcel which abuts and is accessed through Sedillo Ridge Open Space, National Forest, Rancho Verde and Five Hills. It has been under contract for development but the developer has returned the land to the City.

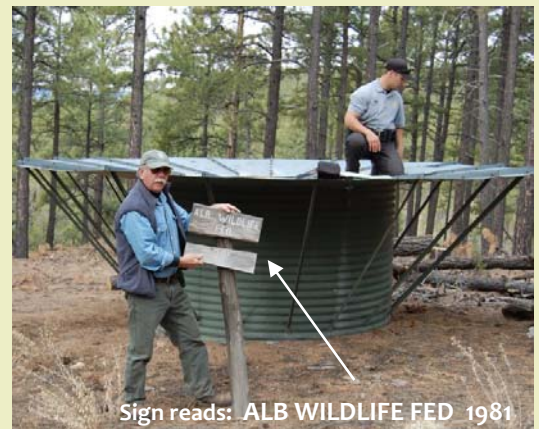
Indications are that the City will convert it to City Open Space if there is enough interest in doing so. There are currently trails in the parcel that need improvement and with the designation of Open Space there will be no motorized vehicles.

Please take a few minutes to write your own letter of support, urging the City of Albuquerque to convert parcel "A" into Open Space, thereby providing expansion of public lands in a meaningful manner which greatly enhances recreational activities in the area and offers protections to a variety of wildlife who call this area home, allowing them to thrive and increase in a natural habitat. Letters should be sent to:

James L. Lewis, Associate Planner
Parks & Recreation, Open Space Division
PO Box 1293
Albuquerque, NM 87102

or fax: 873-6628
or e-mail: jlewis@cabq.gov

SOME AWF HISTORY



"We inspected this trick tank the other day. Looks like you all helped install it in 1981."

From Dale A. Hall, Habitat Stamp Program Manager
New Mexico Department of Game and Fish

Thanks for the memento, Dale.

Here's an exciting free event this weekend
...something for everyone!

Voices from the American Land presents

Río del Corazón: A Free Festival Celebrating the Rio Grande — April 1-3, 2011

National Hispanic Cultural Center, Domenici Education Center | 1701 4th Street SW, Albuquerque, NM | (505) 246-2261

Here in New Mexico, we live astride a great vein in the earth. The Rio Grande collects life-giving water from the mountains, delivers it to our fields and bosques and pueblos and cities, and carries it at last to the sea.

For those of us who call this landscape home, what place does the Rio Grande hold in our hearts, in our history, in our poems and stories, in our relations with others?

Voices from the American Land has organized a festival to celebrate and explore the meaning of the Rio Grande.

We've got readings and workshops, discussions and lectures – even stuff for kids. It's open to everyone and it's all FREE. For more information, please contact Summer Wood by email, summer@voicesfromtheamericanland.org. Event details available at: www.voicesfromtheamericanland.org

We gratefully acknowledge the funding support of the New Mexico Humanities Council and the National Endowment for the Humanities for this We the People project, sponsored by Voices from the American Land in partnership with the National Hispanic Cultural Center.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS | For session descriptions, visit www.voicesfromtheamericanland.org

Friday, April 1 7:00 pm	Opening celebration of El Río del Corazón Beloved Albuquerque poet E.A. 'Tony' Mares reads from and discusses his new chapbook of poems addressing the physical and cultural landscape of the Rio Grande Corridor. With music from Frank McCulloch y Sus Amigos, a special presentation by young poets of the Rio Grande, and a display of art focused on the river. Free chapbooks for all attendees.
Saturday, April 2 10:00 am–11:15 am Two concurrent sessions	— The Story of An Acequia: Estevan Arellano — "The Young Naturalist" hands-on workshop for kids age 6 and up
11:30 am–12:45 pm Two concurrent sessions	— Watersheds as Commons: Jack Loeffler — Restoring the Rio Grande Bosque: Cyndie Abeyta
1:30 pm–2:45 pm Two concurrent sessions	— An Environmental History of the Rio Grande: Steve Harris — Writing the Rio: A Poetry Writing Workshop with Sawnie Morris (runs until 4:15)
3:00 pm–4:15 pm	Panel Discussion with Sara Marie Ortiz, Anders Lundahl, Estevan Arellano, & Jack Loeffler
7:00 pm	Three Poets of the Rio Grande: Sawnie Morris, Sara Marie Ortiz, & Levi Romero celebrate this landscape in an evening of poems and stories.
Sunday, April 3 10:00 am–11:15 am Two concurrent sessions	— "GREEN FIRE" screening: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time — Our Land, Our Stories: A Cultural History of the Rio Grande
10:00 am–12:45 pm	Check the website for details.
11:30 am–12:45 pm	Aldo Leopold in New Mexico, with Jack Loeffler
1:30 pm–2:45 pm Two concurrent sessions	— Place Names of the Rio Grande: Bob Julyan — Young Writers Forum: El Palabra y El Rio, with Sara Marie Ortiz (runs until 4:15)
3:00 pm– 4:15 pm	Birds of the Rio Grande Bosque: Renata Golden, with live raptors from The Wildlife Center

AWF 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: _____

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 \$ _____