



## MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday, May 12, 2011 — 7:30 pm  
Manzano Mesa Center (map p4)

### WILDLIFE ISSUES AT THE ALBUQUERQUE SUNPORT

Guest Speakers: Dan Jiron, ABQ Sunport Public Information Officer  
Jessica Dickman, ABQ Sunport Operations Manager

There are thousands of airplane flights everyday and many arrive and depart from our own Albuquerque International Sunport. Even though the overwhelming majority travel safely, the chance for a collision between wildlife and airplanes is often present. "Bird strikes" — or collisions between birds and aircraft — are increasing. According to leading government experts on the phenomenon, there are several reasons: the environment is cleaner and wildlife populations have thrived, airplanes are quieter, air traffic has increased, and species have adapted to being around people and our activities.

FAA statistics indicate that the number of aircraft bird strikes reported in the U.S. quadrupled from 1990 to 2007, rising from 1,738 per year to 7,439. Experts within the Federal Aviation Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, and U.S. Air Force expect the risk, frequency, and potential severity of wildlife-aircraft collisions to grow over the next decade.



Join us to learn what steps the Albuquerque Sunport is taking to reduce encounters between aircraft and local wildlife. Our guest speakers, Dan Jiron, Public Information Officer at the the Sunport, and Jessica Dickman, Operations Manager, will offer details about history and current precautions, and will be ready to answer your questions about this subject that potentially affects all of us.

*Coming in June: Elke Duerr, a filmmaker, story teller and teacher based in Albuquerque who is working on a documentary film project, "Stories of Wolves—The Lobo returns to New Mexico."*

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 2011 State Legislature passed a budget which will affect the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish (G&F), the state agency responsible for managing New Mexico's wildlife. The State General Appropriations Act reduced the Department's budget by 4%. In addition, another \$500k generated from the Trail Safety Fund (TSF) was transferred to the State General Fund. Interestingly, the \$500K was generated from the licensing of off-highway vehicle users, not from general taxes. Currently, the TSF is used by the G&F for expenses associated with administration, law enforcement, education and training, information system development and management, resource monitoring and protection, trail building, maintenance and restoration, and implementation of other provisions of the Off-Highway Motor Vehicle Act (OHMVA).

This is a targeted reduction in funds which I suspect will limit the G&F to doing only the minimum in implementing the OHMVA. Will this calculate to minimal law enforcement: no management, no resource monitoring or protection, or trail

#### Jim Hubert's *Notable Quote of the Month*

"Game [modern interpretation "wildlife"] Management is the art of making the land produce a sustained annual crop of wild game for recreational use."

—Aldo Leopold, in his book **Game Management**, 1932, still widely used as a textbook in universities across the US.

(Continued on page 2)

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE***(Continued from page 1)*

building? If you have questions regarding the implementation of this reduction in funding, you might contact District 48 Rep. Luciano “Lucky” Varela. Mr. Varela sponsored HB 91 – to transfer \$750k from the Trail Safety Fund administered by the Department of Game and Fish to the General Fund.

Another piece of information regarding the Department: after Governor Martinez was sworn into office, the New Mexico Wildlife Federation made an effort to get the Governor to reform selection of the Game Commission. [See AWF’s January Newsletter.] The Governor’s Commissioners are now set. They are an interesting group; some of the old political campaign donors are still commissioner, and some new faces were appointed. It will be interesting to see how former Game & Fish Department Directors Montoya and Maracchini function as Commissioners. There is information regarding Commissioners, Meeting Agendas, Agenda Briefings, and more at [www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/index.htm](http://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/index.htm).

If you would like to observe the Commission in action, their first meeting will be on May 5, 2011, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, at the UNM Continuing Education Conference Center, Room C, 1634 University Blvd. NE (just north of Indian School Rd) in Albuquerque.

There are at least three **agenda items** that might be of interest:

**ITEM NO. 13****Delisting Desert Bighorn Sheep**

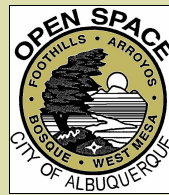
At our April meeting, we had the pleasure of having as our guest speaker Elise Goldstein, bighorn sheep biologist with the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish for the past ten years. She provided a strong and convincing discussion in support of delisting. If you have concerns about Desert Bighorn Sheep management, get involved—read the agenda briefing information.

**ITEM NO. 16****Private Land Antelope System Update**

The Department will present an update on the implementation of the Antelope Private Land Use System (A-PLUS). This system of providing permits to private land owners has limited availability of antelope permits to public land hunters.

**ITEM NO. 18****Update on the Trapping Ban (19.32.2, NMAC) and New Mexico State University Trap Evaluation Statute**

The Department will provide an update of the ban on regulated furbearer trapping in the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area, and the status of the study contracted with the New Mexico State University USGS Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit.

*Gene Tatum***BEAUTIFYING THE RIO:  
NATIONAL RIVER CLEANUP DAY****WHEN:** May 21, 8 am – 1 pm**WHERE:** Rotary Club Picnic Area  
(NE side of Central Avenue Bridge)

Join the **City of Albuquerque Open Space Division** and other local organizations for the annual **National River Cleanup event**

The event hub is on the northeast side of the Central Avenue Bridge. Parking is available on the east side of the river and at the BioPark overflow parking area.

**REGISTER:** Please pre-register with REI online at [www.rei.com/albuquerque](http://www.rei.com/albuquerque) or call 247-1191.

**DONATED LUNCH AND PRIZE DRAWING:** All volunteers are invited for a delicious donated meal and prize drawing at the east side of the Central Ave Bridge starting at 12:30 pm.

**CONTACT:** For more information about this or other volunteer opportunities in Open Space, please contact Jim Sattler or Kent Swanson at 452-5200 or email [jsattler@cabq.gov](mailto:jsattler@cabq.gov).

**FOLLOW-UP:****ADD 1000 ACRES TO ABQ OPEN SPACE**

*Last month we reported on an opportunity for a parcel of city-owned land in the East Mountains to be designated as Open Space. AWF Vice President Michael Scialdone attended a meeting regarding this issue, and offered the following report to the AWF Board:*

This land is already owned by the City of ABQ; however, it is a bit of a complicated process to make it officially Open Space.

ABQ owns a number of lands for the specific purpose of selling them to make money. One of the things they have done with money from properties sold is create the Open Space permanent fund. It has \$20 million right now and basically much of Open Space is operated off the interest revenue it generates. In order for more land to be added to Open Space, money has to be added to the OS permanent fund.

The land is actually inside the Cibola National Forest boundary. The District Ranger stated that if the Forest Service bought it, it would likely be open for motorized use since it is adjacent to routes already approved in the Travel Management Plan. Everyone at the meeting agreed they didn’t want this.

Since it is sort of a no-man’s land at present, renegade ATV/motorcycle use is a problem for those living near it. Their main worries were that Open Space couldn’t handle the influx of people a new designation might bring and that they couldn’t handle a fire (likely the case — typical of the area, it is waaay overgrown...).

I spoke with Mike Madden, one of the main folks trying to get more OS lands and a trails system throughout the East Mountains region. I let him know that the AWF Board is “in the loop” and, if needed on down the road, we’d discuss giving support of some sort to this.

## Volunteer Project #2

### BEAR TRAP CANYON ROAD REHABILITATION PROJECT MAY 20-22 | WEEKEND CAMPOUT

This month's project, the weekend of May 20-22, is associated with a spring and wetlands located at a campground along Bear Trap Canyon in the San Mateo Mountains of the US Forest Service's Magdalena Ranger District. We will be rehabilitating an old road — removing an old barbed wire fence, clearing downed timber, building rock structures along the road, and reseeding the old road bed.

Many of you have helped work on restoration efforts at Limestone Canyon, located near this year's project area. We have had great success at Limestone Canyon, but a tree thinning contract which will be performed during May prevents our return this year. The thinning will complement our work in the canyon. We hope to return there next year to maintain the induced meandering structures we have installed.

Once again, we have the pleasure of working with the Magdalena District Wildlife Biologist, Dave Heft (who is counting the days until his retirement). Dave will provide us with insight on the purpose for this project and give us an update on the progress in Limestone Canyon.

We need about 25 volunteers. The drive is about 2 ½ hours from Albuquerque.

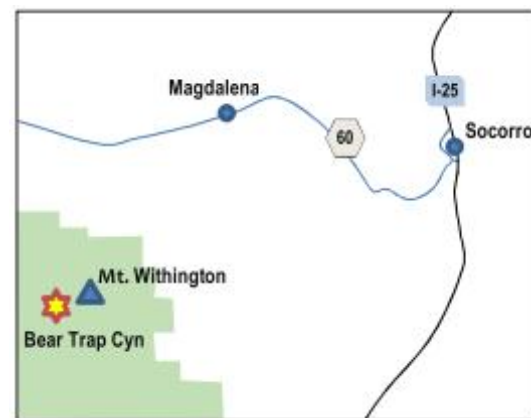
Bring gloves, sunscreen, hat, and clothing layers. It's cold there at night, so two sleeping bags or warm sleepwear is recommended. Breakfast burritos, coffee, and tea water will be provided on Saturday morning. Snacks and drinks will be provided during the day. Saturday evening will be our traditional barbecue/potluck. Bison and veggie burgers will be provided. Please bring a dish to share and food for Friday evening, Saturday lunch, and Sunday breakfast (potluck leftovers are often sufficient to feed us all on Sunday).

**Please RSVP by Wednesday, May 11, to Michael Scialdone 505-480-2906, [rioscial@gmail.com](mailto:rioscial@gmail.com), OR Gene Tatum 505-255-1960, [gtatum3@msn.com](mailto:gtatum3@msn.com).**

Additional informational and directions will be provided after registration.

## 2011 PROJECT SCHEDULE

MARCH 19	Montessori of the Rio Grande—Wetlands
APRIL 29-MAY 1	<del>CANCELED—Cebolla Canyon I—CANCELED</del>
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



## OUTDOOR SCREENING: *Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time*

*preceded by the Leopold Legacy  
Film Competition Award Ceremony*

**Saturday, May 20**

**7:30 pm — 10:00 pm**

**Gutierrez-Hubbell House**

If you did not get the opportunity to see the world premiere of *Green Fire* in Albuquerque last February, don't miss this event. Watch this inspiring film about Aldo Leopold's life — **outdoors**, under the stars — at the Gutierrez-Hubbell House. The evening will begin with acknowledging the winners of the Legacy Film Competition and learning about our current-day environmental heroes.

This event is free and open to all.  
Please RSVP by emailing [calangan@bernco.gov](mailto:calangan@bernco.gov).

**PUBLIC LANDS:****GOP bill would allow development on 40 million roadless acres**—By Phil Taylor, *Environment & Energy* reporter

House Republicans introduced [on April 15, 2011] a sweeping bill that would open more than 40 million protected federal acres in the West to motorized recreation, new grazing, drilling or other activities.

The proposal from Reps. Kevin McCarthy of California, Rob Bishop of Utah and Steve Pearce of New Mexico would target more than half of the 12 million acres of wilderness study areas (WSAs) the Bureau of Land Management has identified but has not yet recommended for wilderness designations, according to the bill's sponsors.

Lawmakers in 1976 gave BLM 15 years to identify WSAs and instructed the agency to manage them as wilderness until Congress determines their ultimate fate. Such management conflicts with oil and gas development, off-highway vehicle use, mountain biking and other uses. The bill also would curtail protections for several million acres of inventoried roadless lands that the Forest Service has not yet recommended as wilderness.

It also would permanently ban the implementation of an Interior Department order issued in late December to take stock of wilderness-quality lands and consider protecting them in their natural state.

The new measure's sponsors have been circulating a letter to their colleagues to drum up support for it.

"As strong supporters of multiple use principles for our public lands, we should release public lands from restrictive management practices that are unnecessary," the lawmakers wrote in the March 29 letter. "This bill also would preserve and strengthen the robust local land management planning process by returning emphasis to local stakeholders and local

communities who know best how to manage their public lands rather than the bureaucrats here in Washington."

The legislation has already riled major environmental groups including the Wilderness Society, which called it an unprecedented effort that would open pristine lands to threats including oil and gas development, uncontrolled off-road vehicle use, and other unchecked development.

"This is the biggest attack on wilderness that we've ever seen at the Wilderness Society," said spokesman Chris Lancette in an email. "This proposal flies in the face of values Americans hold dear with respect to the stewardship of our public lands."

But the bill would resolve an ongoing battle over the fate of WSAs that should have ended long ago, countered Brian Hawthorne, public lands policy director for the BlueRibbon Coalition, an Idaho-based group that advocates for motorized trail access.

Interior's wild lands order flies in the face of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, which ordered BLM to finish its wilderness inventory by 1991, Hawthorne added. But Interior, conservation groups, and some law professors have disputed that interpretation of the law.

"We are supporting any legislative solution to bring an end to BLM's never-ending review," Hawthorne said. "BLM has a never-ending toolbox for protecting public lands."

The bill, which has 22 Republican co-sponsors, will likely run into stiff opposition in the Democratic-led Senate, where it is likely to ruffle the feathers of Western Democrats who lead the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

*Thank you to Oscar Simpson for forwarding this article.*

**AWF OFFICERS AND BOARD**

**PRESIDENT** — Gene Tatum  
**VICE PRESIDENT** — Michael Scialdone  
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**TREASURER** — Glenda Muirhead

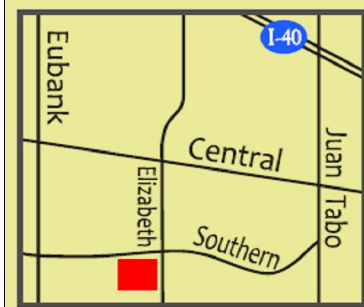
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ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
 PO Box 1234 ■ Albuquerque, NM 87103  
<http://abq.nmwildlife.org>

**AWF MEETING LOCATION**

Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center  
 501 Elizabeth SE at Southern

**RENEWED MEMBERS**

Barb and Rich Diver  
 Douglas Loescher  
 Jim Wilson & Greg Larman

**NEW MEMBERS**

Arnold R. Atkins - *sustaining*  
 John R. Dickel  
 Dennis Downing



## NEWS FROM NMWF

## Commissioner Powell reverses White Peak exchange

State Land Commissioner Ray Powell has reversed the White Peak exchange with David Stanley. Commissioner Powell had already called off the incomplete trades negotiated by the previous administration when the Supreme Court ordered all White Peak exchanges canceled in January. The Powell administration then had quite a bit of work to do to reverse the completed exchange with David Stanley.

By reversing the White Peak exchange, **Commissioner Powell has returned over 3,800 acres of prime habitat to the trust for the benefit of all New Mexicans.** Sportsmen especially appreciate Commissioner Powell's decision not to allow the giveaway of some of the best deer and elk hunting in New Mexico — **a place where residents have fed their families and passed down hunting traditions for generations.**

Commissioner Powell's efforts to increase transparency and public involvement in State Land Office processes will benefit the trust and the people. Allowing local communities to have their voice heard before agreements are made will help ensure decisions are made in the **best interest of all New Mexicans.**

## Governor hears sportsmen, signs SB 196

**Sportsmen's strong support of Senate Bill 196 paid off** when Gov. Susana Martinez signed the bill we have been waiting for. Hundreds, perhaps thousands of hunters flooded her

office with calls and e-mails in recent days encouraging her to do the right thing. She did, and now she deserves our thanks.

In a press release, the governor said, "It's only common sense to increase the opportunities for New Mexicans to hunt on their own state land. **This provision also brings New Mexico's split between the issuance of resident and non-resident licenses into closer alignment with other states.**"

Sen. George Munoz of Gallup, who sponsored the bill, said **sportsmen played a role in its success.** "With all their support, and the New Mexico Wildlife Federation, United Bowhunters of New Mexico, the governor's staff and so many others, this piece of legislation will finally change something for the better for New Mexico hunters."

SB 196 will give resident hunters 84 percent of every hunt code, up from the current 78 percent. In addition, residents will get all elk licenses in the state wildlife management areas, plus all cow elk licenses statewide.

Unguided nonresidents get 6 percent of licenses. The remaining 10 percent of licenses are set aside for hunters from any state who must, by law, hire a New Mexico outfitter.

SB 196 also reduces general hunting and deer license fees by \$5, and requires every hunter who applies for a Big Game Draw or over-the-counter big game license to purchase a general hunting license — a provision common in most western states.

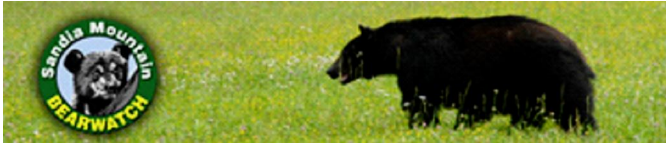
## STOPPING UNLAWFUL INROADS IN CARSON NATIONAL FOREST

In response to an appeal by the Center for Biological Diversity, Amigos Bravos and WildEarth Guardians, the Southwestern Regional Office of the U.S. Forest Service reversed a decision to add user-created roads to the Carson National Forest's official road system. The Carson must now close those roads and exclude them from maps showing which roads are open to the public.

The Carson National Forest has been developing a motor-vehicle use map since early 2009. In May 2010, WildEarth Guardians and others argued that irreparable damage to our forests — in the way of soil, watershed and wildlife degradation — was occurring as a result of off-road vehicle travel and the Forest Service's incomplete analysis of its proposed plan. Thousands of activists contacted the agency, forcing it to release reports detailing the environmental impacts of their proposed plan.

The New Mexico Off Highway Vehicle Alliance also appealed the Forest's decision. That appeal was rejected by the Regional Office of the Forest Service. This is the second appeal filed by the ORV users' group rejected by the Regional Office for the Carson National Forest. The appeal decision leaves more than 1,300 miles of road open to public use for recreational access.





## SANDIA MOUNTAIN BEARWATCH ANNUAL MEETING

BearWatch will have its annual meeting on **Tuesday, May 24th, at 7 pm** at Vista Grande Community Center.

Wildlife Biologist Robert Harrison will give a talk with slides on his study on East Mountain Gray Foxes. Robert will also talk about the trapping that is going on in the East Mountains and statewide. Jan Hayes will give a short update on what is happening bear-wise.

Directions from Albuquerque: East on I-40, north on N14, turn left/west on La Madera Road. La Madera Road is the last turn-off before you come to Paa-Ko Subdivision. VG Community Center is on the right before you come to East Mountain High School.

**Bring a friend—the public and non-members are welcome!**

### USFS PLANNING RULE—SCIENCE REVIEW

The *Science Review of the United States Forest Service Draft Environmental Impact Statement for National Forest System Land Management* is now available on the Forest Service planning rule website. To learn about the science review and read the science review report, please visit:

[www.fs.usda.gov/goto/planningrule/sciencereview](http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/planningrule/sciencereview)

## TIPS FOR HIKING IN BEAR COUNTRY

from SANDIA MOUNTAIN BEARWATCH

- Always carry bear pepper spray while hiking in bear country.
- Try to hike with a companion or dog(s).
- Make noise by talking or singing while hiking to keep from surprising an unsuspecting bear.
- If a black bear is visible but not close, alter your route and move away from the area.

### IF YOU ENCOUNTER A BEAR WHILE HIKING

- **DON'T RUN.** The bear will instinctively chase you down.
- **STOP.**
- Do not make eye contact; the bear considers eye contact to be aggressive
- Speak gently. Back away slowly.
- If a bear acts aggressive, he may bluff charge, snapping his jaws.
- Stand your ground: try to scare the bear away by shouting at it. (99% of all bear charges are bluff charges.)
- If he continues to act aggressive, use your pepper spray. Make sure that you are upwind when you spray.
- If the bear attacks, use anything handy: your camera, binoculars, rocks, sticks, your fists, etc. Most black bears will not continue the attack.
- **Do not play dead.** An *attacking black bear*, unlike a territorial grizzly, **wants to eat you.**
- Remember... Black bear attacks are quite rare. Many more people die from dog attacks, deer attacks, or bee stings, etc., than from an encounter with an aberrant bear.

For more information, log onto [SandiaMountainBearWatch.org](http://SandiaMountainBearWatch.org) or call 281-9282.

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