



MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday, June 9, 2011 — 7:30 pm
Manzano Mesa Center (map p3)

STORIES OF WOLVES: THE LOBO RETURNS

Guest Speaker: Elke Duerr, Wild Wolf Film

Filmmaker, teacher, and conservationist Elke Duerr will join us to speak about her Wild Wolf Film Project. Her mission is to use film, digital media, and community outreach to advance the recovery of the Mexican Gray Wolf and other endangered species by teaching about their role in the ecosystem, and providing creative solutions to a healthy long-term relationship between nature and humans.

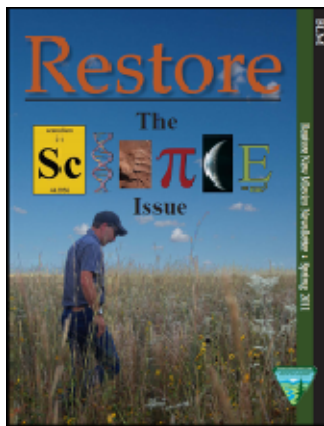
Elke Duerr divides her time between teaching in the field of special education in the public schools, and traveling internationally during summer. She is founder of “Wild Wolf Film—Advancing the Co-existence of Wilderness and Civilization.” Her presentations on the Mexican Gray Wolf at New Mexico schools, libraries, galleries, and other public places are opening minds, eyes, and hearts to the plight of the world’s most endangered wolf. Elke’s presentations feature footage from her film examining the Mexican wolf recovery project, “Stories of Wolves: The Lobo Returns,” and storytelling to promote the peaceful coexistence of humans and wildlife. She hopes her work will help to encourage a viable relationship between nature and people.



There will be no meeting next month.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

AWF recently received the Bureau of Land Management’s *Restore New Mexico Newsletter Spring 2011*. This is the sixth newsletter to update the public on the BLM’s progress to restore degraded public lands in New Mexico.



The “Restore” program began in 2005 to reclaim abandoned oil roads and well pads to benefit the lesser prairie chicken and sand dune lizard. Since then, the reclamation efforts have continued primarily in areas that had deteriorated due to overgrazing. According to the recent publication, over 1.4 million acres have been treated primarily with herbicide, fire or by mechanical means for:

- restoring shrub landscapes to native grasslands,
- returning degraded riparian areas to healthy ecological conditions,

(Continued on page 2)

Jim Hubert’s Notable Quote of the Month

“Research found only a fraction of one percent of federally permitted activities are disallowed due to species listings under the ESA. Indeed, most oil and gas development in the Permian Basin will be unaffected by lizard listing given the species’ limited range. But no one should be under the delusion that ESA listing will shut down drilling in the Permian Basin.”

—Mark Salvo of WildEarth Guardians, speaking of the proposal to list the dunes sagebrush lizard under the Endangered Species Act, Albuquerque Journal, May 1, 2011.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

- thinning woodlands to reduce the risk of wildfire, or
- reintroducing wildlife to their native habitat.

Don Ellsworth, BLM Restore New Mexico Program Lead, stated in the recent newsletter, “Strengthening our current partnerships and developing new ones will ensure the continued success of the Restore New Mexico program. The cornerstone of Restore has been our ability to partner with all types of organizations—ranchers, industry, environmental groups, and sportsmen—to find common ground and shared values over which we can cooperate to benefit the health of the land and wildlife in New Mexico.”

The Spring magazine is entitled the “The Science Issue.” The following is excerpted from the newsletter introduction by Linda Rundell, BLM State Director, and Jesse Juen, BLM Associate State Director.

“As you read our newsletter, you’ll see that the BLM and our partners are doing A LOT of science in our efforts to restore the land back to a healthy condition. However, Restore New Mexico is still in its infancy. Much of the land we are improving did not become degraded overnight. It took years, decades, and in some cases over a century for the lands to shift to the state we find [them] in today. Returning the lands to healthy, historic conditions won’t be a quick process. Nor will the scientific monitoring we are doing.”

(To find about more about Restore New Mexico visit www.blm.gov/nm/st/en/prog/restore_new_mexico.html.)

I appreciate the efforts being made by BLM to restore lands deteriorated as a result of bad land management decisions. I do have some reservations that many of the problems which have caused the deterioration of New Mexico public lands will not be cured by these noble efforts. Poor livestock grazing management continues today: cattle congregate in the valley bottoms and overgraze the uplands, gradually starting or continuing the cycle of deterioration. Some renegade motorized off-road enthusiasts—not all—seem driven in mindless pursuit of their right to tag (i.e., vandalize) the earth for all to see.

Also, our quest for energy independence has allowed our public lands to be abused by multi-national corporations that market their products to the highest bidder. It should be noted that these multi-national corporations are subsidized by US taxpayers. Our government’s compliance with oil and gas lobbyists has delayed conservation practices and development of renewable resources. It does not take science to realize that repairing the symptoms or results without fixing the cause will perpetuate the need to perform the reclamation again and again.

Gene Tatum



NATIONAL TRAILS DAY SATURDAY, JUNE 4 8 AM – 1 PM

Join the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division for their National Trails Day event at the Elena Gallegos Picnic Area/Albert G. Simms Park in Albuquerque. The Elena Gallegos Open Space is located east of Tramway at the end of Simms Park Rd., just north of Academy. Parking is limited so please carpool!

REGISTER: Pre-registration is required. Please pre-register with Recreational Equipment Inc. (REI): call 247-1191, go online at www.rei.com/albuquerque, or stop by 1550 Mercantile Ave (I-25 and Montano).

ACTIVITIES: There will be activities for all ages and fitness levels. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Volunteers will work on over 10 different conservation projects including trash cleanup, land restoration, trail maintenance, and new trail construction in the Sandia Mountains and Open Space trail systems.

AFTER EVENT PICNIC AND PRIZES! At the end of the event, volunteers will be rewarded with a free lunch and lots of prizes donated by our generous sponsors!

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.

WOLF MEET-AND-GREET WITH THE WANAGI WOLF FUND SUNDAY, JUNE 19 12:30 – 2:00 PM

Stephanie Kaylan, founder and president of the Wanagi Wolf Fund, a not-for-profit 501(c)3, will have up to three of her wolves/wolf-dogs for an up-close and personal discussion of these beautiful animals and the important role humans play in their survival. Stephanie has been active in Wolf & Wolf Dog rescue since 1994 and has been nominated for the New Mexico Milagro Award for Animal Protection. You will have the opportunity to purchase a gift photo with a wolf to support their rescue efforts. Come and enjoy this informative event at the Open Space Visitor Center, 6500 Coors Blvd, located east of Coors at the end of Bosque Meadows Rd, which is between Montano Blvd and Paseo del Norte.

Fun for everyone! Bring your fishing gear, and also enjoy watching prairie dogs and birds at Rio de las Vacas!

Volunteer Project #3

There is the possibility of FOREST CLOSURE because of fire conditions...please register so you will be notified if project is canceled. NO CAMPIRES ALLOWED!

RIO DE LAS VACAS

PLANTING / STREAM RESTORATION PROJECT | JUNE 17-19 | WEEKEND CAMPOUT

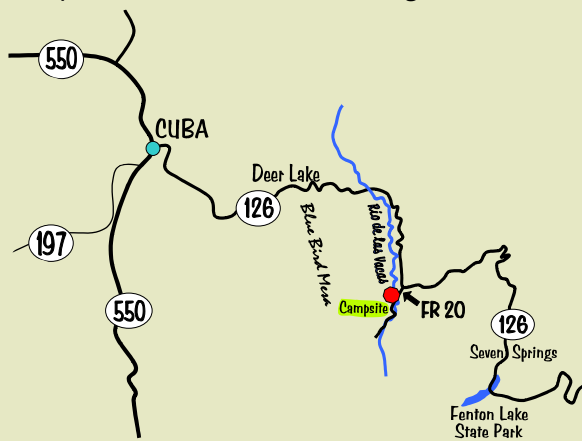
THE PLACE: In the Santa Fe National Forest, southeast of Cuba. The Rio de las Vacas starts at the upper reaches of the Jemez River watershed in the San Pedro Parks Wilderness east of Cuba. We will camp in the same location as in past years, near the stream just off Forest Road 20. The drive is about 2½ hours from Albuquerque.

THE PROJECT: This is a family- and kid-friendly event led by Bill Zeedyk. Mainly we will plant willows and sedges, but building rock structures and repairing enclosure fencing as needed are also possibilities. We will be working farther from camp this year, so participants will walk or most likely carpool to task sites.

EQUIPMENT: Wear sturdy boots/shoes. Bring gloves, hats, sun-screen, and water and appropriate gear for camping. Waterproof boots will also be useful and **plan for wet weather!** Please supply your own plates, cups, water, and eating utensils for meals.

TOOLS: If convenient, please bring 5-gallon buckets, pruners and loppers, orchard spades, digging spikes, and fencing tools.

FOOD: Breakfast burritos, coffee, and tea water will be provided on Saturday morning. Snacks and water for drink mixes will be available during the day. Saturday evening will be our traditional barbecue potluck meal. Bison and veggie burgers will be provided. Please bring a dish to share with the group...appetizer, salad, vegetable, dessert. Also, please bring your own food for Friday evening, Saturday lunch, and Sunday breakfast (though potluck leftovers are often sufficient to feed us all on Sunday).

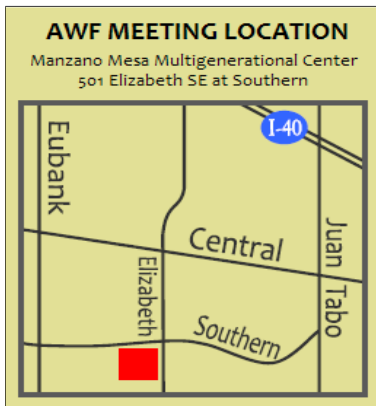


Please RSVP by Friday, June 10, to Michael Scialdone — 505-480-2906, rioscial@gmail.com, OR Gene Tatum — 505-255-1960, gtatum3@msn.com.

Additional information and directions will be provided after registration. There will be a portable toilet at the campsite.

2011 PROJECT SCHEDULE

MARCH 19	Montessori of the Rio Grande—Wetlands
APRIL 29-MAY 1	Cebolla Canyon— 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
OCTOBER 15	Cedro Creek + End-of-Season Celebration



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Project Recap – Bear Trap Canyon in May

Good weather, a great group, and a rewarding project made for a very successful weekend in the San Mateo Mountains in May. Nearby to a perennial AWF favorite (Limestone Canyon), Bear Trap campground was a welcoming location for our group with good camping grounds, picnic tables...and toilets!

Dave Heft of the Magdalena Ranger District, USFS, our partner for years at Limestone Canyon, led the group on Saturday for a series of tasks aimed at reclaiming and obscuring an inappropriately-built road. Using shovels and blades, several dug trenches angled across the surface to partially embed logs to act as water stops. Others softened the banks to promote restoration of natural contours, and scattered branches along the roadway. The fence removal crew recovered miles of barbed wire and scores of T-posts as they pulled down this nasty hazard to wildlife safety.



The group was impressively efficient and completed all the assigned tasks on Saturday, so the evening potluck barbecue was a treat well deserved—as always! Thanks to all who participated.



On Saturday morning, Dave Heft of the USFS instructs the group on project tasks and tool safety.



Dave Heft, left, demonstrates for Scott White how deep to dig the trench.



(L to R) Stephen Bohannon, Hamish Thomson, and Gene Tatum pause in their work installing water breaks using logs.

THANKS TO THESE BEAR TRAP CANYON PROJECT PARTICIPANTS

Kelly Blough	Dennis Muirhead
Stephen Bohannon	Glenda Muirhead
John Canaris	Toby Rosenblatt
Nathan Canaris	David Schimpff
Phil Carter	Michael Scialdone
Tanya Critchfield	Marilynn Szydowski
Kristina Gray Fisher	Gene Tatum
Justin Harris	Hamish Thomson
Dave Heft, USFS	Scott White
Patricia Hester	Adam Zipkin
Laurie Marnell	

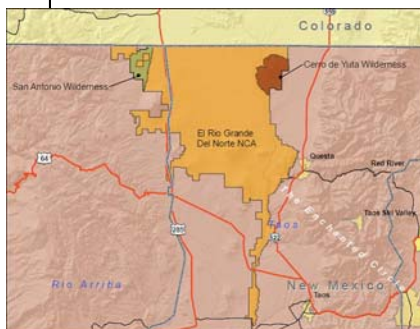


Phil Carter rolls old barbed wire and Adam Zipkin hauls out fence posts.

El Río Grande Del Norte National Conservation Area Act S.667

El Río Grande Del Norte NCA Establishment Act, referred to committee in the Senate, was scheduled for a hearing on May 18 with the Energy & Natural Resources subcommittee on Public Land and Forests. This bill, sponsored by Senators Bingaman and Udall in the Senate and Representatives Lujan and Heinrich in the House, would protect a 236,000 acre National Conservation Area around a length of the Rio Grande Gorge particularly important to birds. The bill would also create two new wilderness areas in Northern New Mexico:

El Río Grande Del Norte NCA - BLM 235,980
Cerro del Yuta Wilderness - BLM 13,420
Río San Antonio Wilderness - BLM 8,000



This legislation would designate 235,980 acres in Taos and Río Arriba Counties as a National Conservation Area (NCA), including Ute Mountain, to be administered by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The NCA will protect cultural, ecological, and scenic resources in an area with premier recrea-

tional opportunities. It incorporates the upper reaches of the Rio Grande Gorge, previously designated as a Wild and Scenic River, and protects elk wintering grounds and migratory corridors on the plateau between Ute Mountain and San Antonio Mountain. The NCA does not include San Antonio Mountain, which is managed by the Forest Service.

The NCA includes two wilderness areas – the 8,000-acre Río San Antonio Wilderness (currently administered as a Wilderness Study Area) and the 13,420-acre Cerro del Yuta Wilderness which encompasses Ute Mountain. The NCA designation would withdraw the public land within the boundary from sale or mineral development, subject to valid existing rights. Vehicles would be permitted on designated roads within the NCA according to the BLM management plan.

The bill clarifies that existing grazing within the NCA boundary is preserved. Hunting, fishing and the collection of piñon nuts and firewood are permitted within the NCA. The legislation also specifically directs the BLM to consult with community land grants during the development of the management plan. The overall intent of this legislation is to protect the current uses of these public lands as they are presently managed by the BLM.

ORGAN MOUNTAINS MAY GET PROTECTED THIS YEAR

S. 1024, the Organ Mountains–Doña Ana County Conservation and Protection Act, was introduced on May 18, 2011, by Senator Jeff Bingaman, with Senator Tom Udall as the original co-sponsor.

Similar legislation was introduced during the last Congressional session by Senators Bingaman and Udall, but even though the bill was passed out of committees with broad support, it never received a final vote to become law.

Now, the bill has a new lease on life. We thank our Senators for reintroducing this legislation, and encourage them to keep fighting for the protection of Doña Ana County's wild lands.

More About the Organ Mountains—Doña Ana County Conservation and Protection Act

—If passed as part of an Omnibus Lands Bill, this Act would protect the most iconic landscapes in Doña Ana County and Southern New Mexico: the Organ Mountains, Potrillo Mountains, Aden Lava Flow, and Broad Canyon, among other landmarks.

—241,000 acres would be protected as designated Wilderness. Currently, there is no Wilderness on BLM land in the entire southern half of New Mexico!

—An additional 100,000 acres will be protected in a National Conservation Area.

—The Act was developed from a Citizens Proposal, and enjoys the bipartisan support of thousands of local citizens, hundreds of local businesses, and dozens of organizations and luminaries.

CELEBRATE BEAVERS DAY

Date: Saturday, June 25
Time: 9:00 am—4:00 pm
Location: Bosque School, 4000 Learning Road, Albuquerque, NM

“Celebrate Beavers Day”, an all-day workshop to educate on co-existence with beavers, is free and open to the public. River Source, Animal Protection of NM (APNM), and the Bosque School are organizing the workshop with grant funding from NM Department of Game & Fish as part of the *Beavers Building Habitat* project.



The event—including informational lectures, film screenings, and hands-on booths—will detail the biology and social structure of beavers and their effect on NM's ecology. Special attention will be given to innovative methods for reducing beaver-human conflict and mutually benefiting the animals and landowners. Refreshments provided.

Contact Phil Carter, APNM's Wildlife Campaign Manager, at phil@apnm.org for more information.



THE 2011 LEP NATIONAL CONFERENCE
Aldo Leopold's Land Ethic-Then and Now
Discovering the Past, Creating Our Future

TO BE HELD IN ALBUQUERQUE, NM JULY 28-30, 2011

Don't miss this opportunity to learn how Aldo Leopold developed his concept of a land ethic. Discover ways that various communities, organizations, agencies and individuals are creating their own sense of land ethics and sharing it with youth and families across the United States. Investigate Leopold's roots as a forester, visit his first job site/homestead where he managed the land and listen to stories of long ago. Learn new ideas, techniques and resources that will enhance your own educational programs through exceptional seminars, field trips and speakers — simply, an event not to miss!

For Information on Registration, Chapter Scholarship Forms, and Call for Proposals, please contact:

**Janine Kohn at 651-209-4971 or
jkohn@pheasantsforever.org**

Up-to-date information available at www.lep.org

AWF MEMBER NINA WELLS RECEIVES WORKPLACE HONOR

As reported in the Spring 2011 issue of *Clearing the Waters*, (Newsletter of NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau's Watershed Protection Section), Nina Wells was named **Environment Department Employee of the Year**. Nina has worked for NMED as an Environmental Scientist-Specialist on the nonpoint source pollution program (under Clean Water Act §319(h)) for 19 years. She continuously performs her duties with high levels of reliability and integrity ensuring the success of the watershed projects she oversees.

A series of projects called "Respect the Rio," which she has been involved in with the Santa Fe National Forest, has led to improvements in many Jemez watershed streams, riparian areas, and wetlands, while also maintaining recreational opportunities in these beautiful areas valued by New Mexicans.

These efforts led to the recovery of the Rio Cebolla downstream of Fenton Lake, which was recognized by EPA as a national success. Her work has also been instrumental towards restoring reaches of the Santa Fe River, Sapello River, and many others. For several years in the 1990's, she coordinated a spill response program at NMED, and as recently as last year helped ensure an effective clean-up of an asphalt spill in the **Rio de las Vacas**.

Nina's enthusiasm, dedication, years of experience, and training have played a significant part in the positive outcome of watershed restoration projects throughout her career.

***Congratulations, Nina...
we'll see you this month at Rio de las Vacas!***

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
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Dues \$ _____
Contribution \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____