

AWWF

ewsletter

AUGUST 2012

MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday, August 9, 2012 | 7:30 pm | Manzano Mesa Center

Jim Hubert's Notable Quote of the Month

"New research indicates that the world's unquenchable thirst for freshwater is causing sea levels to rise faster than they otherwise would due to climate change. Scientists now say that the trillions of gallons of water pumped out of underground aquifers, rivers and lakes for human use is reaching the oceans through rivers and soil evaporation. Rising tides have until now been primarily blamed on melting glaciers and thermal expansion of the water due to warming."

— Steve Newman, writing in *Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet*, 5-25-12, *Albuquerque Journal*



Movie Night: "Wildlife Wars"

Why are human conflicts with wildlife on the increase?

When people and animals collide, the result is usually fatal for the animals. Are there better, non-lethal ways to keep wild animals and people from clashing? Actress and activist Daryl Hannah looks for answers from the people who are working diligently to keep both man and wild animals safe. Our feature will take us from America's pristine wilderness to its backyards, as we meet some of the surprising people who live on the frontlines of America's wildlife wars with humor, concern and accommodation.

A 2004 production of National Wildlife Federation

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The Travel Management Rule was implemented by the Forest Service in 2005. It required each National Forest to inventory its roads/trails network and determine which of them would be left open to motorized use. It was a response to two major problems the Forest Service was dealing with.

1: Decades of basically unchecked road building and user-created trails on National Forest lands had created a maintenance backlog for the agency that it would never be able to afford. As awareness grew of the problems associated with poorly designed and/or unmaintained roads — erosion, habitat fragmentation, avenues for invasive weeds, to name a few — combined with the economic reality of too many roads to maintain, it was clear the Forest Service needed to get a better grasp on its road network. This meant getting a full inventory of what was on the ground and making decisions about each road.

2: Since the 80's, motorized recreation use in the National Forests increased dramatically. This exacerbated the problems of erosion, habitat fragmentation, etc. and greatly increase the number of "user-created" non-system roads/trails. It also led to sharp increase in user conflicts as people participating in traditionally quiet forms of recreation had to contend with this increased motorized use.

continued on next page

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued

The Rule was a step in the right direction. Many reading this are likely familiar with the Travel Management Rule because the closest Ranger District to ABQ, Sandia RD, was one of the first to go through the public process of determining its roads network. Motor Vehicle Use Maps (MVUM) are available to the public so it is clear what is open for motorized use. Now the entire Santa Fe National Forest has completed its process. On June 28, 2012, a Record of Decision was signed by Forest Supervisor Maria Garcia. There is a 45 day period for appeals. If no appeals are filed, or none are adequate to halt implementation, then the SFNF MVUMs become the law of the land.

As with most decisions on public lands, it has been controversial. Advocates for wildlife or quiet recreation feel the SFNF left too many roads open. Motorized users complain their opportunities are being taken away. In the end, when it comes to recreation use on public lands, motorized users are a minority creating a majority of user conflicts and environmental problems. Check out this link if you have any doubts about these conflicts.

http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/main/sjm40/SJM40_Recreation_Survey_Text_Results_NonORVer.pdf

As a wildlife advocate and quiet recreationist, I personally would love to see fewer roads, but give kudos to the SFNF for taking on such a daunting task. Recreation is but one of many uses on NF lands and a roads network is necessary for all these uses. As years go by and it is apparent that a particular road or trail is causing degradation or has too many conflicts, there is nothing that says the MVUM can't be updated.

Groups representing motorized users made a broad assumption that sportsmen and women would side with them. After all, many of them use off-highway vehicles (OHV) when pursuing their sport. It was refreshing to see the following op-ed take this assumption to task, stating clearly that for sportsmen and women recognize the importance of habitat and this means large areas that are free of roads. For them, the OHV is a means to an end, not the end itself.

<http://www.santafenewmexican.com/Opinion/myview/072912vueGarrett>

In two weeks, I'm heading up to WY for something I haven't done in ages – a long backpack trip. To prepare for it, I'm heading to the Santa Fe National Forest this weekend for a 2-night trip. On my way to the trailhead, I'll drive by some routes I helped close off to illegal motorized use a few years back – just realized the irony with writing this article. Happy Trails!

Scial



Not Happy with the TMP

The long-awaited Travel Management Plan has been released. The Forest Service has decided to allow off-road vehicles into almost every accessible part of the Santa Fe National Forest. Many off-road vehicle riders have demonstrated they are not willing to stay on roads, and little enforcement is available. If this decision stands, there will be only a few places in the Santa Fe National Forest where the 96 percent of quiet, nondestructive forest users can go for a relaxing, peaceful outing in nature.

Instead, we will hear off-road vehicles roar by, hoping children and pets will be safe. The rampant off-road vehicle destruction of the forest ecosystem will continue virtually unabated, and the negative impacts will last for generations. The Forest Service could have done much better, but instead it decided against effectively preventing 4 percent of forest users from severely damaging the health, serenity and beauty of our national forest. The 45-day appeal period has begun.

Sarah Hyden
Santa Fe

Santa Fe New Mexican Opinion Page, July 23, 2012

PROJECT #6

Valles Caldera National Preserve II

August 17-19, 2012

Join us for our second project this summer on Santa Rosa Creek, a major tributary to San Antonio Creek on the Valles Caldera. It is being severely impacted by increased runoff from adjacent slopes burned by the Las Conchas Fire. AWF and Los Amigos de Valles Caldera will team up again this month to accomplish valuable wetland restoration in Valle Santa Rosa. At the July project, volunteers completed an awesome array of 26 stone structures on Saturday that were severely tested in a flood that evening.

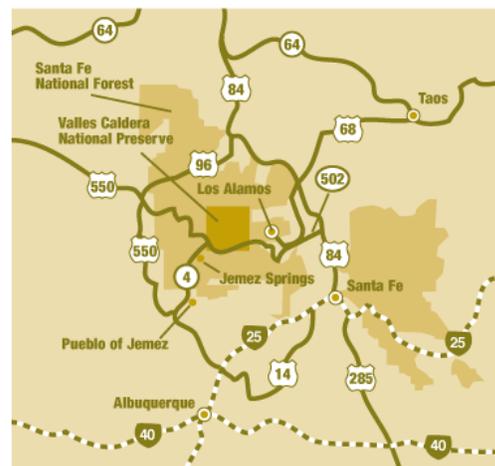
We will be based again at the San Antonio Cabin site, and invite you to join us for two days of field work and two nights of camping. Children are invited--they add to the experience and do good work. Tents, pickup campers, small RV's, and tent or travel trailers are allowed. Access will be arranged through the main gate in the Valle Grande on Highway 4.

REMINDER: No pets are permitted on the Preserve. Though you are free to pitch your tent anywhere in the camp area, please park your vehicle alongside the road.

Weather-wise, sun, rain, overcast sky and wind or a mix of it all are to be expected. ***Especially, be prepared for downpours!*** Bring day packs with appropriate clothing, lunches, and plenty of water. Nighttime temperatures may dip into the mid 40's.

We hope you can come out on Friday evening to get set up and acquainted, but an early Saturday morning arrival will also work. We will serve hot breakfast burritos on Saturday. For our potluck meal Saturday evening we will grill bison and veggie burgers as the entree to go with your shared dish. We generally have plenty of leftovers for Sunday meals. **Please provide your own plate, coffee/drink cup, and eating utensils.**

Please RSVP by August 15 so we can plan appropriately for food. Once you are on the list, you'll receive details about entry onto the Preserve. Contact Glenda Muirhead at g.muirhead@usfamily.net or 505-281-2925.



2012 AWF PROJECT SCHEDULE

March 17	Cedro Creek – East Mountains
April 20-22	Cebolla Canyon I
May 18-20	Cebolla Canyon II
June 15-17	Rio de las Vacas
July 20-22	Valles Caldera I
August 17-19	Valles Caldera II
Sept 14-16	Limestone Canyon
Oct 20	Sandia Ranger District

JULY PARTICIPANTS

Gail Baker
Michelle Barnes
Larry Blair
Matt Blair
Peter Blemel
Insun Blemel
Stephen Bohannon
Eric Buckley
Phil Carter
Tania Chavez
Van Clothier
Rodney Conant
James Cooley
Rory Cooley
Taran Cooley
Aidan Cooley
Jack D. Crane
Darlene Crane
Shawn Dietrich
Kristina G. Fisher
Abe Franklin
Skye Franklin
Steve Ginsberg
Cullen Hallmark
Susan Mendel
Cliff Mendel
Joyce Mendel
Jill Morford
Nicolai Morford-Oberst
Glenda Muirhead
Dennis Muirhead
Seth Nodelman
Janet Phillips
Juan Reyes
Toby Rosenblatt
Michael Scialdone
Mark Shepard
Hamish Thomson
Kelly VanDenBerg
Kristin Van Fleet
Nina Wells

PROJECT RECAP | JULY

Valles Caldera National Preserve I

What an amazing weekend it was! Counting several energetic youngsters, we had a terrific turnout of 41 participants with representatives from Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, Los Amigos de Valles Caldera, and the NM Environment Department. People started arriving on Friday afternoon, greeted by Jack and Darlene Crane from Los Amigos, who had set up camp early. Soon, tents dotted the fields and hillside and people circulated through "camp central" under two canopies next to the AWF equipment trailer.

Saturday morning began with coffee brewed by Dennis Muirhead, with a "starter" pot from Darlene Crane. Then Michael Scialdone ("Scial") got down to the business of cooking burritos, assisted by Kristina G. Fisher. Next, Jack Crane discussed the project and logistics, we loaded people and tools into vehicles, and everyone headed for the project site for instruction and assignments. Work began in earnest, with Steven Bohannon and Cullen Hallmark literally "taking the plunge" into the first and largest Zuni bowl of the weekend. The rest dispersed along the creek, guided by stakes at each location labeled with the appropriate rock structure to be built.



Experienced builders shared knowledge with "new hands." Tons of rock were scavenged, mostly from nearby slopes, as raw material...cries of "rock!" and "heads up!" were rampant all day. By quitting time, 26 sizeable structures had been put into place...constructs whose durability was about to be tested!

This "test" began as a frenzied downpour at camp at dinnertime, just as Scial was sizzling up burgers and sausages, Phil Carter was grilling veggie burgers, and all kinds of yummy food was being set out on picnic tables. Against the onslaught of driving winds and sheets of rain, we grabbed food and retreated to the dry cabin to proceed with the meal. Cozy!

Not surprisingly, many speculated about the downpour's effects on our day's labors. So, while many departed Sunday morning, a few others ventured back to the worksite. It was immediately evident that huge volumes of water had poured down the creek, upsetting some of our rock placements, depositing layers of silt amidst the structures, and laying down grass in a wide channel across the banks. Erosion was plentiful on the steeper slopes, especially where water had poured across the roadway above and grooved down toward the channel. Some repairs were effected, loads of pictures were taken to document this "instant feedback" event...and, perhaps, some lessons were learned for application at future projects!

A hearty "thank you very much" goes out to all our wonderful volunteers, listed at left above. We value your participation immensely, we really appreciate it when you bring along your friends, and we hope to see you again very soon...maybe even for Valles Caldera II for another weekend campout, August 17-19!

Thanks from Los Amigos

Once again, we are so pleased to have AWF as friends to help us work. The work we accomplished is outstanding and everyone who participated needs a special thank you and pat on the back. We enjoy the camaraderie and know everyone really works hard to get everything together ahead of time, that weekend, and cleanup on Sunday evening! Would like to commend several folks for their extra work but the list was too long!!

Los Amigos de Valles Caldera thanks each and every one of you at AWF for your work; you are all special people with unique talents and you bring it all together to help us. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jack D. Crane
on behalf of Los Amigos de Valles Caldera

View lots of photos from our
July project at Valles Caldera
on the AWF Website!

abq.nmwildlife.org
(on the home page)

Support for Proposed Organ Mountains–Desert Peaks National Monument

Resolution approved by Las Cruces City Council

By Steve Ramirez

Las Cruces Sun-News, July 16, 2012

LAS CRUCES — Points and counterpoints were made Monday — and logic and emotions clashed with one another for almost four hours.

In packed Council Chambers at City Hall, a standing-room-only crowd gathered and more than 50 people spoke for or against a resolution supporting the proposed Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument. Supporters of the monument proposal made their pitch, and opponents presented equally compelling arguments that the size of the proposed monument is too big and should be scaled back.

...

Mayor Ken Miyagishima got the last word after the council finally conducted the vote to formally endorse the proposed designation saying, "You got to see democracy in action today."

"With this vote, the city of Las Cruces has sent a strong message to President Obama and Congress that we cherish our incredible wild lands, archeological sites and historical legacy, and it's time we protect and share them with the country as a new National Monument," Mayor Pro Tem Sharon Thomas said. "This monument will also protect important activities including ranching, flood control and law enforcement, and that's an important feature of this plan."

Las Cruces Jim Harbison added, "I'm opposed. Why would we want to restrain private land to only 12 percent? ...We should not pass control of the land on to the federal government."

Victor Monjarez, a retired U.S. Border Patrol agent, said the resolution was "a bad idea today as it stands."

"It's a very bad idea, not only for the residents of southern New Mexico but for middle America as well," Monjarez said.

- The proposed Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument could include as much as 600,000 acres surrounding Las Cruces.

- A coalition representing about 175 entities, including southern New Mexico politicians, business owners, educators and interested residents have petitioned President Obama to designate the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument.

- However, many ranchers and land owners within the proposed monument are opposed to the large amount of land that could be designated for the monument.

- National monuments are protected public lands with unique characteristics that are managed to ensure their natural, historic and cultural values are protected for future generations.

- They believe the designation would protect open land at and near the mountain range east of Las Cruces and other areas to the north and west of the city.

- They also said the designation could stimulate southern New Mexico's economy.

- There are 243 known archeological sites within the proposed monument.

- The proposed monument area also includes prominent landmarks such as: the Butterfield Trail, Billy the Kid's Outlaw Rock, Geronimo's Cave, Kilbourne Hole and Aden Lava Flow.



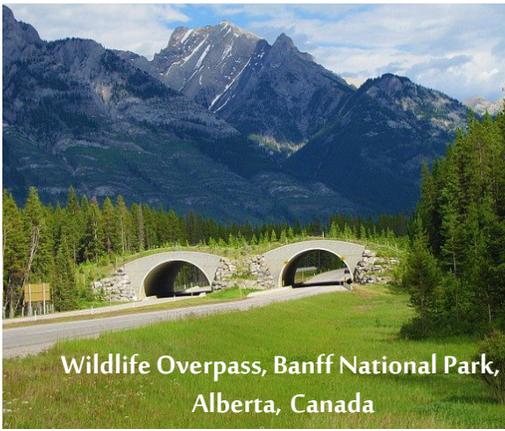
Unusual Bridges For Animals

Wildlife Overpasses

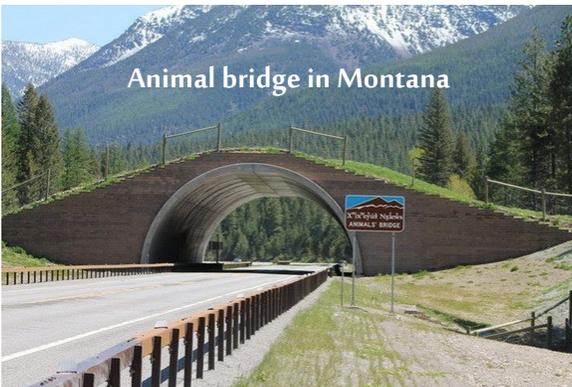
Wildlife overpasses, green bridges, and ecoducts all refer to structures that have been built over roads to allow wildlife to cross safely to the other side. The bridges are for the animals; the animals walk over the road, and the vehicles go through the structure. Most of the structures are between 30 feet and 180 feet wide.

They typically have soil, litter, and vegetation on top to provide suitable habitat for a range of different species and species groups. The larger structures are typically intended for large mammals ranging from ungulates (deer, elk, moose, for example) to large carnivores (e.g., black bear, grizzly bear, Canada lynx, wolverine, wolf).

Here are pictures of some of the most beautiful and interesting wildlife overpasses in the world.



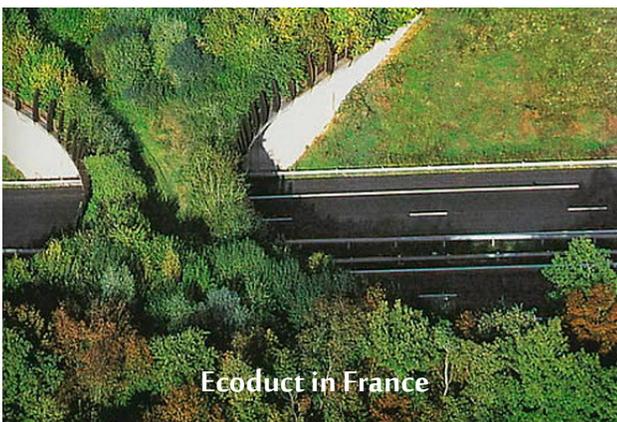
Wildlife Overpass, Banff National Park,
Alberta, Canada



Animal bridge in Montana

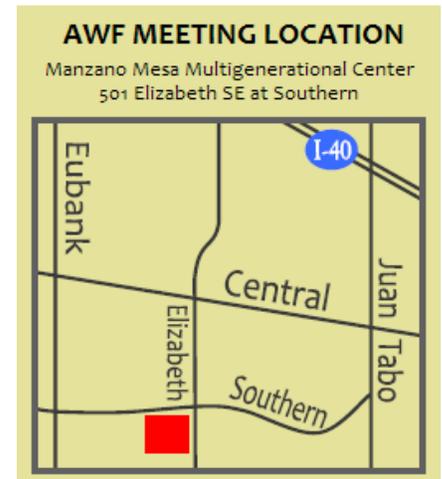


Wildlife overpass near Keechelus Lake in Washington



Ecoduct in France

SOURCE: <http://www.theworldgeography.com/2012/06/unusual-bridges-for-animals-wildlife.html>



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

President – Michael Scialdone
Vice President – Kristina Gray Fisher
Secretary/Treasurer – Glenda Muirhead

DIRECTORS

Stephen Bohannon
Larry Dwyer
Dennis Muirhead
Kurt Nolte
Toby Rosenblatt
Luke Shelby
Bill Zeedyk

ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION

PO Box 20225 | Albuquerque, NM 87154
abq.nmwildlife.org

Sportsmen Praise Bill Aimed at Ensuring Public Lands Access for Hunting, Angling

HUNT Act would improve sportsmen's abilities to access public lands, finance land acquisitions

WASHINGTON — Hunters and anglers are hailing a [new congressional bill](#) introduced by Rep. Martin Heinrich of New Mexico as a way to maintain and expand sportsmen's access to the public lands that provide key fish and wildlife habitat and offer unequalled opportunities for hunting and fishing.

The Hunt Unrestricted on National Treasures Act, or HUNT Act (H.R. 6086), would direct federal agencies to inventory all public lands greater than 640 acres where hunting and fishing are legal but inaccessible. Introduced Monday, the bill calls for improving access and would finance land acquisitions from willing sellers through a small percentage of Land and Water Conservation Fund monies.

"Surveys conducted over the last few years show that, for the first time ever, access trumps Second Amendment rights as hunters' No. 1 priority," said John Gale, a regional representative for the National Wildlife Federation. "This important legislation by Congressman Heinrich will set a course that secures access to places like New Mexico's iconic Sabinoso Wilderness while also ensuring the health of wildlife habitat and water quality." The funding provided for in the HUNT Act "gives the plan some legs" and means that hunters will see immediate impacts, Gale added.

Ensuring sportsmen's access to public lands also will sustain vital sectors of rural economies across the country. Numerous studies detail the economic importance of hunting, fishing, recreation and tourism on public lands. [A report](#) released Monday shows that last year, the Interior Department supported 403,000 jobs and contributed nearly \$49 billion in economic benefits through recreation and tourism on public lands.

"If passed, the HUNT Act will directly benefit millions of American sportsmen and the nation's powerful outdoor recreation economy," said Joel Webster, director of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership's Center for Western Lands, "and we appreciate Representative Heinrich's leadership in introducing the measure.

"A recent [poll](#) of Western voters identifying as sportsmen shows that a majority supports upholding measures conserving clean air,

clean water, natural areas and wildlife," continued Webster, "and more than nine in 10 agree that public lands are an essential part of their state's economy. To this end, the TRCP and our partners remain dedicated to advancing efforts that enable conservation of and access to these invaluable public resources."

[A report issued late last year](#) by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation found that hunters, anglers and wildlife watchers spent a combined \$137.4 billion in 2006.

"The HUNT Act provides a missing link to ensuring that sportsmen across the nation will be able to access quality hunting and angling opportunities on all of our public lands," said Gaspar Perricone, co-director of the Denver-based Bull Moose Sportsmen's Alliance. "Public lands access is a keystone of many rural economies throughout the West as well as a critical piece of our hunting heritage and western traditions. We applaud Congressman Heinrich's understanding and leadership of sportsmen and -women."

"Across America, we've seen far too many traditional hunting and fishing habitats locked behind gates and no-trespassing signs. This bill will help fix that problem," said Ben Long, co-chairman of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers. "Public lands are the birthright of all Americans, not just those fortunate enough to buy acreages and spools of barbed wire."

"Public lands, which provide large blocks of unfragmented wildlife habitat and healthy watersheds, are essential to sustaining the big-game herds and world-class fisheries prized by anglers and hunters," said Keith Curley, Trout Unlimited director of government affairs.

All of the sportsmen's groups look forward to working with Representative Heinrich and federal agency partners to implement plans that enable everyone's enjoyment of the nation's treasured landscapes.

Thank you to Kent Salazar (AWF, NMWF) for forwarding this Press Release dated July 11, 2012.



AWF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation | PO Box 20225 | Albuquerque, NM 87154
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 \$