



ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Founded by Aldo Leopold in 1914 to protect and perpetuate our wildlife and natural resources

# AWF Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2012

MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday, February 9, 2012 – 7:30 pm  
Manzano Mesa Center (map p5)

## Conservation Issues in New Mexico

**Guest Speaker: Kent Salazar, Board of Valles Caldera Trust**

We are pleased to have with us this month Kent Salazar, a man who wears many hats—each of which has given him significant experience dealing with important conservation issues confronting New Mexico. Come hear Kent speak about conservation priorities that are currently front and center.

Kent was recently named by President Obama to serve on the Valles Caldera Trust Board. He is serving his second term as a regional representative on the National Wildlife Federation Board, is a former president of the New Mexico Wildlife Federation, and currently serves on NMWF's Board. He also belongs to AWF.

His conservation endeavors for the past 20 years have focused on the preservation of wildlife and wildlife habitat at a local, state, and national level. Kent has served ably on the New Mexico State Game Commission, as well as with the Western Governors Grand Canyon Visibility Transport Commission (which studied visibility in Class 1 Wilderness areas) and the US Senate Outdoor Resources Review Committee (which made recommendations on the needs of America's Great Outdoors to the current Presidential Administration). He has also testified at the local, state and national level on conservation legislation.

Kent is a lifelong resident of New Mexico, an avid hunter and outdoorsman, with family roots in northern NM. Kent has a BS in Biology from the University of New Mexico.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It was the Volunteer Service Projects that started my connection with Albuquerque Wildlife Federation. We teamed up on a project I was putting together to prevent ORV damage north of Socorro. Learning about the work AWF was doing with Bill Zeedyk on stream restoration was an immediate draw for me and before I knew it I was on the Projects Committee helping plan out each year's projects. Besides getting to learn about restoration techniques in beautiful places, it was the camaraderie with the great people that come to these projects that kept me involved. So many years later, I'm honored to become President of this fine organization.

No surprise that I will continue to focus on the Volunteer Service Projects program. This past weekend I was tinkering with a trailer that was generously donated to AWF. It provides for us a single place to keep and transport all the

*continued on page 2*

Jim Hubert's

*Notable Quote  
of the Month*

"It is definitely a significant and meaningful court judgment in New Mexico."

– Bryan Bird, *WildEarth Guardians*,  
October 2011, speaking of the  
recent federal court ruling re-  
establishing a Clinton era ban on  
roadway construction on nearly 60  
million acres of National Forest land

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued from page 1

gear needed for projects. Some hooks, some panels, a couple of shelves that still need to be built, but it should be good to go when we start up again in March [see project schedule at right].

There are many reasons to be part of AWF, but I imagine most of us share a belief in the preservation or restoration of habitat for the benefit of fish and wildlife. AWF promotes this goal through education and outreach.

Our monthly programs bring knowledgeable speakers in to teach about the opportunities and challenges affecting wildlife management. Our projects connect people to places while teaching them about what a riparian system should look like or how to heal the land to benefit wildlife.

AWF evolved out of an organization started by Aldo Leopold. I like to think he would approve of what we are doing now.

*Scial*

## 2012 PROJECT SCHEDULE

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

### City Open Space

#### BOSQUE WILD! Guided Nature Walk – First Sundays

February 5 | 9:00 am FREE

Is the Bosque a mystery to you? Or would you like to learn more about its wild residents and its history? Join our naturalists for a walk into the riverside forest. Registration required.  
(505) 897-8831 More Information: [Bosque Wild](#)

### Larry Dwyer Is NMWF's "Sportsman of the Quarter"

Congratulations to AWF member Larry Dwyer, hunter extraordinaire, whose exploits in the wilds of New Mexico have earned him the honor of being named "Sportsman of the Quarter" by the NM Wildlife Federation.

Larry is also very active behind the scenes, supporting NMWF's efforts to champion the sportsmen of New Mexico.

Here is a photo he took of a ring-tailed cat in the Florida Mountains in southwest NM while javelina hunting. It got into the food stash, and Larry caught it on camera munching a hard-boiled egg.



For anyone looking for a scouting report, Larry didn't see any javelina in the Floridas, but he did manage to get one southwest of Silver City.

### NM Wildlife Federation News

#### Game Department Eliminates Paper Applications – Act now to help a friend

This year, for the first time ever, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish has announced that ALL hunters must apply online for draw hunts.

You may be among the vast majority of hunters who already apply online. But you may also know hunters who don't use computers much. Please do them a favor and help them navigate the online application process. Set some time aside soon to help a friend or family member apply online.

Hunters who have only used paper applications in the past may not find out until near the deadline that the rules have changed and that paper applications are no longer accepted. So be proactive now and reach out to someone you know who may not be Internet savvy.

The new Big Game Rules are out. You can apply now through March 28 for all draw hunts other than bear and turkey. But don't wait until the last week to apply. There could be an online traffic jam of last-minute filers.

– Joel Gay, NMWF

## National Forest News

AWF Member Donna Stevens, Executive Director of the Upper Gila Watershed Alliance, sends along a link to some entertaining reading material: the [public comments](#) in response to the Gila National Forest's 2011 draft Environmental Impact Statement. She cites one example: "If we can't use the forest, we won't need a Forest Service and you are all out of a job."

[Editor's Note: Here's one that I especially enjoyed:]  
 "I don't know off hand (but I will research) how many acres comprise the Gila Wilderness. Do you? Likewise, I don't know how many acres comprise the Aldo Leopold Wilderness. Do you? But suffice to say, those wilderness areas [sic] are huge, just huge, some of the biggest in the entire nation. Isn't that enough? Isn't that enough, I say!!! Why now are you people seeking to effectively transform the adjacent national forest to become, basically, a wilderness area? When is enough, enough for you people?"

### Forest Service Planning Rule

*Excerpted from an email from Tony Tooke, Director, USFS Ecosystem Management Coordination*

[On January 26] the Forest Service announced the final Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) for the planning rule, bringing us one step closer to a new rule. It's been a long journey since we published the Notice of Intent in December 2009 and asked for your help to develop a new planning rule...

After receiving and considering 300,000 comments on the draft environmental impact statement and proposed rule, the Forest Service developed Modified Alternative A as the preferred alternative. The preferred alternative includes the same concepts and underlying principles as the proposed rule, with a number of changes to rule text and organization in response to public comments. The preferred alternative reflects the diversity of input the Forest Service received throughout the rulemaking process from the public, Tribes, scientists, and all parts of the Agency. It meets the need for a collaborative and science-based planning process that will guide management of National Forest System lands so they are ecologically sustainable and contribute to social and economic sustainability...

The Under Secretary of Agriculture will review the alternatives in the PEIS and issue a final rule and record of decision in approximately 30 days. There will be several opportunities for you to continue to contribute to the planning process once a final rule is issued...

I encourage you to visit the Planning Rule website at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/planningrule> to review the PEIS, a video message from the Chief, and some frequently asked questions.

## River Otter Reintroduction Falters

### NM Pulls Plug on Gila River Otters

*Excerpted from an article by Susan Montoya Bryan | The Associated Press Sunday, January 8, 2012*

**"Decades of trapping and habitat loss are believed to be factors that led to the otters' disappearance."**

ALBUQUERQUE - The last time anyone had documented a river otter in New Mexico was nearly 60 years ago on the Gila River. A government trapper found the dead animal in a beaver trap. Now the chance of otters making a comeback in the upper reaches of the Gila is being put on hold indefinitely by New Mexico wildlife officials, a move that is frustrating conservationists and others who see the sleek mammals as the best hope for preserving endangered fish in the river.

The Gila is an example of what has happened to rivers throughout the West. From choking drought conditions and habitat changes to an influx of exotic species, a number of factors have helped push populations of native fish to dangerously low levels. It's those endangered fish that the New Mexico Game and Fish Department says it's worried about. The department contends Arizona wildlife officials and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have expressed similar concerns.

Playful and highly social, otters love to eat fish. Supporters of the reintroduction program argue the otters' first choice will be invasive crayfish and larger, slower nonnative fish like bass and carp. "But," said Jim Stuart, a biologist with the department's Conservation Services Division, "you can't tell an otter what to eat, and we do have some populations of listed fish down there that are in pretty bad shape right now."

The decision to pull the plug on otter reintroduction was spelled out in a three-paragraph letter sent recently by Stuart to members of the New Mexico River Otter Working Group.

Melissa Savage, director of the Four Corners Institute and a member of New Mexico Friends of River Otters, said New Mexico's action flies in the face of a 2006 Game Commission decision to move forward with reintroductions on the Upper Rio Grande near Taos and the Gila River. The decision was based on a feasibility study that looked at several river systems in the state.

More than 30 otters were released into the upper reaches of the Rio Grande between 2008 and 2010 and seem to be holding their own. Releases on the Gila were initially planned for 2010 but the program stalled despite a biological opinion on the potential impacts and an intensive monitoring plan.

Donna Stevens of the Upper Gila Watershed Alliance said otter reintroduction is "the only inexpensive and practical way" to save the Gila's native fish.

More than 20 states have successfully reintroduced river otters, which biologists say play an important role in keeping semi-aquatic ecosystems healthy and diverse.

# IT'S ALL ABOUT WATER

FILMS & CONVERSATION

**FREE  
EVENT**

Friday, February 10

4:45 pm–10:00 pm

Saturday, February 11

9:00 am–5:30 pm

South Broadway  
Cultural Center

1025 Broadway Blvd. SW,  
Albuquerque

a two-day film festival and public forum exploring concerns about the pollution of our waters and water sustainability, including discussion of issues in the Southwest, New Mexico and Albuquerque

*Is this our future?*

## Friday: What are the impacts of oil, gas and uranium development on our water, air and health?

- 4:45 Doors Open/Environmental Groups Exhibits  
 5:20 Welcome and Overview of Evening  
 5:30 Film: "Natural Gas from Shales: Some Myths and Realities"  
 6:10 Film: "Split Estate" (mineral rights and hydraulic fracturing "fracking")  
 7:30 **Panel – Issues of oil, gas, tar sands and uranium extraction**  
 Panelists: **Gwen Lachelt**, Oil and Gas Accountability Project  
**Debra Anderson**, Producer, "Split Estate"  
**Kathleen Dudley/Don Hamilton**, Drilling Mora County  
**Darlene Gomez**, Attorney, raised on a ranch with a "split estate"  
**Nadine Padilla**, Coordinator, Multicultural Alliance for a Safe Environment  
 8:30 Film: "Tipping Point" (the truth about Canadian Tar Sands)

Maybe you can  
catch a film or discussion  
...it's free!!  
Thank you to Susan Selbin  
for sending  
this notice.

## Saturday: Can New Mexico's water support its population, farming and industrial needs?

- 9:00 Doors Open/Environmental Group Exhibits  
 9:20 Welcome and Overview of Day  
 9:30 Film: "Liquid Assets" (municipal water systems)  
 10:15 **Panel – Albuquerque and Bernalillo County Water Infrastructure**  
 Panelists: **Kathy Verhage**, Albuquerque Stormwater Management  
**David Price**, Water Utility Authority  
**Bruce Thomson**, Director of UNM Water Resources Program  
**Paul Robinson**, Southwest Research and Information Center  
 11:30 Film: "American Southwest: are we running dry?"  
 Noon **Panel – Water Rights, Acequias, the Rio Grande and Climate Change**  
 Panelists: **James Maestas**, South Valley Regional Association of Acequias  
**Steve Harris**, Rio Grande Restoration  
**Elaine Hebard**, Independent Water Policy Expert  
**Dave Gutzler**, UNM Earth and Planetary Science  
 1:15 **Working Bag Lunch (bring your own): What can we do? Discussion and planning**  
 2:30 Film: "Water for the World Act of 2011"  
 2:40 Film: "Tapped" (bottled water industry and privatization of water)  
 4:00 Film: "Blue Gold" (international water issues and efforts to address problems)

**\*\*Sponsors: New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, Amigos Bravos, Food & Water Watch, Sierra Club\*\***

Please bring water in a sustainable container. Light refreshments will be provided.

Go to [www.cabq.gov/sbcc](http://www.cabq.gov/sbcc) for more information.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION**  
 PO Box 20225 | Albuquerque, NM 87154  
 abq.nmwildlife.org

**MEMBERSHIPS**

**RENEWED MEMBERS**

Pam Bliss  
 Howard & Misako Bradley  
 James Hickerson – Patron  
 Jim & Margie Hubert  
 Bob Nordstrum  
 Linda Patterson  
 Marilynn Szydowski

**Another quick reminder:  
 DUES ARE DUE  
 for 2012!**

*Thank You*

**Renewals and Good Wishes for the Year**

- Member Howard Bradley from Bloomfield, NM, sent this note along with renewal of his and wife Misako's family membership.

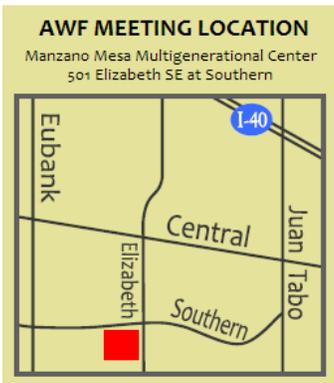
*“Glenda and All AWF Members:  
 Happy New Year and wishing continued success. Keep up the great work and Misako and I hope to join you on a project or two this year and partake of your coffee and Scial's buffalo burgers! Always a great time around the campfire! A special congratulations to Gene and Pat on her retirement and, of course, many thanks for their hard work and guidance over the past years.”*

**– Thanks, Howard...and we do hope to see you two out there!**

- And from Marilynn Szydowski, with her membership renewal:

*“Here's to Another Great Year!”*

**– Marilynn, with you participating, it WILL be a great year!**



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