

AWWF

ewsletter

JULY 2012

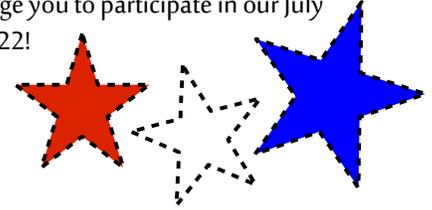
Jim Hubert's Notable Quote of the Month

"The effort to return the Mexican gray wolf to the American Southwest has been fraught with legal disputes, illegal shootings, livestock deaths and emotion. Now, a watchdog group is questioning the integrity of the key scientific findings related to the endangered animal's recovery. Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility filed a complaint with the Department of the Interior, alleging that the number of wolves required for recovery have been altered due to political meddling."

— Susan Montoya Bryan,
Associated Press, Albuquerque
Journal, 6-19-12

NO MEETING IN JULY!

This month, we observe AWF's tradition of forgoing a July meeting, wish everyone a happy **FOURTH** OF **JULY**, and encourage you to participate in our July project at Valles Caldera the weekend of July 20-22!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Working as the Bosque Project Manager for the Pueblo of Sandia, I've had a number of people ask me about the Romero Fire and about the browning of the tamarisk (salt cedar) trees in the region around Bernalillo. I'll touch on each of these topics below, but first I'd like to put out a message about our Volunteer Service Projects. Turn-out has been a bit low this season compared to recent years. We have, however, been fortunate to have enough people to get a ton of work done (or many, many tons if you add up what we did at Cebolla Canyon!), but there is always more to accomplish. There is rewarding work to be done by everyone, whether you like lugging rocks like I do or would rather plant or do the touch-up work. We have three camp-out projects remaining, all on the third Saturday of the month, plus a local one-day project in October to finish off the year. I hope to see you out there.

Tamarisk Leaf Beetles

Tamarisk, commonly known as salt cedar, is an invasive tree species from Eurasia. It was brought in to deal with the erosion problems created in the late 1800's-1900's from killing off the beaver and massive overgrazing. It liked its new home and quickly spread, taking over many riparian zones.

In the 1990's, USDA began looking for bio-controls of the tamarisk and came up with the Tamarisk Leaf Beetle. Also from Eurasia, this beetle only eats the leaves of the tamarisk. Well, actually its larvae eat the leaves. Once they morph into adults, they fly up to 30 miles and lay eggs. They are prolific breeders and can do so up to three times a year. Released in NW Colorado around 2007, they quickly spread. At the end of last year, they were found as far south as the Bernalillo area. Now, out of hibernation, they are quickly spreading through the region. As you travel between ABQ and Santa Fe, any brown salt cedar you see is likely infested with the Tamarisk Leaf Beetle.

continued on next page

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE continued

An excellent overview of the Tamarisk Leaf Beetle, its life history, and the complications of using it as a bio-control on a plant also used by the endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher was given by Dan Ginter of the Santa Ana Pueblo Natural Resources Department at our May monthly program. For more info, visit <http://www.tamariskcoalition.org/BioControl.html>.

Romero Fire

The Romero Fire was a human-caused fire that began about 3 pm on June 20 just south of the Harvey Jones Flood Control Channel in Corrales. Due to prevailing west-to-east winds, the fire quickly jumped the Rio Grande over to the Pueblo of Sandia side of the river. It burned into the next day with hot spots still being put out several days later. About six acres burned on the Corrales side of the river, and over 300 acres were burned on the Sandia side.

Like most fires, it burned in a mosaic: some areas were lightly hit, while others are nothing but black snags and black soil. Fortunately, the Pueblo of Sandia has been proactive in restoring its Bosque and reducing fuel loads, or things could have been much worse. Initial field checks show the soil burning was superficial, though some areas will likely be scorched. Cottonwood trees are not fire tolerant. Most were moderately burnt and even though they still have patches of green leaves, they will likely die off over the next few months. As for the birds and wildlife, including the Pueblo's recently re-introduced wild turkeys, only time will tell, but there is still plenty of healthy Bosque for them. Restoration efforts have already begun and will continue for years to come.

Scial

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

PROJECT #5

Valles Caldera National Preserve July 20-22, 2012

This is a unique opportunity to camp in the Valles Caldera National Preserve and help heal the land from the effects of the Las Conchas Fire. We will be partnering with Los Amigos de Valles Caldera.

Reminder: No pets are permitted on the Preserve.

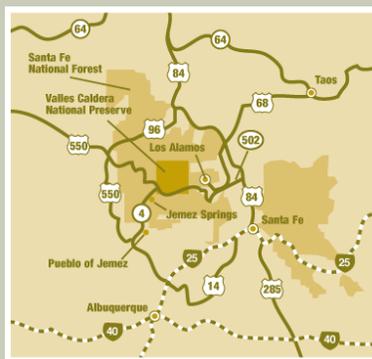
WHERE: Santa Rosa Creek is a major tributary to Rio San Antonio on the north side of the Valles Caldera National Preserve.

THE PROJECT: We will be using stone gathered from the adjacent slopes and some sod clumps dug close by to stabilize head cuts and to plug gullies forming in the creek. .

GEAR: Everything you need for a weekend of camping. Bring the usual gear for the work – gloves, hat, long sleeves, long pants, sturdy boots, and sunscreen. Don't forget warm clothes for the evenings and plenty of water.

FOOD: We will provide breakfast burritos on Saturday morning and bison or veggie burgers to go with a **POTLUCK** on Saturday evening. Please bring your own lunches, Friday dinner, and Sunday breakfast.

TO SIGN UP: Contact Michael Scialdone, "Scial", at rioscial@gmail.com or 505-480-2906. Directions and further details will be sent to you once you sign up.



Read more about this project on next page.

VALLES CALDERA

Valle Santa Rosa Service Project and Campout July 20-22, 2012

From Jack Crane, Los Amigos de Valles Caldera

Santa Rosa Creek is a major tributary to San Antonio Creek. It is being severely impacted by increased runoff from adjacent slopes burned by the Las Conchas Fire. The Los Amigos are again partnering with the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation to accomplish valuable wetland restoration. We will be camping in the far northwest area of the Preserve at the San Antonio Cabin area. We invite you to join us for the two days of work



Photo courtesy of UNM Field Schools

Impacts of the Whitewater-Baldy Fire in the Gila National Forest

From the NMWA Wilderness Weekly June 7, 2012

The Forest Service continues battling the wildfire burning in the Gila National Forest. While a fire of this magnitude can seem discouraging, we'd like to remind everyone that fire is a natural process that the forest will regenerate. Silver City Regional Director Kim McCreery says it's too early to know for sure how the two wolf packs in the area will fare. So far, the fire has not reached their den sites. We will keep you updated.

One thing for sure, however, is that the fire underscores why it is critical that we get more wolves on the ground to ensure that the Gila has a healthy, functional population. From an Associated Press article:

and two nights camping. Children are welcome *but no pets are permitted on the Preserve*. Tents, pickup campers, small RVs, and tent or travel trailers are allowed. Access will be arranged through the main gate in the Valle Grande on Highway 4.

We plan to work Saturday and Sunday until about noon, but those who can work only Saturday are welcome. A lot of the work will be hard but there are worthwhile tasks for every level of endurance. Part of the area is boggy so wet feet are possible. This is New Mexico so sun, rain, overcast sky, and wind or a mix of it all are to be expected. Day packs with appropriate clothing, lunches and plenty of water are necessary. Nighttime temperatures will be cold, probably in the low 40's.

We hope you can join us Friday evening for a little social activity. We will serve hot breakfast burritos Saturday and grilled bison and veggie burgers at a potluck Saturday evening. We generally have plenty of leftovers for Sunday meals.

It should be an interesting and fun weekend in a beautiful place.

In this May 22 photo, a plume of smoke rises from the Whitewater fire burning in the Gila Wilderness

Photo courtesy of *Christian Science Monitor*



"So far, the word from the fire lines is that the majority of the 227,000-acre blaze has burned with low to moderate intensity, not the kind of near-nuclear strength that was exhibited last year with the Las Conchas blaze in northern New Mexico...

...Members of the incident management team are estimating that only 20 percent of the fire has burned at high intensity...

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is also monitoring two packs of endangered Mexican gray wolves that are situated to the north and east of the fire. Last year, wolves in Arizona were able to escape the massive Wallow fire with their pups, but it's unclear how mobile the packs in New Mexico are since their pups are much younger."

Regards from Dewey and Shelley

From their farm in Wisconsin – June 7, 2012

Greetings from Wisconsin... We're sorry to miss contributing to your good work! We thought you might be interested in learning more about a friend we have always thought of as “the next Aldo Leopold”-- Paul Shepard. [see sidebar at right]

Dewey's pilgrimage to Scotland fulfilled his lifetime dream to see where geological thinking began. We stood on two of the three places where James Hutton had his epiphany about the immense amount of time needed for natural processes. Out of the three weeks, we only had one day when the clouds burst, so we enjoyed viewing sea eagle and osprey nests, finding puffins nesting on cliffs, hiking to stone circles, learning about ocean oil rigs, visiting castles of all sizes, and kicking back in pubs. Scotland's history is long and full of conflicts--religious wars between Catholics and Presbyterians, long rivalries between highlanders vs. lowlanders, sequential invasions and changing political boundaries, etc. Now we can actually understand the historical context for movies like Rob Roy, Braveheart, and Bodacia!

Hope the Gila can survive the flames...

Shelley Roberts & Dewey Moore



Thanks, Dewey & Shelley!

It's always great to hear from you. Enjoy the farm, and we hope to see you soon.

RENEWED MEMBER

Nina Wells

Thank You

Here's some information about Paul Howe Shepard, Jr. (June 12, 1925 – July 27, 1996)

From a website prepared by William S. Kowinski on behalf of Florence R. Shepard
<http://home.earthlink.net/~frshepard/>

As a pioneer of the ecology movement, a teacher who inspired generations of students and colleagues, and a scholar and writer whose work continues to grow in influence, Paul Shepard's profound contribution to our understanding of what it means to be human—especially in relation to other animals and our evolutionary past, but also to our culture and to each other—is central to his public legacy.

From Wikipedia:

Shepard was an American environmentalist and author best known for introducing the “Pleistocene paradigm” to deep ecology. His works have attempted to establish a normative framework in terms of evolutionary theory and developmental psychology. He offers a critique of sedentism/civilization and advocates modeling human lifestyles on those of nomadic prehistoric humans. He explores the connections between domestication, language, and cognition.

Based on his early study of modern ethnographic literature examining contemporary nature-based peoples, Shepard created a developmental model for understanding the role of sustained contact with nature in healthy human psychological development, positing that humans, having spent 99% of their social history in hunting and gathering environments, are therefore evolutionarily dependent on nature for proper emotional and psychological growth and development....

He died of lung cancer on July 21, 1996 in Salt Lake City.

News from the Aldo Leopold Foundation

The Outlook e-Newsletter | JUNE 2012

Green Fire in Turkey

Ufuk Ozdag has been working tirelessly to bring Aldo Leopold's work and thinking to her native country of Turkey. She hosted the Turkish premiere of Green Fire in late May at Hacettepe University in Ankara in partnership with TEMA, Turkey's largest environmental organization. To make the event possible, she delivered a talk on Leopold's land ethic and showed Green Fire at a two-day "land festival workshop" hosted by the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Livestock in Ankara. Ufuk first visited the Aldo Leopold Foundation two years ago to take part in our Land Ethic Leaders workshop. She then spent a month as a visiting scholar at the foundation working on her translation of A Sand County Almanac into Turkish. Thank you, Ufuk! Read about the premiere (in Turkish) [here](#).



Welcome to Our 50 New Land Ethic Leaders!

In the past several weeks, we convened three [Land Ethic Leaders](#) workshops--including two in California. There are now fifty new people from around the country equipped to be resources to their organizations and communities in stimulating a deeper dialogue about land and our values for it. Welcome!

You can be a Land Ethic Leader, too! Learn to use observation, participation, and reflection as a systematic method to explore and deepen your own land ethic, and also appreciate others' perspectives. This flexible framework is also a powerful tool to take back to your existing programs and activities, helping reconnecting people with the natural world in deeper ways. Join us this summer for our Land Ethic Leaders program. In his classic book A Sand County Almanac, Aldo Leopold set forth his most enduring idea, the "land ethic," which he articulated as a shift from seeing humans as "conqueror of the land-community to plain member and citizen." Yet, even as he described this shift, he refused to define it. "Nothing so important as an ethic is ever 'written,'" he wrote, indicating that instead it should evolve "in the minds of a thinking community." The Aldo Leopold Foundation designed the Land Ethic Leaders program around exactly this idea: enabling community leaders across the country to create opportunities for rich and productive dialogue about humanity's relationships to land.

Upcoming sessions:

August 9-10: Leopold Center, Baraboo, WI
September 21-22: Leopold Center, Baraboo, WI

Interns Gain Experience in Wetland Restoration

The Aldo Leopold Foundation land stewardship interns visited a wetland restoration site near Mount Horeb, Wisconsin, that is owned and managed by The Prairie Enthusiasts. The Wisconsin Waterfowl Association is partnering to restore the natural stream corridor, re-establish historic ox-bows, and native vegetation. Our interns got hands-on experience in installing erosion control mat along the stream banks and got to scatter a mix of seeds for mesic prairie species hand-collected by Prairie Enthusiast volunteers.



OHV plan for Santa Fe National Forest draws fire from all sides

April Reese, E&E reporter

Published: Monday, July 2, 2012

SANTA FE, N.M. -- Off-road advocates and environmentalists are criticizing Santa Fe National Forest's new travel management plan as either too onerous or too permissive. The [plan](#), which comes after a five-year process involving 38 public meetings and workshops, reduces the number of trails and roads from about 5,600 to 2,500 -- a 55 percent decrease.

"The decision is based on what the public and scientific analysis has been telling us since we began looking into potential travel management changes," said Santa Fe National Forest Supervisor Maria Garcia. "We chose the alternative that best protects natural and cultural resources, minimizes conflicts between users, and still provides access and motorized recreational opportunities on the forest."

Forest planners eliminated trails or roads that were redundant or otherwise unnecessary, as well as those that could not adequately be maintained or affected sensitive resources, she added. The forest currently has only 27 miles of managed system trail, but people drive on 408 miles. The plan would set that number at 208. The plan allows driving off-road up to 150 feet from either side of a route to allow access for dispersed camping and motorized big game retrieval, but prohibits driving within 100 feet of a waterway in those corridors.

The crafting of the forest's travel plan was part of a larger, nationwide effort under a 2005 travel management rule that directed each national forest to restrict off-highway vehicle (OHV) use to a designated trail system. While doing so will limit visitors' ability to drive to some recreational sites, "fewer open routes and less motorized cross-country use tend to be more protective of natural and cultural resources," the final environmental impact statement for the Santa Fe National Forest plan says.

Allowing all-terrain vehicles and other vehicles to drive across the landscape created new routes that in some cases channel water and carry sediment into streams, which degrades water quality and fish habitat, the plan says. The routes also fragment wildlife habitat -- some animals will not cross roads -- and small mammals and reptiles are sometimes killed by vehicles. Furthermore, their tires spread invasive plant seeds around the forest, the plan notes.

Keeping vehicles on designated trails will help address those issues, the plan says. But off-highway enthusiasts say the trail and road closures are largely unnecessary.



More than two feet of erosion caused by illegal motorcycle track in the Jemez Mountains.

Photo by Kevin Stillman

More on the SFNF travel plan on the next page

"It's anti-public and totally unjustified," said Mark Werkmeister, recreation resource director for the New Mexico Off Highway Vehicle Alliance. "New Mexicans love camping in their forest. This decision leaves only 381 miles out of 5,022 miles of road open for camping with vehicles. That's 93 percent of the today's roads closed to camping!"

The new restrictions on using OHVs for game retrieval will also hurt hunters, he added. The alliance plans to appeal the decision, Werkmeister said. Environmental groups, on the other hand, say the plan gives too much deference to off-roaders and allows too many routes to remain open. "Motorized uses threaten our precious waters that flow from the Santa Fe National Forest," Bryan Bird, an ecologist with WildEarth Guardians, said in a statement. "The final travel plan puts a small user group above the interests of all other forest users, wildlife and water quality." The Forest Service can afford to maintain just 10 percent of the roads approved in the plan, said Cyndi Tuell of the Center for Biological Diversity.

"When roads aren't maintained, they erode into our streams and can kill native fish," she said, adding that erosion of roads also prevents people who don't have specialized four-wheel-drive vehicles from accessing those areas of the forest.

Tuell said the center and WildEarth Guardians were particularly dismayed to see that forest officials allowed OHVs to continue to roam the Lake Fork Canyon area, home to the rare Jemez Mountain salamander. The groups had petitioned the Forest Service to close the area to motorized use in 2009 to protect the species. Keeping open trails in the area "rewards the very people who created the illegal roads that are hurting this species," Tuell said.

Those who weighed in on the draft EIS in 2010 have 45 days to appeal the new plan.

By adopting an oversized road system, ...the Forest Service chose to place the demands of a loud and well-funded special interest over the future of wildlife and the needs of the general public.

– Cyndi Tuell, Center for Biological Diversity

Santa Fe National Forest Travel Plan Major rule changes include:

- ◆ Seasonal closures for the protection of wildlife and their habitat.
- ◆ Weather-related closures via a closure order at any time.
- ◆ Increase of managed motorized system trails from 27 miles to 208 miles.
- ◆ About 138 miles of previously unauthorized routes have been added – 82 of which will be for motorcycle use only.
- ◆ Fixed-distance corridors have been established for motorized-dispersed camping, as well as motorized big-game retrieval at 150 feet from either side of the road.
- ◆ Driving within 100 feet of water in all fixed-distance corridors and areas is prohibited.

A motor-vehicle use map will be available September online or at the Santa Fe National Forest main office and its district offices. For more information, including the environmental impact statement and maps, visit www.fs.usda.gov/detail/santafe.

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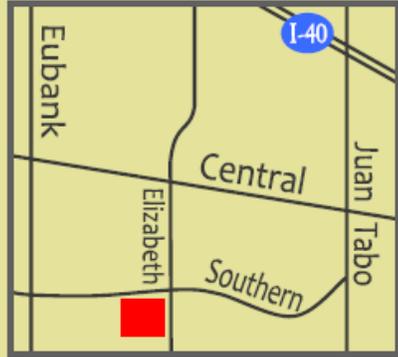
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abq.nmwildlife.org

AWF MEETING LOCATION

Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center
501 Elizabeth SE at Southern



Santa Fe National Forest Mileage Changes at a Glance:	
• Miles of roads and trails available to motorized vehicles under the new plan	2,463
• Miles of authorized and unauthorized roads and trails previously	7,832
• Miles of previously unauthorized routes added	138

A W F M E M B E R S H I P A P P L I C A T I O N

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