

AWF

ewsletter

NOVEMBER 2012

Jim Hubert's Notable Quote of the Month

"We of the industrial age boast of our control over nature. Plant or animal, star or atom, wind or river--there is no force in earth or sky which we will not shortly harness to build "the good life" for ourselves.

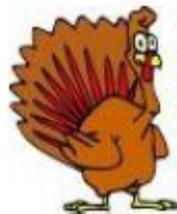
But what is the good life? Is all this glut of power to be used for only bread-and-butter ends? Man cannot live by bread, or Fords, alone. Are we too poor in purse or spirit to apply some of it to keep the land pleasant to see, and good to live in?"

— Aldo Leopold, *Game Management* textbook, written in 1932

The AWF MONTHLY MEETING for November was canceled with unfortunately short notice. We apologize for any inconvenience, and appreciate your understanding about busy schedules and conflicts.

Please plan to join your fellow members and friends on **Thursday, December 13, for our Annual Meeting and Holiday Potluck Dinner** at Manzano Mesa Center, 6:30 pm. We'll vote for 2013 officers and board of directors, and enjoy plenty of good food!

The November Newsletter is late getting to you, but we still have time to say...



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

PROJECT RECAP | OCTOBER 20

Sandia Mountains Wildlife Drinker



Most of the group gathers for a photo op.

Our final project of the year put us on the east side of the Sandia Mountains, rehabilitating the site of previous Habitat Stamp Program work. The area around this wildlife drinker, previously an open meadow, had become overgrown with dense underbrush and some large trees. Guided by the USFS, we sawed, lopped, and nipped away at the long grasses and interwoven shrubs, to clear the paths from forest to drinker for the many deer, bear, and other animals in evidence. Some new shrubs were planted to replace the large trees being felled by chain saw. Our tasks complemented efforts by Friends of the Sandia Mountains volunteers, who had "discovered" the drinker and had cleaned up the catchment and water trough.

After the project, we adjourned to the Doc Long Picnic Area on the Crest Road and enjoyed the grilling mastery of Michael Scialdone (Scial) and the delicious contributions from the other attendees, for an end-of-season picnic to celebrate another excellent year of conservation projects in our beautiful state. Join us again next year for more forays onto the land!



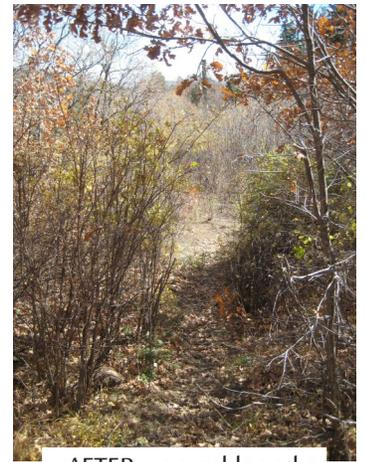
Beverly deGruyter and Zack Parsons of the USFS greet arrivals at Doc Long Picnic Area.



Hamish Thomson trims away overgrown shrubs.



BEFORE — overgrown paths tough to navigate...



...AFTER — passable paths for thirsty wildlife.



Phil Carter, left, acts as swamper for volunteer sawyer Sam Beard as they take down oversize trees.



Rich Diver limbs out the felled trees.



John Dickel takes a break from planting and watering new native shrubs which will take the place of large trees being removed.



The water trough



The collection device

MORE PROJECT PHOTOS



Rich and Barb Diver enjoy the post-project meal. Barb assisted Scial with picnic preparations.



Zack Parsons (USFS) and his wife and baby visit with Scial after the project.



Marilynn Szydlowski models the latest in *après project* footwear.

News From

NEW MEXICO WILDLIFE FEDERATION

The Department of Game and Fish has announced it **no longer supports its earlier proposal to eliminate, in some areas of the state, the controversial A-PLUS program** for allocating pronghorn antelope licenses. The department still presented two variations of the proposal to the State Game Commission, but asked the commission to support Option 3 – no action – at this time.

The turn-around was announced after **public meetings around the state showed little support for the proposal**. Game and Fish had initially proposed to eliminate the A-PLUS system of allocating re-salable hunting licenses on a ranch-by-ranch basis just in the southeast quadrant of the state and instead allow unlimited, over-the-counter licenses for private land hunts. At the same time, it would have allowed draw hunters onto any legally accessible public land in the unit. (Draw hunters using muzzleloaders or rifles are now barred from many public lands where a grazing lessee does not enroll in the A-PLUS program.) The proposal was later expanded to cover much of New Mexico, excluding some “high quality” units and the northeast quadrant.

The proposal had some good points. Eliminating A-PLUS would reduce administrative costs for the Department of

Game and Fish and would allow firearms hunters access to some new public lands. However, NMWF and many hunters opposed the proposal as written because there was **no mechanism to limit the harvest on private lands**. The only tool built into the proposal to ensure management objectives were achieved would be to further restrict draw hunting opportunity.

Game and Fish has been grappling with the A-PLUS program for years, yet your odds of drawing a license are still the worst in the West. Over the last four years the seven-member State Game Commission has done virtually nothing to improve resident antelope hunting opportunity, even as the Legislature – which is generally much slower to act – boosted residents’ share of all Big Game Draw hunts from 78 to 84 percent.

“Not one of the Game Commissioners says they are happy with the antelope system the way it is,” said Ray Trejo, NMWF president. “Residents only get around half of the licenses, which is far below other western states. **It’s well past time for the Commission to make some improvements.** The tools are all there; we just need to see some leadership.”

Cibola National Forest Begins Forest Plan Revision Public Meetings Announced

The Cibola National Forest will soon begin revising its 1985 Land and Resource Management Plan (Forest Plan) for the Sandia, Mountainair, Magdalena, and Mt. Taylor Ranger Districts. The Cibola is one of the first national forests to start the revision process under the new 2012 Forest Service Planning Rule.

Revising the Cibola's forest plan is a community effort. As more people become involved in this process and share their ideas, comments, and suggestions, it will help the Forest Service create an effective plan to manage the many resources on the Cibola National Forest and Grasslands. To learn more [click here](#). Regular updates will be posted to the Forest Plan Revision website [click here](#).

The Cibola National Forest and Grasslands will be hosting public meetings, webinars, or conference calls at key times throughout the planning process. The first series of public meetings was held in early November in Corona, Albuquerque, Torreon, Mountainair, and Tijeras. An upcoming meeting will be held Friday, November 30, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 pm at the Magdalena High School Fine Arts Center; 200 Duggins Drive; Magdalena, NM. If you would like to engage in future workgroups or listening sessions, please send an e-mail to: cibolamtnsplanrevision@fs.fed.us. Please include your name, contact information, and your topics of interest. For additional information, contact the Forest Plan Revision Team at 505-346-3900.

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