

THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque
WILDLIFE
Federation

conservationists since 1914

August 2019

Protect the Pecos! Prevent New Mining on the Threshold of Our Wilderness

In June we learned that an Australian corporation plans to begin exploratory mining for copper, zinc, and gold on public lands managed by the National Forest Service just outside the Pecos Wilderness.

Under the 1872 Mining Act, which is still in effect 147 years after it was enacted, anyone can stake a mining claim on federal public lands, regardless of the land's value for recreation, wildlife, or other uses. The mining companies pay just \$5 an acre, and the public receives no royalties for any minerals that are produced.

The public does, however, get stuck with the bill.

From 1927-1939, the Terrero mine in this same part of the Pecos was among the most productive lead and zinc mines in the nation. After mining operations ceased in 1939, tons of toxic waste were left behind. A heavy snowmelt in 1991 washed much of that waste downstream, contaminating the Pecos River, burying Willow Creek, and killing tens of thousands of fish all the way to the Lisboa Springs hatchery 11 miles downstream. Surviving fish had lead levels approaching the limit where it would be unsafe for people to eat them.

The area was declared a federal Superfund site and a long and costly clean-up effort was undertaken, which continues to this day.



Now New World Cobalt Ltd. plans to drill 30 holes, each 500-4,000 feet deep, to determine whether to launch a full-fledged mining operation in the Pecos once again. Even this initial phase threatens to degrade the Indian, Dalton, Sawyer, and Macho watersheds, which flow into the Pecos River.

Conservationists and community members are actively organizing to prevent this damaging new mine from becoming a reality, and they need the help of everyone who cares about protecting the Pecos.

The Upper Pecos Watershed Association is serving as a [clearinghouse for information](#) on the proposed mine and posting updates on its [Facebook page](#). A community meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 15, at 6:00 p.m. at the Village of Pecos Municipal Building.

In the meantime, [New Mexico Wild](#) has posted an [Action Alert](#) with information about how to contact New Mexico's Governor and congressional delegation, as well as how to submit a formal comment opposing the mine to the Santa Fe National Forest. The wildlife and ecosystems of the Pecos already bear a heavy body burden from past generations of mining. It is up to us to prevent additional irreparable damage from being done to this precious place.

Inside this Issue:

August Educational Presentation.....	pg 2
August Restoration Projects at Midnight Meadows and Limestone Canyon.....	pg 3
Recap of July Valle Vidal project.....	pg 5
Events of Interest.....	pg 6
Membership Form.....	pg 7

Kristina G. Fisher
AWF President

AUGUST 8, 2019 MEETING: Arielle Quintana

Thursday, August 8, 2019, 7:30 pm
Albuquerque Friends Meeting House
1600 5th Street Northwest

Topic: Tribal Resource Management

Indigenous peoples' relationship with the land has been built over hundreds of thousands of years. Through trial and error, tribes in the Southwest have developed unique land management strategies and methods that are adapted to this area. To this day, many tribes are still using the traditional practices used by their ancestral people, and many are taking those practices and adapting them as the world continues to push forward at a rapid rate. Arielle will present on different land management projects from Cochiti Pueblo and other tribes in New Mexico, and give more context to the importance of "land" in Indigenous cultures.

Speaker Bio: Arielle Quintana

Arielle is the Quivira Coalition's Education and Outreach Coordinator. A member of Cochiti Pueblo, she has worked for her tribe's Department of Natural Resources and Conservation on riparian restoration and wildlife habitat improvement projects, the Southern Rockies Fire Science Network on fire science conferences and workshops, and the Santa Fe Botanical Garden on garden education and wetland restoration.

Directions to the Meeting:

The Albuquerque Friends Meeting House is located at the corner of 5th and Bellamah. From I-40, take the 6th street exit, then South to Bellamah.



AUGUST 16-18, 2019 PROJECT: Midnight Meadows with Amigos Bravos

LOCATION: Midnight Meadows in the Carson National Forest

THE PROJECT: Midnight Meadows is one of the “wetland jewels” that our partner group Amigos Bravos has identified as needing special protections and restoration priority in the Carson National Forest. During this year’s project, we will continue our work building rock restoration structures and fence enclosures to restore and protect this precious wetland.

SCHEDULE:

Friday, August 16 - Sunday, August 18

Volunteers are always welcome to join us just for the work day Saturday, or camp for just one of the two nights. Kids and well-socialized dogs are welcome.

GEAR: Bring everything you need for a weekend of camping. For the work, you’ll want gloves, hat, long sleeves, long pants, sturdy boots, and sun-screen. We will be camping at an altitude of over 10,000 feet, so bring layers and warm clothes. It’s been an active monsoon season, so be prepared for rain and wet weather.

FOOD: AWF will provide breakfast burritos on Saturday morning and bison or veggie burgers on Saturday evening. **Please bring a dish to share for the Saturday potluck dinner**, along with your own lunches, snacks, Friday dinner, and lots of water!

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



2019 SERVICE PROJECTS CALENDAR

- March 2.....Day project at Valle de Oro
- March 15-17.....Rio Mora Wildlife Refuge
- April 19-21.....Wolf Creek, Ft. Union, NM
- May 17-19.....Rio Mora Wildlife Refuge
- June 7-9.....Valles Caldera
- July 19-21.....Valle Vidal
- August 16-18.....Midnight Meadows near Questa, NM
- Aug 30-Sept 1.....Limestone Canyon, San Mateo Mtns
- September 20-22.....Cebolla Canyon near Grants, NM
- October 19.....Day project at Cedro Creek

AWF BOARD 2019

OFFICERS

- President – Kristina G. Fisher*
- Vice President – Cameron Weber*
- Treasurer – Laurie Marnell*
- Secretary – Toby Rosenblatt*

DIRECTORS

- Braden Belliveau*
- Stephen Bohannon*
- Phil Carter*
- Michael “Scial” Scialdone*
- Bob Tilley*
- Kristin Van Fleet*
- Bill Zeedyk - Director Emeritus*

AUGUST 30-SEPTEMBER 1, 2019 SERVICE PROJECT: Limestone Canyon

LOCATION: Limestone Canyon, San Mateo Mountains

THE PROJECT: For over a decade, one of our favorite restoration sites has been Limestone Canyon in the San Mateo Mountains, southwest of Magdalena. Our efforts to slow the water and allow it to wet the valley bottom have dramatically changed the canyon, and one result has been that a relict stand of narrowleaf cottonwood trees began sending up new shoots. Our work this year will focus on building more rock structures to raise the streambed and continue rewetting the meadows.

SCHEDULE:

Friday, August 30 - Meet at campsite. Dinner on your own.

Saturday, August 31 - Breakfast burritos and coffee/tea provided by AWF. Safety talk, project overview, and begin work on project. Lunch on your own; potluck dinner with burgers provided by AWF. Campfire/socializing.

Sunday, September 1 - Breakfast on your own (leftovers often available). Continue restoration work; leave as you need to.

Note: We are holding this Limestone Canyon project over Labor Day weekend so that anyone who chooses can spend an extra night at this beautiful location, so please feel free to camp with us Sunday night as well.

GEAR: Bring everything you need for a weekend of camping. For the work, you'll want gloves, hat, long sleeves, long pants, sturdy boots, and sunscreen. Be sure to bring layers, warm clothes, and plenty of water.

FOOD: AWF will provide breakfast burritos on Saturday morning and bison or veggie burgers on Saturday evening. **Please bring a dish to share for the Saturday potluck dinner**, along with your own lunches, Friday dinner, Sunday breakfast, and lots of water!

TO SIGN UP: Contact Scial at rioscial@gmail.com or 505-480-2906.

Directions and further details will be sent to you once you sign up.



RECAP OF JULY 19-21, 2019 VALLE VIDAL RESTORATION PROJECT

Thanks, Volunteers!

Nathan Askins
Zachary Bartlett
Betty Bastai
Braden Belliveau
Stephen Bohannon
Peter Callen
Phil Carter
Watrous Costilla
Candace Duran
Kristina G. Fisher
Roderick Flores
Marie A. Gonzales
Jock Jacober
Meagen Larson
George Long
Polly Long
Laurie Marnell
Jeremiah Martin
Haylee Montoya
Rachel Moore
Peter O'Brien
Kerry Owens
Jaimie Park
Shantini Ramakrishnan
Renea Roberts
Janet Rolsma
Toby Rosenblatt
Madison Salmons
M. "Scial" Scialdone
Chance Sloan
Celestino Tack
Hamish Thomson
Bob Tilley
Cristoval Valerio
Kristin Van Fleet
Art Vollmer
Cameron Weber
Leza Wimett
Daryl Woolems
Ben Wright
Bill Zeedyk



It was wonderful to return to the Valle Vidal a decade after AWF's last project there! A terrific team of volunteers built 19 one-rock dams and baffles in the Ring Meadow drainage, and were rewarded with immediate results as the water spread out and created new wetlands before our eyes. Volunteers also repaired and expanded exclosures protecting a growing grove of willows. We were joined by members of the Youth Conservation Crew for the Taos Land Trust, along with many longtime and first-time AWF volunteers.

Bill Zeedyk writes: "What a great weekend! I'm so pleased and excited by all the work we got done toward restoring the Ring Place Meadows, both the willow fencing and the instream structures. Amazing!"

I do want to apologize to all our volunteers for not informing folks ahead of time about working in the water and the mud, and not telling them to come prepared with boots, old shoes, sandals, whatever. It had been a year since I last went there and I forgot that it would be wet and muddy. My apologies and thank you, all, for being so good-humored about it. I'm sure glad the weather was warm and sunny!

Thank you, All. We'll see how it turns out next year." -Bill Zeedyk



See lots more photos of this and other restoration projects at: abq.nmwildlife.org/

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Wildlife Wednesday Presentation: Joanna Prukop, New Mexico Game Commission **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 14, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Marble Brewery NE Heights location, Albuquerque** **NEW MEXICO WILDLIFE FEDERATION**

Joanna Prukop, the recently appointed chair of the New Mexico Game Commission, will speak about the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and take questions from the public about wildlife management issues as the August guest speaker in the New Mexico Wildlife Federation's free monthly lecture series.

For more info: <https://www.facebook.com/events/686523381773669/>



Upper Rio Grande Wildlife Corridors Summit **TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.** **Sagebrush Inn, Taos**

The Upper Rio Grande Initiative's third wildlife corridor summit will bring together a host of influential and informative voices to discuss wildlife corridors and connectivity in the region. As one of the most intact landscapes in the lower 48 for wildlife connectivity, planning for the future

and protecting the present day health of the Upper Rio Grande ecosystem is crucial. The Initiative is excited to showcase the voices of tribal leaders, state, local, and federal policymakers, as well as traditional land users, private landowners, and many more. Coffee and lunch will be provided free of charge. For more info, please email Jeremy Romero at the National Wildlife Federation at romeroj@nwf.org. To register for the event: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-upper-rio-grande-wildlife-corridors-summit-tickets-64563482113>

Bear Festival

SATURDAY, AUGUST 24, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
PAJARITO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

Mark your calendars for the third annual Bear Festival at the Los Alamos Nature Center! PEEC is once again hosting this event alongside the Land of Enchantment Wildlife Foundation. Educational booths and activities will help people of all ages learn more about our local black bears and what we can do to make sure both humans and bears stay safe.

For more info: <https://peecnature.org/events/details/?id=31200>



Wildlife Without Borders: Film Premiere & Forum **WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 28, 7:00 p.m., Lensic Theater, Santa Fe**

Wildlife Without Borders tells the story of New Mexico's iconic wildlife and the ways that they move and intersect our lands, our histories, and our cultures. Join us for stunning aerial footage and in-depth interviews from a diverse cast of wildlife advocates, tribal leaders, scientists, policymakers and public lands users. For more info and to purchase tickets: <https://lensic.org/events/wildlife/>

Send your event information to: abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com!

JOIN US!

Become a Member of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation

The Albuquerque Wildlife Federation is an all-volunteer organization founded by Aldo Leopold and dedicated to protecting and restoring New Mexico's wildlife and habitat resources.

Our work is only possible thanks to the generous support of our members.

If you like the work we do, we hope you will help keep this legacy going by becoming a member or renewing your membership.



AWF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation | P.O. Box 20225 | Albuquerque, NM 87154

Yes, I'd like to join AWF! This is a gift membership from: _____

name(s): _____

address: _____

city, state, zip: _____

phone: _____ email: _____

- Student _____ \$10
- Individual _____ \$25
- Family _____ \$35
- Sustaining _____ \$50-99
- Patron _____ \$100
- Lifetime _____ \$500 (*one-time payment*)

Dues: \$ _____

Extra Contribution: \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____