

THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque
WILDLIFE
Federation

conservationists since 1914

August 2023

Progress and Setbacks for Wildlife on the Southern Border

It's been a hard few years for wildlife on the southern border.

In 2017, the Trump administration began building its infamous border wall, slicing through wildlife refuges, butterfly sanctuaries, national monuments, and sacred tribal lands. Since 1996, the federal government has been exempt from all environmental laws and reviews when it constructs roads and barriers related to border security. So the border wall tore through landscapes with heedless disregard to the ecological consequences.

While the wall was easily circumvented by humans with a ladder or cutting tools, animals found themselves trapped on either side.

"The most disturbing thing about seeing deer along the wall is their confusion and frustration. I've watched a buck run to the wall, walk back across the road, and run back to the wall, over and over. With the tortoise, they walk to the wall and then along it. I've seen bobcats, badgers, coyotes, and javelina, as well as deer and tortoises," said Gail Kocourek of Tucson Samaritans.

Thankfully, conservation groups stayed on the case, and after four years of litigation, they just announced a settlement with the Biden administration.

Under the settlement, federal agencies will engage in formal environmental planning and community consultation processes before taking any further actions along the border wall erected by the Trump adminis-



tration, such as installing stadium lighting that causes further disruption to wildlife. Funds are also being set aside for projects to monitor and mitigate the existing harms to wildlife, including threatened and endangered species whose habitat has been destroyed or disturbed. Another provision of the settlement will keep gates in the border wall across the San Pedro River open year-round, reconnecting an important wildlife corridor.

Yet even as corridors were reopened in the desert, a new barrier was being erected in the Rio Grande. Texas Governor Greg Abbott ordered concrete to be laid along the bed of the Rio Grande, in order to anchor netting and raise giant orange buoys to wall off the heart of the river itself. This attempt to score political points at the expense of human beings in desperate circumstances was also another blow to border wildlife. The buoys and nets alter water flows, harming fish habitat. Meanwhile, razor wire erected along the banks of the Rio Grande is cutting animals off from their main source of water during this summer's record-shattering heat.

The U.S. Justice Department has sued the governor to have the barrier removed, just as it did with former Arizona Governor Ducey's shipping container wall last year. And conservation groups and activists are continuing their tireless efforts to protect the wildlife and ecosystems that are caught in the crosshairs of political grandstanding. Hopefully one day their efforts will result in the removal of these metastasizing border barriers, and the reconnection of our living landscapes.

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Kristina G. Fisher
AWF Secretary

AUGUST 10, 2023 MEETING: Restoring the Colorado River by Removing Glen Canyon Dam

Date: Thursday, August 10, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

Location: **In Person** at the
Albuquerque Friends Meeting House
1600 5th Street Northwest

Topic: Restoring the Colorado River by Removing Glen Canyon Dam

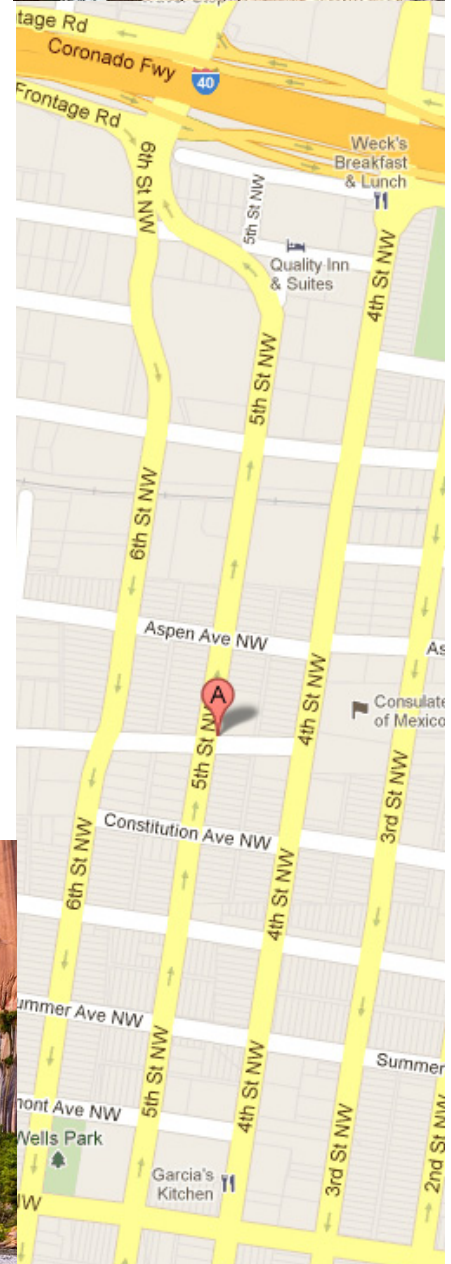
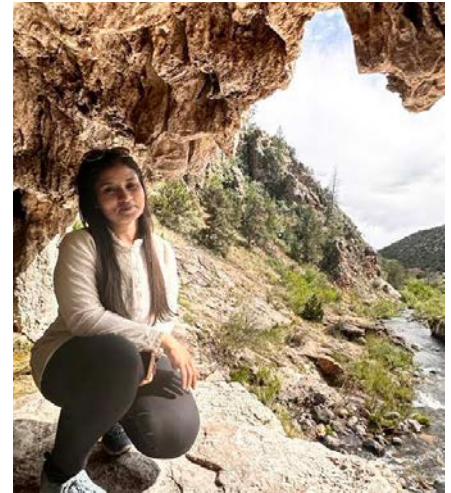
Aparna Banik will share the findings of her recent graduate final thesis project, *Ecohydrological reconciliation utilizing Glen Canyon Dam as a threshold in the Colorado River*, which focuses on the ecological restoration of the Colorado River. The project focuses on Glen Canyon Dam, which is located at the end of the upstream Colorado River Basin. This long-controversial dam hinders river flow, sediment distribution, fish migration, riparian vegetation, and water nutrient dispersion between the upstream and downstream basins of the Colorado River. Aparna's project explores how decommissioning Glen Canyon Dam can restore the river ecology and regain the regional economic benefit of Page City.

Speaker Bio: Aparna Banik

Aparna Banik graduated from the University of New Mexico in May 2023 with a degree in Landscape Architecture. She holds an undergraduate degree in Architecture and has five years experience working in the fields of architecture and landscape architecture. Aparna is inspired by the diversity of landscapes and the opportunity to work on different design solutions. She is primarily dedicated to the preservation and conservation of sustainable landscapes for community development.

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 18-20, 2022 SERVICE PROJECT: Midnight Meadows

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 be building structures to help hold water on the landscape and grow wetland vegetation. We may also work on fencing.

SCHEDULE: Friday, August 18 – Sunday, August 20
Volunteers do not need to be present for the entire weekend to participate. You are welcome to join us just for the work day Saturday, or camp for just one of the two nights.

GEAR: Bring everything you need for a weekend of camping and restoration work, including work gloves, hat, long sleeves, long pants, sturdy boots, and sunscreen. We will be camping at an altitude of over 10,000 feet, so bring layers and warm clothes. Be prepared for rain showers and wet weather (we recommend bringing a change of shoes, and waterproof boots or boots you don’t mind getting wet, as we may be working in creeks and wetlands). Plenty of drinking water is always essential.

FOOD: AWF will provide coffee and 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, plate, cup, and eating utensils and lots of water!

TO SIGN UP: Email **Kristina at abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com**
Directions and further details will be sent to you once you sign up.



2023 SERVICE PROJECTS CALENDAR

- March 11.....Valle de Oro Wildlife Refuge
- April 7-9.....Ft. Union Ranch
- May 19-21.....Rio Mora Wildlife Refuge
- June 2-4.....Manuelitas Creek
- June 16-18.....Rolling Hills Ranch
- July 14-16.....Gallinas Post-Fire Restoration
- July 28-30.....Valle Vidal
- August 18-20.....Midnight Meadows near Questa, NM
- September 1-4.....Limestone Canyon, San Mateo Mtns
- September 15-17.....Cebolla Canyon, El Malpais
- October 20-22.....Gutierrez Family Ranch
- November 4.....Rio Grande Bosque, Albuquerque

AWF BOARD 2023

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- Hamish Thomson*
- Bob Tilley*
- Bill Zeedyk - Director Emeritus*

SEPTEMBER 1-3, 2023 SERVICE PROJECT: Limestone Canyon

LOCATION: Limestone Canyon, San Mateo Mountains

THE PROJECT: Over Labor Day weekend we'll be returning to one of our favorite restoration sites: Limestone Canyon in the San Mateo Mountains. This project will mark AWF's 17th year of working in Limestone Canyon, and it has been gratifying to see how our rock structures have raised the streambed and rewetted the meadows, leading a relict stand of narrowleaf cottonwood trees to send up new shoots that are now growing into strong young trees. This year we're once again pleased to be partnering with New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors to continue the work of improving wildlife habitat in this special place.

SCHEDULE: Friday, September 1 – Sunday, September 3

Volunteers do not need to be present for the entire weekend to participate. You are welcome to join us just for the work day Saturday, or camp for just one of the two nights. You are also welcome to camp an extra night on Sunday and spend more of the long weekend at the site.

GEAR: Bring everything you need for a weekend of camping and restoration work, including work gloves, hat, long sleeves, long pants, sturdy boots, and sunscreen. We recommend bringing a change of shoes, and waterproof boots or boots you don't mind getting wet. Rain gear, layers, warm clothes for the evenings and plenty of water are essential.

FOOD: AWF will provide coffee and 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, plate, cup, and eating utensils 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 14-16, 2023 PROJECT: GALLINAS CANYON

Thanks, Volunteers!

Jan Ankerson
Samuel Bricker
Peter Callen
Phil Carter
Kristina G. Fisher
Tera Gambill
J. Mark Grazier
Lia Griesser
Alan Gross
Jocelyn Hariman
Ellen Hildebrandt
Jess Lanham
Lorenzo Lujan
Laurie Marnell
Janey Manry
Jordan Martinez
Toby Rosenblatt
Eden Schuab
Noah Schuab
Chase Stearnes
Marilynn Szydowski
Hamish Thomson
Bob Tilley
Drew Trujillo
Howard Velasquez
Cameron Weber



In mid-July, AWF partnered with Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance to help restore a property that has been impacted by flooding in the wake of last year's Hermit's Peak-Calf Canyon Fire. We had a great turnout of experienced and first-time volunteers, and a slight reprieve from the record heat of last month during our Saturday workday.

Volunteers built a series of Zuni bowls, baffles, and one-rock dams in an arroyo/ephemeral stream that runs into the Rio Gallinas. These structures will slow the water flow coming off of burned slopes, trap sediment, and lessen some of the damaging impacts on the Gallinas and the communities that depend on it. At the end of the work day and potluck, some volunteers cooled off with a refreshing dip in the Gallinas!

We look forward to continuing to partner with Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance to carry on this important post-fire restoration work in the years to come.



RECAP OF JULY 28-30, 2023 PROJECT: VALLE VIDAL

Thanks, Volunteers!

Abe Aufdermauer
Lucy Foma
Elise Foma
Lia Griesser
Abbie Kirkpatrick
Sharon Lacy
George Long
Maria Lohmann
Laurie Marnell
Peter O'Brien
Toby Rosenblatt
Hamish Thomson
Bob Tilley
Cameron Weber



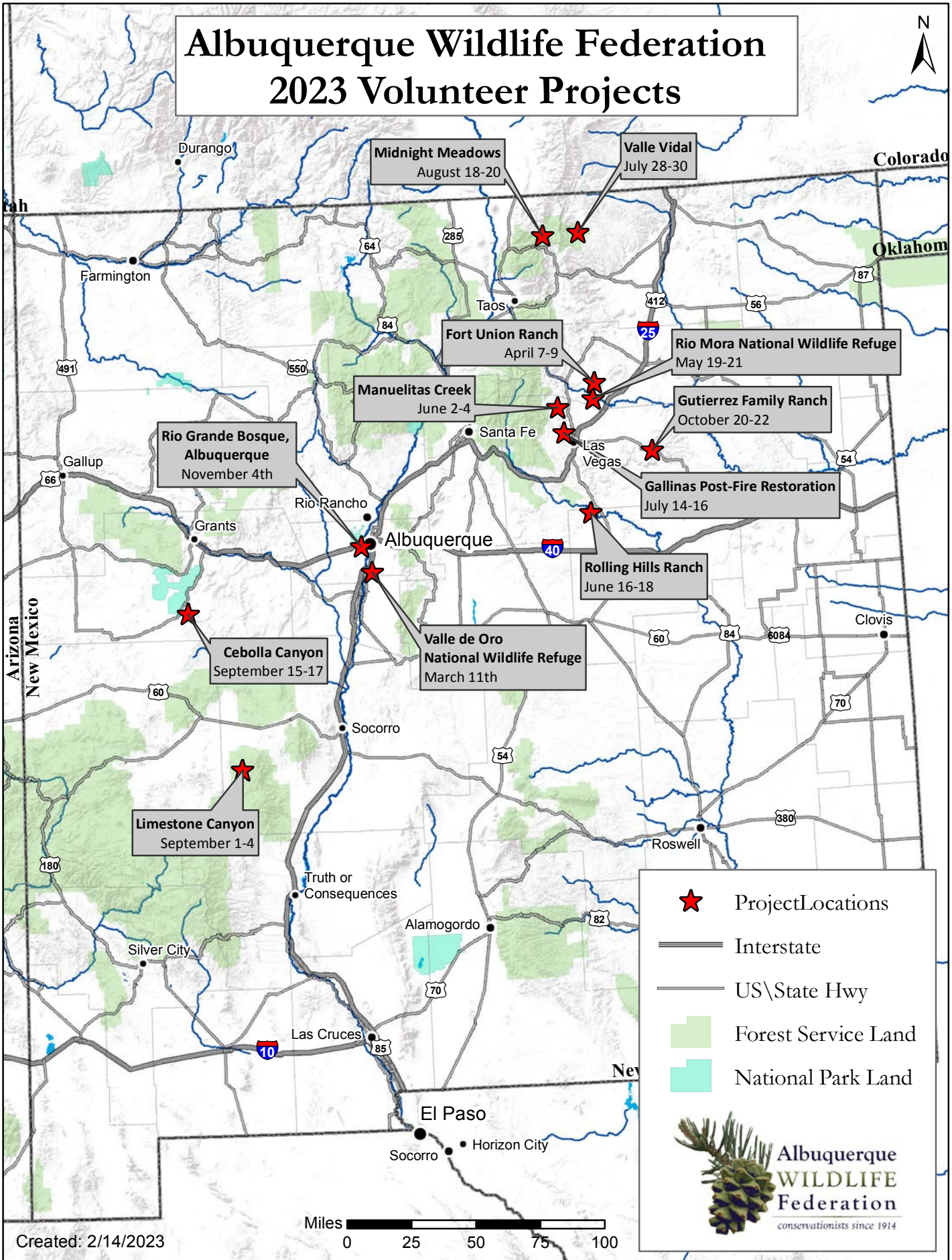
The Valle Vidal is AWF's longest-running legacy site, with this summer marking our 42nd year of work there. Through the decades, AWF volunteers have worked to restore wetlands and creeks across the Valle Vidal. This year, a small crew of new and experienced volunteers returned to Ring Place Meadow, where the Forest Service had brought in some rocks for us to continue building structures to restore wetlands impaired by years of heavy grazing.

After a tour of the site by retired Forest Service wildlife biologist George Long and current Forest Service staff, volunteers got to work building one large new rock structure in the meadow and repairing many others built in prior years. Volunteers also finished fencing in a large enclosure to protect wetland habitat from grazing impacts. Saturday was punctuated by an intense thunderstorm, hopefully a sign of more monsoons to come!

On Sunday morning, volunteers stayed to replace a post and repair an existing enclosure that is protecting a stand of willows. Many of the volunteers working in the Valle Vidal this year weren't even born when AWF's work here began, and we hope to continue building on this remarkable restoration legacy long into the future.



Albuquerque Wildlife Federation 2023 Volunteer Projects



UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST



Restoration Workday with the Santa Fe Conservation Trust

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5, 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Galisteo Basin

The Santa Fe Conservation Trust seeks volunteers to assist with wetland restoration at its Conservation Homestead. Participants will help with our wetland restoration by constructing a rock rundown and several juniper weirs. Volunteers will meet at the Cottonwood trailhead at the GBP off Thornton Ranch Road, Lamy, NM 87540. Lunch will be provided. Email melissa@sfct.org with name, contact number and sandwich choice (Turkey, Ham, Veggie or Vegan) to sign up.

Campsite Rehabilitation in the Wheeler Peak Wilderness

AUGUST 4-6, NEW MEXICO WILD

New Mexico Wild is hosting a 3-day, 2-night volunteer project to rehabilitate and restore large campsites near alpine lakes in the Wheeler Peak Wilderness! Volunteers will meet near Taos Ski Valley at 9:00 am on Friday, August 4th for a safety briefing and training. We'll be backpacking a total of 8 miles split between 2 days. Please bring backpacking gear, breakfast, lunch, and dinner for all days, as well as sunscreen, gloves, and sturdy footwear. Limited to 8 volunteers. For more info and to RSVP:

<https://www.nmwild.org/event/campsite-rehabilitation-in-the-wheeler-peak-wilderness/>



PEEC's Annual Bear Festival

SATURDAY, AUGUST 26, 10:00 am-2:00 pm, Los Alamos, NM

PAJARITO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

Enjoy a fun day full of booths, games, and resources on living with black bears and other wildlife in northern New Mexico. Come learn what we can do to keep both humans and bears safe. Learn about wildlife in our area and managing human-wildlife interactions from local, regional, and state-wide organizations. Plus, crafts, games, food, a scavenger hunt, and more! For more info: <https://peecnature.org/events/details/?id=48953>

2023 Santa Fe Watershed Fest, featuring the Wild & Scenic Film Festival

AUGUST 28; SEPTEMBER 7-8; SEPTEMBER 16, Santa Fe, NM

SANTA FE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Join this informative and participatory series of events celebrating the health and vibrancy of Santa Fe's local watershed, and others. A curated selection of films features hopeful examples of protection and restoration, filmmaker talks, and calls to action. The fest begins on August 28 with a screening of *Acequias: The Legacy Lives On* followed by a panel discussion featuring the filmmaker and others. It continues with the **Wild and Scenic Film Festival** on September 7-8, and wraps up with a community-wide clean-up event and recycled art party on September 16. For more info and tickets: <https://www.santafewatershed.org/santa-fe-watershed-fest-2023/>

Assist with Post-Fire Restoration in the Gallinas and Sapello Watersheds

Throughout the summer 2023

HERMITS PEAK WATERSHED ALLIANCE

Volunteers are welcome to join the Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance work crews who are completing post-fire restoration projects in the Gallinas and Sapello watersheds throughout the summer. For more info and to sign up to participate: <https://hermitspeakwatersheds.org/3501-2/>

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

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST *continued*

Rising from Ashes: A Tribe's Nature-based Approach to Watershed Restoration

SEPTEMBER 26-28, Santa Clara Pueblo

The Natural Areas Association (NAA) is hosting a Stewardship in Action Field Workshop in Espanola, New Mexico on the lands of the Santa Clara Pueblo. The workshop will highlight an innovative and iconic case study in public and private collaboration on sovereign tribal lands following a series of catastrophic wildfires. By collaborating with federal agencies and other partners to incorporate indigenous knowledge and values into the recovery planning process, the Santa Clara Pueblo is working to achieve long-term, sustainable resiliency of its watershed. The purpose of this workshop is to share what was learned by the Santa Clara Pueblo and their many partners and to engage land and water management practitioners from tribal nations, federal and state agencies, and nonprofit organizations from around the continent to exchange information and leverage success to benefit local communities. The agenda features both indoor presentations and field experiences. For more info and to register: https://www.naturalareas.org/new_mexico_tribes_nature_based.php

Action Alert:

Speak Up For Bears & Cougars by August 10

New Mexico Game and Fish is proposing to increase the annual kill quotas for both bears and cougars in the state. The overall hunting limit is currently 580 cougars and 804 bears in a season, which represents approximately 8% -12% of a the state's population of bears and 17%-24% for cougars. The Rio Grande Sierra Club, Center for Biological Diversity, and Defenders of Wildlife are objecting to the increase in kill quotes. The Sierra Club has provided a form that members of the public can use to weigh in by the deadline of **August 10**:

<https://act.sierraclub.org/actions/RioGrande?actionId=AR0393339>



Action Alert:

Weigh in About Water Quality by August 15

Meanwhile the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is taking the first steps toward regulating water quality in our state, now that the U.S. Supreme Court has ruled that the federal Environmental Protection Agency can no longer protect 93% of our wetlands, streams, and rivers. The NMED is seeking citizen input about a state-led water quality permit program for New Mexico's surface waters. We encourage you to fill out their survey by the deadline of **August 15**:

<https://nmed.commentinput.com/?id=JHx28SWfh3>

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: \$ _____