

THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque
WILDLIFE
Federation

conservationists since 1914

December 2018

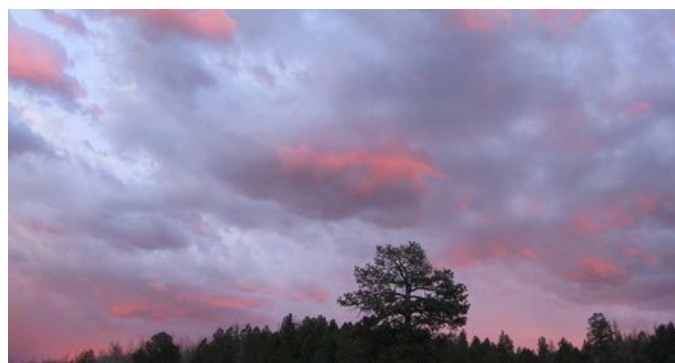
Transformation Awaits

Last week, it felt like the irresistible force of climate change was colliding with the immovable object of the fossil fuel industry here in New Mexico.

First, outgoing Land Commissioner Aubrey Dunn wrote to Ken McQueen, Secretary of the state Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources department, to express his concerns about hundreds of violations by oil and gas operators on state trust lands, including more than 500 wells that have ceased operation but not been cleaned up, littering the land with tank batteries, flow lines and other abandoned equipment.

Then, on November 19, the New Mexico Oil Conservation Commission voted to double the density of oil and gas wells permitted in the Four Corners region. The BLM plans to auction another 84,000 acres of federal public land for fracking on December 6, including 46,000 acres in the greater Chaco region.

Finally, late last week, the Fourth National Climate Assessment was released. The report provides a sobering and well-supported assessment of the impacts we can expect to feel from climate change over the coming years, from reduced water supplies to disappearing forests to decreased food production. (You can read about the specific effects of climate change on the Southwest U.S. at: <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/chapter/25/>)



Faced with the power and influence of the fossil fuel industry and the dire consequences of climate change that are already upon us, it is easy to feel discouraged and overwhelmed. But I believe that the scale of the transformation required of us can be a source of motivation, rather than despair.

This is our generation's moonshot, a great and inspiring work that can create a world in which future generations not only survive but thrive. Those of us who have engaged in hands-on acts of restoration know firsthand how profoundly fulfilling it is to work at repairing the world. Transitioning to less polluting forms of energy and building a more resilient society is work we can all be a part of.

We have fresh opportunities to do so with an incoming Governor and Land Commissioner who are committed to tackling climate change, reducing methane pollution, and expanding renewable energy in this land of wind and sun. We as citizens can do our part by urging our legislators and local elected officials to support these efforts, and lending our time and energy to organizations that are pushing for positive change.

The time for transformation is now, and the tools to begin are in our hands. Let's get busy.

Kristina G. Fisher
AWF President

Inside this Issue:

December Potluck & Board Election.....pg 2

2018 Activities Report.....pg 3

Events of Interest.....pg 4

Membership Form.....pg 5

DECEMBER 13, 2018: Annual Holiday Potluck & Board Election

Join us for our annual holiday potluck to celebrate another successful year of restoring our public lands!

Thursday, December 13, 2018, 7:00 pm
Albuquerque Friends Meeting House
1600 5th Street Northwest

AWF's holiday potlucks often feature exotic dishes from our hunting members, along with vegetarian fare and delicious desserts. **Please bring a dish to share and come join the celebration!**

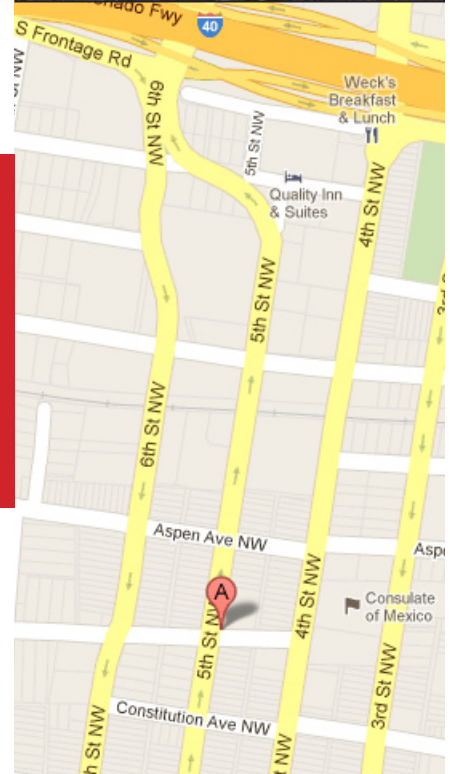
Time to renew your AWF membership!

Annual memberships expire in December, so please renew yours today! You may pay at the meeting, fill out and mail in the form on the last page of this newsletter, or renew online at <http://abq.nmwildlife.org/> Your dues pay for restoration tools and supplies and make it possible for AWF to provide snacks at meetings and meals at projects. Thank you!

The holiday potluck is also AWF's official annual meeting, when members will elect the board for 2019. *If you are interested in becoming more involved with AWF, we encourage you to nominate yourself for the board!* Any AWF member is eligible to serve, and board members lead the planning for monthly speakers and restoration service projects. If you have any questions about serving on the board, please email Kristina at abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com.

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.



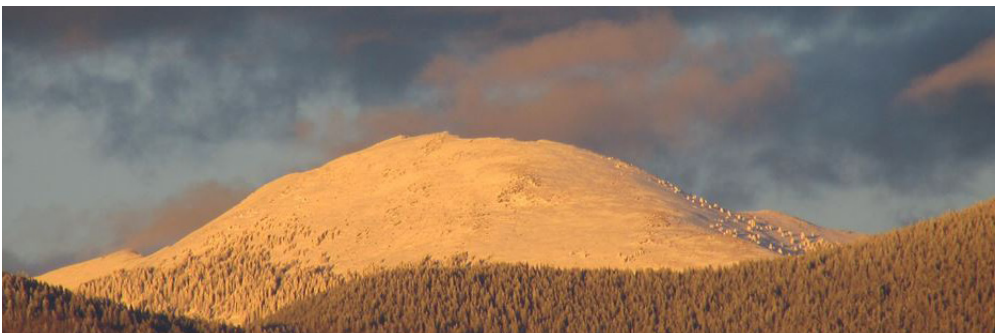
AWF BOARD 2018

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



2018 ACTIVITIES REPORT

Ecological Restoration Service Projects

March 17, 2018 – Day project at Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, Albuquerque

April 6-8, 2018 – Riparian restoration of Wolf Creek Wetlands on Ft. Union Ranch

May 4-6, 2018 – Restoration at the Quivira Coalition's Red Canyon Ranch

May 18-20, 2018 – Riparian restoration in the Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge

June 22-24, 2018 – Building exclosures in Midnight Meadows, near Questa, NM

August 10-12, 2018 – Wetland restoration in Midnight Meadows, near Questa, NM

Aug 31-Sept 2, 2017-8 – Riparian restoration in Limestone Canyon, San Mateo Mountains near Magdalena

October 20, 2018 – Day project at Cedro Creek near Tijeras, NM



Educational Presentations

February 8, 2018 – Workshop to build cloth rock litters

March 8, 2018 – Aquaponics in New Mexico, Ryan and Rebbekka Tynan

April 12, 2018 – Quivira Coalition: Working to Restore the West, Sarah Wentzel-Fisher & Arielle Quintana

May 10, 2018 – Bat Conservation in New Mexico, Justin Stevenson

June 14, 2018 – The Natural & Legal History of the Rio Grande, Adrian Oglesby

August 9, 2018 – Building Resilience in the Jemez, Cecil Rich

September 13, 2018 – Post-Fire Reforestation in a Changing Climate, Professor Matthew Hurteau



October 11, 2018 – “Sacred Land, Sacred Water: Confluences in the Rio Grande Valley” documentary

November 8, 2018 – The Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program (BEMP), Dr. Kim Eichhorst

Advocacy & Outreach

April 15, 2018 – Joined NM Backcountry Hunters & Anglers in submitting questions to candidates for Governor, Land Commissioner, U.S. House & Senate

July 5, 2018 – Signed onto letter of support for America's Public Lands Act of 2018, which clearly defines that only Congress, not the President, has the authority to dispose of federal public lands

July 15, 2018 – Submitted public comment during Gila River diversion project EIS scoping period

July 25, 2018 – Submitted letter of support for additional funding for Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge

August 9, 2018 – Signed onto letter to New Mexico gubernatorial candidates asking them to appoint Game Commissioners who prioritize science and wildlife protection

September 29, 2018 – Participated in Amigos Bravos Rally for the Rio

EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

River Otter Identification 101 with Amigos Bravos

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2018, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Juan I. Gonzales Ag Center, 202 Chamisa Road, Taos, NM

Join Amigos Bravos for this free, family-friendly workshop! Learn how to identify river otters in New Mexico based on tracks, scat, slides, and sightings; set up and maintain a trail camera; and become part of the ongoing effort to monitor river otters in New Mexico. Light refreshments provided. More info: <https://www.facebook.com/events/770729946612544/>



RIVER OTTER IDENTIFICATION 101
A FREE TRAINING OPEN TO EVERYONE | KID FRIENDLY!

Santa Fe Watershed Association's 4th Annual Winter Watershed Benefit



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2018, 5:00-8:00 p.m., Hotel Santa Fe

Join the Santa Fe Watershed Association for its 4th annual Winter Watershed Benefit, featuring a talk by John Fleck: "Bracing for troubled waters: Climate change risk to Santa Fe's Colorado River water." There will also be a silent auction of items and experiences including guided tours of rare Petroglyphs, hotel stays and spa treatments, gift baskets, art, jewelry, and more! Tickets at:

<https://santafewatershed.givezooks.com/events/2018-fourth-annual-winter-watershed-benefit>

Frack Off Protest BLM December Oil and Gas Lease Sale

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2018, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

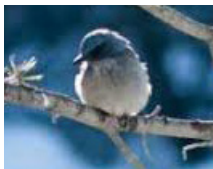
BLM Office, 301 Dinosaur Trail, Santa Fe

Join the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club and others who are protesting the BLM's upcoming lease of over 84,000 acres of public lands in New Mexico for fracking, including more than 46,000 acres in the Chaco area. More info at: <https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7010Z0000027GoFQAU>

Native Plant Seed Cleaning at Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2018, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Help clean native plant seeds collected by volunteers and staff over several seasons! No experience is necessary, training will be provided. Seed will be used in various restoration projects on the refuge. This is a unique opportunity to get behind the scenes at Rio Mora, which is normally closed to the public. The activity will run from 10 am to 3 pm, but you do not have to stay the entire time. For more information, contact Joe Zebrowski at 505-718-8168 or jpezrowski@gmail.com. <https://www.facebook.com/events/305731700275504/>



Annual Christmas Bird Count

DECEMBER 14, 2018-JANUARY 5, 2018

AUDUBON NEW MEXICO, Statewide

This winter, at more than 30 locations in New Mexico, bird-watchers will be counting every bird they see or hear! As a participant in the Audubon Christmas Bird Count, you can join more than 70,000 counters at over 2,300 locations stretching from the Arctic Circle to the tip of South America. Since 1900, the Christmas Bird Count has provided scientists with critical data about bird populations in the Americas. For more information: <http://nm.audubon.org/conservation/audubon-new-mexicos-christmas-bird-count>

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: \$ _____