

THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque
WILDLIFE
Federation

conservationists since 1914

December 2019

Progress Toward Protecting New Mexico's Wildlife

In the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation archives, there is a letter sent by Theodore Roosevelt to Aldo Leopold on January 18, 1917. In it, Roosevelt writes, "I have just read the Pine Cone. I think your platform simply capital, and I earnestly hope that you will get the right type of game warden."

At the time, Leopold and AWF's other founders were engaged in a fierce fight to secure the appointment of a qualified, nonpolitical state game warden who would rigorously enforce the state's hunting laws and prevent wild animals from being hunted to extinction.

The past few years have seemed like a return to the poor management that AWF's founders decried, with members of the New Mexico Game Commission organizing coyote killing contests, suing the federal government to try to halt the release of more Mexican gray wolves into the wild, and rejecting the State Wildlife Action Plan prepared by Game and Fish Department biologists because it supposedly included "too many" species in need of conservation.

Then, with last year's election of a new governor came new appointments to the game commission, and recent days have given reason to hope that New Mexico might be coming closer to having "the right type of game warden."

First, in late October the Game Commission voted unanimously to rejoin the Mexican gray wolf recovery effort,



partnering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the White Mountain Apache Tribe, and others.

Then, the week before Thanksgiving came another unanimous vote in which the Game Commission banned cougar trapping for sport. It also reduced the number of cougars that can be hunted in certain parts of the state and banned traps and snares adjacent to public trailheads. Prior to the vote, New Mexico had been one of only two states in the continental U.S. that allowed cougars to be trapped using steel-jawed leghold traps and snares.

These recent victories for wildlife still leave much to be accomplished – for example, many conservationists are pushing the new commission to go much further in restricting or banning trapping on public lands. Yet these recent steps toward managing wildlife in an ecologically conscious way give us hope for what we can accomplish in the new year, and the years that follow.

As Leopold wrote in the January 1918 *Pine Cone*, when AWF had successfully achieved its goal of a nonpolitical game warden: "While the wild life of New Mexico is far from saved, its ultimate preservation is at least brought within the bound of possibility."

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Kristina G. Fisher
AWF President

DECEMBER 12, 2019: Annual Holiday Potluck & Members Meeting

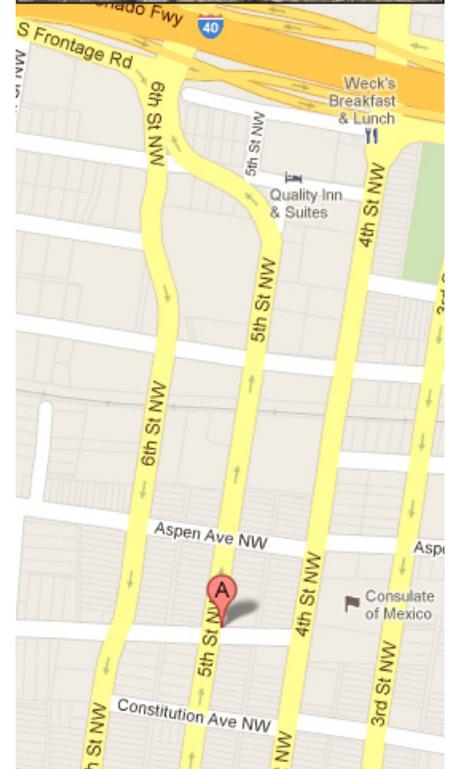
Join us for our annual holiday potluck to celebrate another successful year of restoring our public lands!

Thursday, December 12, 2019, 7:00 pm
Albuquerque Friends Meeting House
1600 5th Street Northwest

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

The holiday potluck is also AWF's official annual members meeting, when we will elect the board for 2020. If you are interested in helping organize our volunteer restoration projects and recruiting speakers for our meetings, we hope you'll consider running for the board! Any dues-paying AWF member is eligible to serve on the board.

We are also launching three new committees to to expand AWF's impact, so if you're not ready to join the board but you would be interested in assisting us with **outreach**, **data and monitoring**, or **advocacy**, please email Kristina at abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com.



BYLAWS UPDATE

At this year's annual meeting, AWF members will also be voting on a proposed revision of AWF's bylaws, which have not been updated since 2005.

- A one-page summary of the revisions [is available here](#).
- The proposed revised bylaws [can be read here](#) (and [here is a version](#) showing all the proposed updates in "track changes").

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.

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!

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

2019 ACTIVITIES REPORT

Ecological Restoration Service Projects

March 2, 2019 – Tree-planting at Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge, Albuquerque

March 15-17, 2019 – Tree-planting at Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge

April 19-21, 2019 – Restoration of Wolf Creek Wetlands on Ft. Union Ranch

May 17-19, 2019 – Riparian restoration at Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge

June 7-9, 2019 – Wetland restoration in Valles Caldera National Preserve

July 19-21, 2019 – Riparian restoration in the Valle Vidal

August 16-18, 2019 – Wetland restoration in Midnight Meadows, near Questa, NM

August 30-September 1, 2019 – Riparian restoration in Limestone Canyon, San Mateo Mountains near Magdalena

September 14, 2019 – AWF Board assisted with maintenance projects at Aldo Leopold's Mi Casita cabin in Tres Piedras

October 19, 2019 – Day project at Cedro Creek near Tijeras, NM



Educational Presentations

April 11, 2019 – Update from New Mexico Wild on the 2019 Legislative Session, Judy Calman

June 13, 2019 – Mapping New Mexico's Wetlands, Emile Sawyer

August 8, 2019 – Tribal Resource Management, Arielle Quintana

October 10, 2019 – Wildlife Conservation and Habitat Restoration on the Pueblo of Santa Ana, Glenn Harper

Advocacy & Outreach

January-March, 2019 – AWF advocated for passage of the New Mexico Wildlife Corridors Act

May 1, 2019 – Wrote letter to New Mexico's congressional delegation in support of funding for continuing restoration work at Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge

September 30, 2019 – Wrote letter to Bureau of Land Management about the need to keep cattle out of the enclosure protecting Cebolla Spring

November 6, 2019 – Signed onto comments by the Wilderness Society advocating for conservation alternatives in the new forest plans for the Carson, Cibola, and Santa Fe National Forests



EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cibola Geology Tour

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge

Tour the east side of the refuge, where the pronghorn roam, where Gunnison's prairie dogs are building their towns, and Long Term Ecological Research sites are concentrated. Tour includes a walk into picturesque Cibola Canyon, where seasonal water flows over exposed limestone bedrock and the surrounding area. Hiking will be 2-3 miles, moderate. Space is limited. Call the refuge to reserve your spot. 505-864-4021.



New Mexico Proud: Exploring Equitable Education Outdoors

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION OF NEW MEXICO

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 9:00 am-1:00 p.m.

Los Duranes Community Center, 2920 Leopoldo NW, Albuquerque

This event will bring together individuals and organizations representing interconnected interests like outdoor recreation, education, conservation, and environmental justice. In community, participants will explore how we can better support experiential, environmental, nature-based, outdoor, or place-based education or learning that is centered on students and their communities. Exploring the interconnectedness of youth well-being, the outdoors, social justice, health and wellness, conservation, and local food, we will identify opportunities to effect change within ourselves, our organizations, and communities. More info and to register: <https://eeanm.org/programs/summit/>

Santa Fe Watershed Association's 5th Annual Winter Watershed Benefit

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 6:00-9:00 p.m., Hotel Santa Fe

The Santa Fe Watershed Association's 5th annual Winter Watershed Benefit features a talk by Andrew Erdmann: "Too Wet to Fail: The Santa Fe Water Bank." 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://www.santafewatershed.org/event/sfwa-annual-winter-watershed-benefit/>



120th Annual Christmas Bird Count

DECEMBER 14, 2019-JANUARY 5, 2020

AUDUBON NEW MEXICO, Statewide

Audubon's 120th Christmas Bird Count will be conducted from December 14, 2019 through January 5, 2020. At nearly 50 locations in New Mexico, groups of bird-watchers will be counting every bird they see or hear! As participants in the Audubon Christmas Bird Count, they will be part of the more than 70,000 counters at more than 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:

<https://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: \$ _____