

THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque
WILDLIFE
Federation

conservationists since 1914

February 2018

Saving Santa Ana

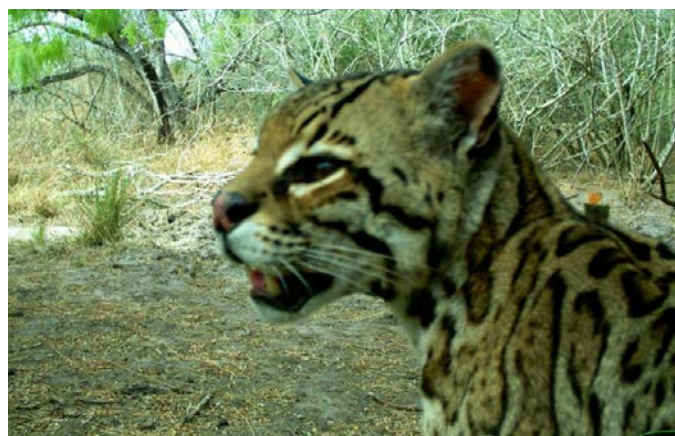
Seventy-five years ago, one of the last remnants of sub-tropical forest in the Rio Grande Valley was set aside for wildlife. About 15 miles south of McAllen, Texas, the forest sits at a juncture of east-west and north-south migratory routes for many bird species, and it marks the northernmost territory of many animals whose range extends down into Central and South America, like ocelots and jaguarundi.

Today, the 2,088-acre Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge is known as the crown jewel of the national wildlife refuge system. It has one of the highest rates of biodiversity of any landscape in the United States, with over 33 species of other mammals, 372 species of birds, 200 species of butterflies, 34 species of reptiles, and over 450 plant species.

This precious gem has been targeted as the first place the Trump administration plans to build its notorious wall.

In July 2017, workers from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers showed up at the refuge and used a drilling rig to take soil samples in preparation for constructing three miles of concrete levee wall and fence through the refuge.

If the wall is built, it will cut off the visitor's center from the remaining forest (whatever is not destroyed for the wall and surrounding roads). Visitors will lose access to 14 miles of trails as well as the world class birding that has drawn 165,000 people a year and made the refuge a driver of \$460 million in ecotourism to the local economy.



Most importantly, wildlife will be permanently trapped between the river and the wall. When the rivers rises, the refuge floods; in 2010, Santa Ana was underwater for four months, and many animals had to escape to higher ground. With the wall in place, they drown.

The Sierra Club predicts that walling off Santa Ana would drive the ocelot to extinction within the United States.

With hundreds of thousands of Dreamers facing deportation, it is understandable that the threats to wildlife have been overshadowed. However, we should understand that if the wall is funded, this unique landscape will be lost forever.

On Saturday, January 27, more than 600 activists rallied at Santa Ana to protest the destruction of this irreplaceable landscape and all the species it shelters. With negotiations underway right now about funding "the wall," now is the time to speak up on behalf of Santa Ana. Contact your senators and representatives, write letters to the editor, and raise awareness about what we stand to lose and why it matters: [click here for a list of action items](#).

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Kristina G. Fisher
AWF President

FEBRUARY 8, 2018 MEETING: Rock Litter Building Workshop

Thursday, February 8, 2018, 7:30 pm
Albuquerque Friends Meeting House
1600 5th Street Northwest

Workshop: Building Sturdy Fabric Rock Litters

AWF's first meeting of the year will be a workshop focused on constructing sturdy cloth rock litters for use at our restoration projects this year.

If you have attended restoration projects in the past couple of years, you may have used these handy tools to haul rocks to the site of a structure. They are lighter-weight than our older metal design, and easily allow two or more people to team up to move heavy rocks.

Several intrepid volunteers constructed AWF's current cloth rock litters, refining the design as they went. Now we are looking to build a bunch more for our 2018 projects (see next page for schedule!).

We'll have materials at the workshop, but if you have any of these items that you would like to contribute to the cause, please bring them:

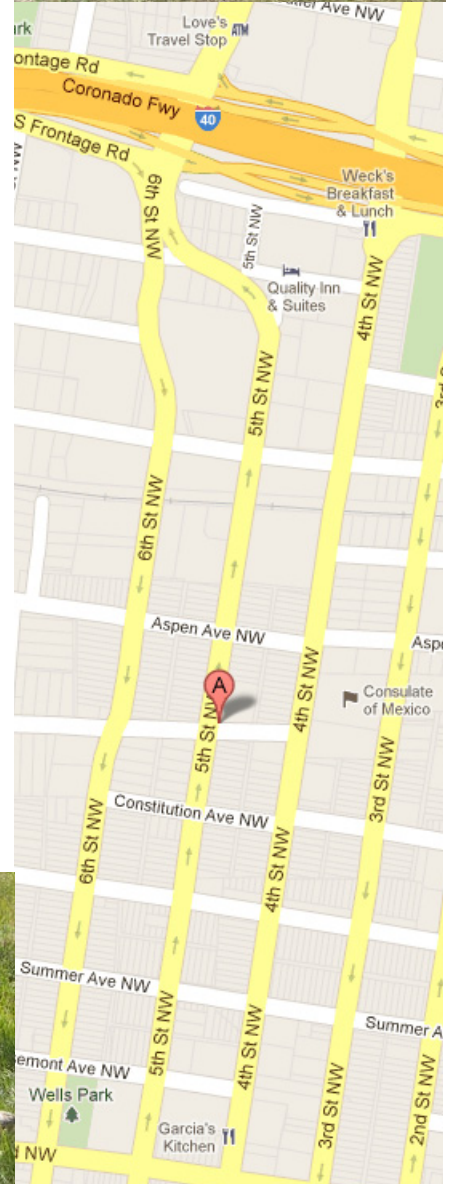
- rubber garden hose (for handles)
- sturdy rope
- shade cloth
- carpet scraps
- metal grommets

Useful tools to bring include:

- heavy-duty scissors and shears
- awl or heavy-duty hole punch

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.



SCHEDULE OF 2018 VOLUNTEER RESTORATION SERVICE PROJECTS

We are excited to announce this year's schedule of AWF volunteer restoration service projects!

In 2018, we will be working at a couple of new sites as well as returning to many of our treasured legacy sites across the state, where we can see how our efforts in past years have helped to heal damaged landscapes. We are very pleased to be planning these restoration projects in partnership with groups including Amigos Bravos, Defenders of Wildlife, Los Amigos de Valles Caldera, Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance, and the Quivira Coalition, among others, as well as the agencies that manage our public lands, including the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Service, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

As you know if you have joined us in the past, AWF's volunteer restoration projects are terrific opportunities to discover amazing places and work side by side with enthusiastic conservationists to restore them. We always have a lot of fun, and it is inspiring to see how our work can make a difference for wildlife.

So mark your calendars with the dates below, and we look forward to seeing you out on the land in 2018!



2018 SERVICE PROJECTS CALENDAR

March 17.....Day project at Valle de Oro
 April 6-8.....Wolf Creek, Ft. Union, NM
 May 4-6.....Red Canyon Reserve
 May 18-20.....Rio Mora Wildlife Refuge
 June 22-24.....Midnight Meadows near Questa, NM
 July 27-29.....Midnight Meadows near Questa, NM
 August 10-12.....Valles Caldera
 Aug 31-Sept 2.....Limestone Canyon, San Mateo Mtns
 September 28-30.....Cebolla Canyon near Grants, NM
 October 20.....Day project at Cedro Creek

AWF BOARD 2018

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UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Aldo Leopold Writing Contest for Students

ENTRIES DUE FEBRUARY 9, 2018

AWF is a proud supporter of the Aldo Leopold Writing Foundation's student essay contest. Students in grades 6-12 are invited to submit a story that reflects Leopold's land ethic. Learn more about the contest and how to participate at: <https://www.leopoldwritingprogram.org/youth-writing-contest/>



Aldo & Estella Leopold Residency for Writers

APPLICATIONS DUE FEBRUARY 28, 2018

An inspiring retreat for professional environmental writers at "Mi Casita", Aldo and Estella's first home in northern New Mexico, the Aldo and Estella Leopold Residency provides a one-month residency with stipend for writers and respected thinkers interested in reshaping the cultural story about the relationship between humans and Nature.

Learn more and apply at: <https://www.leopoldwritingprogram.org/residency-program/>

Wetlands Restoration at Leonora Curtin Wetlands

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2018, 9:30 a.m.

SANTA FE BOTANICAL GARDEN

Last fall a 6-acre stand of invasive Russian olive was removed from this wetland area to improve the ecology and wildlife habitat. Now volunteers are needed to remove wood and spread mulch debris to prepare the site for spring growth and additional restoration activities. Logs will be made available as firewood. For more info and to RSVP, email: yvonne@appliedeco.org

The Last Oil: A Multispecies Justice Symposium on Arctic Alaska

FEBRUARY 21-23, 2018

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO

Alarmed by potentially catastrophic Arctic energy policy, UNM will host an interdisciplinary multispecies justice symposium bringing to Albuquerque more than twenty leading artists, activists, attorneys, scientists, scholars from humanities, and writers. Most speakers will visit from Alaska, with a significant number of indigenous activists, artists and scholars. For more information: <https://nmwild.org/events-outings/110-the-last-oil>

2018 Land & Water Summit

FEBRUARY 22-23, 2018

**XERISCAPE COUNCIL OF NEW MEXICO,
Sheraton Airport Hotel, Albuquerque**

This year's focus: stormwater and tree canopy.

For more info and to register: <http://landandwatersummit.org/-l9Nit32qbXHOsZ2AISQ6ep-/>



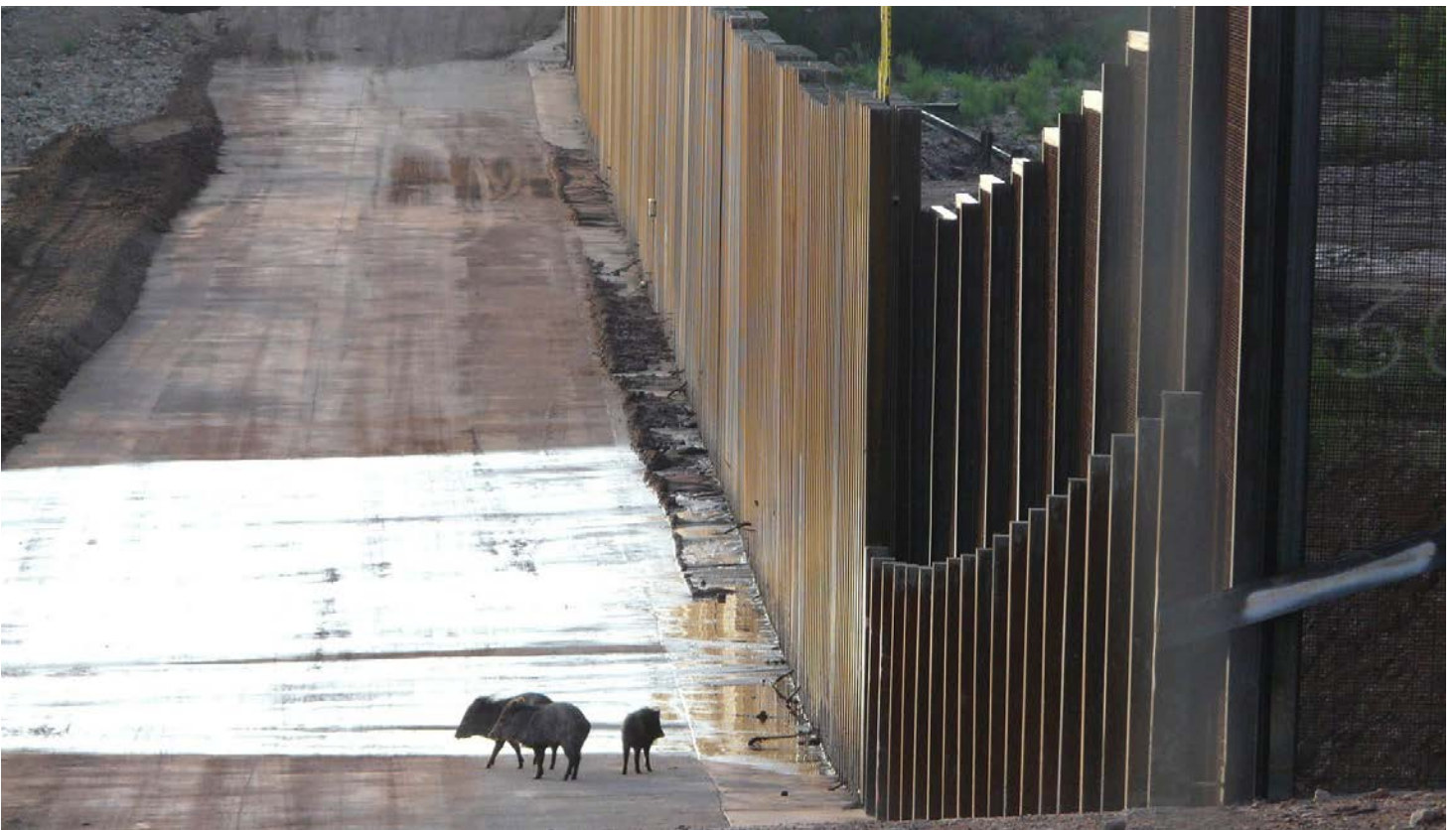
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MORE UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Volunteers Needed for Border Wildlife Monitoring

SOUTHWEST ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

The Trump administration has announced it intends to start building 20 miles of new border wall west of Santa Teresa, NM in mid-February. Since the federal government doesn't plan to do any monitoring of impacts of the wall on wildlife, we will. The Southwest Environmental Center is organizing a volunteer project to document the wildlife occurring in that area before, during and after construction of the wall. They are looking for volunteers to camp out once a week to observe and photograph wildlife at sunset and sunrise, as well as set up and manage overnight wildlife cameras. Training will be provided and the project will be coordinated with Border Patrol. For more info and to sign up, contact: jessica@wildmesquite.org.



2018 New Mexico Governor's Special Hunt Auction & Banquet

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2018, 5:00 p.m.

Expo NM Creative Arts Bldg, 300 San Pedro Dr. NE, Albuquerque, NM

Matt Dunfee, Director of Special Programs for the Wildlife Management Institute, will join the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish at the Governor's Special Hunt Auction and Banquet. Once again, the department will be raising money to benefit the Game Protection Fund of New Mexico.

For more information and to purchase tickets: <https://www.dscnewmexico.com/>

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 (under 18) _____ \$10
☐ Individual _____ \$25
☐ Family _____ \$35
☐ Sustaining _____ \$50-99
☐ Patron _____ \$100
☐ Lifetime _____ \$500 (one-time payment)

Dues: \$ _____

Extra Contribution: \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____