

THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque
WILDLIFE
Federation

conservationists since 1914

February 2015

Voices for Wildlife in the Policymaking Process

These are busy times for conservation-related policy-making at all levels of government.

On January 25, President Obama proposed designating more than 12 million acres in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) as wilderness, which would prevent oil and gas exploration in an area that has been the site of a heated battle between conservationists and extractive industries for over three decades.

At the same time, Representative Don Young (R-Alaska) introduced legislation that would amend the 1906 Antiquities Act to eliminate the President's authority to create new national monuments (like the Rio Grande del Norte and Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks monuments recently designated in New Mexico). Congress also passed a bill requiring the President to authorize construction of the Keystone XL pipeline, which would carry crude oil from the tar sands of Alberta, Canada to refineries on the Gulf of Mexico.

Meanwhile, at the state level, the 2015 legislative session is underway. On Thursday, January 29, over 250 sportsmen rallied at the Capitol to oppose efforts to transfer federal lands to the state. Such transfers have been proposed by legislation introduced in both the state House and Senate, as well as by newly elected Land Commissioner Aubrey Dunn. The New Mexico Wildlife Federation organized the



Sportsmen rally in the New Mexico Capitol building in January.

rally because these land transfers would reduce public access for sportsmen and recreational users, and the state is also much more likely to sell the lands to private interests, ending public access completely.

Other wildlife-related bills that have already been introduced this year include Senate Bill 82, which would ban the use of drones in hunting and Senate Bill 253, which would make New Mexico the second state in the nation to ban coyote-killing contests. (Both bills passed their first Senate Committee on February 3.)

From its founding, AWF has sought to educate its members about policies that affect New Mexico's wildlife and inform them of opportunities to become involved in the policymaking process. In next month's newsletter, we'll include a summary of all the legislation that has been introduced that would affect the state's wildlife, public lands, and natural resources. (In the meantime, you can look up bills and find contact information for your legislators at: <http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/default.aspx>)

Together, we can be an effective voice on behalf of New Mexico's wildlife and wild lands.

Kristina G. Fisher
AWF Vice-President

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FEBRUARY 2015 MEETING: WILDLIFE MOVIE NIGHT!

Thursday, February 12, 2015, 7:30 pm
Albuquerque Friends Meeting House
1600 5th Street Northwest

Event Description:

For our February meeting, AWF will show two short films. Director of one of the films, Katja Torneman, will skype in to the meeting to answer questions and discuss the making of “Anna, Emma, and the Condors” and her new film about Mexican gray wolves, “The Right to Be Wild,” which is still in production (more information available at: <https://www.indiegogo.com/projects/the-right-to-be-wild>).

Films:

Anna, Emma, and the Condors (20 minutes)

In a world of climate change and environmental challenges, two sisters, Anna and Emma, and their companions, the California Condors, stand out as a beacon of hope. The girls’ father, Chris Parish, is the director of the Condor Project for the Peregrine Fund at Vermillion Cliffs. Their mother, Ellen Parish is a teacher and leader for the organization Roots and Shoots, founded by Jane Goodall. Together, the girls and their parents work to reintroduce California condors back to the wild. This film is the 2013 winner of the Andrew Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Children’s Video.

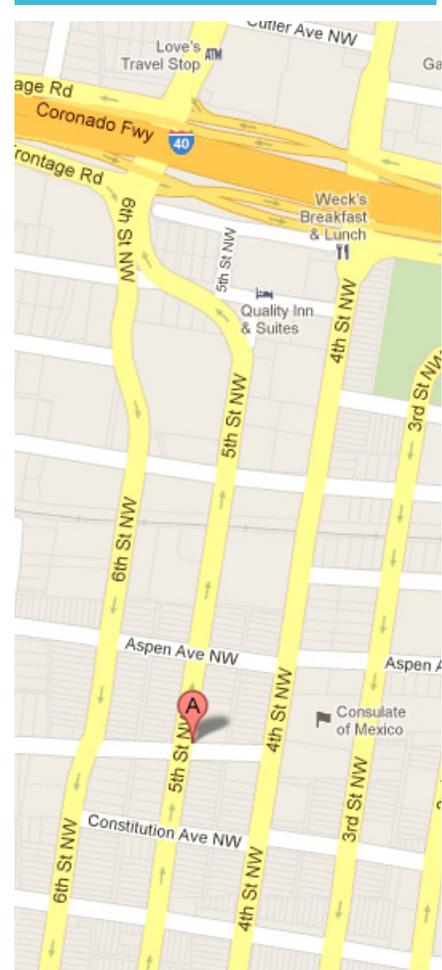
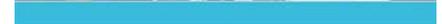
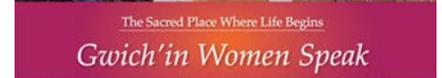
Director Katja Torneman is an award winning documentary filmmaker. She is originally from Sweden and lived in Chamonix, France before coming to the U.S. where she climbed “The Nose” on El Capitan, in Yosemite. Katja climbed professionally around the world and worked as a freelance photographer. Her photos and stories were published in magazines in Sweden, Spain, and England. During her travels, Katja’s passion for animals led her to care for animals that were abandoned, sick, hungry, and injured, providing medical care and finding them homes. She also saw the need to raise awareness around issues such as climate change and endangered species.

Gwich’in Women Speak (20 minutes)

The coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska is one of America’s greatest wilderness areas. It is the birthing and nursing ground for the Porcupine Caribou Herd, on which the Gwich’in people who are native to this region have depended for millennia. In their language, they call this land “The Sacred Place Where Life Begins.” Since 1986, this area has been threatened by oil and gas development. In this short film, Gwich’in women speak out for their sacred land and inspire audiences around the world to action. This film received the Audience Choice Award at the 2014 Earth Port Film Festival and was nominated for Best Documentary Short at the 2013 American Indian Film Festival. *Director Miho Aida, originally from Tokyo, Japan, is an environmental media artist, educator and outdoor adventurer in California.*

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.



UPDATE ON 2015 VOLUNTEER RESTORATION SERVICE PROJECTS

Mark Your Calendars!

The AWF board and projects committee members met last month to put together our schedule of volunteer restoration service projects for the year. We are aiming for six weekend camping projects and 2-3 day projects. The tentative schedule is listed below, with the first day project coming up next month (details to follow in the March newsletter).

These projects are terrific opportunities to discover amazing places and work side by side with enthusiastic conservationists to protect and restore them. We always have a lot of fun, and there are few things as fulfilling as making a positive difference on this beautiful landscape. If you haven't participated in a restoration service project before, or you haven't come out for a while, we hope you'll join us in 2015!



2015 SERVICE PROJECTS CALENDAR

- March 7.....Day project at Valle de Oro
- April 17-19.....Cebolla Canyon near Grants, NM
- May 15-17.....Rio Mora Wildlife Refuge
- June 19-21.....Midnight Meadows near Questa, NM
- July 17-19.....Valles Caldera II
- August 14-16.....Valles Caldera III
- September 11-13...Limestone Canyon, San Mateo Mtns
- October 17.....Day project in the Sandia Mountains

AWF BOARD 2015

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- President – Michael Scialdone*
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- Cameron Weber*
- Bill Zeedyk*

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Dave Foreman: The Great Conservation Divide

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2015, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS ALLIANCE, Santa Fe

As part of its "Hope for Wilderness" free speaker series, the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance presents Dave Foreman, who will be discussing his latest book, "The Great Conservation Divide: Conservation vs. Resourcism on America's Public Lands" at the Travel Bug in Santa Fe.

For more information: <http://www.nmwild.org/event/outdoors-in-the-southwest-an-adventure-anthology/>



12th Annual Tamarisk Coalition Conference:

Advancing Riparian Restoration in the West

FEBRUARY 10-12, 2015, Hotel Albuquerque, Albuquerque, NM

Despite its name, the Tamarisk Coalition's 12th Annual Conference is not just about tamarisk! Come learn about the latest advancements, including riparian restoration case studies, success stories, regional riparian management initiatives, and the challenges of funding, planning, and implementing riparian restoration, as well as presentations on novel tools, techniques, and research. Through concurrent sessions, panels, Q&A, and field trips, you will discover new information about wildlife and habitat, biological control, biomass removal/use, native plants, streambank bioengineering, and more. **The conference will include a presentation by AWF President Scial!** For more information and to register:

<http://www.tamariskcoalition.org/about-us/events/2015-conference>



Wildlife & Public Lands Day at the Roundhouse

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2015, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

NEW MEXICO STATE CAPITOL, Santa Fe

Tables and information available all day, press conference event at noon.

For more information email Dan Lorimier at daniel.lorimier@sierraclub.org

2015 Land & Water Summit

Watershed CPR: Restoring Natural, Built and Human Environments

FEBRUARY 19-20, 2015

XERISCAPE COUNCIL OF NEW MEXICO, Sheraton Airport Hotel, Albuquerque

New Mexico's watersheds are in great need of resuscitation and this year's Land & Water Summit will focus on ways to improve watershed health. The Summit will explore options for enhancing watershed management, reducing human impact through the efficient use of water, and illustrating the connections between the watershed and ALL of its inhabitants.

More info and to register: <http://xeriscapenm.com/>

Send your event information to: [abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com!](mailto:abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com)

SAVE THE DATE!

AWF is partnering with the Quivira Coalition and the New Mexico Environment Department to sponsor a special Wetlands Roundtable event in honor of AWF board member Bill Zeedyk's 80th birthday.

We hope you will join us on **Thursday, March 26, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Rotunda Meeting Room at the University of New Mexico Science and Technology Research Park, 801 University Blvd SE, (Park North, 1st Floor East), Albuquerque, NM.**
Refreshments will be served.

A celebration will follow at the Kaktus Bewing Company in Bernalillo.



The presentations will highlight many aspects of Bill Zeedyk's work in wetland and stream restoration, including: on-the-ground wetland improvements; development of new restoration techniques; teaching restoration techniques to others; and promoting volunteerism, collaboration, and partnerships.

The New Mexico Wetlands Roundtables are part of a Wetlands Program Development Grant from EPA Region 6 to the New Mexico Surface Water Quality Bureau's Wetlands Program. The Wetlands Roundtables foster partnerships and collaboration for the restoration and protection of wetlands and riparian resources in New Mexico. Wetlands Roundtables are conducted on a semi-annual schedule, and if you have not attended in the past, this is a great opportunity to see what the New Mexico Wetlands Roundtable is all about.

There is no cost to attend but RSVP's are required for this popular event. Please sign up at:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-mexico-wetlands-roundtable-highlighting-the-work-of-bill-zeedyk-tickets-15377488482>

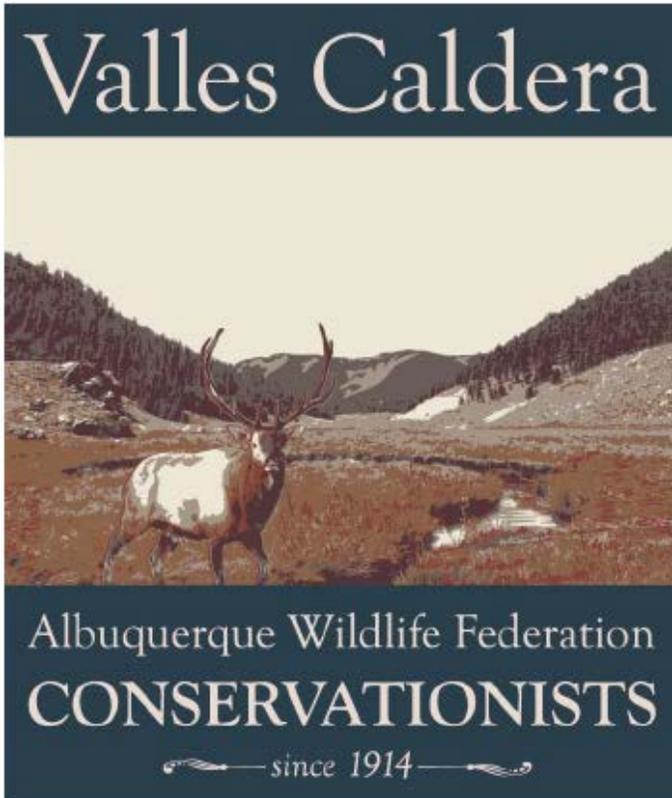
Use the password: Wetlands

Free parking for the event is available at the parking structure located one block west of the building on Baseheart Road. (See map at: http://iss.unm.edu/red/common/images/STPMaps/ScienceTechPark_Map.pdf)

Please contact Shelly Barnes at 505-827-2827 or michelle.barnes@state.nm.us for more information.

MAKE THE NEXT 100 YEARS POSSIBLE: JOIN THE ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION!

The Albuquerque Wildlife Federation has survived and thrived for over a century thanks to the dedication and generosity of generations of members. We encourage you to join this proud legacy by becoming a contributing member and helping support AWF's restoration service projects, monthly environmental education presentations, and other special events.



Along with becoming a member, you can support AWF's work by purchasing one of our Valles Caldera commemorative T-shirts, designed by graphic artist and AWF board member Stephen Bohannon. It is printed on an organic cotton shirt and available in sizes S, M, L, & XL.

Price: \$20 Shipping: \$5

To order, mail in the form below or email your order to: abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com



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: \$ _____
 T-shirt & Shipping: \$ _____
TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____