

THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque
WILDLIFE
Federation

conservationists since 1914

February 2019

Get involved in Legislation for Wildlife and the Environment!

Phil Carter, AWF board member and Wildlife Policy Coordinator for the Wildlands Network, brings us this report from the Roundhouse:

“This January, the 2019 state legislative session got off to a roaring start; now and through March 16 at the State Capitol in Santa Fe, lawmakers are considering new policies affecting environmental integrity in our state. With fresh faces in the state House and Senate and the new administration of Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham in office, there are vigorous legislative campaigns currently being undertaken that are of interest to wildlife and environmental advocates.

Below, you can read about some of the initiatives now being heard by committees and chambers of the state legislature. To lend your voice to the process, please contact your state Senator and Representative by visiting the state legislature’s website, www.nmlegis.gov, where you can find contact information, full language of bills, and the latest on these bills’ progress.

Senate Bill 228, the Wildlife Corridors Act, is a mandate directing state agencies—the New Mexico Game and Fish Department and the state Department of Transportation—to develop a Wildlife Corridors Action Plan. The bill, sponsored by Senator Mimi Stewart and Representatives Georgene Louis and Joanne Ferrary, will provide guidance to the state agencies in determining the factors affecting natural movement of wild animals, mitigating human-caused obstacles to this movement, and facilitating collaborative efforts to improve habitat connectivity in New Mexico.

House Bill 206, the Environmental Review Act, is sponsored by Rep. Gail Chasey and Sen. Mimi Stewart and applies new requirements on state agencies when permitting new projects, including environmental



analysis, notification of a permit application to interested parties, consultation with tribal stakeholders and interested parties, and the ability for injured parties to appeal decisions by agencies.

Senate Bill 76, Prohibit Coyote Killing Contests, criminalizes the act of participating in competitions to kill coyotes, events which are held annually around New Mexico. The bill, sponsored by Senators Mark Moores and Jeff Steinborn, will make it unlawful to organize, sponsor, or otherwise participate in these contests, which were recently prohibited on State Trust Land by Executive Order of State Land Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard.

House Bill 266, the Forest & Watershed Restoration Act, is sponsored by Rep. Paul Bandy and Sen. Peter Wirth. The act establishes a new state board—including members of the public appointed by the governor—under the Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) providing guidance on large-scale forest and watershed projects. The new board’s duties will include facilitating partnerships with public and private organizations for conservation and restoration and to evaluate and recommend projects to the Forestry Division at EMNRD. The act also creates the forest land protection revolving fund and dictates the fund’s use by the Forestry Division on state lands.

Phil Carter

SCHEDULE OF 2019 VOLUNTEER RESTORATION SERVICE PROJECTS

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

In 2019, we are planning to return to the Valle Vidal, where AWF organized volunteer projects for 29 years, as well as to many other legacy sites across the state where we will build on our past efforts 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 WildEarth Guardians, 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 remarkable places and work side by side with enthusiastic conservationists to restore them. We always have lots 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 come join us out on the land in 2019!



2019 SERVICE PROJECTS CALENDAR

March 2.....Day project at Valle de Oro
March 15-17.....Rio Mora Wildlife Refuge
April 19-21.....Wolf Creek, Ft. Union, NM
May 17-19.....Rio Mora Wildlife Refuge
June 7-9.....Valles Caldera
July 19-21.....Valle Vidal
August 16-18.....Midnight Meadows near Questa, NM
Aug 30-Sept 1.....Limestone Canyon, San Mateo Mtns
September 20-22.....Cebolla Canyon near Grants, NM
October 19.....Day project at Cedro Creek

AWF BOARD 2019

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MARCH 2, 2019 SERVICE PROJECT: Valle de Oro Wildlife Refuge

LOCATION: Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge in the South Valley of Albuquerque

THE PROJECT: Join AWF for our first volunteer project of the 2019 season! We will be partnering with WildEarth Guardians, Friends of the Valle de Oro, and others on this project at the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge.

Valle de Oro was once a working dairy farm, and it is now one of the nation's newest urban wildlife refuges. Lots of work is currently being done to improve habitat and visitor resources at the refuge. During this year's project, volunteers will be planting cottonwood and willow seedlings, removing invasive vegetation, and assisting with various other needs around the refuge.

SCHEDULE: 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Saturday, March 2, 2019

GEAR: For this project, you will need gloves, hat, long sleeves, long pants, sturdy boots, and sunscreen. Wear layers as the day may start off cool and warm up towards lunch.

FOOD: Please bring snacks and plenty of water/fluids.

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.*



UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Lands, Water and Wildlife Day at the Roundhouse

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2017, 8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

NEW MEXICO STATE CAPITOL, Santa Fe

This year's Land, Water, and Wildlife Day at the state capitol will feature citizen lobbyist trainings, informational tables from organizations around the state, speakers, and opportunities to visit with legislators to discuss the issues you care about.

For more information:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/473754826443832/>

Lands, Water and Wildlife Day at the Roundhouse

Wednesday, February 13, 2019

8am to 3pm

New Mexico State Capitol Building

490 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe, NM



Rally for New Mexico's Public Lands

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2017, 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

NEW MEXICO STATE CAPITOL, Santa Fe

Join the New Mexico Wildlife Federation and others for the annual Public Lands Rally at the state Capitol in Santa Fe. Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham and State Land Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard have been invited to speak. For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/397883694283261/>



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

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST *continued*

Bosque Action Team Talk by Todd Caplan

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 2019, 6:00 p.m.

RIO GRANDE SIERRA CLUB OFFICE, 2215 Lead SE, Albuquerque

Todd Caplan is a biologist specializing in habitat restoration who will talk about large scale restoration of the Rio Grande bosque. He headed up the Santa Ana bosque restoration, and, for GeoSystems, he wrote the restoration plan for the Central to Campbell Road stretch of the bosque. For more information:

<https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7010Z000001qpg4QAA&mapLinkHref=>



MountainFilm Telluride Film Festival

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2019, 7:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2019, 3:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO, Student Union Building

The UNM Wilderness Alliance is hosting the Telluride Mountainfilm Festival at UNM, featuring a collection of culturally rich, adventure-packed and enlightening documentary short films. For more information:

<https://unmevents.unm.edu/site/sac/event/mountain-film-festival---asunm-southwest-film-center/>

BEMP Crawford Symposium

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2019, 3:30-7:30 p.m.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO, Student Union Building

The Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program's (BEMP) Crawford Symposium is an annual conference held in honor of BEMP's co-founder Dr. Clifford Crawford to celebrate and showcase environmental research by both students and professionals along the Middle Rio Grande.

For more information: <http://bemp.org/crawford-symposium/>



Aldo Leopold Writing Contest for Students

ENTRIES DUE FEBRUARY 22, 2019

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, 2019

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/>

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: \$ _____