

THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque
WILDLIFE
Federation

conservationists since 1914

February 2023

Restoration at a Landscape Scale with the Rio Chama CFLRP

Stretching across northern New Mexico and southern Colorado is the Rio Chama Collaborative Forest Landscape Project, an ambitious effort to bring together diverse stakeholders to restore the health of nearly 4 million acres of public and private land.

The Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) was established by Congress and President Obama in 2009, with the goal of implementing collaborative, science-based ecosystem restoration on priority forest landscapes. There are now about two dozen CFLRP sites across the country, in which federal funds are being invested in landscape-scale restoration to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire, enhance forest health, and support rural economies.

The Rio Chama CFLRP stretches across 3.8 million acres from Jemez Pueblo to just south of Del Norte, CO. About half the acreage is on land managed by the U.S. Forest Service, while the rest encompasses tribal nations, land grants, other federal and state agencies, and private property. The project is overseen by a collaboration of stakeholders known as the 2-3-2 Cohesive Strategy Partnership, which is named for its place-based mission of preserving a landscape containing two watersheds (Rio Grande, San Juan), three rivers (Rio Chama, Rio Grande, San Juan), and two states.

The vast expanse of this project includes several sites of past and present AWF restoration projects, including



Valle Vidal, Valles Caldera, Stewart Meadows, and Rio de las Vacas in the Jemez.

Last year, the Rio Chama CFLRP was allocated \$3 million a year for the next ten years. Restoration and recovery work undertaken with these funds will be integral to securing watershed health for all of New Mexico—the CFLRP has conducted environmental analysis of over 450,000 acres under the purview of the Rio Grande Water Fund—as well as habitat connectivity in key Colorado-New Mexico corridors and improving resiliency in the face of increasingly severe wildfires.

As this ambitious restoration effort continues, we hope that there may be opportunities for AWF to contribute to the collaboration. For more information, visit fs.usda.gov/restoration/CFLRP.



Phil Carter
AWF Vice President

Inside this Issue:

| | |
|--|------|
| February Educational Presentation..... | pg 2 |
| 2023 Restoration Project Schedule..... | pg 3 |
| Events of Interest..... | pg 4 |
| Membership Form..... | pg 5 |

FEBRUARY 9, 2023 MEETING: The National Cave & Karst Research Institute

Thursday, February 9, 2023, 7:30 pm

Location: Online via Zoom

Topic: The Importance of Caves and Karst

This month we will learn about the important role that caves and karst play in our lives with a presentation from staff at the National Cave and Karst Research Institute (NCKRI), a nonprofit government-supported institute headquartered in Carlsbad, New Mexico. Almost 25% of America's groundwater comes from karst regions, yet most Americans have never heard of karst. Caves contain valuable data related to global climate change, groundwater supply and contamination, biomedical research, and more.

Speakers: Devra Heyer & Issam Bou Jaoude

Devra Heyer, Education Program Manager, spent 12 years as a teacher before going to work for the National Park Service. In her role as NCKRI's Education Program Manager, Devra combines her love of science and exploration with her passion for education. In understanding the formation and history of a cave, you learn chemistry, physics, paleontology, biology, microbiology, geology and even archeology, while applying mathematics and deductive reasoning. Devra's goal is to give the public context and relevance to karst, with relatable analogies, enticing visuals, and memorable experiences that further the understanding of the scientific processes and the fragility of this special environment.

Dr. Issam Bou Jaoude, Cave and Karst Specialist, earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Structural Geology at the American University of Beirut. After working and exploring the caves of the Middle East, he moved to Canada and completed his second Masters in Hydrogeology and his PhD at Queen's University in Ontario. He returned to Lebanon, working, teaching, exploring caves, and studying karst, before eventually ending up at the National Cave and Karst Research Institute in Carlsbad, NM.

Directions to the Online Meeting

To join this presentation from your computer, click this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81764966858?pwd=Q3lobnNuYzFVa29FNkVMaHJWQ1Vndz09>

The Meeting ID is: 817 6496 6858

The Passcode is: 072114

To join by phone, dial either of the following numbers: 1-253-215-8782 or 1-346-248-7799

Then enter the Meeting ID: 817 6496 6858

Then enter the Passcode: 072114



SCHEDULE OF 2023 VOLUNTEER RESTORATION SERVICE PROJECTS

This year, AWF is excited to be planning a dozen ecological restoration volunteer projects on public and private lands across the state! *(Please note that we are still confirming a few of the dates and locations below with our partner organizations and land management agencies; any updates to the schedule will be included in future newsletters.)*



As you know if you’ve joined us in the past, AWF’s volunteer restoration projects are terrific opportunities to discover remarkable places and team up with other enthusiastic conservationists to restore them. We have lots of fun, and it is inspiring to see how our work can heal damaged landscapes.

AWF is pleased to be planning these projects in collaboration with a wide array of partners, including Amigos Bravos, Hermit’s Peak Watershed Alliance, Impact Outdoors, Rio Grande Return, and New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors, among others, as well as several private landowners and the agencies that oversee our public lands, including the Forest Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service.

We are also continuing our ongoing effort to diversify the options and activities available for volunteers with roles like assisting with camp and kitchen duties (e.g., washing dishes, assisting with food prep, and looking after the group camp during the work day). So if you’d like to come out on a project but you aren’t up for moving rocks, we hope you’ll consider taking on a support role – just let us know when you RSVP.

We’ll be announcing the details of each upcoming project as usual in these monthly newsletters, along with information on how to RSVP to attend. We hope you’ll join us out on the land in 2023!

| 2023 SERVICE PROJECTS CALENDAR | |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| March 11..... | Valle de Oro Wildlife Refuge |
| April 7-9..... | Ft. Union Ranch |
| May 19-21..... | Rio Mora Wildlife Refuge |
| June 2-4..... | Manuelitas Creek |
| June 16-18..... | Rolling Hills Ranch |
| July 14-16..... | Gallinas Post-Fire Restoration |
| July 28-30..... | Valle Vidal |
| August 18-20..... | Midnight Meadows near Questa, NM |
| September 1-4..... | Limestone Canyon, San Mateo Mtns |
| September 15-17..... | Cebolla Canyon, El Malpais |
| October 20-22..... | Gutierrez Family Ranch |
| November 4..... | Rio Grande Bosque, Albuquerque |

| AWF BOARD 2023 | |
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UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Lands, Water and Wildlife Day at the Roundhouse

FEBRUARY 9, 8:00-3:00, New Mexico State Capitol, Santa Fe

All New Mexicans are invited to attend Lands, Water and Wildlife Day at the Roundhouse on February 9th, 2023. Join New Mexico Wild, the Sierra Club, and other grassroots organizations from across the state as we show up to support the passage of legislation defending New Mexico's Lands, Water and Wildlife! Check out informational tables from organizations around the state, hear from speakers, and visit with our legislators to discuss the issues you care about.

For more info: <https://www.nmwild.org/event/lands-water-and-wildlife-day-at-the-roundhouse/>

Mass Extinction: Art, Ritual, Story, and the Sacred

FEBRUARY 3, 17 & 24, 12:00-1:00, Online via zoom

The Institute of Sacred Music is hosting a series of webinars that explore topics relating to Mass Extinction: Art, Ritual, Story, and the Sacred. The talks are all offered via Zoom from 12-1 p.m. EST. Anyone is welcome to join, but advance registration is required.

For more info: <https://ism.yale.edu/news/mass-extinction-art-ritual-story-and-sacred>



Aldo Leopold Writing Contest for Students

ENTRIES DUE FEBRUARY 15, 2023

AWF is a proud supporter of the Aldo Leopold Writing Foundation's student essay contest. Students in grades 6-12 are invited to submit an essay on an environmental topic. Learn more about the details of contest and how to participate at: <https://www.leopoldwritingprogram.org/writing-contest.html>

Canoeing the Valles Caldera in Search of Fungi, Slime Molds, and Lichens



**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 6:00 p.m., Los Alamos
PAJARITO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER**

Relf Price has been studying the Valles Caldera for almost twenty years. In that time, two major fires and a long drought have affected the area. Relf will describe and show examples of the fleshy fungi, lichens, algae, slime molds and other important spore-producing organisms found in the Caldera.

For more info: <https://peechnature.org/events/details/?id=45362>

2023 Land & Water Summit

MARCH 1-3, 2023, Albuquerque

From traditional indigenous farming methods to Green Stormwater Infrastructure/Low Impact Development techniques for urban environments, we must rethink our approach to resource management as our environment changes. At this conference we'll hear from those on the front lines as they discuss local responses to climate change, and learn why collaboration is the key to a sustainable future in the wake of an inevitable shift in our climate. Speakers include AWF President Cameron Weber.

To register: <https://www.landandwatersummitnm.org/>

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: \$ _____