

THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque
WILDLIFE
Federation

conservationists since 1914

February 2024

Money Matters

During this year's 30-day legislative session, lawmakers aren't considering many substantive bills on environmental issues, but they are advancing some significant investments in conservation.

New Mexico is in the third year of a massive funding surplus due to unprecedented revenues from oil and gas extraction in the Permian basin. With billions of extra dollars flowing in to the state, legislators and the governor are seeking ways to invest those funds for the maximum long-term benefit of New Mexicans.

One such proposal is the Land of Enchantment Conservation Legacy Fund, which was launched last year. This fund is the state's first-ever dedicated source of dollars for conservation programs, including watershed and forest restoration efforts, outdoor recreation improvements, and wildlife species protection. It was initially funded with \$100 million; this year, the legislature is considering Senate Bill 9, which would add another \$300 million.

Another important investment is proposed in Senate Bill 111. This bill would allocate \$840,000 to enable the New Mexico Environment Department to regulate pollution in the state's streams, rivers, and wetlands. Those waters were formerly protected by the Clean Water Act, but last year, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the federal government could no longer protect waters that are not directly connected to navigable rivers or lakes. Under this ruling, the Clean Water Act no



longer protects 93% of New Mexico's waters.

With the funding proposed in Senate Bill 111, New Mexico can establish a state program to take the place of the federal protections that have been lost, shielding our natural waters from unregulated pollution.

If you are interested in contacting your legislator about either of these bills (or others), you can look up your legislators and their contact information at:

https://www.nmlegis.gov/Members/Find_By_Address_Redistrict

While it is exciting to see state lawmakers considering significant investments in conservation, it is also important to consider the other side of the balance sheet. The oil and gas extraction that is generating these record revenues causes immediate environmental impacts in the form of habitat destruction and the contamination of land and water with toxic substances. It also, of course, causes long-term damage to the climate, which New Mexicans are experiencing with hotter temperatures, less precipitation, and more severe storms, floods, and fires.

As we invest some of the funds from extractive activities in restoration and resilience, we also need to find ways to generate long-term sustainable funding for the state that does not come at such a high cost to New Mexico's environment.

Kristina G. Fisher
AWF Secretary

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FEBRUARY 8, 2024 MEETING: Soil Health and the Circular Economy

Date: Thursday, February 8, 2024, 7:30 p.m.

Location: **In Person** at the
Albuquerque Friends Meeting House
1600 5th Street Northwest

Topic: Can principles of circular economy and soil health principles meet the needs of land stewards?

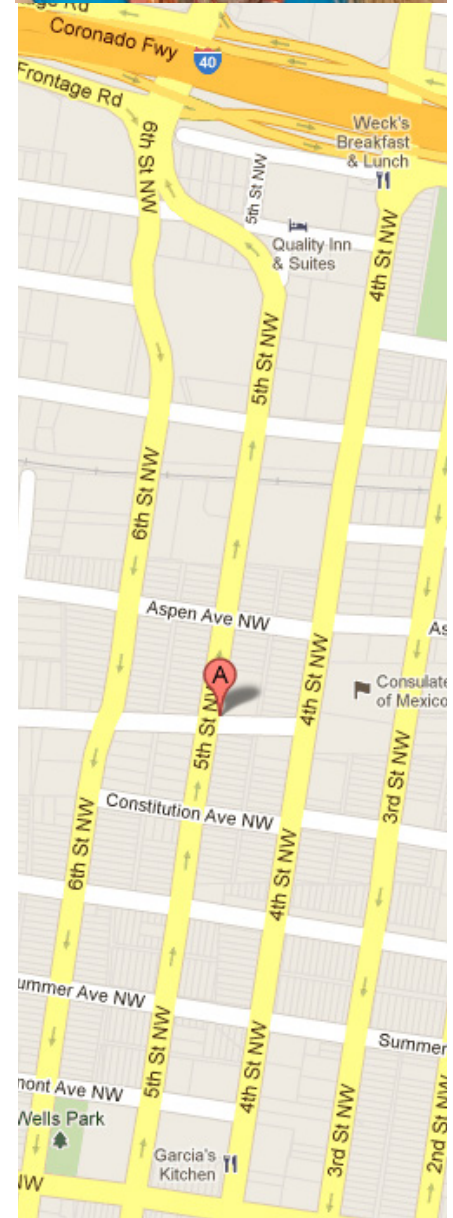
Eva Strickler will present a talk exploring how the principles of a circular economy and soil health principles can benefit land stewards. A circular economy is one in which materials never become waste, but are kept in circulation through processes like maintenance, reuse, refurbishment, remanufacture, recycling, and composting. Eva will present these concepts and soil health principles, and review some recent research and demonstration sites that help show how making and using things like compost and biochar can contribute to resilience and productivity in working landscapes.

Speaker Bio: Eva Stricker

Eva is the Carbon Ranch Director for the Quivira Coalition. She is a dry-land microbial ecologist with interests in how plant-microbe interactions in soil affect biogeochemical cycling such as carbon and nitrogen. Eva has a background in curriculum development for learners of all ages and backgrounds, such as through a science communication fellowship with the Explora Museum and a teaching assistantship that built ecology and evolution labs for the University of New Mexico Department of Biology. She has also trained in active listening and mediation as a way of better engaging with collaborators across all backgrounds. Eva was born and raised in New Mexico (weekends spent on a horse on her dad's property in La Puebla), explored the coasts for college and her masters, and came back to New Mexico for her PhD working with the Sevilleta Long Term Ecological Research Station. At the Quivira Coalition, she enjoys conducting field work around organic amendment research, developing curriculum, organizing, facilitating, and presenting outreach events such as in-field workshops and academic conferences, and overseeing and conducting technical support such as grant-writing.

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 2024 VOLUNTEER RESTORATION SERVICE PROJECTS

In 2024, AWF is excited to be planning nearly 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 with our partner organizations and land management agencies; any updates to the schedule below 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 this year's projects in collaboration with a wide array of partners, including Amigos Bravos, Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance, 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'll be announcing the details of each upcoming project as usual in these monthly newsletters, along with information on how you can RSVP to attend. We hope you'll join us out on the land in 2024!



2024 SERVICE PROJECTS CALENDAR

March 9.....Valle de Oro Wildlife Refuge
 TBD Day Project.....Chelenzo Farms, Cerrillos
 April 12-14.....Wolf Creek, Ft. Union Ranch
 May 17-19.....Rio Mora Wildlife Refuge
 May 31-June 2.....Rito Peñas Negras
 June 21-23.....San Antonio Creek, Jemez Mtns
 July 19-21.....Gallinas Post-Fire Restoration
 August 9-11.....Midnight Meadows near Questa, NM
 August 30-Sept 1.....Limestone Canyon, San Mateo Mtns
 October 4-6.....Cebolla Canyon, El Malpais
 October 26.....Cedro Creek, Tijeras

AWF BOARD 2024

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UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Native Seed Virtual Conference

FEBRUARY 7-8, online

The National Native Seed Conference (NNSC) is excited to announce a virtual conference in 2024! The NNSC connects research, industry, land management, and restoration professionals, providing the premier opportunity to develop relationships and share information about the collection, research and development, production, and use of native plant materials.

For more info and to register: <https://appliedeco.org/nnsc24/>



Environment Day at the Roundhouse

FEBRUARY 9, 8:00-3:30, State Capitol in Santa Fe

Join AWF and other community and fellow advocates for Environment and Climate Justice Day at the Roundhouse on Friday 9th, from 8:00 am to 3:30 pm. Overview of the day:

9:00 am – Sign in at the Sierra Club table on the West side of the Rotunda to receive your participant packet.

10:00 am – Lobbyist training in Room 303.

10:30 am – Meet with legislators and check out the informational booths from an array of environmental groups, state and city agencies, and solar energy companies staged through the Rotunda.

11:00 am-Noon – Climate Justice rally in the Rotunda, featuring kids, youth, bill sponsors and advocates.

Noon-3:00 pm – Watch House Floor sessions, attend committee hearings, visit with legislators.

Feel free to join for any part of the day, and Conservation Voters NM has an RSVP form at:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdI-RSANx1ujtnDMdUDWFS7RIDn0jUuiZwDUeYFXhOvR6sd4w/viewform>

The Revealing Science of Wildlife Tracking

FEBRUARY 10, 10:30-11:45 am, Rio Grande Nature Center, Albuquerque

Join Casey McFarland to learn about the science of wildlife tracking, why it transforms our experience of life on earth, and how we can easily learn to be proficient. Casey McFarland trains biologists, research teams, eco-tourism guides, and the public to read and interpret the tracks and signs of wildlife. For more info:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/801726051791659/>

Aldo Leopold Writing Contest for Students

ENTRIES DUE FEBRUARY 15, 2024, 6:00 pm

AWF is proud to be a supporter of the Aldo Leopold Writing Foundation's annual student essay contest, in which 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: <https://www.leopoldwritingprogram.org/writing-contest1.html>



Aldo & Estella Leopold Residency for Writers

APPLICATIONS DUE FEBRUARY 16, 2024

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.html>

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UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST *continued*

Beyond the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation Webinar

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 12:00-1:00 pm, online

Wildlife for All invites you to attend a webinar presentation by Dr. Anja Heister, PhD, taking a critical look at the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation (NAM). Anja will present highlights from her book, *Beyond the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation: From Lethal to Compassionate Conservation*. For more info and to register: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ZfCCoQbtTciToKam4TtlyQ#/

NM Coalition to Enhance Working Lands Annual Summit

FEBRUARY 29-MARCH 1, Albert J. Lyons Event Center, Truth or Consequences

NMCEWL & QUIVIRA COALITION

The NMCEWL Summit convenes agency and nonprofit staff, private sector professionals, ranchers, farmers, and others for an in-person gathering on collaboration in land stewardship. Our goal is to improve the ways we work together by listening and learning from each other, building strong relationships, and creating increased opportunities for collaboration. This year's focus is on agricultural supply chains – from soil health to the relationships that help bring food and fiber into communities – and the collaborations that support their strength. For more info and to register: <https://nmcewl.org/summit/>

Natural History of the Gila Symposium X

FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 1, Western New Mexico University, Silver City

The Natural History of the Gila Symposium's mission is to provide a venue for researchers, land managers, conservationists, and educators to meet and share information and ideas gathered from the Gila Region including watersheds and neighboring areas extending into southwestern New Mexico, southeastern Arizona and Mexico. For more info and to register: https://sites.google.com/view/gilasymposium/home?mc_cid=2e333ba6f2

Gila Wilderness Centennial Events from an Indigenous perspective

Event and information hub at: https://gilawildernesscentennial.wordpress.com/?mc_cid=2e333ba6f2

Leopold Week 2024: Natural, Wild, and Free

MARCH 1-8, eight free virtual speaker sessions

"Perhaps such a shift of values can be achieved by reappraising things unnatural, tame, and confined in terms of things natural, wild and free."

Aldo Leopold ended the foreword to A Sand County Almanac with this quote in March of 1948. His collection of essays reveals what "natural, wild, and free" meant to him back then. But what does it mean to us today? Join the Aldo Leopold Foundation for eight virtual lectures on March 1-8, 2024 to explore this question and discover how you can more deeply connect to the land community. (Includes a lecture on the Gila Wilderness at 6:00 pm on March 6!) For more info and to register: <https://www.crowdcast.io/c/leopoldweek24>



Send your event information to: abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com!

UNPACKING THE CARBON CREDIT CONUNDRUM



**SOIL CARBON
SOLUTIONS CENTER**
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



WEBINAR SERIES

Join us for a webinar series co-hosted by the Soil Carbon Solutions Center and Quivira Coalition. In conversation with producers, scientists and carbon market experts, we'll learn the basics of agricultural carbon markets, specific case studies, how to assess different carbon projects and ask the right questions, and emerging opportunities for producers in carbon and ecosystem service markets.

- 2/20: Carbon Markets 101
- 2/27: Carbon Market Case Studies (Grazing and Cropping)
- 3/5: Evaluating Whether a Carbon Project is Right for You
- 3/12: Emerging Opportunities in Carbon Markets and Beyond

Questions? education@quiviracoalition.org

Register: quiviracoalition.org/events/carbon



TUESDAYS

11 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. MT

**FROM FEBRUARY 20 -
MARCH 12**

Free



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: \$ _____