

# THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque  
WILDLIFE  
Federation

conservationists since 1914

January 2017

## The Last National Monuments?

*"I am glad I shall never be young without wild country to be young in." – Aldo Leopold*

On December 28, 2016, President Obama gave a parting gift to the nation: two new national monuments, the 1.35 million acre Bears Ears National Monument in Utah, and the 297,000 acre Gold Butte National Monument in Nevada.

Bears Ears is the first national monument that will be managed cooperatively by the federal government and a coalition of tribal nations. The Hopi Nation, Navajo Nation, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah Ouray, and Zuni Tribe formed the Bears Ears Intertribal Coalition two years ago and petitioned for the designation of the monument. The tribes were concerned about increasing vandalism of the more than 100,000 archeological sites in the area, including people defacing petroglyphs, driving off-road vehicles over ancient Puebloan ruins, and disturbing human remains. When President Obama issued the proclamation designating the monument, he required it to be managed in cooperation with the intertribal coalition.

For those of us who agree with Aldo Leopold's sentiment about the value of wild country, monuments like Bears Ears and Gold Butte ensure that future generations will have at least a little wild land left to wander, undisturbed by industrial oil, gas, and mineral development.



*Bears Ears, Tim Peterson*



*Gold Butte, Mason Cummings*

The monuments also provide critical breathing space for wildlife. Gold Butte is home to species including Mojave desert tortoise and Gila monsters, and it provides a corridor between Lake Mead and the Virgin Mountains for large mammals like desert bighorn sheep and mountain lions. Bears Ears shelters rare wildflowers, 15 species of bats, Mexican spotted owls, willow flycatchers, and Utah's only population of Abert's tassel-eared squirrels.

Unfortunately, if we do not act, these magnificent monuments may be our nation's last.

*continued on page 3*

### Inside this Issue:

Congratulations to AWF's 2017 Board!.....pg 2

Events of Interest.....pg 4

Membership Form.....pg 5

## 2017 VOLUNTEER RESTORATION PROJECTS

The AWF Projects Committee will be meeting on January 8, 2017 to plan the schedule of this year's volunteer ecological restoration service projects. If you have ideas for projects or would like to be involved in the planning process, please contact Scial at [rioscial@gmail.com](mailto:rioscial@gmail.com). The 2017 schedule of projects will be included in next month's newsletter.

## NO AWF MEETING IN JANUARY – SEE YOU IN FEBRUARY!

AWF is planning to revamp its educational program this year. Do you have ideas about speakers or topics you would like to learn about at AWF's monthly meetings, or ways we can expand the reach and message of AWF? Please email them to [abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com](mailto:abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com)!



## CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS TO THE 2017 AWF BOARD!

### AWF BOARD 2017

#### OFFICERS

*President – Kristina G. Fisher*  
*Vice President – Cameron Weber*  
*Treasurer – Laurie Marnell*  
*Secretary – Toby Rosenblatt*

#### DIRECTORS

*Braden Belliveau*  
*Stephen Bohannon*  
*Phil Carter*  
*Michael “Scial” Scialdone*  
*Bob Tilley*  
*Kristin Van Fleet*  
*Bill Zeedyk - Director Emeritus*

As an all-volunteer organization, AWF relies on its board to organize and lead our restoration service projects and educational presentations, as well as to sustain the mission of the organization from generation to generation.

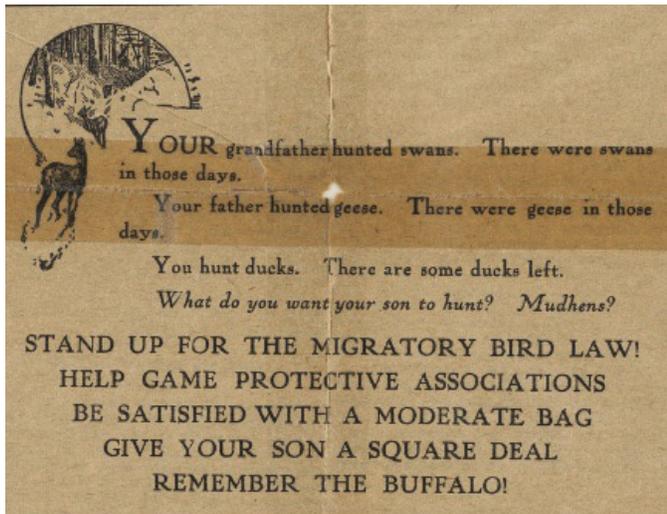
Our 2017 board was elected at the December 2016 potluck and annual member meeting. We thank many of last year's board members for continuing their service and welcome new board member **Braden Belliveau!**

A special note of thanks goes to long-time board members **Glenda and Dennis Muirhead**, who concluded their service this past year after two decades of remarkable leadership (including many years of service as President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer!). We will miss having them on the board, but we look forward to continuing to see them at many of AWF's meetings and restoration projects.

Finally, when **Bill Zeedyk** told us that he could no longer make it to monthly board meetings due to his move to Sapello, NM, the AWF board unanimously agreed to elect Bill our first-ever Director Emeritus. Bill has been a dedicated member of AWF's board for over three decades, and his restoration innovations remain the heart of AWF's work. We are deeply grateful that Bill will continue to guide our restoration efforts, and we look forward to working with him to take them to the next level with enhanced long-term monitoring and expanded outreach to new volunteers.

*continued from page 1:*

For several years now, Congressional Republicans have been pushing to repeal the Antiquities Act, the 1906 law empowering presidents to set aside national monuments. For 110 years, presidents of both parties have used the law to protect rare and precious landscapes from development and looting. Here in New Mexico, we enjoy national monuments like El Malpais, Gila Cliff Dwellings, White Sands, and Petroglyph National Monument thanks to the Antiquities Act.



The Antiquities Act matters because it is sometimes the only way to protect unique areas in the face of opposition from powerful special interests. The proclamation setting aside Bears Ears noted that it had been proposed for protection by members of Congress, Secretaries of the Interior, State and tribal leaders, and local conservationists for at least 80 years.” Yet despite the many voices calling for this area to be protected, Congress repeatedly failed to act.

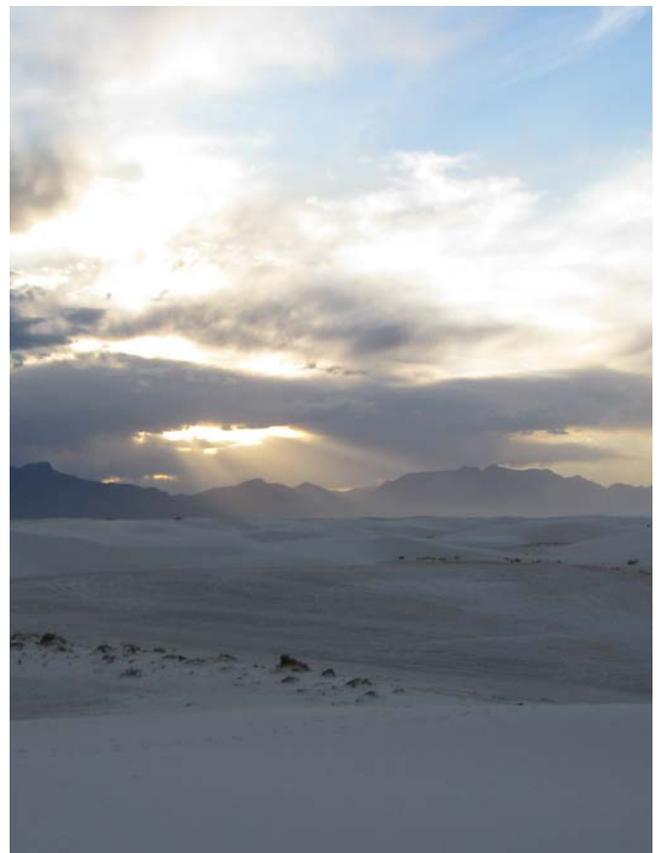
Now that Republicans have a majority in Congress and the White House, they may well succeed in their efforts to overturn the Antiquities Act and transfer federal lands to states or private interests. Congressman Rob Bishop (R-Utah), head of the House Committee on Natural Resources, is already urging President-elect Trump to abolish or shrink all 28 national monuments designated by President Obama, including New Mexico’s Rio Grande del Norte and Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monuments.

As Aldo Leopold could have told us a century ago, it is much easier to destroy than to conserve. Protecting landscapes and wildlife requires concentrated and coordinated efforts by the people who care about them.

Yet it can be done. Leopold and his contemporaries overcame steep opposition to enact laws regulating hunting and setting aside refuges so that our generation would have the opportunity to experience the raw wonder of encountering wildlife in our mountains, meadows, and bosques.

Now it is our turn to carry this legacy forward. Join me in asking your representatives and senators to defend the Antiquities Act ([the Wilderness Society has posted an action alert on this issue](#)) and to oppose the legislation that is sure to come that would sell off our nation’s natural heritage of public lands.

*Kristina G. Fisher*  
AWF President



## UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

### Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club: Citizen Lobbying Training

Las Cruces: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2017, 6:00 p.m.

Albuquerque: WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2017, 6:00 p.m.

Santa Fe: THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2017, 6:00 p.m.

Are you wondering how things work at the Roundhouse? Are you concerned about legislation that could harm New Mexicans and want to encourage forward-looking policy? Are you looking for a way to get involved? Learn how the Legislature works, what elected officials are thinking, the importance of their staff, and how to communicate your message effectively. For more information: <http://www.riograndesierraclub.org/events-calendar/>



### A Changing Climate

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2017, 7:00 p.m.

PAJARITO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER, Los Alamos

What do recent temperature climate studies reveal about future temperature trends? Why is there such variation in the predictions? Chick Keller, who has spent 25 years studying climate change and interacting with the leading scientists in the field, will give an update on climate science and lead a discussion with the audience about the issues and potential solutions. More info: <http://peecnature.org/events/details/?id=17929>

## Join the New Mexico Wildlife Federation for a Rally in Support of Our Public Lands!

**Wednesday, February 1, 11:00 a.m., State Capitol Building**

If you hike, camp, hunt, or fish on Forest Service and BLM lands, join the New Mexico Wildlife Federation for a rally in support of keeping these national lands in public hands. There is a growing movement to seize millions of acres of national public lands and turn them over to individual states, including New Mexico. If this happens, New Mexicans will lose access to lands we have enjoyed for generations. Tell policymakers that you oppose efforts to transfer our national forests, BLM, National Wildlife Refuges and other federal lands! For more info: <http://nmwildlife.org/program/public-lands-rally/>



Send your event information to: [abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com!](mailto: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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 T-shirt & Shipping: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
**TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**