

THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque
WILDLIFE
Federation

conservationists since 1914

January 2019

Waters of New Mexico

Last month brought good news and bad news for New Mexico's rivers.

First, the good: newly elected Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham pledged to end work on the Gila River diversion project.

"As governor, I will take whatever steps are available to withdraw the proposal for the diversion project and ask the Interstate Stream Commission to explore alternatives to diversion with local governments and stakeholders and develop appropriate plans," wrote Governor Lujan Grisham in her water policy plan. "I also will work with our Congressional delegation to ensure that the Gila River is protected by federal law."

A coalition of conservation and other organizations have come together to advocate for the headwaters of the Gila to be permanently protected with a federal Wild and Scenic River designation (the river equivalent of wilderness protections). You can learn more and sign onto a petition in support at: wildgilariver.org.

But while things are looking up for the Gila, the rest of New Mexico's waters are in trouble.

Last month, the Environmental Protection Agency proposed to repeal the federal "Waters of the United States" rule adopted under President Obama and roll back other water quality regulations that have been in place since the early 1990s. Under the revised rule, the



Clean Water Act would no longer apply to streams and rivers that are ephemeral, only running part of the year, or to wetlands that do not immediately connect to large bodies of water.

This proposed rule would strip Clean Water Act protections from about 60% of streams and wetlands nationwide, and nearly every waterway in New Mexico. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, of the 227,552 miles of streams in New Mexico, 215,824 miles – 95% – are intermittent or ephemeral. This includes pretty much every stream, arroyo, and wetland that AWF volunteers have worked to restore.

This news is disheartening, but it is not the end of the story. Just as conservationists have been working to protect the Gila River for generations, we will fight this new attempt to increase pollution in our waters. You can submit a comment opposing the rollback by [clicking here](#). You can also urge your legislators and the governor to enact state water quality standards that go above and beyond the levels set by the federal government. We have it within our power to protect not only the wild and wonderful Gila, but also every arroyo, wetland, and river that that sustains our communities, wildlife, and wild lands.

Kristina G. Fisher
AWF President

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2019 VOLUNTEER ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROJECTS

The AWF Projects Committee will be meeting this month 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. Look for the 2019 schedule of projects in next month's newsletter!



NO AWF MEETING IN JANUARY – SEE YOU IN FEBRUARY!

Do you have ideas about speakers, topics, or educational workshops you would like to see at AWF's monthly meetings? Please email any suggestions to abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com!



CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS TO THE 2019 AWF BOARD!

As an all-volunteer organization, AWF relies on its board to organize our restoration service projects and monthly educational presentations, as well as to carry forward Aldo Leopold's legacy into the next generation. We are grateful to all of last year's board members for continuing their service for another year!

AWF BOARD 2019

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UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST



JANUARY 10, Las Cruces High School, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

JANUARY 12, South Broadway Cultural Center, Albuquerque, 4:00-5:30 p.m.

In support of its ongoing work to ban coyote killing contests in New Mexico, Project Coyote and allies are hosting screenings of the award-winning documentary “Killing Games: Wildlife in the Crosshairs” in Las Cruces on January 10 (at Las Cruces High School, co-hosted by the Southwest Environmental Center) and in Albuquerque on January 12 (at the South Broadway Cultural Center). Dan Flores, author of *Coyote America: A Natural and Supernatural History*, and former Commissioner of Public Lands Ray Powell will be joining in Albuquerque, and State Senator Jeff Steinborn will join the panel discussion in Las Cruces.

To RSVP for the Las Cruces screening, [click here](#).

To RSVP for the Albuquerque screening, [click here](#).



ProjectCoyote.org

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST CONTINUED

Grassroots Advocacy Trainings with the Rio Grande Chapter of the Sierra Club

JANUARY 8, 9, 10, and 17; Locations Across New Mexico

An alliance of environmental, health, community, and social justice organizations will be working together to advocate for major environmental policies this legislative session, and citizen advocacy can make all the difference! Grassroots advocacy trainings will be held in Albuquerque, Aztec, Gallup, Las Cruces, Santa Fe, Silver City, and Taos. For the dates, times, and locations of each training, and to sign up to participate, visit:

<http://www.riograndesierraclub.org/lobby-training/>

Clean Energy Conference; Just Transitions Convergence

JANUARY 28, 2018, 2:00-9:00 p.m.

Temple Beth Shalom, 205 E Barcelona Rd, Santa Fe

The New Mexico Clean Energy Conference will be held the day before Clean Energy Day at the Roundhouse to help citizens prepare to lobby effectively for climate solutions at the New Mexico Legislature. The event will feature Goldman Environmental Prize winner Destiny Watford, who in high school successfully led a movement stop a trash-burning incinerator in her Baltimore neighborhood, as well as environmental journalist Laura Paskus. For more info: <https://act.sierraclub.org/events/details?formcampaignid=7010Z0000027GoKQAU>

<https://www.newenergyeconomy.org/jtc2019>



Clean Energy Day at the New Mexico Legislature

JANUARY 29, 2018, New Mexico State Capitol

Join groups working to advance renewable energy legislation during the 2019 legislative session. For more info: <https://www.facebook.com/events/277197326457643/>

Aldo Leopold Writing Contest for Students

ENTRIES DUE FEBRUARY 9, 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 re-shaping 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!](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 _____ \$10
- Individual _____ \$25
- Family _____ \$35
- Sustaining _____ \$50-99
- Patron _____ \$100
- Lifetime _____ \$500 (*one-time payment*)

Dues: \$ _____

Extra Contribution: \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____