

THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque
WILDLIFE
Federation

conservationists since 1914

June 2020

A Chance to Keep the Gila Wild and Free

On May 7, 2020, Senators Tom Udall and Martin Heinrich introduced the M.H. Dutch Salmon Greater Gila Wild and Scenic River Act, which would protect about 440 miles of the Gila and San Francisco rivers.

The fight to save New Mexico's wild Gila River has spanned generations. Since 1946, there have been a series of proposals to dam the river and divert its water to human uses. The most recent serious attempt started about 15 years ago, and the threatened diversion led American Rivers to designate the Gila as the most Endangered River in America last year.

But the Gila River, and those who have dedicated their lives to protecting it (like the late Gila advocate Dutch Salmon), has proven remarkably resilient. It remains the only wild, undammed river in New Mexico – and with its tributaries, it constitutes the largest remaining network of naturally flowing river segments in the Southwestern U.S.

The Gila is rich with life, home to the rare Gila trout and more than 300 species of birds, including the endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, threatened Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Common Black Hawk, Montezuma Quail, and Elf Owl. It is also a haven for people, with outstanding recreational opportunities for fishing, hunting, backpacking, and floating. The Grant County



Commission voted to support a Wild and Scenic designation for the river because it supports such a vibrant outdoor recreation economy.

The Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, passed in 1968 as a sequel to the Wilderness Act, protects designated rivers in their free-flowing state, preventing any new development that substantially alters a river's natural state, like mining, oil and gas drilling, and dams.

Back in 1924, Aldo Leopold convinced the U.S. Forest Service to set aside half a million acres of wild country as the Gila Wilderness, creating the nation's first protected wilderness area. Thanks to his vision, this landscape remains much as it was during Leopold's time.

Nearly a century later, we have a chance to finally protect the river that lies at the heart of this wilderness. Learn more at wildgilariver.org, and [contact Senators Udall and Heinrich](#) to express your support for their effort to keep the Gila flowing wild and free.

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Kristina G. Fisher
AWF Secretary

JUNE 11 2020 VIRTUAL FIRESIDE CHAT & PROJECT UPDATE

Thursday, June 11, 2020, 7:30 pm

Location: Online!

Directions to the Online Meeting

Join AWF’s board for another virtual fireside chat and update on our restoration project plans.

We will send out a link to our newsletter email list the week of the virtual meeting with instructions for how you can log on and join us.

Topic: Fireside Chat & Project Update

It was wonderful to see so many of you during our virtual fireside chat in April! While it wasn’t as much fun as hanging out with you all around a real campfire after a satisfying day of restoration work, it was still heartening to reconnect with our AWF volunteer community and look ahead to when we can be together in person again.

So we hope you will join us once again! We’ll send out a link and instructions for how to join us for another virtual get-together the evening of **Thursday, June 11**.

During this meeting, we’ll update you on our progress toward resuming AWF’s restoration projects, and we hope to hear from you about anything you’d like to share.

As of right now, we are aiming to restart our volunteer restoration projects in about six weeks, with the **July 17-19** weekend in the **Valle Vidal**. We are in touch with our agency partners at the Forest Service about how we can manage that project safely and responsibly, and establish a model for continuing AWF’s vital restoration – and community-building – work in a covid-positive world.



2020 SERVICE PROJECTS CALENDAR

March 7.....Day project at Valle de Oro

July 17-19.....Valle Vidal

August 21-23.....Midnight Meadows near Questa, NM

September 4-6.....Limestone Canyon, San Mateo Mtns

September 18-20.....Wolf Creek, Ft. Union Ranch, NM

TBD.....Jemez Mountains

October 24.....Day project at Cedro Creek

AWF BOARD 2020

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ACTION ALERT & UPCOMING *VIRTUAL* EVENTS OF INTEREST

Action Alert: Speak Up For Mexican Gray Wolves by June 15!



The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) issued a request for comments on April 15, 2020, beginning a 60-day period for the public to provide input on proposed changes to the Management Rule that guides many aspects of how the FWS fulfills its obligation to recover the Mexican gray wolf to a sustainable wild population.

Several groups are making it easy for people to submit comments encouraging the FWS to make sure that Mexican gray wolves have the chance to recover and thrive:

[Click here to learn more and comment on MexicanWolves.org](https://www.mexicanwolves.org)
[Click here to comment through the Wildlands Network](https://www.wildlandsnetwork.org)
[Click here to comment through the Center on Biological Diversity](https://www.biodiversitycenter.org)

Society for Ecological Restoration Wednesday Webinars

WEDNESDAYS from 11:00 am-12:00 pm Mountain time

Every Wednesday from 11:00 am-12:00 pm, join the Society for Ecological Restoration for a live webinar focused on a range of restoration topics, from road ecology to selecting native plants for restoration projects. Sign up at: <https://www.ser.org/news/494576/Wednesday-Webinars.htm>

New Mexico Wild-Live

NEW MEXICO WILDLIFE CENTER

Follow the New Mexico Wildlife Center on Facebook for live-streamed presentations with their ambassador animals. For example, on Tuesday, June 2 at 2:20 p.m., check out “What are the Differences between Hawks & Vultures?” and get a close-up view of a Turkey Vulture and a Red-tailed Hawk.

NMWC Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/NewMexicoWildlifeCenter/>



Wildlife Conservation & Habitat Enhancement on the Pueblo of Santa Ana - Livestreamed Talk

TUESDAY, JUNE 9, 7:00-8:00 P.M.

PAJARITO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

Glenn Harper, Range and Wildlife Division Manager for the Pueblo of Santa Ana’s Department of Natural Resources, discusses the habitat enhancement and restoration projects happening on the Pueblo of Santa Ana. More info: <https://peechnature.org/events/details/?id=35837>

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: \$ _____