THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Tune 2023

Rivers at Risk

This spring, the nonprofit American Rivers named the Rio Gallinas one of the ten most endangered rivers in the nation, highlighting the massive degradation of water quality, loss of vegetation, and decreased soil stability caused by the Hermit's Peak-Calf Canyon fire, which scorched a majority of the river's watershed. American Rivers noted that the river and the communities that depend on it are not only dealing with the aftermath of the fire, but also face ongoing risks from climate change and outdated forest and watershed management practices.

Last week, a new threat was added when the Supreme Court issued a ruling that dramatically narrowed the protections of the federal Clean Water Act. The court ruled 5-4 that the Clean Water Act only applies to wetlands that have a "continuous surface connection" with navigable rivers (despite the fact that the text of the Act says it also applies to "adjacent wetlands").

This new definition means that only 7% of New Mexico's waterways are now protected by the Clean Water Act. The other 93% of our wetlands, streams, and rivers can be polluted without consequence. Nationwide, the ruling stripped protections from 118 million acres of wetlands, an area larger than the state of California.

As the threats to our water grow, so does the need for all of us to step up as water protectors.

We can pursue change through policy solutions. New Mexico is one of only three states that does not have its

Inside this Issue:

June Educational Presentationpg 2
June Project at Rolling Hills Ranch pg 3
Recap of May Restoration Projectpg 4
Events of Interestpg 6
Membership Formpg 7



own state program to protect water quality, which can fill the gaps left by the decimation of the Clean Water Act. During the 2023 legislative session, lawmakers appropriated \$680,000 to begin establishing these state protections, but our state environmental agencies will need much more funding and additional staff get the job done properly. We can join our friends at Amigos Bravos in demanding that the legislature and governor make this a top priority.

We can also pursue change through on-the-ground resstoration and community education, the work that AWF specializes in. Next month, we will be working with the Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance on a postfire restoration project in the Rio Gallinas watershed, building structures to capture sediment, keep it out of the river and use it to enhance vegetation and wildlife habitat. As we bring volunteers out on the land and show them these techniques, we teach youth, landowners, and community members how and why it matters to keep our wetlands and rivers clean and healthy.

Wildfires and court rulings can bring rapid, widespread destruction. Repairing the damage, by contrast, can be a long and painstaking process. Yet it can also be a process that brings out the very best of us, drawing on our creativity, vision, and generosity as we come together to protect the waters that sustain our lives.

Kristina G. Fisher AWF Secretary

JUNE 8, 2023 MEETING: Tribal Forest Management, Fire, & Wildlife

Date: Thursday, June 8, 2023, 7:30 p.m.

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

Topic: Tribal Forest Management Practices, Wildfire, and the Mexican Spotted Owl

Dr. Serra Hoagland will discuss her research on how tribal forest and fire management practices impact the survival of threatened and endangered species like the Mexican spotted owl, which she has studied extensively on Mescalero Apache forest lands.

Speaker Bio: Dr. Serra Hoagland

Dr. Serra Hoagland (Laguna Pueblo) currently serves as the Tribal Relations Specialist for the USDA Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS) of the USDA Forest Service. She focuses on building local, regional and national partnerships with tribes and intertribal organizations, mentoring students in natural resources, and conducting research that is relevant to Native communities.

In 2022 Serra detailed as the National Program Lead for Tribal Research for the USFS and in 2021 with Region 4 as the Regional Tribal Relations Program Manager. Prior to joining the RMRS she worked as a Biological Scientist and as the Tribal Relations co-point of contact for the Southern Research Station in Asheville, North Carolina. Serra began her Forest Service career working on the Lincoln National Forest in 2010 as a SCEP wildlife biologist trainee.

As the first Native American to graduate from Northern Arizona University with a PhD in forestry, Serra studied Mexican spotted owl habitat on tribal and non-tribal lands in south-central New Mexico. In 2020, Dr. Hoagland was nominated for a professional of the year award and was selected as the most promising scientist by the American Indian Science & Engineering Society. Over the years, she has been actively involved with the Society of American Foresters, the Intertribal Timber Council, the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society as well as The Wildlife Society.

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.



JUNE 16-18, 2023 SERVICE PROJECT: Rolling Hills Ranch

LOCATION: Rolling Hills Ranch near Anton Chico and Dilia, NM

THE PROJECT: AWF is partnering with Impact Outdoors to continue our shared restoration work on the Rolling Hills Ranch. This historic ranch has been in the Martinez family for many generations, and the family is implementing rotational grazing and other sustainable management methods to improve habitat on the ranch for both livestock and wildlife. Our work this year will focus on putting up fencing to keep cattle out of wetlands and waterways.

SCHEDULE: Friday, June 16 - Sunday, June 18

Volunteers do not need to be present for the entire weekend to participate. You are welcome to join us just for the work day Saturday, or camp for just one of the two nights.

GEAR: Bring everything you need for a weekend of camping and restoration work, including work gloves, hat, long sleeves, long pants, sturdy boots, and sunscreen. We recommend bringing a change of shoes, and waterproof boots or boots you don't mind getting wet or muddy. Rain gear, warm clothes for the evenings and plenty of water are essential.

FOOD: Impact Outdoors is providing breakfast for volunteers on Saturday. We will share a potluck meal on Saturday evening. Please bring a dish to share for the Saturday potluck dinner, along with your own lunches, Friday dinner, Sunday breakfast, and lots of water!

TO SIGN UP: Email Cameron at cameron.weber@gmail.com *Directions and further details will be sent to you once you sign up.*

2023 SERVICE PROJECTS CALENDAR

March 11Valle 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			



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RECAP OF MAY 19-21, 2023 PROJECT: RIO MORA WILDLIFE REFUGE

Thanks, Volunteers!

Abe Aufdermauer Peter Callen **Phil Carter** Sebastian Chavez-Ortega **Dawn Cummings** Steven del Favero **Candace Duran Russ Duran** Kristina G. Fisher Tera Gambill Lia Griesser Gianna Hernandez **Chandra Hill** Jessica Lanham Janey Manry Megan May **Ryan Mason** Amy Nash Peter O'Brien Ian Alicia Perry Shantini Ramakrishnan **Toby Rosenblatt Khayman Simmons** Elan Solowej Sean Solowej Hamish Thomson **Bob Tilley** Alina Valdez **Cameron Weber** Jacob White James Woodburn



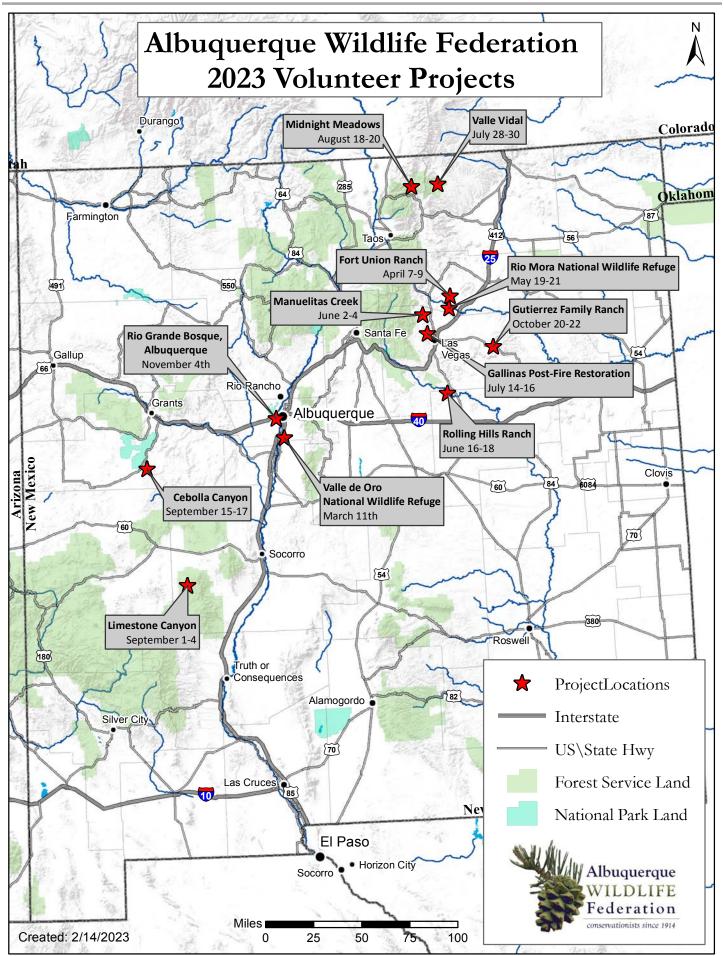


AWF volunteers returned to Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge last month to continue our work building rock restoration structures in some of the canyons and arroyos that feed the Rio Mora. We were joined by a group of students studying conservation at Denver Community College, who were eager to apply the concepts they were learning to hands-on work in the field.

Volunteers worked in East Falcon Canyon and Silva Canyon, repairing structures including a large Zuni bowl that AWF volunteers had constructed several years ago, adding layers to one-rock dams and baffles, and filling small sidecuts with juniper branches. The vegetation growth throughout the system was impressive, and it was great to see many of AWF's earlier structures successfully capturing sediment and nurturing grasses and willows.

On Sunday morning, several volunteers helped maintain the Juniper Trail, the first public trail on the refuge. The trail showcases AWF's restoration work in the Loma Parda drainage, with informational signage explaining the many rock structures visitors can see in the channel alongside the trail. We encourage you to check it out when you're in the neighborhood, and join us in continuing the restoration work next year!





UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

FotoFauna in New Mexico JUNE 6, 5:00 p.m., online SKY ISLAND ALLIANCE

Sky Island Alliance is bringing its community wildlife monitoring project, FotoFauna, to New Mexico and you're invited to join the project! Help expand our growing network of cameras in habitat across the Southwest and northern Sonora. Since 2020, our volunteers have established more than 300 camera points in Arizona and Sonora to monitor our re-

gion's iconic mammals such as pronghorn, mountain lions, black bears, and skunks. At this webinar, our staff will explain how to get started with FotoFauna and how the data you collect can help advocate for wildlife in your area — whether you live near the Peloncillos, Animas, or Sierra San Luis in the southwest corner or any-where else in the state. To register for the webinar:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcrd-6trjwtGNcFTPaHSEO14uDnXpOozHQ7#/registration



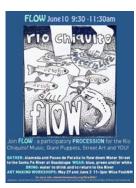
Agave Planting Party SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., Cerrillos, NM CHELENZO FARMS

Help Chelenzo Farms and its ongoing ecosystem restoration, education and research efforts by helping plant 240 agave plants (6 different species); 75 dasylirion wheeleri ("desert spoon," which makes sotol), as well as 100+ cholla and cactus. The project is part of an overarching effort to restore soil health, control soil erosion, re-introduce native plants and drought -resistant crops, cultivate pollinator habitats, increase biodiversity, mitigate climate change, and save the world! Lunch provided for all participants For more info and to sign up:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScsTHVk5Hmfk0urO1soOIMF7Rw0W1j9PCh4UMbPAZ0C6c5H2w/viewform

FLOW: Participatory Procession for the Rio Chiquito SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 9:30-11:30 a.m., Santa Fe, NM

FLOW is a procession of giant puppets, street theatre, music, poetry, dance and ceremony running from the source Spring at the northwest corner of Paseo de Peralta and Alameda, following the Rio Chiquito (now Water Street) to its confluence with the Santa Fe River near the Guadalupe Church. FLOW offers free public arts workshops May 27 and June 3 at Wise Fool NM, (1131 B Siler Road) to engage, educate and inspire all community members about Santa Fe's water and water history. At these workshops, we'll share histories of the Rio Chiquito and the Santa Fe River as inspiration for puppets, banners, movement and poetry about water and the Rio Chiquito. For more info: https://wisefoolnewmexico.org/flow2023/

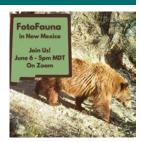


Santa Fe Botanical Garden 10-Year Anniversary Events JUNE 17-18, Santa Fe, NM

The Santa Fe Botanical Garden is celebrating its 10th anniversary with a series of events, including a free day for New Mexico residents on Sunday, June 18 and a lecture and tour of restoration work by Jan Willem-Jansens on Saturday, June 17 from 11:00-1:30. For more info:

https://santafebotanicalgarden.org/event/lecture-lunch-and-tour-with-jan-willem-jansens/

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

I'd like to join AWF!				
address:				
 Student Individual 	\$10 \$25			
Family			Dues: \$	
 Sustaining Patron 	\$50-99 \$100		Extra Contribution: \$	
☐ Lifetime	\$500 (one-time payment)		TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$	