

THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque
WILDLIFE
Federation

conservationists since 1914

June 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depend on it are not only dealing with the aftermath of the fire, but also face ongoing risks from climate change and outdated forest and watershed management practices.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



Gallinas Village, Jacob Erickson, HPWA

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 restoration and community education, the work that AWF specializes in. Next month, we will be working with the Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance on a post-fire 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.

Inside this Issue:

June Educational Presentation.....	pg 2
June Project at Rolling Hills Ranch.....	pg 3
Recap of May Restoration Project.....	pg 4
Events of Interest.....	pg 6
Membership Form.....	pg 7

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

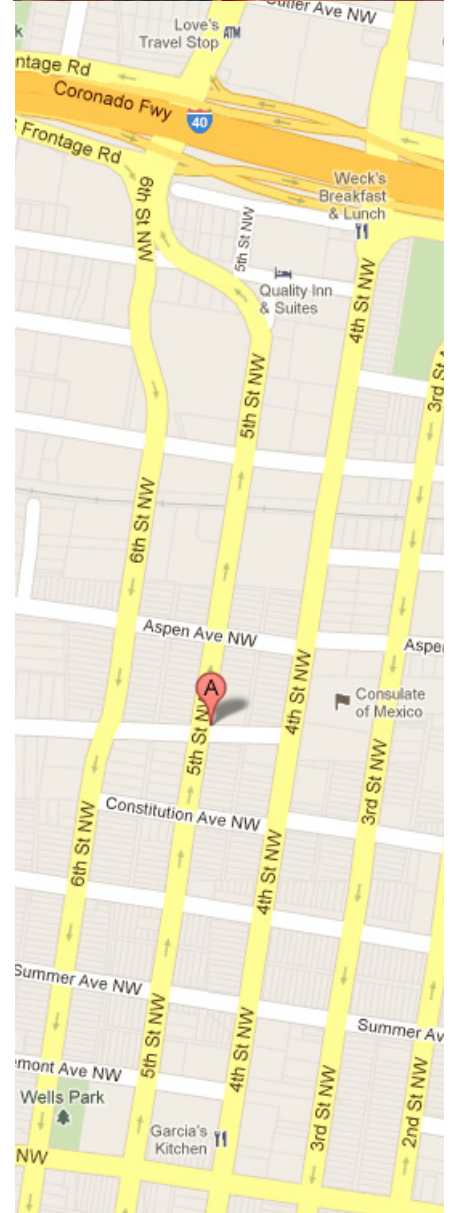
Dr. Serra Hoagland (Laguna Pueblo) currently serves as the Tribal Relations Specialist for the USDA Rocky Mountain Research Station (RMRS) of the USDA Forest Service. She focuses on building local, regional and national partnerships with tribes and intertribal organizations, mentoring students in natural 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 11.....Valle 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

AWF BOARD 2023

OFFICERS

- President – Cameron Weber*
- Vice President – Phil Carter*
- Treasurer – Laurie Marnell*
- Secretary – Kristina G. Fisher*

DIRECTORS

- Abe Aufdermauer*
- Steven del Favero*
- Lia Griesser*
- Toby Rosenblatt*
- Barbara Rosensimon*
- Michael “Scial” Scialdone*
- Sean Solowiej*
- Hamish Thomson*
- Bob Tilley*
- Bill Zeedyk - Director Emeritus*

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.

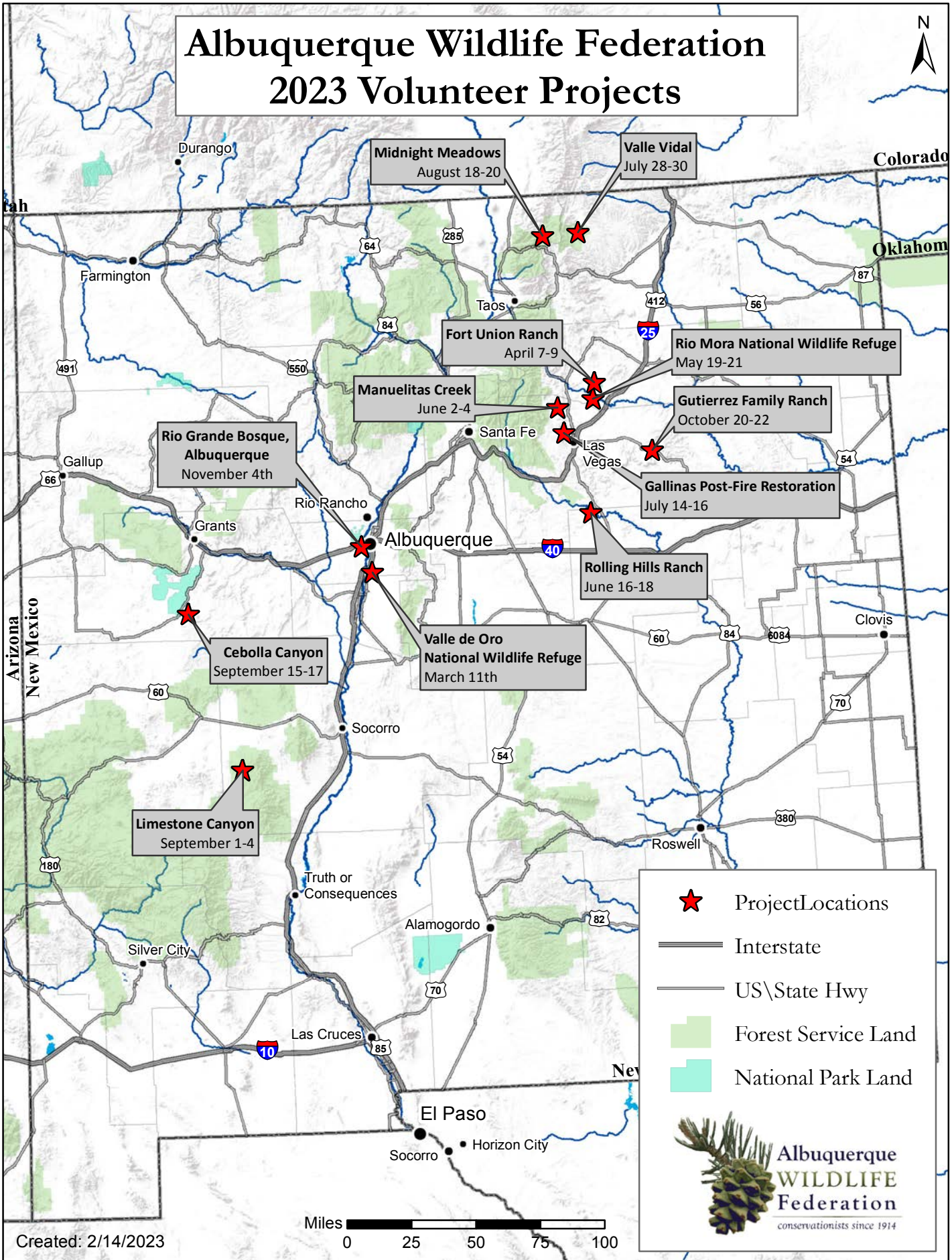
Volunteers worked in East Falcon Canyon and Silva Canyon, repairing structures including a large Zuni bowl that AWF volunteers had constructed several years ago, adding layers to one-rock dams and baffles, and filling small sidecuts with juniper branches. The vegetation growth throughout the system was 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!



Photos by Kayla Feist/USFWS, Kristina Fisher & Tera Gambill

Albuquerque Wildlife Federation 2023 Volunteer Projects



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: \$ _____