

THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque
WILDLIFE
Federation

conservationists since 1914

March 2015

Bulldozers in the Bosque

On February 9, 2015, the City of Albuquerque began bulldozing a six-foot wide trail through the Rio Grande bosque between Central Avenue and the I-40 bridge.

This action came as a shock to many, since the City had held a series of meetings to try to reach community consensus about how to increase public access to the bosque, and had pledged to solicit public input on trail design and construction. Instead, the bulldozing began before a final plan had been released or presented.

Wildlife advocates have several concerns about the trail, which widens an existing footpath and covers it with crushed rock. Most importantly, the trail closely hugs the riverbank for a substantial portion of its length. The riverbank is the most environmentally sensitive area of the bosque, heavily utilized by birds and other wildlife. Increasing human use in this area will almost certainly have a detrimental effect on these species.

On February 18, the City Council voted 5-3 to demand that construction work on the trail cease, but the Mayor stated that he planned to veto the resolution and continue the work on the trail. A crowd of about 150 people turned



out to support the City Council, including AWF's Treasurer Laurie Marnell, representing our concerns.

AWF has been an advocate for the protection of the bosque since 1918, when we enacted a resolution calling for creation of a public park on the banks of the Rio Grande through Albuquerque. (In 1983, New Mexico lawmakers created the 4,300-acre Rio Grande Valley State Park, a 53-acre section of which is dedicated to AWF founder and bosque advocate Aldo Leopold.)

It is very disappointing that the City chose to disregard public input and the needs of wildlife in the bosque that lies at the heart of our community. New Mexicans since the time of Aldo Leopold have treasured this special place. We at AWF intend to continue working to honor and perpetuate Leopold's legacy of balancing human use and wildlife protection in this unique ecosystem.

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Kristina G. Fisher
AWF Vice-President

MARCH 7, 2015 SERVICE PROJECT: Valle de Oro Wildlife Refuge

LOCATION: Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge in the South Valley of Albuquerque

THE PROJECT: Join AWF for our first volunteer project of the 2015 season! We will be partnering with our friends at the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge in the South Valley of Albuquerque, where we held AWF's terrific 100th birthday celebration last July.

Valle de Oro was formerly a working dairy farm, and it is now one of the nation's newest wildlife refuges. In preparation for lots of habitat restoration work over the coming months and years, AWF will be helping clean up debris around the entrance to the refuge. We will also be partnering with the State Land Office to complete some restoration work in the bosque adjacent to the refuge, such as clearing invasive vegetation.

SCHEDULE: 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., Saturday, March 7, 2015.

GEAR: For this project, you will need gloves, hat, long sleeves, long pants, sturdy boots, and sunscreen. Bring layers as it will likely start off cool and warm up towards lunch.

FOOD: Please bring a lunch, snack, and plenty of water/fluids.

TO SIGN UP: Contact Scial at rioscial@gmail.com or 505-480-2906. *Directions and further details will be sent to you once you sign up.*



2015 SERVICE PROJECTS CALENDAR

- March 7.....Day project at Valle de Oro
- April 17-19.....Cebolla Canyon near Grants, NM
- May 15-17.....Rio Mora Wildlife Refuge
- June 19-21.....Midnight Meadows near Questa, NM
- July 17-19.....Valles Caldera I
- August 14-16.....Valles Caldera II
- September 11-13...Limestone Canyon, San Mateo Mtns
- October 3.....Day project on Glorieta Mesa
- October 17.....Day project in the Sandia Mountains

AWF BOARD 2015

OFFICERS

- President – Michael Scialdone*
- Vice President – Kristina G. Fisher*
- Treasurer – Laurie Marnell*
- Secretary – Toby Rosenblatt*

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- Bill Zeedyk*

MARCH 2015 EDUCATIONAL SPEAKER: Michael “Scial” Scialdone

Thursday, March 12, 2015, 7:30 pm
Albuquerque Friends Meeting House
1600 5th Street Northwest

Topic:

River & Bosque Restoration in the Middle Rio Grande Valley

The Rio Grande and its adjacent vegetation, the bosque, have gone through dramatic changes in the past 150 years. Decimation of the watershed from severe overgrazing in the late 1800's sent excessive sediment loads into the Rio Grande, causing the riverbed to rise (aggrade). This made the river more prone to flooding adjacent towns, particularly in the Albuquerque area. The need for irrigation combined with the need for flood control and an age of extensive ditch and levee building ensued. Added to this mix were jetty-jacks to further channelize the river and the planting of non-native trees to stabilize banks. Cochiti Dam came online in 1973 and now lack of sediment from above dominates the behavior of the Rio Grande.

Endangered species, including the silvery minnow, Southwestern willow flycatcher, and now the yellow-billed cuckoo, speak to how all these changes have altered habitat. Bosque fires in the early 2000's were a wake-up call to how non-native trees like Russian olive and salt cedar have changed the vegetation structure of the bosque. Efforts to deal with these issues are occurring throughout the Middle Rio Grande Valley.

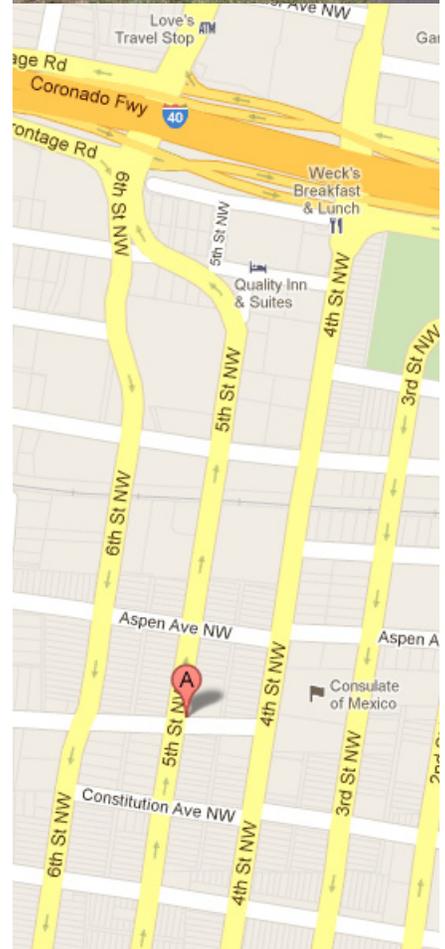
This talk will look at what is being done to create floodplain and native habitat, the complications of these projects, and what the future may hold for the Rio Grande.

Speaker Bio:

Michael Scialdone (“Scial”), AWF’s President and Projects Committee Chair, grew up in El Paso, TX and received his Environmental Science degree from Sul Ross State University. Located in Alpine, TX, its backyard is Big Bend National Park, still one of his favorite places. His travels led to an interest in public lands issues, particularly in the environmental impact of human uses. He currently serves as Bosque Project Manager for the Pueblo of Sandia.

Directions to the Meeting:

The Albuquerque Friends Meeting House is located at the corner of 5th and Bel- lamah. From I-40, take the 6th street exit, then South to Bellamah.



WETLANDS ROUNDTABLE CELEBRATING BILL ZEEDYK!

AWF is partnering with the Quivira Coalition and the New Mexico Environment Department to sponsor a special Wetlands Roundtable event in honor of AWF board member Bill Zeedyk's 80th birthday.

We hope you will join us on Thursday, March 26, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Rotunda Meeting Room at the University of New Mexico Science and Technology Research Park, 801 University Blvd SE, (Park North, 1st Floor East), Albuquerque, NM.

Refreshments will be served.

A celebration will follow at the Kaktus Bewing Company in Bernalillo.



The presentations will highlight many aspects of Bill Zeedyk's work in wetland and stream restoration, including: on-the-ground wetland improvements; development of new restoration techniques; teaching restoration techniques to others; and promoting volunteerism, collaboration, and partnerships.

The New Mexico Wetlands Roundtables are part of a Wetlands Program Development Grant from EPA Region 6 to the New Mexico Surface Water Quality Bureau's Wetlands Program. The Wetlands Roundtables foster partnerships and collaboration for the restoration and protection of wetlands and riparian resources in New Mexico. Wetlands Roundtables are conducted on a semi-annual schedule, and if you have not attended in the past, this is a great opportunity to see what the New Mexico Wetlands Roundtable is all about.

There is no cost to attend but RSVP's are required for this popular event. Please sign up at:
<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-mexico-wetlands-roundtable-highlighting-the-work-of-bill-zeedyk-tickets-15377488482>

Use the password: Wetlands

Free parking for the event is available at the parking structure located one block west of the building on Baseheart Road. (See map at: http://iss.unm.edu/red/common/images/STPMaps/ScienceTechPark_Map.pdf)

Please contact Shelly Barnes at 505-827-2827 or michelle.barnes@state.nm.us for more information.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Wrenched: The Movie

THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 2015, 6:30 p.m.

PAJARITO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER, Los Alamos

Jack Loeffler will introduce the film and answer questions at this special screening of "Wrenched" at the Reel Deal Theater in Los Alamos. Cost: \$10 adults, \$8 seniors/students. For more information:

<https://peecla.z2systems.com/np/clients/peecla/event.jsp?event=6322>



Valle de Oro Open House: Wonders of Wind

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2015, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Join the Valle de Oro for a celebration of wind! Learn how plants use the wind to pollinate and spread seeds, how scientists measure wind speed and bring a kite to display in the clear blue sky.

For more information: contact teresa_skiba@fws.gov

Truchas Chapter of Trout Unlimited: Annual Banquet

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2015, 5:00 p.m.

The Truchas Chapter of Trout Unlimited will hold its annual banquet on March 14, 2015 at the Hotel Santa Fe Hacienda and Spa in Santa Fe. Guest speaker Bill Edrington will explain how hard work turned the Arkansas River, which had heavy metal mining contamination until 1993, into the #1 fished river in Colorado and the #1 whitewater recreation river in North America in just 20 years. Tickets: \$5.

For more information: <http://truchas-tu.squarespace.com/2015banquet/>



Restoration Along the Rio Grande at Buckman

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2015

RIO GRANDE CHAPTER of the SIERRA CLUB, Santa Fe

Help trim growth along the old Chile Line Rail bed by the Rio Grande at the foot of Buckman Road and tour recent restoration efforts with Alan Hamilton, who runs the nonprofit Rio Grande Return.

For more information: contact Norma McCallan 505-471-0005.

Volunteer Work and Monitoring Weekend at Red Canyon Reserve

MAY 1-3, 2015

QUIVIRA COALITION'S RED CANYON RESERVE, near Socorro, NM

The Red Canyon Reserve is dedicated to land restoration activities and the preservation of wildlife. Volunteers will assist with fence checking and repair, cleaning and refilling the wildlife drinkers, and completing with the annual land health monitoring.

More info: http://quiviracoalition.org/Land_Water_Program/2015_Restoration_Workshops/index.html

Send your event information to: [abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com!](mailto:abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com)

Thanks to our renewed and lifetime members!

Your dues make AWF's volunteer restoration projects and monthly educational presentations possible. If you haven't yet renewed your membership for 2015, it's not too late! Just complete the membership form on the last page of this newsletter or on our website (<http://abq.nmwildlife.org/>).



Arnold Atkins
Sam Beard
Larry Blair
Pamela Bliss
Stephen Bohannon & Kristin Van Fleet
John & Helene Dickel
Barb & Rich Diver
Larry Dwyer
Brian & Beth Dykstra
Kristina G. Fisher & Phil Carter
David & Valeria Fugate
Steve Glass
Amanda Harper
Laura Harper
Jim Hickerson
Jim & Marjorie Hubert
Bob Jenks
Dale A. Jones
Dick Kreiner
Ron & Ellen Loehman
Laurie Marnell
Joyce & Cliff Mendel
Dewey Moore & Shelley Roberts
Chaz Moxley
Dennis & Glenda Muirhead
Toby Rosenblatt
Peter Rothfeld
Kent Salazar
Michael Scialdone
Warren Scoggins
Ellen Seusy
Marilynn Szydowski
Hamish Thomson
Bob Tilley
Art Vollmer
Cameron Weber
Bill Zeedyk & Mary Maulsby

2015 NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

From the time of its founding by Aldo Leopold, AWF has encouraged its members to be informed and active about policies that affect wildlife and wild lands. With that in mind, we have prepared the following summary of legislation related to wildlife and natural resources that has been introduced during the 2015 Legislative Session.

Members of the public are always welcome to attend legislative committee hearings and express their support for or opposition to a bill. If you are interested in following the progress of a particular bill, there is a bill-tracking feature available on the legislature's website at: <http://www.nmlegis.gov/lcs/roundhouse/> and you can find contact information for your legislators at: <http://capwiz.com/thinknewmexico/state/main/?state=NM&view=myofficials#0>



This year's 60-day legislative session ends at noon on March 21, 2015.

House Bill 38

Representative Paul Bandy & Senator Peter Wirth

Sets aside \$15 million a year for forest and watershed restoration across the state.

House Bill 97, Representative Jimmie Hall

Restricts convicted felons to bow hunting (no guns).

House Bill 98, Representative Jimmie Hall

Requires the Game & Fish Department to report annually on game populations and lands recommended for purchase or sale.

House Bill 109, Representative McCamley

Requires power lines to be located within designated corridors to minimize impacts.

House Bill 141, Representative Lundstrom

Creates a new property tax valuation for private lands designated for public recreation.

House Bill 157, Representative McCamley

Requires that a minimum of 20% of loans and grants from the Water Project Fund go to conservation.

House Bill 161, Representative Alcon

House Bill 566, Representative Johnson

Senate Bill 251, Senator Clemente Sanchez

Appropriates \$300,000 to reclaim old uranium mines.

House Bill 188

Representative Smith & Senator Sapien

Imposes stricter penalties for violations of rules governing the mining of sand, gravel, and rock aggregate.

House Bill 190

Representative Smith & Senator Sapien

Excludes small mining operations from regulation under the New Mexico Mining Act.

House Bill 199, Representative Bandy

House Bill 366, Representative Gentry

Senate Bill 601, Senator Griggs

Prohibits local governments from enacting ordinances restricting oil and gas production.

House Bill 201, Representative Baldonado

Adds tilapia to the list of fish species regulated by the state game commission.

House Bill 202, Representative Baldonado

Allows minor game and fish violations to be remedied by paying a penalty rather than appearing in court.

House Bill 203, Representative Baldonado

Provides a 50% discount to on hunting and fishing licenses to New Mexico veterans or active duty military.

House Bill 235, Representative Bandy

Senate Bill 226, Senator Martinez

Prohibits people from walking or wading onto private property in public waters (streams/rivers) without the landowner's express written consent.

House Bill 291, Representative Herrell

Senate Bill 483, Senator Sharer

Senate Memorial 6, Senator Woods

Studies the transfer of federal public lands to the state.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE CONTINUED

House Bill 423, Representative Nunez
Senate Bill 398, Senator Campos
Updates rules on allowing livestock to roam at large.

House Bill 426, Representative Gonzales
Prohibits the use of traps or poisons on public lands.

House Bill 468, Representative Roch
Asserts that Lesser Prairie Chickens are not subject to protection under the Endangered Species Act.

House Bill 474, Representative Bandy
Allows the use of funds in the Fire Protection Fund for watershed restoration.

House Bill 549, Representative McQueen
Limits the use of eminent domain to acquire land for oil and gas pipelines.

House Bill 563, Representative Steinborn
Creates a commission to establish a Rio Grande Trail along the Rio Grande from Colorado to Texas.

House Bill 586, Representative Cook
Removes cougars from the list of regulated game species so they could be killed without limit.

House Memorial 1, Rep. Roybal Caballero
Requires Energy, Minerals & Natural Resources Dept to post on oil and gas permits and violations.

House Memorial 45, Representative McQueen
Requests EMNRD to support opportunities to restore watersheds for Rio Grande cutthroat trout.

House Memorial 66, Representative Baldonado
Requests an end to the Mexican gray wolf recovery program and compensation for ranchers.

House Memorial 64, Representative Roch
Seeks to protect state lands from the listing of the Lesser Prairie Chicken as an endangered species.

House Memorial 81, Representative Baldonado
Senate Memorial 91, Senator Morales
Studies prohibiting hunting wildlife with drones.

House Memorial 99, Representative Nunez
Requests the federal government to turn over management of Mexican gray wolves to the state Game and Fish Department.

House Memorial 114, Representative Gomez
Requests Game and Fish to issue more hunting tags allowing landowner to kill elk causing crop losses.

Senate Bill 73, Senator Soules
Senate Bill 215, Senator Soules
Restricts private landowners from killing game that may threaten crops.

Senate Bill 82, Senator Morales
Prohibits the use of drones for hunting.

Senate Bill 231, Senator Shendo
Allows the Game & Fish Department to adopt rules to recruit and train outdoor volunteers.

Senate Bill 253, Senator Moores
Prohibits coyote killing contests in New Mexico.

Senate Bill 254, Senator Clemente Sanchez
Makes it 4th degree felony to kill large game species out of season or without a license.

Senate Bill 288, Senator Griego
Exempts humate mines from regulation under the state Mining Act.

Senate Bill 455, Senator Cervantes
Requires the Interstate Stream Commission to prove that the state has the technical and financial capacity to build a Gila River diversion.

Senate Bill 461, Senator Morales
Requires the ISC to spend at least \$77 million on conservation projects on the Gila River

Senate Bill 542, Senator Rue
Limits the Interstate Stream Commission's authority to approve large projects like the Gila River diversion.

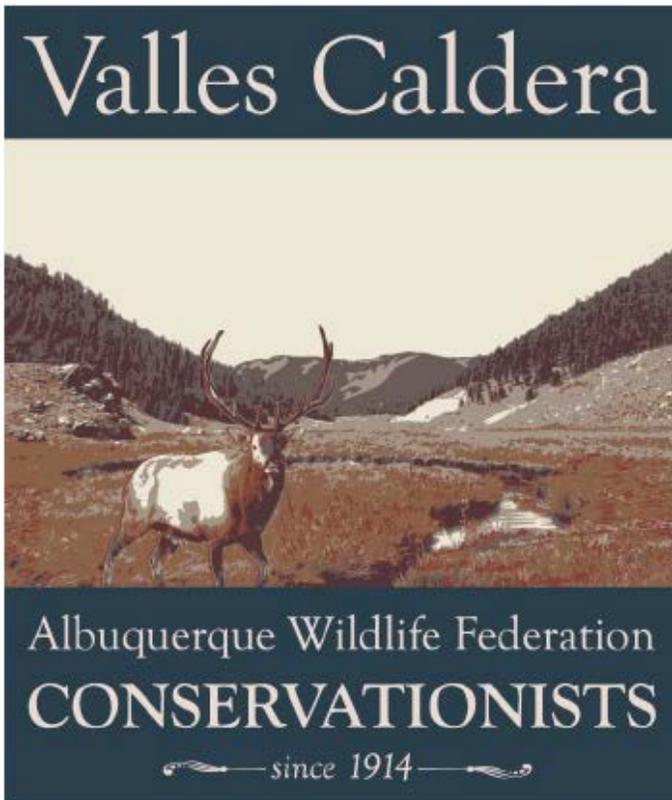
Senate Bill 547, Senator Rue
Requires the State Land Trust Advisory Board to review proposals to sell or exchange state land; adds members appointed by the Governor and Legislature.

Senate Memorial 40, Senator Griego
Requests that the federal government designate no more wilderness adjacent to the Pecos Wilderness.

Senate Memorial 55, Senator Soules
Honors New Mexico's public lands.

MAKE THE NEXT 100 YEARS POSSIBLE: JOIN THE ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION!

The Albuquerque Wildlife Federation has survived and thrived for over a century thanks to the dedication and generosity of generations of members. We encourage you to join this proud legacy by becoming a contributing member and helping support AWF's restoration service projects, monthly environmental education presentations, and other special events.



Along with becoming a member, you can support AWF's work by purchasing one of our Valles Caldera commemorative T-shirts, designed by graphic artist and AWF board member Stephen Bohannon. It is printed on an organic cotton shirt and available in sizes S, M, L, & XL.

Price: \$20 Shipping: \$5

To order, mail in the form below or email your order to: abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com



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: \$ _____