

THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque
WILDLIFE
Federation

conservationists since 1914

March 2019

New Mexico's Largest Expansion of Wilderness in 40 Years

"I am glad I shall never be young without wild country to be young in." –Aldo Leopold

The last couple years have been hard times for our public lands, with the president attempting to shrink national monuments, national parks being trashed during a prolonged government shutdown, and Congress authorizing oil and gas extraction in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Yet in the face of all these threats came a remarkable victory: last month, Congress passed a sweeping bipartisan public lands bill, with the Senate voting 92-8 in favor and the House agreeing on a vote of 363-62.

The Natural Resources Management Act designates 1.3 million new acres of wilderness, protects 620 miles of wild rivers, creates five new national monuments, significantly expands five national parks, and permanently withdraws mining claims around North Cascades and Yellowstone national parks. It also permanently authorizes the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which sets aside some oil and gas royalties to acquire and protect public lands.



Tina Larkin/Taos News

The bill also includes the largest expansion of wilderness areas in New Mexico since 1980, a total of about 275,000 acres.

Our new wilderness areas include ten designations within the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, totaling 241,554 acres; the Cerro del Yuta Wilderness and the Rio San Antonio Wilderness within the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument (totaling 21,540 acres); and the 6,500-acre Ah-Shi-Sle-Pah Wilderness Area, along with a 2,250-acre expansion of the Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness Area in the Four Corners region.

As our founder Aldo Leopold well understood, our nation's character is forged by our public lands. At a time when we are so divided over so much, it is heartening and hopeful to see that we can still come together to make sure that future generations will still have wild lands to be young in.

Kristina G. Fisher
AWF President

Inside this Issue:

- March Restoration Project at Rio Mora.....pg 2
- Recap of March Valle de Oro project.....pg 3
- Events of Interest.....pg 4
- Membership Form.....pg 5

MARCH 16, 2019 SERVICE PROJECT: Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge

LOCATION: Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge near Las Vegas, NM

THE PROJECT: Join AWF for a special project planting cottonwood and willow poles at the beautiful Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge near Las Vegas, New Mexico! Along with planting, volunteers will also fence the new trees to protect them from beavers while they become established.

Our workday for this project will be Saturday, but volunteers are permitted to stay inside the bunkhouse at the refuge on Friday and/or Saturday nights since the location is a good distance from Santa Fe and Albuquerque. Space in the bunkhouse is limited, so please RSVP promptly if you plan to stay at the refuge one or both nights.

SCHEDULE: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Saturday, March 16, 2019
Volunteers may arrive Friday evening and leave Sunday morning.

GEAR: For this project, you will need gloves, hat, long sleeves, long pants, sturdy boots, and sunscreen. Warm clothes for the evenings and plenty of water are essential.

FOOD: AWF will provide breakfast burritos on Saturday morning and bison or veggie burgers 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. Please let Cameron know if you plan to stay one or both nights.



2019 SERVICE PROJECTS CALENDAR

March 2.....Day project at Valle de Oro
March 15-17.....Rio Mora Wildlife Refuge
April 19-21.....Wolf Creek, Ft. Union, NM
May 17-19.....Rio Mora Wildlife Refuge
June 7-9.....Valles Caldera
July 19-21.....Valle Vidal
August 16-18.....Midnight Meadows near Questa, NM
Aug 30-Sept 1.....Limestone Canyon, San Mateo Mtns
September 20-22.....Cebolla Canyon near Grants, NM
October 19.....Day project at Cedro Creek

AWF BOARD 2019

OFFICERS
President – Kristina G. Fisher
Vice President – Cameron Weber
Treasurer – Laurie Marnell
Secretary – Toby Rosenblatt

DIRECTORS
Braden Belliveau
Stephen Bohannon
Phil Carter
Michael “Scial” Scialdone
Bob Tilley
Kristin Van Fleet
Bill Zeedyk - Director Emeritus

RECAP OF MARCH 2, 2019 VALLE DE ORO RESTORATION PROJECT

Thanks, Volunteers!

Bianca Acosta
Faith Alatorre
Katelynn Anaya
Lauren Arndt
Betty Bastai
Madison Bausinger
Nicholas Bevins
Misty Blue
Jannet Botello
Zach Bumgarner
Alondra Carrillo
Cade Carlton
Phil Carter
Douglas Cheney
Justin Chesak
Tanya Critchfield
Priscilla Cruz
Ian Daitz
Anna Dale
Barb Diver
Rich Diver
Tracy Diver
Linda Doherty
Giselle Dominguez
Kristina Fisher
Roderick Flores
Deztini Ford
Adriana Fuentes
Kathy Garcia
Marie Gonzales
Lori Greene
Vivian George
Daisy Guadian
Jamie Head
Jairo Hernandez
Janus Herrera
Ben Hoskins
Robert Killian
Laurie Marnell
Kate Martinez
Maureen McCarthy
Glenda Muirhead
Mary Nakigan
Joseph Pacheco
Jaimie Park
Seamus Parker
Dan Paulsen



Once again this year we were delighted to partner with WildEarth Guardians and the Jaguars for Positive Change club from Atrisco Heritage Academy High School for AWF's first restoration project of 2019.

Nearly 70 volunteers came out to the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge to plant hundreds of cottonwoods, as well as coyote and Goodding willows, and smaller plants like New Mexico olive, seep willows, golden currant, woods rose, and false indigo. Volunteers also cleaned up weeds around the refuge. It was exciting to learn that most of the trees we planted at the refuge a year ago are thriving, and we look forward to seeing how this year's plantings grow in the coming years, improving habitat for birds and other wildlife.



Sandra Ragan
Sindy Ramos
Natasha Robson
Toby Rosenblatt
Barbara Rosensimon
Charles Rundles
Tam Saimons
Christella Sanz-Guerrero
Michael "Scial" Scialdone
Julianna Sedillo
Jordan Stone
Crystelle Stufft
Yvonne Tarango
Hamish Thomson
Marilynn Szydlowski
Betsy Vanlest
Cameron Weber
Dave Wheelock
Robin Woolner
Claudia Zarate
Stephany Zarate

See lots more photos of this and other restoration projects at: abq.nmwildlife.org/

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST CONTINUED

Banff Mountain Film Festival

MARCH 8 & 9, 2019, Kimo Theater, Albuquerque

Journey to exotic locations, paddle the wildest waters, and climb the highest peaks with the Banff Mountain Film Festival World Tour. The Albuquerque event is a benefit for the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance. The Banff Mountain Film Festival, a program of Banff Centre, is the largest, and one of the most prestigious, mountain festivals in the world. This year's tour features a collection of the most inspiring action, environmental, and adventure films from the festival.

For more information:

<https://www.kimotickets.com/event/328877/banff-mtn-film-festival-world-tour-day-1-march-8-2019->



Star Parties

FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2019, 6:00 p.m. - Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge

FRIDAY, MARCH 8, 2019, 7:00 p.m. - Cerrillos Hills State Park

SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2019, 7:00 p.m. - Randall Davy Audubon Center, Santa Fe

There are three opportunities this weekend to explore the wonders of the night sky, including laser-guided tours of bright stars and constellations, and a chance to marvel at star clusters, nebulae and distant galaxies through telescopes.

For more information on the Valle de Oro star party: <https://www.facebook.com/events/770257546685968/>

For more information on the Cerrillos star party: <https://www.cerrilloshills.org/events/star-party-12>

For more information on the Santa Fe star party: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2214113211980513/>

Help Stock Native Cutthroat Trout in the Rio Grande

FRIDAY, MARCH 29, 2019, 10:00 a.m., Questa, NM

Join Trout Unlimited and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish to stock young cutthroat trout in the Rio Grande near Questa. Volunteers will help bag the fish and carry them to the river to release.

For more information: <https://www.facebook.com/events/566509307193222/>

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: \$ _____