

THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque
WILDLIFE
Federation

conservationists since 1914

November 2020

What You Do in This Moment Matters: Please Vote!

It can be hard to imagine, as you place one rock in a structure in a dry gully, what impact it can possibly have. This is especially true in a place like Cebolla Canyon in El Malpais, which has been so damaged and downcut that the dark soil of a former wetland hangs 40 feet above the current bottom of the canyon.

But last month, when the AWF board returned to Cebolla Canyon, we could see the changes that have resulted from two decades of dedicated work by AWF volunteers. Even after a painfully dry summer, the grasses and willows in the canyon bottom were lush, growing over the wicker weirs and one-rock dams we built over a decade ago. Each of these structures was painstakingly built out of rocks, each one carefully gathered and placed, or juniper posts pounded into the ground, willow woven between them. The structures waited for the rain, and when it came, they held water, collected sediment, and came to life with vegetation, creating food and habitat for wildlife.

Placing one rock is an act of hope and faith that the rain will eventually come, and when it does, the work that you have done will matter.

Voting works pretty much the same way. It will not solve every problem, but it lays a foundation on which we can build a better future.

So if you haven't voted yet, I hope you will go to the polls on Tuesday, November 3rd, and do so. (You can



Cebolla Canyon in 2010



Cebolla Canyon in 2020

find your nearest polling place and a sample ballot at nmvote.org, and a voter guide with questions and answers from the candidates from the [League of Women Voters](#).) Your vote can help elect leaders who will take action to address climate change, protect critical wildlife corridors, and invest in protecting and restoring our public lands.

If each of us keeps doing these small acts with great care, they will add up to a big difference for our community and our world. See you at the polls on Tuesday, then back out on the landscape when AWF's restoration projects resume next spring.

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Kristina G. Fisher
AWF Secretary

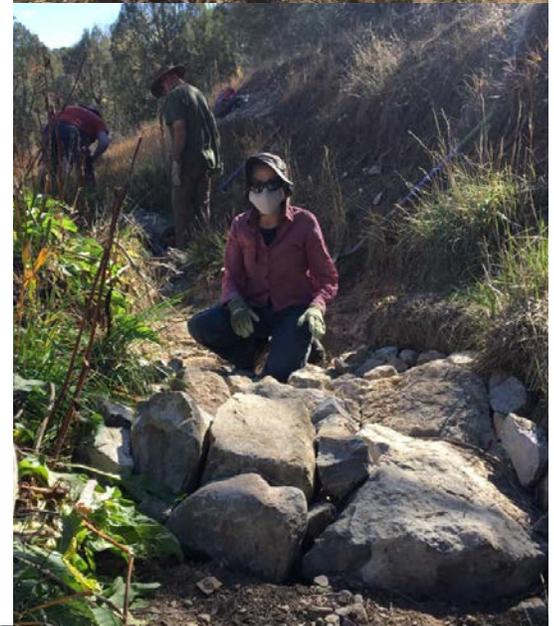
RECAP OF OCTOBER 24, 2020 CEDRO CREEK PROJECT

For our AWF's final restoration project of 2020, we returned to Cedro Creek near Tijeras, an important spot for wildlife traversing between the Sandia and Manzano mountains.

There was a lot of interest in attending this project, but in order to comply with the Covid-19 public health restrictions, the project was limited to two groups of 10 volunteers each, split up into even smaller groups at the work sites. One team worked with Cameron at the confluence of Cedro and Sabino creeks, where they built six sizeable one-rock dams. The other team worked with Scial higher in the watershed, building or adding to about 10 structures. The grassland in this area continues to improve, with zones of green vegetation in the arroyo-bottom that can be seen in aerial photographs. Lines of dirt indicate abundant critters burrowing in this zone, which might explain an apparent increase in the local raptor population.

We were delighted to welcome several first-time volunteers on this project – they did terrific work! – and we were sorry to have to keep the volunteer numbers so limited and to have to skip our usual end-of-season potluck celebration afterward. But we are deeply grateful to all the Forest Service personnel who worked with us to make it possible for AWF to continue safely holding volunteer restoration service projects during this challenging pandemic year. It has been even more meaningful than usual to have these opportunities to come together and work to restore our beautiful public lands.

AWF's board will be meeting in a couple of months to plan our projects for 2021, and we hope you'll be able to join us again next year.



AWF BOARD 2020

OFFICERS

President – Cameron Weber

Vice President – Braden Belliveau

Treasurer – Laurie Marnell

Secretary – Kristina G. Fisher

DIRECTORS

Phil Carter

Rachel Moore

Toby Rosenblatt

Michael "Scial" Scialdone

Hamish Thomson

Bob Tilley

Bill Zeedyk - Director Emeritus



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

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

The Recent Avian Mortality Event in New Mexico - Live-streamed Talk

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 7:00-8:00 pm

PAJARITO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

Learn about the recent avian mortality event in New Mexico at this Nature On Tap from Jon Hayes, the Executive Director of Audubon Southwest. Jon will focus on the recent migratory bird die-off in our state, exploring the scope and scale of the event, the likely causes, and the impact on bird populations and bird conservation efforts here in New Mexico. For more info: <https://peecnature.org/events/details/?id=36377>



The North American Western Wildway - Live-streamed Talk

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 7:00-8:00 pm

PAJARITO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

Join Phil Carter, AWF Board Member and Wildlife Policy Coordinator for the Wildlands Network, for this live-streamed talk about the North American Western Wildway (a.k.a. the Spine of the Continent), a proposed 6,000-mile linkage of protected landscapes stretching across the continent. The Jemez Mountains and Northern New Mexico are key linkages in this initiative. For more info: <https://peecnature.org/events/details/?id=36372>

BONUS: If you miss a live-streamed PEEC presentation and would like to watch a video of the event, they are available at: <https://peecnature.org/learn/videos/>

Regenerate Conference - Online

OCTOBER 26-NOVEMBER 20, 2020

QUIVIRA COALITION

The Quivira Coalition, Holistic Management International, and the American Grassfed Association collaborate each year to convene ranchers, farmers, conservationists, land managers, scientists, medical professionals, nutritionists, students, educators, and others to share knowledge, build community, and create a culture of resilience and regeneration. This year, in response to impacts from the Coronavirus pandemic and the call for meaningful action towards racial justice, the conference is an online, month-long series of plenary presentations, roundtable discussions, and practical workshops to collectively imagine and define a path for Resilience in Times of Uncertainty. For more info and to register to attend: <https://quiviracoalition.org/regenerate/>



Premiere of Saving Beauty: Living with the Rare Ones Among Us

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 7:00-8:00 pm

QUIVIRA COALITION

The Pecos Sunflower, listed as federally threatened, is found in only seven known locations, arid-land wetlands of New Mexico and Texas known as "ciénegas." This film focuses on the effort to engage the community of Santa Rosa, NM in saving this rare flower and its habitat. To watch the premier, followed by a panel Q & A:

<https://quiviracoalition.org/regenerate/film-screenings-saving-beauty/>

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: \$ _____