

THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque
WILDLIFE
Federation

conservationists since 1914

November 2021

Restoring Bears Ears & Grand Staircase Escalante National Monuments

On December 28, 2016, President Obama designated the 1.35-million-acre Bears Ears National Monument. It was the first national monument to be co-managed by the federal government (Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service) and a coalition of five tribes: the Navajo Nation, Hopi, Ute Mountain Ute, Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah and Ouray Reservation, and the Pueblo of Zuni.

Less than one year later, on December 4, 2017, President Trump reduced the size of the monument by 85%. With the same stroke of a pen, he also cut Grand Staircase Escalante National Monument in half. This 1.7-million-acre monument had been established by President Clinton in 1996.

On October 7, 2021, following a review by Interior Secretary Deb Haaland, President Biden restored the original boundaries of both national monuments, along with the underwater Northeast Canyons and Seamounts National Monuments, which had also been slashed by the prior administration.

This restoration was a victory for tribes and conservationists, as national monument status makes a real difference in how the land is cared for. As national monuments, these areas are shielded from mining and other destructive uses, as well as better defended from looting and vandalism, which has been a heartbreaking problem at the hundreds of sacred and archeological sites in Bears Ears.



Photo by Tim Peterson

But the tug of war over these landscapes during the past five years illustrates how tenuous those protections can be.

Under the federal Antiquities Act, presidents have the sole authority to set aside national monuments for protection. The Trump administration was the first to attempt to undo these protections without Congressional review, and its actions were challenged in court; but in the years it takes those cases to wind through the legal system, irreparable harm can be done. And if the courts ultimately decide that a president has the power to unilaterally strip protections from national monuments, then many special places – like New Mexico’s Rio Grande del Norte and Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks – may be at risk under a future administration.

In the long-term, the best protection for these places may be overwhelming public support for keeping them safe. It needs to be an issue that people vote on, and are vocal about, letting our elected leaders know that we care about these lands, and will fight to protect them.

Bears Ears is safe for now. It is up to all of us to keep it that way.

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Kristina G. Fisher
AWF Secretary

RECAP OF OCTOBER 22-24, 2021 PROJECT: ROLLING HILLS RANCH

*Thanks, Volunteers
from AWF,
Impact Outdoors &
Martinez family &
friends!*



Last month, we were delighted to partner with the group Impact Outdoors for our first project on the Martinez family's Rolling Hills ranch. This ranch draws water from the Acequia del Bodo Juan Paiz, which was dug by hand and horse plow in 1822, when a Spanish land grant established the village of Anton Chico. We were honored to be invited by Jordan Martinez and her family to assist them with several restoration projects across the ranch.

AWF and Impact Outdoors volunteers built two Zuni bowls to address a headcut in an outlet channel from a large pond, and a media luna below them to spread water across a meadow. We built several small one-rock dams and baffles to help re-wet a historic wetland that has dried out in recent years. We also built a series of one-rock dams to raise the bed of a deeply incised irrigation ditch leading from the family's acequia to the pond, which will hopefully raise the water enough to help the meadow thrive, and we spread juniper slash along the ditch banks to keep cattle off of them.

Finally, the group tackled two major baffles in a section of arroyo that is threatening to erode into a wall of the acequia. These baffles required cutting and burying juniper pickets, and placing tons of rocks, and the group worked extra long hours to get them done – inspired by Marietta Martinez's delicious New Mexican lunch on Saturday and her tireless work with the tractor auguring holes for pickets and collecting and transporting rock! Hopefully this work will help keep the land healthy for generations to come.



See lots more photos of AWF's restoration projects at: abq.nmwildlife.org

RECAP OF OCTOBER 30, 2021 PROJECT: CEDRO CREEK

Thanks, Volunteers!

Ann Ahlander
Christopher Barnes
Betty Bastai
Mary Ann Castillo
Steven del Favero
Candace Duran
Russ Duran
Kristina G. Fisher
Alan Gross
Janus Herrera
Catherine Lawrie
Robert J. Long
Laurie Marnell
Deidra Montoya
Glenda Muirhead
Soraya Romero
Barbara Rosensimon
Angelica Salazar
Scial
Warren Scoggins
Nancy Shane
Rachel Speer
Marilynn Szydowski
Matthew Varela
William Wagner
Cameron Weber



We wrapped up our 2021 restoration project season with a day project at Cedro Creek, where AWF has been organizing projects for 29 years. The positive impacts of our past work could be seen in the lush vegetation along the creek, with thick stands of willows growing over our old rock structures. Working with the Stream Dynamics team, volunteers built a series of new one-rock dams and repaired and added layers to several old ones below the confluence of Cedro Creek and Sabino Canyon.

Afterwards, we celebrated the end of another successful season with our traditional potluck at Pine Flats picnic area. We hope to see you all again next spring when the 2022 projects begin!



See lots more photos of AWF's restoration projects at: abq.nmwildlife.org

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Action Alert: Support Protections for Endangered Plants!

The New Mexico state botanist is proposing a rule change that acknowledges that stronger efforts are needed to protect and conserve New Mexico's endangered plant species. This will strengthen the language in the law to better protect our endangered native plants from energy development, road building, and other severe impacts. We encourage you to submit comments in support of this proposal (you can also attend the virtual hearing on November 10).



[Click here to learn more and submit comments](#)

Mountain Lion Ecology in the Jemez Mountains

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Los Alamos
PAJARITO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER**

Join Mark Peyton of Valles Caldera National Preserve and Sarah Milligan of Bandelier National Monument to learn about the Large Mammal Monitoring Project, an ongoing collaborative effort between Bandelier National Monument and Valles Caldera National Preserve to simultaneously monitor the responses of mule deer, elk, black bear, and mountain lion to forest restoration treatments.

For more info: <https://peecnature.org/events/details/?id=37593>



Road to Recovery: Cuckoo Symposium (Two-Day Virtual Event)

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16-WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 5:30-6:30 p.m., Los Alamos
PAJARITO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER**

The Pajarito Environmental Education Center and the Yellow-billed Cuckoo Working Group are partnering to present the Road to Recovery: Cuckoo Symposium, a virtual symposium that will focus on incorporating new research and monitoring in an adaptive management framework to solve the bigger problem of species recovery.

For more info: <https://peecnature.org/events/details/?id=37573>

Post-fire Status of Goodding's onion in New Mexico: Presentation by Daniela Roth, New Mexico State Botanist

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 7:30 P.M., online
GILA NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY**

Since 2006 over 95% of known locations of Goodding's onion (*Allium gooddingii*), a rare plant found only in AZ and NM, have burned in seven different wildfires. Post-fire studies have shown that although plants largely survive the direct impacts of the fires, long term survival is jeopardized by drastic changes in habitat, post-fire floods, and post-fire rehabilitation efforts. Learn more from Daniela Roth, New Mexico State Botanist and Program Manager for the Endangered Plant Program. Details at: <https://gilanps.org/events/programs/>



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