

# THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque  
WILDLIFE  
Federation

conservationists since 1914

November 2022

## Fifty Years of the Clean Water Act

On October 18, 1972, Congress voted to override a veto by then-President Nixon and enact the Clean Water Act into law.

Although it fell short of its ambitious goal of making all of America's fresh waters clean enough for fishing and swimming by 1983, the Clean Water Act dramatically reduced water pollution in streams, rivers, and lakes across the nation and established new safeguards for fragile wetlands.

Sadly, in recent years the Clean Water Act has been under increasing threat. In late 2018, the Trump administration sought to strip the protections of the law away from intermittent or ephemeral streams, which constitute about 95% of waterways in New Mexico.

While the Biden administration reversed that move in 2021, last month the Supreme Court heard arguments in a case that may succeed in gutting the law. In *Sackett v. EPA*, the court will decide whether the federal government has the power to protect wetlands that aren't directly connected to "navigable waters" – if not, most of New Mexico's small waterways would no longer be protected the Clean Water Act.

While it is essential to defend the Clean Water Act from these attacks, it is also striking that, in the last half cen-



ture, we really haven't taken any big steps to build on or expand it. Most of our federal environmental laws, like the Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, and Endangered Species Act, were passed within a brief period of time about 50 years ago, and we continue to lean heavily on them rather than enacting new laws that specifically address our current challenges, like the climate crisis.

In order to rally the political will to enact new environmental protections, we need the public to clamor for them, as they did in the early 1970s. So I close by urging our readers to vote on November 8, and to let candidates for office know that you favor strong laws protecting wildlands and wildlife, clean air and water. If voters demand it, and make it a priority, we can enact laws today that ensure that our rivers, lakes, and wetlands are in even better condition 50 years from now.

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*Kristina G. Fisher*  
AWF Secretary

## NOVEMBER 5, 2022 SERVICE PROJECT: Take Back the Bosque Day!

**LOCATION:** Rio Bravo Open Space and picnic area in the Albuquerque bosque

**THE PROJECT:** For our final volunteer restoration service project of the year, we will be working to remove invasive plants from the Albuquerque bosque. This project is being led by the Jaguars for Positive Change, a high school community service club at Atrisco Heritage Academy High School sponsored by AWF volunteer Tanya Critchfield, who teaches at the school.

The Jaguars for Positive Change are teaming up with Albuquerque City Open Space and other partners to host Take Back the Bosque Day on Saturday, November 5, and AWF is proud to be part of this effort. The project's main focus will be to remove non-native/invasive plants, especially Ravenna grass. There will also be clean-up of tumbleweeds and litter, and likely some other activities. The target area is the Bosque near Rio Bravo. When the work is done, you will be treated to a picnic lunch. Further details will be provided when you sign up.

**SCHEDULE:** Saturday, November 5, 9:00-1:00

**GEAR:** Dress in layers to be prepared for New Mexico's variable weather. Besides plenty of water, please bring work gloves, hat, long sleeves, long pants, sturdy boots, sunglasses, and sunscreen.

**FOOD:** Lunch will be provided

**TO SIGN UP:** Email Scial at [rioscial@gmail.com](mailto:rioscial@gmail.com)

**Directions and further details will be sent to you once you sign up.**



### 2022 SERVICE PROJECTS CALENDAR

March 5 & 6.....Valle de Oro Wildlife Refuge  
April 1-3.....Ft. Union Ranch  
April 22-24.....Red Canyon Reserve  
June 10-12.....Gutierrez Family Ranch  
July 22-24.....San Ignacio Post-Fire Response  
August 12-14.....Ft. Union Ranch  
September 2-5.....Limestone Canyon, San Mateo Mtns  
September 9-11.....Gallinas Canyon Post-Fire Response  
September 23-25.....Midnight Meadows near Questa, NM  
October 7-9.....Cebolla Canyon  
October 28-30.....Rolling Hills Ranch  
November 5.....Day project in the Abq Bosque

### AWF BOARD 2022

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## RECAP OF OCTOBER 7-9, 2022 PROJECT: CEBOLLA CANYON

*Thanks, Volunteers!*

Abe Aufdermauer

Shawn Blaisdell

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AWF volunteers have been working to restore Cebolla Canyon for over two decades, and we have experienced some of our wildest weather conditions at this site. This year did not disappoint! At the tail end of one of the wettest monsoon seasons on record, the road into Cebolla Canyon was muddy and treacherous, and Saturday morning was soaked in with steady rain.

Nevertheless, AWF volunteers braved the wild weather and completed some restoration structures at a site where we have worked in past years, just upstream from the confluence of Lobo and Cebolla Canyons. We built several baffles and other rock structures designed to widen the channel and expand the growing floodplain at the bottom of the canyon, where willows and grasses are lush and profuse. We spotted several of our old structures working well, and could see places where others had been buried by sediment. We look forward to returning to Cebolla – hopefully in better weather one of these days! – to continue the work of restoring this unique ecosystem.



## RECAP OF OCTOBER 28-30, 2022 PROJECT: ROLLING HILLS RANCH



At the end of October, we once again teamed up with Impact Outdoors on a big restoration project at the Martinez family's Rolling Hills ranch near Anton Chico, NM. Impact Outdoors brought veterans and youth to engage in this restoration effort, and AWF members provided guidance in restoration structure construction.

Together, our volunteers constructed several beaver dam analogues out of juniper branches to slow water and hold it in pools to enhance wildlife habitat and nurture wetland vegetation. We also built a series of rock restoration structures to spread water over a wetland area, and repaired some Zuni bowls and other structures we completed a year ago, during our first joint project at this site. It was very satisfying to see how well the large baffles we had constructed in an arroyo last year had worked, collecting sediment and protecting the ranch's main acequia from further erosion.

Everyone was well-fed, with homemade breakfast and lunch provided by Impact Outdoors and the Martinez family, and an amazing potluck dinner with elk fajitas and other dishes of wild game harvested by Impact Outdoors hunters. We are excited to continue building on this partnership with Impact Outdoors to spread the knowledge and skills about how this restoration work can keep the land healthy for future generations.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

### **ALMA Tile Making Workshop & Fish Sculpture Viewing**

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

**VALLE DE ORO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

Make tiles for Valle de Oro's 2023 mosaic crane sculpture with ALMA Tile! Afterwards, we'll take the Bosque loop Trail to visit the fish mosaics on the west side of the Refuge! It will be a 2 mile round trip. More info at: <https://friendsofvalledeoro.org/event/alma-tile-making-workshop-fish-sculpture-viewing/>

### **Beneficial Uses for Seeds with Del Jimenez**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 6:00-7:00 p.m., in person and online**

**PAJARITO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER**

New Mexico State University agricultural specialist Del Jimenez will discuss topics including different types of seeds, how they're grown, what they're used for, and landrace seeds. His work in the NMSU's Extension Service has been honored at the state and national levels, including the Distinguished Service Award from the National Association of County Agricultural Agents. In-person attendees will take away an assortment of vegetable seeds for their spring gardens! For more info: <https://peecnature.org/events/details/?id=44697>



### **Geology of Cibola Canyon**

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2022, 8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.**

**SEVILLETA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

Learn some remarkable facts about the geology of this area while taking in some amazing scenery. Includes short hikes over uneven terrain. Pack your lunch and water. Space is limited. Transportation from the VC to Cibola Canyon will be provided; masks are required while you are in the vehicles. To register:

<https://www.amigosdelasevilleta.org/calendar>



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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**