

THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque
WILDLIFE
Federation

conservationists since 1914

November 2023

Every Year is an Election Year for the Environment

Next year at this time, New Mexicans will have a chance to vote for major offices that will set the direction of state and national policies on conservation and wildlife management, from every seat in our state legislature to our representatives in Congress the presidency.

But there are important elections for the environment happening this year as well.

In 2018, New Mexico consolidated almost all local elections so that they would be held together on the second Tuesday in November of odd-numbered years. (Prior to that, local elections were scattered across the calendar, from school board races in February to mayoral races in March or October.)

This month, voters have the opportunity to weigh in on offices that include city councilors, who set local policies on open space, water conservation, land use, and wildlife management – such as whether nuisance animals in the city limits are killed or humanely relocated. The election also includes school board members who decide what New Mexico’s children will learn about issues like climate change. And it includes some offices that are very specific to the local environment, like Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts are local government agencies that were first established nearly a century ago in response to the Dust Bowl. They have the potential to be key partners in funding and organizing



land and water conservation projects – depending on who is elected to serve on them.

Finally, along with the candidates, there may also be local bonds or policy questions on your ballot that can impact the environment, such as by providing funding for parks or water conservation.

So we encourage you to visit the state’s [voter information portal](#), where you can check out a sample ballot and find your polling places. Once you know what’s on your ballot, you can read more about the candidates and issues in helpful voter guides from the League of Women Voters ([Albuquerque](#); [Las Cruces](#); [Santa Fe](#)). And then get out to the polls next Tuesday (if not before!) and cast your vote with wildlife and the environment in mind.

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Kristina G. Fisher
AWF Secretary

NOVEMBER 4, 2023 SERVICE PROJECT: Bosque Clean-Up Day

LOCATION: Albuquerque bosque

THE PROJECT: For our final volunteer restoration service project of the year, we will be working to remove trash and invasive plants from open space areas in the Albuquerque bosque.

This project is organized by Jaguars for Positive Change, a high school community service club at Atrisco Heritage Academy High School that is 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 4, 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. When the work is done, we will enjoy a picnic lunch. Further details will be provided when you sign up.

SCHEDULE: Saturday, November 4, 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 may be provided; RSVP for details.

TO SIGN UP: Email Scial at rioscial@gmail.com

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



2023 SERVICE PROJECTS CALENDAR

- March 11.....Valle de Oro Wildlife Refuge
- April 7-9.....Ft. Union Ranch
- May 19-21.....Rio Mora Wildlife Refuge
- June 2-4.....Manuelitas Creek
- June 16-18.....Rolling Hills Ranch
- July 14-16.....Gallinas Post-Fire Restoration
- July 28-30.....Valle Vidal
- August 18-20.....Midnight Meadows near Questa, NM
- September 1-4.....Limestone Canyon, San Mateo Mtns
- September 15-17.....Cebolla Canyon, El Malpais
- October 6-8.....Return to Manuelitas Creek
- October 20-22.....Gutierrez Family Ranch
- November 4.....Rio Grande Bosque, Albuquerque

AWF BOARD 2023

OFFICERS

- President – Cameron Weber*
- Vice President – Phil Carter*
- Treasurer – Laurie Marnell*
- Secretary – Kristina G. Fisher*

DIRECTORS

- Abe Aufdermauer*
- Steven del Favero*
- Lia Griesser*
- Toby Rosenblatt*
- Barbara Rosensimon*
- Michael “Scial” Scialdone*
- Sean Solowiej*
- Hamish Thomson*
- Bob Tilley*
- Bill Zeedyk - Director Emeritus*

RECAP OF OCTOBER 6-8, 2023 PROJECT: MANUELITAS CREEK

Thanks, Volunteers!

Abe Aufdermauer
Phil Carter
Shelley Catterson
Marcelo Games
Finn Gregor
Josh Miner & family
Peter O'Brien
Shantini Ramakrishnan
Toby Rosenblatt
Hamish Thomson
Bill Zeedyk

In early October, a small group of volunteers returned to Bill Zeedyk's property to complete the rock structures that we were unable to work on in June, as Manuelitas Creek was running exceptionally high in spring and early summer.

Under Bill's guidance, some volunteers extended protective fencing around the wetland vegetation, while others built a pair of one-rock dams in a section of the creek where there had previously been beaver dams. The rock structures were built with native rock and rock brought to the site by Josh Miner from Fort Union Ranch. Volunteers also added material to a beaver dam analog that had been constructed in June and then partially washed out by floods. Although high waters had washed away one side of the structure, what remained had silted in and formed a point bar with Peachleaf willow sprouting from the structure. During the October project, volunteers reconnected that structure with the bank, allowing more water to flow into remnant channels feeding the wetlands.



RECAP OF OCTOBER 20-22, 2023 PROJECT: GUTIERREZ RANCH

Thanks, Volunteers!

Quincey Atchley
Genevieve Atencio
Abe Aufdermauer
Lauren Bansbach
Peter Callen
Phil Carter
Steiner Cody
Joseph Dunfelberger
Darian Duran
Kristina G. Fisher
Finn Gregor
Patrick Gutierrez
Bob Hymer
Yin-May Lee
Kerwin Maria
Laurie Marnell
Janet Manry
Anabella Miller
Quintin Muhlenkamp
Jessica Platero
Barbara Rosensimon
Toby Rosenblatt
Rosa Soriano
Marilynn Szydowski
Hamish Thomson
Howard Velasquez
Cameron Weber

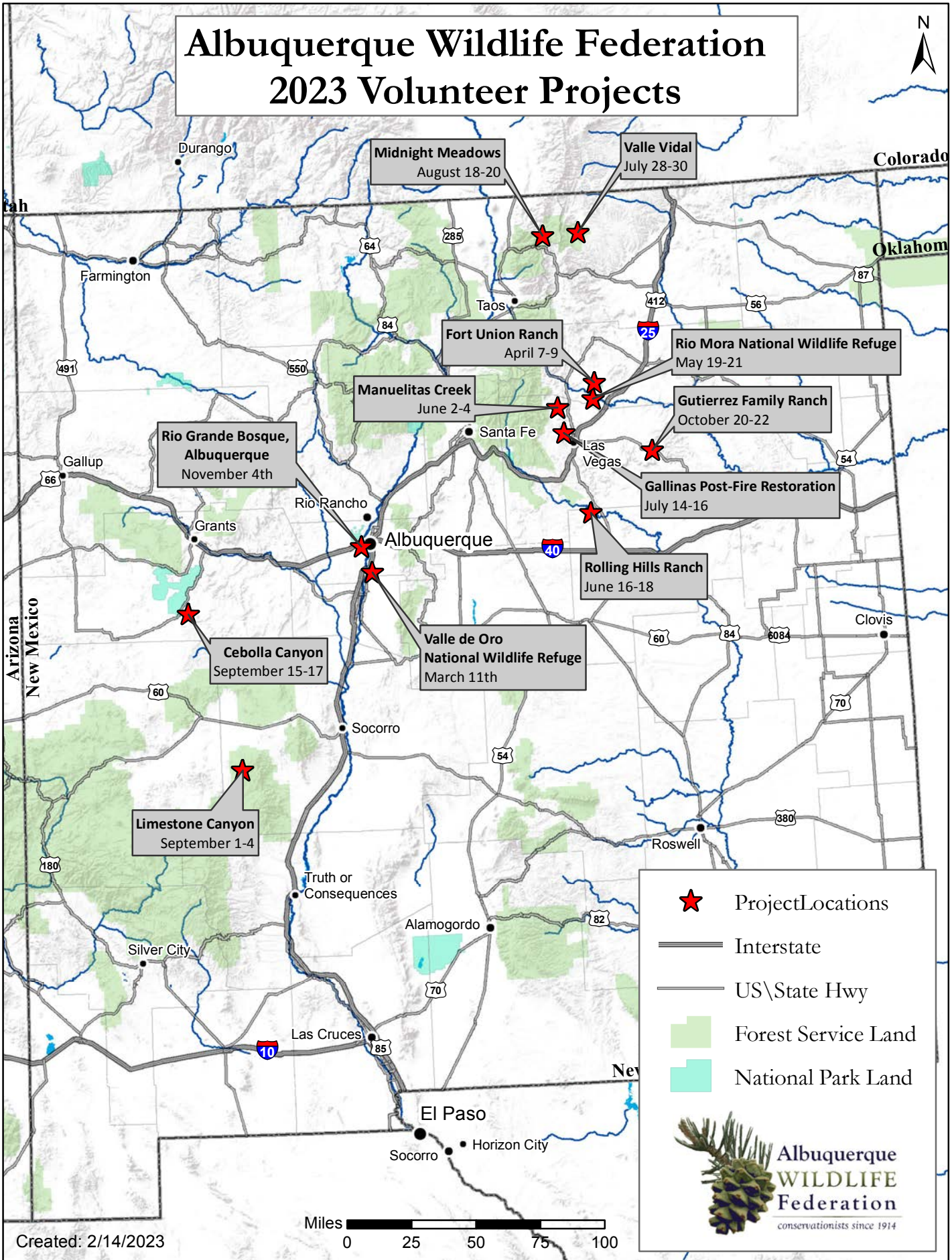


For our final camping restoration project of the season, AWF returned to the Gutierrez Ranch, which has been in the family of Patrick Gutierrez, our friend from the Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance, since the 1700s. The ranch includes the upper reaches of Cañon Largo, lower portions of which are publicly accessible in the Sabinoso Wilderness. On the Gutierrez ranch, springs feed an old orchard, and perennial pools provide habitat for small fish, frogs, and turtles.

This year, we were pleased to discover that many of the rock structures we built last June had captured sediment during the 2022 monsoon and were densely vegetated with grasses. We made some repairs to several structures that had partially washed out, and built new one-rock dams, media lunas, and Zuni bowls to hold and spread the water. Several volunteers also put up additional fencing to protect small springs down in the canyon. We were delighted to be joined by several members of T'iis Yazhi Garden Family all the way from Pine Hill, NM (near Ramah), as well as a van full of hard-working students from Highlands University who are studying conservation techniques. Thanks to everyone who came out and joined us, and we hope to see many of you again next year!



Albuquerque Wildlife Federation 2023 Volunteer Projects



UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Regenerate 2023

NOVEMBER 1-3, Santa Fe, NM

QUIVIRA COALITION

Attend the Quivira Coalition's annual gathering to explore regenerative agriculture at every scale — from microbial soil communities, to social relationships and markets, to our changing climate, and everything in between. For more info and to sign up: <https://regenerateconference.com/>

Sky Island Alliance Gathering in Albuquerque

NOVEMBER 4, 4:00-6:00 p.m.,

Bow & Arrow Brewing Co. (upstairs in the loft), 608 McKnight Ave. NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102

SKY ISLAND ALLIANCE

Join Sky Island Alliance Executive Director Louise Misztal and Program Director Emily Burns for a gathering of SIA supporters in the Albuquerque area. After plenty of time to mingle, Louise and Emily will give a short presentation on our work in the region, what we've learned from three years of our Border Wildlife Study, and the border policy implications for wildlife. To RSVP:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sky-island-alliance-gathering-in-albuquerque-tickets-730500646097>

2023 Natural Areas Virtual Conference:

The Power Of Long Term Ecological Research (LTER): Informing Natural Areas Management

NOVEMBER 2, 2023, 11:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

The National Science Foundation (NSF) Long Term Ecological Research Program (LTER) presents a one-day virtual conference to highlight the important research being done within the LTER network that informs the practices of our land management audience from around North America. LTER researchers will convey the findings of their studies that inform on-the-ground management decisions that affect biodiversity conservation and ecological health in the systems in which natural areas practitioners work. The conference includes a panel on the Jornada Basin and Sevilleta. For more info and to register:

https://www.naturalareas.org/2023_natural_areas_conference.php

Society for Ecological Restoration Southwest Conference

NOVEMBER 16-18, 2023, Santa Fe, NM

This conference is an exciting opportunity to share knowledge among practitioners and researchers in the field of ecological restoration. Scholarships available for students.

For more info and to register: <https://sersw2019.wixsite.com/conference2023/register>

Arid Land Restoration

NOVEMBER 18, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., online

AMPERSAND SUSTAINABLE LEARNING CENTER

Learn about good land practices to promote diverse vegetative growth, including mulching, seeding and erosion control. This class will introduce water harvesting structures like one-rock dams, rock rundowns, and zuni bowls that create micro-climates for moisture and growth. It's all about building organic matter, storing water in the soil and encouraging vegetative growth. Amanda will share before and after photos of the watershed restoration projects at Ampersand.

For more info and to register: <https://ampersandproject.org/arid-land-restoration/>

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: \$ _____