

THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque
WILDLIFE
Federation

conservationists since 1914

October 2021

Expanding New Mexico's Natural Heritage

As New Mexico's leaders work to expand our state's outdoor recreation economy – and to open up more equitable access to New Mexicans who may never have opportunities to explore our wild landscapes – it is essential to make sure that there are enough public lands to meet the growing demand. Fortunately, New Mexicans have recently received several significant additions to our natural heritage of stunning public lands.

In April, the Wilderness Land Trust purchased a 109-acre property that provides access to the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument via the Achenbach Canyon Trail. The Wilderness Land Trust is a nonprofit that purchases lands with important natural value, then transfers them to the federal government.

The Wilderness Land Trust was also the group that first secured public access to the Sabinoso Wilderness with a similar land acquisition in 2017. This July, another nonprofit, the Trust for Public Land, doubled the size of the Sabinoso when it conveyed the 9,855-acre Cañon Ciruela property to the federal Bureau of Land Management.

Around the same time, the U.S. Forest Service used \$2.2 million from the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund to purchase the 2,000-acre Valley of the Spirit Ranch surrounding the village of Jemez Springs. This land is home to endangered species including the



Mexican spotted owl, the New Mexico meadow jumping mouse, the Rio Grande chub, and the Rio Grande sucker, along with one of the largest peregrine falcon nesting areas in the Jemez.

All of these purchases will open up new space for outdoor recreation. The Jemez ranch includes hiking trails marked by striking geologic features, as well as an undeveloped hot spring.

The Sabinoso Wilderness was completely landlocked by private holdings and inaccessible to the public when it was first designated. Now, thanks to the 2017 and 2021 land transfers, it has multiple points of access and much more land to explore.

Popular trails in the Organ Mountains have seen visitation climb 300% since the land was protected as the Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument, but there are relatively few public points of access to the Organs. Now there is one more.

The key to making sure that all of us have room to roam and find solace in the natural beauty of New Mexico's landscapes is to protect more of them for public use. I am grateful to the nonprofits and allies in federal land management agencies who are doing just that.

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Kristina G. Fisher
AWF Secretary

OCTOBER 22-24, 2021 SERVICE PROJECT: Martinez Ranch

LOCATION: Martinez Ranch near Anton Chico and Dilia, NM

THE PROJECT: This month, AWF has a unique opportunity to help restore historic wetlands on the Martinez ranch, a property near Anton Chico that has belonged to the Martinez family for many generations. The family is creating a range management plan for the ranch and implementing rotational grazing and other sustainable management methods to improve habitat for both livestock and wildlife. AWF volunteers will partner with a local nonprofit, Impact Outdoors, to remediate headcuts that are developing in a runoff channel from a pond on the ranch, and to restore a former wetlands area on the ranch.

SCHEDULE: Friday, October 22 – Sunday, October 24

Volunteers do not need to be present for the entire weekend to participate. You are welcome to join us just for the work day Saturday, or camp for just one of the two nights.

GEAR: Bring everything you need for a weekend of camping and restoration work, including work gloves, hat, long sleeves, long pants, sturdy boots, and sunscreen. We recommend bringing a change of shoes, and waterproof boots or boots you don't mind getting wet or muddy. Rain gear, 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 as part of a potluck meal 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: Contact Scial at rioscial@gmail.com or 505-480-2906. *Directions and further details will be sent to you once you sign up.*

[Click here to review AWF's current COVID-19 safety protocols.](#)



OCTOBER 30, 2021 RESTORATION SERVICE PROJECT: Cedro Creek

LOCATION: Cedro Creek in the Sandia Mountains, near Tijeras, NM

THE PROJECT: For our final volunteer restoration service project of the year, we will be returning to one of our longtime legacy sites, Cedro Creek in the Sandia Mountains, where we will continue building and repairing rock structures to prevent the stream from downcutting and to stabilize the channel.

After we finish up our work, we'll gather nearby for a late lunch potluck to celebrate all the great restoration work accomplished by AWF volunteers during the 2021 season!

SCHEDULE: Saturday, October 30, 9:00-4:00

GEAR: Bring everything you need for a day of outdoor work, including gloves, hat, long sleeves, long pants, sturdy boots, sunglasses, and sun-screen. Dress in layers to be prepared for New Mexico's variable weather.

FOOD: AWF will provide bison or veggie burgers for the afternoon potluck. Please bring a dish to share along with snacks and water for the work day.

TO SIGN UP: Contact Scial at rioscial@gmail.com or 505-480-2906. *Directions and further details will be sent to you once you sign up.*

[Click here to review AWF's current COVID-19 safety protocols.](#)



2021 SERVICE PROJECTS CALENDAR

April 23-25.....Rio Mora Wildlife Refuge
May 14-16.....Ft. Union Ranch
June 4-6.....Ft. Union Ranch
July 16-18.....Limestone Canyon, San Mateo Mtns
August 13-15.....Midnight Meadows near Questa, NM
August 27-29.....Valle Vidal
September 17-19.....Rio en Medio, near Santa Fe, NM
October 22-24.....Martinez Ranch, near Anton Chico
October 30.....Day project at Cedro Creek

AWF BOARD 2021

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RECAP OF SEPTEMBER 17-19, 2021 PROJECT: RIO EN MEDIO

Thanks, Volunteers!

Betty Bastai
Braden Belliveau
Jeffery B. Bennett
Phil Carter
Tania Chavez
Steven Del Favero
Candace Duran
Russ Duran
Kristina G. Fisher
Lucy Gent Foma
Elise Foma
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Cameron Weber
Jared Wood
Mara Yarbrough



Last month, AWF had the opportunity to participate in a rapid response restoration project in the wake of the Medio Fire, which burned about 4,000 acres of the Santa Fe National Forest just one year ago. Working with Forest Service partners and Steve Vrooman of Keystone Restoration Ecology, AWF volunteers built log run-downs and rock structures to prevent burned slopes from eroding into the fragile Rio en Medio. We also worked along the river itself to improve fish habitat, and we were pleased to see small brook trout moving into several of the pools we constructed.

With climate change leading to more frequent and severe fires, this sort of work to protect watersheds from damage and accelerate the return of vegetation is becoming increasingly urgent and essential, and AWF is proud to be a part of it.



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

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Learn About SWEC's New "Wildlife for All" Campaign

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 5:30 P.M., online

SOUTHWEST ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

The Southwest Environmental Center is launching Wildlife for All, a national campaign to reform state wildlife management to be more ecologically driven, democratic, and passionate. They will be holding an informational Zoom meeting on Thursday, October 7 at 5:30 pm to share information about the this new direction. To learn more, visit: <https://wildlifeforall.us/> For zoom coordinates for the 10/7 meeting, email: info@wildlifeforall.us

Unveiling the World of Bats and the Impact of White-Nose Syndrome

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 7, 7:00-8:00 p.m., Los Alamos and online

PAJARITO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

Cave explorer Diana Northup discusses bats' natural habitats, how white-nose syndrome has impacted North American bats, how it's expanding into New Mexico, and how the bacteria and fungi that live on bats that could protect them from white-nose syndrome. For more info: <https://peecnature.org/events/details/?id=37413>

Bosque Clean Up

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 16, 8:45-10:45 a.m., Albuquerque

RIO GRANDE CHAPTER OF THE SIERRA CLUB

Join the Sierra Club at the Pueblo Montano Open Space and Trailhead to pick up trash and celebrate our amazing open spaces. Meet at 8:45 a.m. at the Pueblo Montano Open Space. We'll team-up for 1-2 hours to clean-up the surrounding area. Bring water, sunscreen, gloves, hat a snack, a trash bag or bucket, and wear closed-toed shoes. This is a great activity for families with children. Children 18 or under must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. If you love the bosque and our open spaces I hope you'll join us!

For more info: <https://www.meetup.com/Sierra-Club-Rio-Grande-Chapter/events/280792030/>



New Mexico 2021 Climate Summit

OCTOBER 25-26, Roundhouse in Santa Fe, NM and online

This two-day summit will inspire urgency and build momentum towards deep investments in our communities and the policy changes necessary to achieve a just energy transition for all of New Mexico's diverse communities, especially our black, indigenous, and people of color who've disproportionately faced the brunt of the climate crisis. For more info and

to register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/new-mexico-2021-climate-summit-registration-170469695448>

Regenerate 2021

NOVEMBER 3-4, Albuquerque, NM

This fall, the Quivira Coalition, Holistic Management International, and the American Grassfed Association will continue our collaboration to convene ranchers, farmers, conservationists, land managers, scientists, health professionals, nutritionists, educators, students, and others for a hybrid conference (virtual + in-person) exploring ideas of Weaving Water, Land, & People. For more info and to register to attend:

<https://quiviracoalition.org/regenerate/>

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: \$ _____