

THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque
WILDLIFE
Federation

conservationists since 1914

September 2023

Fifty Years of the Endangered Species Act

“If the land mechanism as a whole is good then every part is good, whether we understand it or not... To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering.” -Aldo Leopold

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), signed into law on December 27, 1973.

Although it passed the U.S. Senate unanimously, and the House of Representatives nearly so (390-12), the act became contentious almost immediately as special interests discovered that the law meant sometimes putting the interests of small, uncharismatic species ahead of development and extractive industries.

Half a century later, despite successfully bringing many species back from the brink of extinction, the ESA is still caught in the middle of a political tug-of-war. Just this past summer, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service settled a lawsuit brought by the Center for Biological Diversity and agreed to issue listing decisions for 31 species, including New Mexico’s Pecos pupfish, that had been hanging in limbo for many years. Meanwhile, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution to strip ESA protections from two listed species, the lesser prairie chicken and the northern long-eared bats. (President Biden has said he will veto the measure.)

As politicians argue, climate change amps up the threats. The destructive wildfires that swept through Maui nearly destroyed the Maui Bird Conservation Center, a final refuge for birds like the ‘akikiki, of



which there are only five individuals known to be alive in the wild.

Like Hawaii and the Pacific Islands, the riparian areas where AWF works are biodiversity hotspots, providing food, water, and shelter for many threatened and endangered species. When these habitats disappear, the rare plants and animals they harbor are lost.

The restoration work completed by AWF volunteers helps to protect some of these small, fragile places, safeguarding refuges where populations of rare species may be able to ride out the ravages of climate change. This month, AWF returns to Cebolla Canyon, where the restoration work that experts and volunteers have completed over the last quarter-century has expanded the perennial wetland from eight acres to more than 40, growing a potential refuge for species ranging from migratory birds to endangered meadow jumping mice.

For the last 50 years, the ESA has stood as our commitment to refrain from driving our fellow species into extinction if we can possibly avoid it. Investing time, resources, and human energy into protecting and restoring vital habitat is an essential piece of putting that policy into action.

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Kristina G. Fisher
AWF Secretary

SEPTEMBER 15-17, 2023 SERVICE PROJECT: Cebolla Canyon

LOCATION: Cebolla Canyon in the El Malpais National Conservation Area, south of Grants, NM

THE PROJECT: Our work will focus on hand-building rock structures designed to allow water to infiltrate more gradually into the landscape and prevent down-cutting and gully formation. AWF has organized restoration projects at Cebolla Canyon for more than two decades, and our work has successfully expanded the size of the wetlands around Cebolla Spring from seven acres to over 40, providing critical wildlife habitat in an arid region.

SCHEDULE: Friday, September 15 - Sunday, September 17
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, including warm clothes for the chilly evenings. For the work, don't forget gloves, hat, long sleeves, long pants, sturdy boots, sunglasses, and sunscreen.

FOOD: AWF will provide breakfast burritos on Saturday morning and bison or veggie burgers on Saturday evening. Please bring something to share for the Saturday potluck dinner, along with your own lunches, Friday dinner, and Sunday breakfast. Plenty of water is also essential!

TO SIGN UP: Email **Kristina at abqwildlifefederation@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

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Michael “Scial” Scialdone
Sean Solowiej
Hamish Thomson
Bob Tilley
Bill Zeedyk - Director Emeritus

OCTOBER 6-8, 2023 SERVICE PROJECT: Return to Manuelitas Creek

IMPORTANT NOTE: *This bonus project is weather depending, as the creek needs to be low enough for us to work in. We will check the condition of the creek about a week before and confirm whether the project is happening or not. Please RSVP (see below) if you would like to participate, and we will let you know if the project is on.*

LOCATION: Bill Zeedyk & Mary Maulsby's property along Manuelitas Creek, in the Sapello Watershed

THE PROJECT: In early June, AWF volunteers built a series of three beaver dam analogs in this stretch of Manuelitas Creek, and even though a big storm mostly washed them away shortly after we built them, beavers moved in anyway! This project seeks to build on the work we did in June by adding a series of rock structures in the creek. We were not able to complete this work in June because Manuelitas Creek was too high; this project is contingent on the creek being low enough for us to work in. Camping will again be available on Bill and Mary's land near the work area.

SCHEDULE: Friday, October 6 – Sunday, October 8

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 to 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. Rain gear, layers, 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 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: Email [Kristina at abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com](mailto:kristina@abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com)
Directions and further details will be sent to you once you sign up.



RECAP OF AUGUST 18-20, 2023 PROJECT: MIDNIGHT MEADOWS

Thanks, Volunteers!

Abe Aufdermauer
Peter Callen
Phil Carter
Shelley Catterson
Rachel Conn
Silas Conn
Jai Cross
Cody Dems
Reed Easterwood
Kristina G. Fisher
Aaron Flamming
Rod Flores
Steven Fry
Marcelo Games
Finn Gregor
Elisa Hardy
Katie Hardy
Jamie Head
Keegan Hoessler
Jon Klingal
Fred Levesque
Brian Long
Laurie Marnell
Tanner Martin
Zach Miller
Dennis Muirhead
Glenda Muirhead
Juniper Nykamp
Lucas Nykamp
Andy O'Reilly
Bernice O'Reilly
Olin O'Reilly
Omar Ore-Giron
Jeff Ogburn
Laura Robbins
Shannon Romeling
Toby Rosenblatt
Scial
Sean Solowiej
Scott Sutton
Marilynn Szydowski
Hamish Thomson
Steve Vrooman
Jared Wood



We had a terrific turnout for our annual project at Midnight Meadows with our partners at Amigos Bravos, with over 40 volunteers of all ages!

Under the guidance of Steve Vrooman of Keystone Restoration Ecology, these volunteers completed 36 new restoration structures in a tributary that drains into Bitter Creek, and repaired 15 existing structures in the exclosures that we had built in past years on the mainstem of Bitter Creek. In addition, volunteers completed numerous repairs to the exclosure fences and pulled branches and small trees over the access road that had been used to complete large-scale restoration with heavy machinery over the summer. It was exciting to explore and protect the remarkable fen wetlands in this area, and satisfying to know that the work we are doing to restore this high-altitude “wetland gem” will help the landscape absorb more snowmelt and rainfall, sending more water to all of the creeks and rivers downstream.

After the work was done, everyone enjoyed socializing at our new campsite, followed by spectacular stargazing. We look forward to returning to this beautiful landscape and continuing the work in future years.



RECAP OF SEPT 1-3, 2023 PROJECT: LIMESTONE CANYON

Thanks, Volunteers!

Chad Baumler
Catlin Bernard
Peter Callen
Phil Carter
Kristina G. Fisher
Aaron Flammang
Dick Kreiner
Sharon Lacy
Laurie Marnell
Kris Monaghan
Quintin Muhlenkamp
James Nelson
David Orozco
Dan Potter
Toby Rosenblatt
Scial
Jim Sells
Diego Serna
Lyle Serna
Elan Solowiej
Sean Solowiej
Marilynn Szydlowski
Hamish Thomson
Bob Tilley
Nick Tenorio
Cameron Weber
Jim Wilson
Jared Wood
Dino Zahirovis



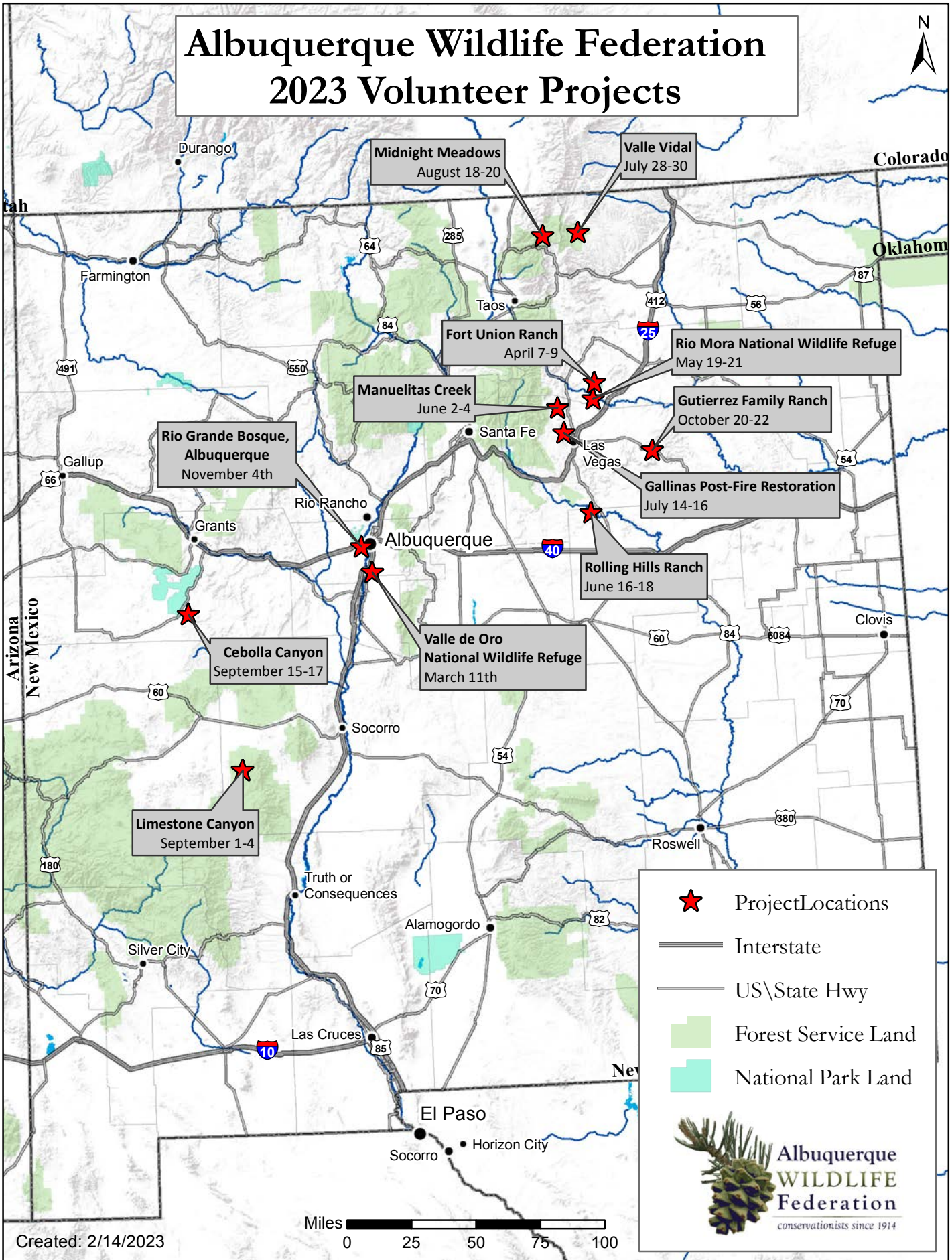
Over the Labor Day weekend, AWF again teamed up with our friends at New Mexico Volunteers for the Outdoors (NMVFO) to continue the restoration work at one of our favorite spots, Limestone Canyon in the San Mateo Mountains.

Volunteers repaired and added layers to many of the one-rock dams and baffles constructed in past years, and built a number of new structures, including a sizeable Zuni dam in Fisher Canyon. This year we also incorporated logs and woody debris into many of the structures, after seeing that technique work well to capture sediment and nurture vegetation. Volunteers also repaired the exclosures protecting several young narrowleaf cottonwoods, which sprouted a decade ago following six years of AWF's restoration work. The young trees are now 8-10 feet high and thriving.

After this year's dry summer, there was no standing water in Limestone Creek, but the earth was wet just below the surface, and wetland vegetation is growing in and around the streambed. Hopefully some strong flows will come through before we return next year, so we can see how the work we did this year will continue to re-wet the meadows and reinvigorate this special place.



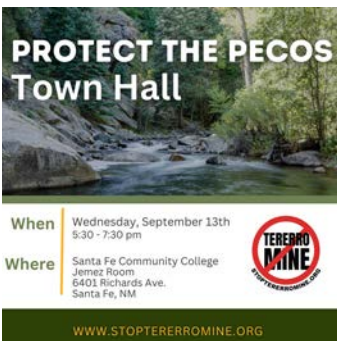
Albuquerque Wildlife Federation 2023 Volunteer Projects



UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

2023 Santa Fe Watershed Fest, featuring the Wild & Scenic Film Festival SEPTEMBER 7-8; SEPTEMBER 16, Santa Fe, NM SANTA FE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Join this informative and participatory series of events celebrating the health and vibrancy of Santa Fe's local watershed, and others. A curated selection of films features hopeful examples of protection and restoration, filmmaker talks, and calls to action. The fest begins on August 28 with a screening of *Acequias: The Legacy Lives On* followed by a panel discussion featuring the filmmaker and others. It continues with the **Wild and Scenic Film Festival** on September 7-8, and wraps up with a community-wide clean-up event and recycled art party on September 16. For more info and tickets: <https://www.santafewatershed.org/santa-fe-watershed-fest-2023/>



Protect the Pecos Town Hall WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Santa Fe Community College - Jemez Room

The Pecos is in danger. Join the Stop Tererro Mine Coalition for a presentation and panel discussion about the current status of mining in the Pecos, the administrative mineral withdrawal process, and plans for future protections for the area. We'll dive into critical discussions about mining, protection efforts, and the future of this cherished area. Whether you're a local or love to hike, fish, or camp in the area, your presence matters in the fight to protect our beloved watersheds.

For more info: <https://stopterromine.org/events/>

Rising from Ashes: A Tribe's Nature-based Approach to Watershed Restoration SEPTEMBER 26-28, Santa Clara Pueblo

The Natural Areas Association (NAA) is hosting a Stewardship in Action Field Workshop in Espanola, New Mexico on the lands of the Santa Clara Pueblo. The workshop will highlight an innovative and iconic case study in public and private collaboration on sovereign tribal lands following a series of catastrophic wildfires. By collaborating with federal agencies and other partners to incorporate indigenous knowledge and values into the recovery planning process, the Santa Clara Pueblo is working to achieve long-term, sustainable resiliency of its watershed. The purpose of this workshop is to share what was learned by the Santa Clara Pueblo and their many partners and to engage land and water management practitioners from tribal nations, federal and state agencies, and nonprofit organizations from around the continent to exchange information and leverage success to benefit local communities. The agenda features both indoor presentations and field experiences. For more info and to register: https://www.naturalareas.org/new_mexico_tribes_nature_based.php

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: \$ _____