

AWF Newsletter

JULY 2008

Founded by Aldo Leopold in 1914 to protect and perpetuate our wildlife and natural resources

There will be no AWF General Meeting in July.
Make a trip to Valle Vidal instead for our annual "Team Up
for Wildlife" Project Weekend July 18-20
...details on Page 3.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The mantra of many people in our country is "increase oil and gas production and ignore environmental consequences." They proclaim: "More drilling, open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, increase off shore and on shore leasing for oil and gas development." They offer that the price at the pump will go down as a consequence. Will this actually affect the price at the pump? The oil companies gobble up public oil and gas leases at greater rates than ever, add them to the corporate stock pile, and do not develop the resource.

Speculation on oil increases, in part, to offset the weakening dollar. In 2000, 30% of oil trading was for oil futures. This year 70% of trading has been for oil futures. Who pays for the profits from speculation? In the meantime, the price of a barrel of oil and a gallon at the pump keeps rising. Consider the following before you hastily support increased leasing of our oil and gas resources. This information comes from a US House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources Special Report from June 2008.

- Between 1999 and 2007, drilling permits for oil and gas development on public lands increased more than 361%.
- Since 2004, the Bureau of Land Management has issued 28,776 permits to drill on public land; in that same time, only 18,954 wells were actually drilled.
- Oil and gas companies have stockpiled nearly 10,000 extra permits to drill that they are not using to increase domestic production.
- Onshore, of the 47.5 million acres of federal lands leased by oil and gas companies, only about 13 million acres are actually producing oil and gas.
- Offshore, only 10.5 million of the 44 million leased acres are currently producing oil or gas.
- Combined, oil and gas companies hold leases to nearly 68 million acres of federal land that are not producing oil and gas.
- The 68 million acres of leased, inactive federal land could produce an additional 4.8 million barrels of oil and 44.7 billion cubic feet of natural gas each day. That would nearly double *total* U.S. oil production, and increase natural gas production by 75%.

Jim Hubert's
NOTABLE QUOTE
of the month

Why is it that we judge development on what we have built rather than what we have preserved? We strive to protect what was built by man, but give little thought to protecting what was made by God.

— *Juanito Cambangay*
Planning Officer
Bohol Province, Philippines

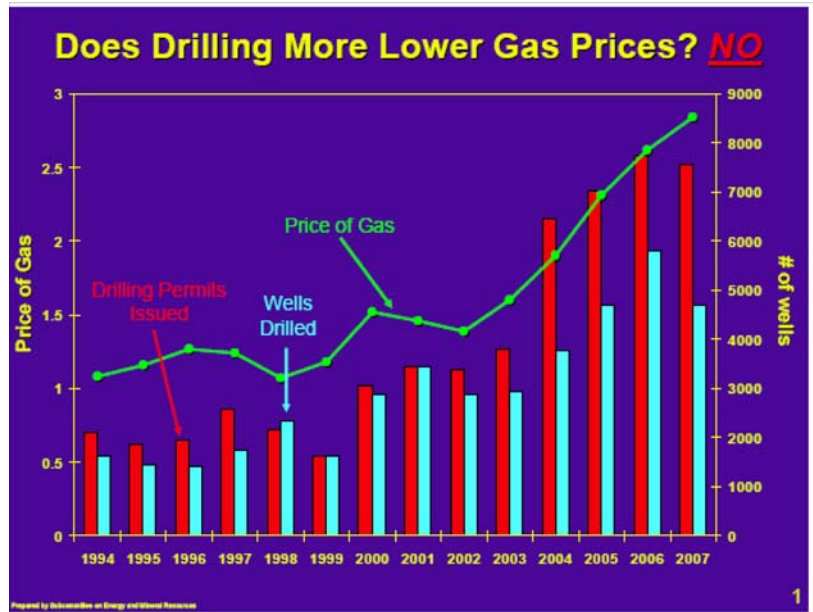
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Considering world wide demand for energy, I am doubtful that we will ever see a significant drop in the price at the pump. Many of us remember 25¢ per gallon gas. If I am going to pay the price, I want clean air and water. I even like polar ice. I want more energy efficient vehicles and federal incentives for alternative forms of energy. If you are concerned and want to make a difference, contact your federal Senators and Congressmen. Voice your concerns about our future energy supply and demands.

Also, support the New Mexico Wildlife Federation, The National Wildlife Federation, Trout Unlimited and others in protesting BLM's New Mexico oil and gas lease sale (7/16/08). This sale lists 51 parcels totaling 43,169.48 acres. The BLM has not evaluated the effects of global warming even though federal law requires them to do so, and has ignored a protest filed 4/16/08 requesting compliance with the law. For additional information contact our National Wildlife Federation Representative, Oscar Simpson, at oscarsimpson3@yahoo.com.

— Gene Tatum



NM GAME COMMISSION MEETING — JULY 23 — LAS VEGAS

The **NEW MEXICO STATE GAME COMMISSION** will meet at New Mexico Highlands University-Leveo Sanchez Lecture Hall (G-35), Thomas C. Donnelly Library-Ground Floor, 802 National Ave (Corner of 8th & National) Las Vegas, NM 87701, July 23, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Listed below are several agenda items for your consideration.

The full agenda and briefing reports can be seen at www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission/index.

- ▶ **NO. 11** — Adoption of the 2008-2009 Resident Upland Game Rule, and Migratory Game Bird Rule. Tim Mitchusson will present final drafts of the 2008-2009 Resident Upland Game and the 2008-2009 Migratory Game Bird Rule, NMAC, for adoption.
- ▶ **NO. 12** — Proposed GAIN Rule Change Regarding Dogs and Other Domestic Animals on Commission-owned Properties. Luke Shelby will present a proposal to restrict the use of dogs for hunting purposes, while dogs or other allowed pets associated with any other allowable activity, such as hiking, must be restrained by leash and under control of an allowed user.
- ▶ **NO. 13** — Update on Opportunities Available Pursuant to the Governor's Special Events Authorizations. R.J. Kirkpatrick will provide an overview of the Governor's Special Events Authorizations Program and some prospective opportunities for the upcoming hunting season.
- ▶ **NO. 14** — Update on Progress of Big Game Rule Development Process. R.J. Kirkpatrick will provide an update on Big Game Rule development for the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 hunting seasons.
- ▶ **NO. 16** — Legislative Initiatives Discussion and Approval for 2009 Session. Presented by Luke Shelby and Patrick Block. This agenda item is an opportunity for the Commission, Department and public to provide input on potential items to be addressed during the 2009 legislative session. The discussion will include topics that are suggested by Commissioners and other publics, initiatives from previous legislative sessions, and ongoing initiatives.
- ▶ **NO. 17** — Budget Status, Revenue Review, and Initial FY10 Budget Preparation Discussion. Patrick Block will provide a synopsis of the Fiscal Year 2010 Operating and Capital Budget. The briefing will include a historical and forward-looking perspective on balances in the Game Protection Fund and discuss long-term cash balance projections and operating fund balances for all funds.
- ▶ **NO. 18** — Approach to Enhancing Public Awareness of Department Conservation and Management Planning Actions. Matt Wunder will review and assess statutory requirements for public notification of regulatory or management actions. Based on the review, the Department will develop a comprehensive public notification process to ensure all interested parties will be aware of contemplated action.
- ▶ **NO. 19** — Conservation Populations. David Propst and Mike Slone will present perspectives on current status of core populations and conservation populations of fish with respect to federal ESA considerations. Implications to Gila trout and Rio Grande cutthroat trout conservation will be discussed.
- ▶ **NO. 20** — Gila River Assessment. Bob Jenks and Terra Manasco will present an overview of interagency and stakeholder efforts underway to better understand ecological, hydrological, and social aspects of the Gila River System and surrounding areas with respect to the Arizona Water Settlement Act.

2008 FIELD PROJECTS — TEAM UP FOR WILDLIFE

JULY 18-20 ● VALLE VIDAL

THE PLACE: Valle Vidal in the Carson National Forest is an area of high mountain meadows, slopes filled with aspen and fir, ponderosa-covered mesas, and clear flowing streams. Wildlife is abundant here, including New Mexico's largest elk herd. Many first learned of the Valle Vidal when the looming threat of coal bed methane development raised its profile. It has since been given protection through a legislative mineral withdrawal, keeping the drill rigs at bay. It is a beautiful place, where AWF has devoted many volunteer hours over the past 25 years for habitat restoration.

BACKGROUND: The Comanche Creek watershed, situated in the Valle Vidal Unit, was historically logged, grazed by livestock and elk, hunted, and mined. These activities resulted in the creation of many roads, overgrazed landscapes, decreased vegetation in riparian zones, and an increase in fine sediment within the watershed, specifically along Comanche Creek. Not surprisingly, these activities have negatively impacted habitat for the native Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout (RGCT). Over the past seven years, various organizations have come together to help restore RGCT habitat along Comanche Creek.

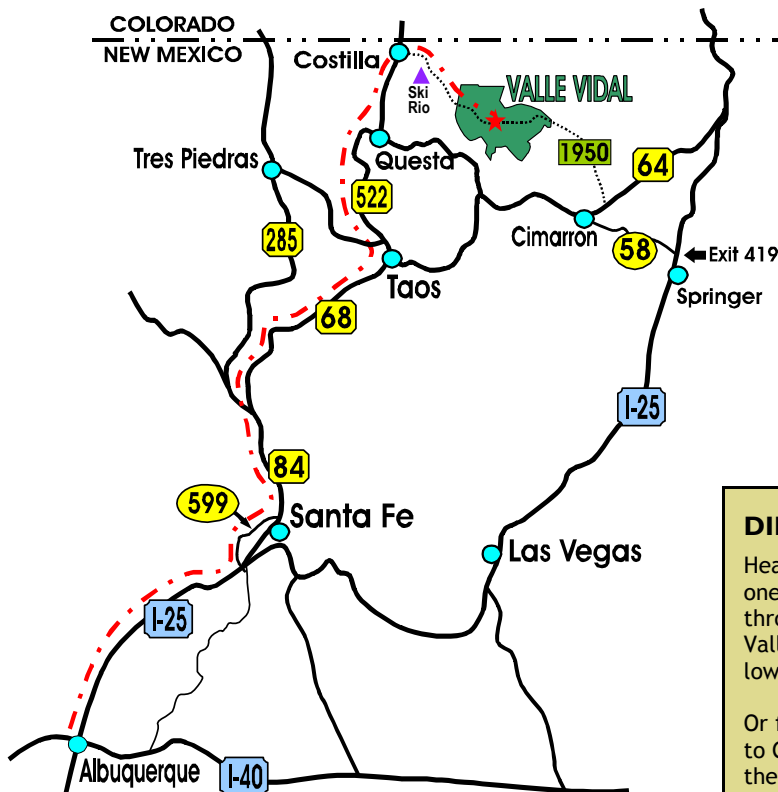
THE PROJECT: On Friday and Saturday, July 18 and 19, Bill Zeedyk, Steve Carson, and Craig Sponholtz will lead volunteers in building stream restoration structures (post vanes with rock braces) on the middle reach of Comanche Creek as a bank protection treatment. Additionally, there will be maintenance activity on existing fence enclosures along the Creek. On Sunday, July 20, Bill Zeedyk will offer an optional project tour.

EQUIPMENT: Wear sturdy boots/shoes and bring gloves, hats, and sunscreen, and appropriate gear for camping. And be prepared for rain. Wading boots may be useful for the Creek.

FOOD: AWF will supply snacks and drinks during the project day. Please bring food and water for the duration of your stay. There will be a potluck meal on Saturday evening: AWF will grill burgers and brats (veggie options also), so bring an appetizer, side dish, or dessert to share, and join in the fun!

Please sign up in advance!

CONTACT: Glenda Muirhead at 281-2925 | g.muirhead@usfamily.net OR Gene Tatum at 255-1960 | gtatum3@msn.com.



We will camp near Shuree Lodge, in a nearby meadow (on your right as you drive toward the building from the main road).

DIRECTIONS TO VALLE VIDAL

Head north from Taos on Hwy 522 through Questa to Costilla, one mile south of the Colorado border. Go east on Rte 196 through Amalia about 17 miles to the west boundary of the Valle Vidal, where the road becomes Forest Road 1950. Follow the signs to Shuree Pond, about 11 miles.

Or from the east, take I-25 to exit 419, head west on Hwy 58 to Cimarron. Follow Hwy 64 NE out of Cimarron for 5 miles, then take Forest Road 1950 for 26 miles, through Cerrososo Canyon across the private Vermejo Park Ranch, to the Forest boundary and then watch for Shuree Pond signs.

2008 PROJECT SCHEDULE

JULY 11-14	✦ PECOS WILDERNESS
JULY 18-20	VALLE VIDAL
AUG 15-17	VALLES CALDERA
SEP 19-21	WIND RIVER RANCH
OCT	CEBOLLA CANYON

✦ Project of NM Wilderness Alliance—Contact Michael Scialdone at 505-843-8696 or scial@nmwild.org

PARTNER PROJECT

July 11-13 ● South Pecos
(New Mexico Wilderness Alliance)

THE PLACE: Elk Mountain is outside the Pecos Wilderness on its southern boundary, east of the Pecos River.

THE PROJECT: Closing off illegal ATV routes into the Pecos Wilderness and along the non-motorized Skyline Trail.

MEALS: Provided, **except for lunch.**

CONTACT: Michael Scialdone at 505-843-8696, scial@nmwild.org for more info.

DRIVING DISTANCE: 2.5 hours north of ABQ; 1.5 hours east of Santa Fe.

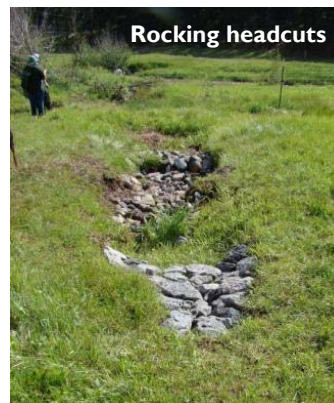
JUNE PROJECT — RIO DE LAS VACAS

Despite the wild Saturday afternoon storm of marble-sized hail (*photo lower right*) that briefly interrupted planting, fencing, and rockwork, and caused those close to camp to make a mad dash for vehicles and a handy canopy, project leaders Bill Zeedyk and Steve Carson were pleased with the results of the weekend at Rio de las Vacas, AWF's first venture there.

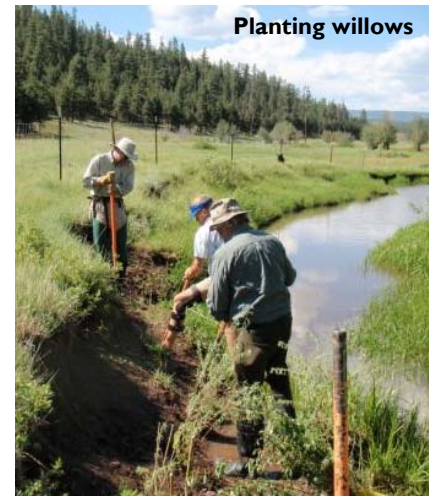
One crew collected cuttings of two types of willows, which were then planted along the river near camp to restore native vegetation, stabilize banks, and provide shade for a cooler trout habitat. Others carried and placed rocks in headcuts to forestall further erosion.

Another crew refined the newly-dubbed "hemi-exlosures" designed for creeks with high banks: cows won't graze on a high creek bank, so Bill and Steve developed a technique of fencing off valuable vegetation only on the flood plain side of the river.

Thanks to all these participants: Bill Zeedyk, Steve Carson, Steve Ginsberg, Peter Callen, Marilynn Szydowski, Toby Rosenblatt, Kurt Nolte, Hamish Thomson, Peter Blemel with son Insun, daughter Hyun Ju and her friend Annalisa, Francis Peter, Abraham & Jim Rowe, Michael Scialdone, Joanne Hertz & Peter Mondragon, Gene Tatum & Pat Hester, and Glenda Muirhead.



Rocking headcuts



Planting willows



After the hailstorm

COEXISTING WITH COUGARS

Presented by Animal Protection of New Mexico & WildEarth Guardians

As more people move and recreate in once rural places, more human-wildlife interactions occur. Learn safety tips for living and recreating with New Mexico's most magnificent cat. Join WildEarth Guardians and Animal Protection of New Mexico for a free presentation "Cougars in New Mexico: Natural History, Conservation & Coexistence."

ALBUQUERQUE

Wednesday, July 9, 7:30 PM
O'Neill's Pub
Community Room
3211 Central NE

TAOS

Thursday, July 10, 7 PM
Taos Convention Center
120 Civic Center Plaza Drive

TIJERAS

Monday, July 14, 7 PM
Los Vecinos Community Center
478 ½ Old Highway 66

SANTA FE

Wednesday, July 16, 7 PM
Santa Fe Downtown Library
145 Washington Street
955-6780

If you have any questions, contact Monica Garcia, Communications Manager,
Animal Protection of New Mexico — 505.265.2322 x23 | monica@apnm.org

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION, PO BOX 1234, ALBUQUERQUE, NM 87103

An affiliate of New Mexico Wildlife Federation

Please choose between **AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY** or **AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP**. **AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY** does **not** include membership in NMWF. **AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP** includes **one** voting membership in NMWF, for which \$10 of your dues payment goes to NMWF. For Family Membership, if a second person* desires NMWF voting rights, an additional \$10 payment is required.

➔ **PLEASE ✓ ONE** : **AWF MEMBERSHIP ONLY** **AWF + NMWF MEMBERSHIP** ↴

Designate NMWF member(s*) _____

name(s) _____

address _____

city, state, zip _____

phone _____ email _____

Gift membership from: _____

✓ **MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES**

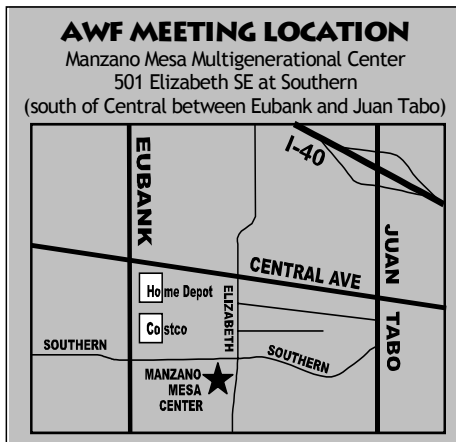
- Student [under 18].....\$10 ← [AWF Membership Only]
- Individual.....\$25
- Family\$35
- Sustaining..... \$50-\$99
- Patron.....\$100
- Lifetime.....\$500 ← [One-time Payment]

Dues \$ _____

*Second NMWF Member \$10 _____

Contribution \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____



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