



ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION

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

AWF Newsletter

MAY 2010

MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday, May 13, 2010 — 7:30 pm
Manzano Mesa Center (map p5)

Another Decade of the Habitat Stamp?

Guest Speaker: Dale Hall, Habitat Stamp Program Manager—NM Department of Game & Fish



Beginning with a pilot project in 1985, sportsmen were required to pay an additional fee to hunt, fish, and trap on BLM or USFS lands. This process to improve wildlife habitat, dubbed the **Habitat Stamp Program**, turned out to be so popular that the Game Commission invoked it statewide in 1991. Since its inception, the program has applied \$15.4 million from sportsman fees to “help wildlife where wildlife lives.” Having been renewed twice since then, the program will again sunset on March 31, 2011, unless renewed. Will you continue contributing to this effort for another decade? The Game Commission will make that decision on July 8, 2010, at their meeting in Silver City.

Join us to hear Dale Hall, Habitat Stamp Program Manager and former AWF Board member, explain how decisions are made about where the money goes, and much more. Dale graduated from Colorado State and earned a Master’s degree at Texas A&M University. For six years he worked on a private ranch in Texas before joining the Department of Game and Fish in 1989, where he has been involved in Hunter Education, Fisheries Management, Landowner/Sportsmen relations, Guide Registration, and since 2000, the Habitat Stamp Program.

Next month: Adrian Oglesby from The Nature Conservancy will talk about the Living Rivers Program.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Facts are facts, right?...and numbers don’t lie. Well, not really. Perspective colors everything. We know that one’s personal inclinations tend to tint the interpretation of what would seem to be unequivocal. According to letters forwarded by AWF member and hunter/fisherman Ron Madsen, the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) has been “having words” with Defenders of Wildlife and Western Wildlife Conservancy since March. Apparently, Defenders made statements using “undeniable” data compiled by RMEF showing that, “region wide, elk continue to thrive in the presence of wolves.” RMEF countered with remarks to the press which Defenders felt misrepresented its positions.

So at the end of March, Defenders wrote to RMEF in measured terms, stating its dismay that RMEF’s comments in the media have “only served to further polarize this important conservation issue.” In reemphasizing its support for wolf reintro-

(Continued on page 8)

Jim Hubert’s

Notable Quote

of the month

“In a 1963 book, Stewart Udall warned of a ‘quiet conservation crisis’ from pollution, overuse of natural resources and dwindling open spaces. He appealed for a new ‘land conscience’ to preserve the environment.”

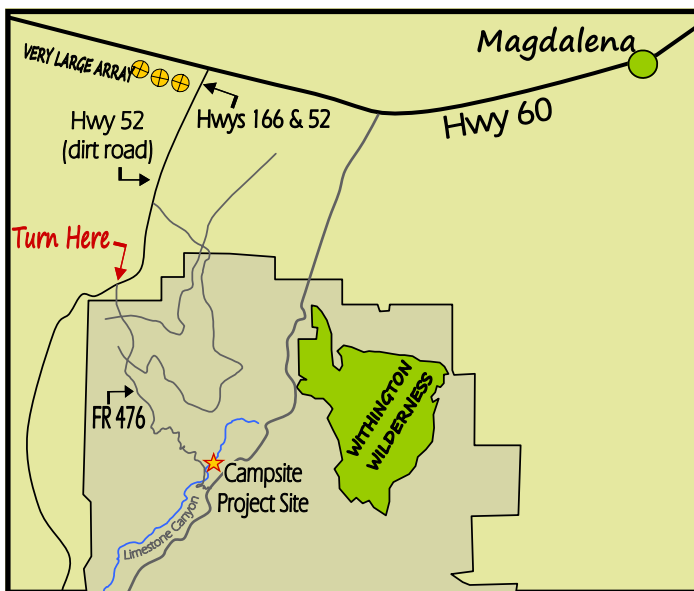
— Editor, Albuquerque Journal
March 2010

Volunteer Project #4

LIMESTONE CANYON — SW of Magdalena Weekend Project: May 14-16, 2010

The fourth planned project of AWF's 2010 Season is at Limestone Canyon in the San Mateo Mountains southwest of Magdalena, New Mexico, off Highway 60. We would like to offer you an opportunity to participate in this project. For those returning this is a great opportunity to view the product of your efforts.

There has been a remarkable change in the creek since we worked there last May. We anticipate that the water will be running this year during the project which will give us a chance to observe how the structures function. Our work has been so successful that Dave Heft, Forest Service Wildlife Biologist, would like to extend our work down stream, next to the camp/kitchen. Dave is also providing portable toilets this year.



In the past, 15 to 18 people have participated. This year we hope that 25 to 30 will attend to build more rock structures. We could use the help, plus Dave is planning on retiring after this year. Dave has been a good host and great work partner. Your participation would help him with restoration of this important habitat and provide him a meaningful retirement gift.

THE PROJECT: The stream in Limestone Canyon is intermittent. We will be performing riparian restoration tasks to promote sediment deposition, such as building one-rock dams. We'll plan to do project work on Saturday starting at 9 am, and possibly Sunday morning as well. Access to the camping area, at the base of the work area where FR 476 crosses the canyon, is suitable for 2-wheel drive vehicles and small campers.

FOOD: Please provide your own meals for Friday dinner, Saturday lunch, and Sunday breakfast and lunch.

Wake up to **COFFEE** and **BREAKFAST BURRITOS** for everyone on **SATURDAY MORNING**. We'll also provide snacks and drinks during the project day. **SATURDAY EVENING** we'll have a **POTLUCK MEAL**—AWF will grill burgers and sausage (veggie options too), so bring along something to share with the group...appetizer, salad, vegetable, dessert. Sunday morning, enjoy coffee and leftovers.

DRIVING TIME:

2½ hours from ABQ, 3 hours from Las Cruces.

TO SIGN UP: Contact

Glenda Muirhead — 505-281-2925
or g.muirhead@usfamily.net

Camping With Us? Here's What to Bring

- ✓ Gear for camping (tent / trailer / vehicle)
- ✓ Warm bedding and clothing
- ✓ Rain gear
- ✓ Sturdy work/waterproof BOOTS and work GLOVES
- ✓ HAT and SUNSCREEN
- ✓ BACKPACK or daypack for your stuff
- ✓ Clothing and footwear changes (*it may rain*)
- ✓ FOOD for yourself for Friday dinner, a Saturday bag lunch, and your meals for Sunday
- ✓ DISH TO SHARE at Saturday night meal
- ✓ WATER adequate for your needs + 1-2 gallons to share for dishwashing station
- ✓ YOUR OWN PLATE, bowl, flatware, & coffee cup
- ✓ Towel to dry your own dishes
- ✓ CAMP CHAIR and HEAD LAMP or flashlight

Project Recap **CEBOLLA CANYON** *in April*



On the scene of baffle construction.

Thanks to each of you who came out and participated in our April project at Cebolla Canyon. In spite of the cold and rain, we completed at least five new picket structures, repaired three old structures, and moved large root wads to form a baffle in hopes of eroding a steep, overhanging bank and stabilizing a point bar.

All of these structures act to direct water flow, though root wads are an unusual material. It is more typical for large tree balls to be used for bank stabilization. It will be interesting to watch the root wads to see how well they function here.



Phil Carter pounds pickets to create one of several wood baffles completed.

On Sunday, Scial got the group motivated to transplant several hundred willows in the vicinity of the structures built the previous day. The structures will slow water and allow more of it to soak into streambanks. This increase in bank water storage will improve the chance of transplanted willow survival. The willows will aid the structures in slowing the creek flow and enhance bank stability—thus the structures and willows complement each other and form a positive biological feedback loop.



Jodey Kougioulis and Kristina G. Fisher weave brush cuttings through pickets on this baffle.



Matt Rotunno assists gravity to hasten the fall-away of steep arroyo sides.



Matt Schultz (l) and Gene Tatum wrestle these interesting root wads into a unique baffle.

CEBOLLA CANYON <i>Participants</i>	
Stephen Aushman	Tia Paneet
Shannon Batten	Toby Rosenblatt
Richard Besser	Matt Rotunno
Phil Carter	Matt Schultz, NMED
Casey den Hollander	Michael Scialdone
Barb Diver	Benjamin Stern
Rich Diver	Noah Stern
Kristina Fisher	Gene Tatum
Denise Harmon	Hamish Thomson
Patricia Hester	Bill Zeedyk
Jodey Kougioulis	Suzanne Zeedyk
Leslie Kryder	Adam Zipkin
Trish Logan	Celia (?)
Bob Nordstrum	

Notes from the Projects Chair

Third in a series by Gene Tatum, AWF Vice President

THE TAYLOR GRAZING ACT: To Stop Injury To Public Grazing Lands

The February article set the stage for the passage of the 1934 Taylor Act. To recap: the vast western landscape referred to as the vacant, unappropriated lands were those not claimed during the settlement and expansion into the West. Stock men came first, acquiring the lands best suited for agriculture. Homesteaders along with sheep men followed, claiming the best of the remaining arable land. The lands left were those less suited for agriculture. However, everyone used the vacant lands to aid in their economic survival, resulting in serious overgrazing.

Previous efforts to stop the overgrazing could not gain political support from either the eastern or western Congressional members. President Herbert Hoover failed in his attempt to transfer these lands to the western states. The western politicians were opposed because in Hoover's proposal the minerals would remain in Federal ownership. The eastern politicians wanted the federal government to retain ownership of the lands and also would not support the proposal.

In 1934, Secretary of Interior Harold Ickes, tired of the politics, decided to take matters in his own hands to stop the overgrazing and abuse of vacant lands and proposed to use his authority to regulate grazing. This measure prompted Congressional action. Representative Edward Taylor, a rancher from Colorado, sponsored a grazing lease.

Eastern politicians, satisfied with the lands remaining in federal ownership, left the problems of implementing the Taylor Grazing Act to the westerners. The Taylor Act provided for leasing of grazing land to stop land abuse, to stabilize the livestock industry that relied on the lands, and to institute orderly use. The Taylor Act assigned responsibility for the Act's implementation to the Department of Interior.

Secretary Ickes established the Division of Grazing and hired Farrington Carpenter, a lawyer and Colorado rancher, as the Director. Because his general point of view was totally sympathetic to the western range livestock industry, Mr. Carpenter's appointment was reassuring to the stockmen.

In December 1934 and January 1935, Mr. Carpenter conducted hearings in the western states to begin the process of establishing grazing districts as required by the Taylor Act. Those in attendance at the each meeting elected a committee of stockmen to draw up district boundaries [see photo next page]. By 1936, 37

grazing districts had been formed from 80 million acres of vacant land. At the time, personnel in the Division of Grazing totaled 60; 47 were field employees working outside Washington, DC. On average, each field employee was responsible for supervision and management of 4.2 million acres. Because of this scarcity of agency manpower, one of Director Carpenter's first instructions was for the election of district advisories composed of stockmen to assist in the management of each grazing district.

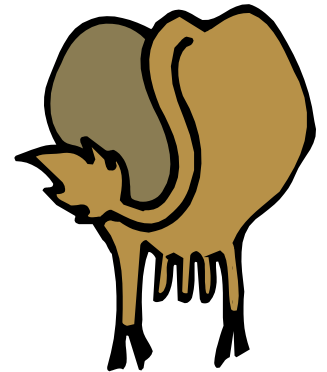
The next instruction ("Circular #2") issued by the Director provided instructions in accordance with the Taylor Act to establish priorities for assigning grazing permits—who and where. Preference for a grazing permit was accorded to those owning property (either water or private land) necessary for a livestock operation—and previous established grazing use.

As one of the primary provisions of the Taylor Act was to stop damage from overgrazing, determining the proper number of livestock permitted became a critical component. Unfortunately, there were no scientific data on the condition of the range or forage production. As a consequence, number permitted was based on assertions made by those requesting a permit. Local grazing boards were highly influential in establishing the grazing permits for each district, as their knowledge of prior grazing history was essential in estimating the number of livestock to be permitted.

Livestock grazing was reduced, and management improved, but was the requirement of the Taylor Act to stop overgrazing accomplished?

In addition to setting up the Grazing Districts and starting the grazing permit process, Director Carpenter enlisted the assistance of the Civilian Conservation Corps to build range improvements, perform insect and rodent control, and fight fires.

In 1939, Secretary Ickes fired Farrington Carpenter and hired Richard H. Rutledge, a former Forest Service employee. Under the new Director, the Division of Grazing was renamed the U.S. Grazing Service. ■



This is an abridged history. Much of this information is from:

—*Opportunity and Challenge: The Story of the BLM* by James Muhn and Hanson R. Stuart, 1988, US Department of Interior, BLM

—*Private Grazing and Public Lands* by Wesley Calef, 1960, University of Chicago Press

Additional information can found at http://www.blm.gov/wo/st/en/info/About_BLM.html

VICTIM OF THE Weather!

A night of rainfall at Cebolla Canyon brought AWF's 12x12 EZ-Up canopy from this (shown as set up in March)...



..to this sad state!

But don't worry...we've already purchased a new shelter which we hope will endure more robustly what Mother Nature throws at us! We'll try it out this month at Limestone Canyon.



2010 PROJECT SCHEDULE

February 20	Tree Planting at Aldo Leopold Forest (Albuquerque Bosque)
March 20	[Cedro Creek — CANCELLED DUE TO WEATHER]
April 16-18	Cebolla Canyon I
May 14-16	Limestone Canyon (San Mateo Mountains)
June 18-20	Rio de las Vacas
July 16-18	Valle Vidal
August 20-22	Valles Caldera National Preserve
September 17-19	Cebolla Canyon II
October 16	Cedro Creek (East Mountains) and End of Year Celebration

To sign up for any of these projects, please contact Glenda Muirhead at 505-281-2925 or g.muirhead@usfamily.net by Monday prior to the project weekend.

BURNING THE PRAIRIE in Wisconsin

AWF members Dewey Moore and Shelley Roberts wrote in April that they will, regrettably, miss our summertime projects because they will be at their Wisconsin farm to burn their four-year-old prairie.

This struck us as an unusual undertaking, so we inquired about the purpose. Here's how Dewey explained it:

Before European settlement there were vast stretches of prairie, a band across most of northern Illinois, most of Iowa, northern Missouri, etc. Farther west there was short grass prairie. In the Midwest the prairie was dominated by big bluestem grass with a host of other grasses and forbs.

It would get eight to nine feet tall. Riders would have to stand on their saddles to see distant land marks. Herman Melville rode in a stage coach from Chicago to Galena, IL, and commented that it was just like being at sea with the grasses waving in the breeze. In the fall they turn colors just like trees. The colors are purples and orange-ish browns. Gorgeous!

On the tops of hills in the southwest part of Wisconsin there were prairies, so what we're trying to do is re-establish at least a small bit. Fire was part of the prairie's ecology. It suppresses woody plants and invasive forbs but encourages the grasses, the majority of whose mass is in the root system so that they come back very quickly after a burn.

Things are definitely different in Wisconsin!



New Mexico Grazing District No. 6's advisory board allocating use of the public range in 1936

FOREST SERVICE ROUNDTABLE

— Developing a New Planning Rule

A larger-than-expected crowd of interested parties attended the U.S. Forest Service's roundtable meeting in Albuquerque on April 28 at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center. People from very diverse positions viewed a video of USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack promising that the development of a new Planning Rule would be science-based, collaborative, adaptable, transparent, and responsive. He assured his audience that the Forest Service is mindful of the new challenges in resource management not addressed in the current planning rule.

Southwestern Regional Forester Corbin Newman and his associate Bob Davis were assisted by local USFS staff in clarifying the distinction between the "Planning Rule" and the "Forest Plan."

- The RULE is the PROCESS and defines PURPOSE on a NATIONAL level;
- The PLAN is the PRODUCT and defines specific OBJECTIVES for the LOCAL environment.

Among the meeting participants were agents from NM Department of Game and Fish; Sierra Club in Santa Fe; NM Off-Highway Vehicle Board; members of associations representing acequias, conservation districts, backcountry pilots, and more; conservation groups such as AWF; BLM and other governmental agencies.

Among the major concerns brought out in small group discussions was a need to respect historical customs and cultures of an area. Many individuals hope the Rule will include ecosystem sustainability tools that can cross jurisdictional boundaries, and will be flexible enough to respond to new challenges that arise.

RENEWED MEMBERS

Barb & Rich Diver

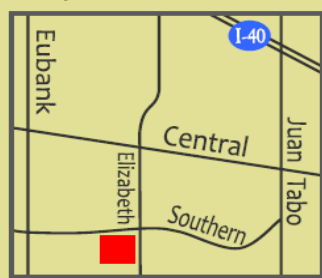
NEW MEMBERS

Betsy Adamson
Christianne Hinks
& Chuck Houston
Arlette Miller

Thank You!

AWF MEETING LOCATION

Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center
501 Elizabeth SE at Southern



FOREST PRESERVATION IS CRITICAL

By Bryan Bird, Wild Places Program Director, WildEarth Guardians
Excerpts from Guest Opinion — Albuquerque Journal — April 28, 2010

More than 200 million people visit our national forests and grasslands each year because they represent some of the most wild and pristine pieces of America's natural heritage. The forests and grasslands produce clean water for millions of Americans, provide habitat for many of our most treasured and imperiled species, give us unparalleled recreational opportunities, and are key drivers of local economies by providing and supporting thousands of jobs and small businesses.

The U.S. Forest Service [held] a roundtable discussion in Albuquerque to gather public input as they start drafting a new planning rule under the National Forest Management Act. In short, this rule will determine how our national forests—and the values they hold—are managed. To be successful, the new forest planning rule must apply sound science, protect fish and wildlife, address climate change, ensure accountability to the American public, preserve water and watersheds and save America's outdoor legacy.

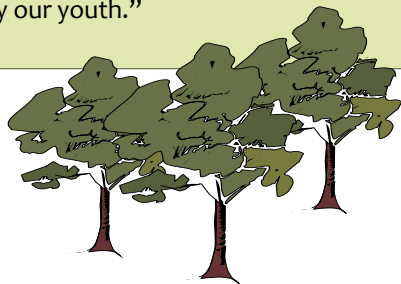
National forest land covers more than 9 million acres in New Mexico, 12 percent of the state. The national forests contain 19 wilderness areas, including the very first designated in the country, the Gila and nearly 2 million acres of roadless forests. These forests are the source of our drinking water, cherished for their hunting, fishing and camping, and home to our most iconic native animal, the Mexican wolf or lobo.

The economic benefits of protecting our publicly owned forests are also hugely significant. Responsible stewardship of our national forests under a new, strong planning rule would help support a recreational economy worth over \$110 billion, safeguarding jobs for thousands of families across America. The five national forests in New Mexico alone are responsible for more than 15,000 jobs and \$376 million in income.

The U.S. Forest Service's mission is to "sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the Nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations." By participating during this important planning process, we can all help the Forest Service deliver on that mission and preserve America's outdoor legacy for future generations.

GREAT OUTDOORS INITIATIVE Signed

Former New Mexico Wildlife Federation President **Kent Salazar** (an AWF member) was part of a national task force that helped create a new effort that aims to reconnect Americans, especially children, to our rivers, parks, ranches, coasts and forests. Salazar was appointed to the Outdoor Resources Review Group by Sen. Jeff Bingaman specifically to represent sportsmen of the southwestern United States. President Obama followed the group's recommendations and signed the America's Great Outdoors Initiative, which promotes community-based recreation and conservation, job and volunteer opportunities related to conservation and outdoor recreation; and programs and projects that engage Americans in our history, culture and natural bounty. Said Salazar: "I am proud that President Obama is following the same path that President Franklin D. Roosevelt followed to reinvigorate the nation in a time of economic troubles and world strife. The president calls on us all to work together to use our nation's precious natural resources to restore the health of all Americans, especially our youth."



ARE SOCIOECONOMIC Benefits of Restoration ADEQUATELY QUANTIFIED?

From ABSTRACT of an article by James Aronson et al in *Restoration Ecology*, March 2010 (Volume 18 Issue 2, Pages 143-154)

**"A Meta-analysis of Recent Papers (2000–2008) in
Restoration Ecology and 12 Other Scientific Journals"**

Many ecosystems have been transformed or degraded by human use, and restoration offers an opportunity to recover services and benefits, not to mention intrinsic values. The authors assessed whether restoration scientists and practitioners use their projects to demonstrate the benefits restoration can provide in their peer-reviewed publications. They evaluated a sample of the academic literature to determine whether links are made explicit between ecological restoration, society, and public policy related to natural capital. The study analyzed 1,582 peer-reviewed papers dealing with ecological restoration published between 1 January 2000 and 30 September 2008 in 13 leading scientific journals. Within certain constraints, **the authors found clear evidence that restoration practitioners are failing to signal links between ecological restoration, society, and policy, and are underselling the evidence of benefits of restoration as a worthwhile investment for society.** The article discusses this assertion and illustrates it with samples of the study's findings.

Thanks to AWF member Steve Carson of Rangeland Hands for forwarding this information.

BIG GAME RULES

at April Game Commission Meeting

The State Game Commission got its first official look at proposed changes to big game and small game rules when it met Thursday, April 8, in Albuquerque. The Department of Game and Fish presented several proposed changes in statewide hunting rules, along with proposals and public comments received to date for the turkey, upland game and javelina rules.

One of the biggest changes would put the normal review of rules for all species on a four-year cycle, up from the current two years... Other general proposals for all species include:

- Extending legal shooting hours to ½ hour after sunset for all species except migratory birds.
- Legalizing crossbow use during "any legal weapon" and muzzleloader hunts.

Some of the most sweeping changes proposed would expand turkey hunting opportunity where department biologists say it will not impact the species.

A department proposal to prohibit hunting upland game over bait was withdrawn due to a lack of support. State rules were changed several years ago by the Game Commission to allow the practice.

For javelina, the department continued its look at how to improve hunting opportunity and suggested opening several Wildlife Management Areas to javelina hunting, including the Lesser Prairie Chicken WMAs, La Joya and Water Canyon areas.

The process that began at this meeting offers a new level of transparency for sportsmen to participate in rules that affect their time in the field.

— By Joel Gay, NM Wildlife Federation

AWF GETS BETTER EQUIPPED

Good news for everyone who attends our monthly meetings—AWF is now the proud owner of a brand-new digital projector! At-home testing and its first use at our April meeting with a PowerPoint presentation have proven it to be a valuable addition to our club inventory. No longer will we have to rely on borrowed equipment (courtesy of Pat Hester and the BLM), though we are very appreciative of past availability.

This new projector has a built-in DVD player, so our next Movie Night should be a real “theater” experience! And we promise popcorn, too.

AWF OFFICERS AND BOARD

PRESIDENT — Glenda Muirhead
VICE PRESIDENT — Gene Tatum
SECRETARY — Patricia Hester
TREASURER — Dennis Muirhead

DIRECTORS

Stephen Bohannon Linda Patterson
Larry Dwyer Michael Scialdone
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ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from page 1)

duction and natural predator/prey relationships, it asserts that “wildlife conservation includes recovering all wildlife.” Defenders seeks “not more conflict but more collaboration.... Working together is preferable, and we would hope RMEF would lend its considerable expertise to this process.”

RMEF’s reply in early April claims that Defenders et al “are contributing to perhaps one of the worst wildlife management disasters since the destruction of bison herds.”

RMEF President and CEO M. David Allen presents statistics showing that wolves are demolishing elk populations in Yellowstone and other regions of Montana and Idaho. He states, “The facts are there—the numbers do not lie! Our elk herds cannot be sustained if wolf numbers continue to expand without proper management.... **Enough of the legal maneuvering and posturing, let’s resolve this now.**”

OK, so we have intelligent but patently biased representatives of conservation-minded organizations manipulating the same data set (or portions thereof) with dramatically opposite outcomes. They share a common goal of ecological preservation, but they favor entirely different species. Their divergent perspectives tightly focus their energies to promote the needs of one animal to the purported detriment of the other.

How can we as interested observers possibly know what to believe and support in such a polarized situation?! I have no idea. This is a frustration we inevitably face as we try to maintain a balanced viewpoint while pursuing our various passions and making our own decisions.

Glenda Muirhead

(Los Tortugas, our Albuquerque team in the 80-mile River to River Relay in Southern Illinois, won the time handicap division...by 13 seconds!)

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

An affiliate of New Mexico Wildlife Federation

I'd like to belong to AWF ONLY or I'd like to belong to AWF + NMWF: 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 \$ _____

Contribution \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Membership Application