



## MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday, February 10, 2011 — 7:30 pm  
Manzano Mesa Center (map p2)

### CONNECTING KIDS TO LOCAL WILDLIFE THROUGH CITIZEN SCIENCE

Guest Speaker: Dan Shaw, Biology Teacher at Bosque School



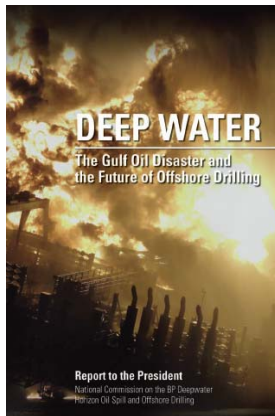
Dan Shaw is a wildlife and conservation biology teacher at Bosque School on Albuquerque's west side. He and his students are involved in several long-term wildlife studies along the Rio Grande, its bosque, and associated watershed and upland areas. Their work involves a variety of species such as porcupine and beaver as well as other research efforts related to habitat connectivity and fragmentation in the metro area.

Dan and his students will present an overview of their research and findings. Building on those direct experiences in the out-of-doors, they will also discuss both the opportunities and the importance of involving young people in field-based citizen science and environmental education opportunities. Additionally, they will highlight a few national citizen science wildlife research efforts that are more regional, national, and international in scope with which the students are involved.

Bosque School is also a hub school for over 5,000 students and their teachers each year who are involved with the Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program where student data informs multi-million dollar management decisions of the Rio Grande.

Dan has been an teacher and environmental educator in New Mexico for 30 years and is the author or coauthor of over 50 publications on environmental, wildlife, and other topics including the recently released UNM Press Book, *Eco-tracking: On the Trail of Habitat Change*.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The National Commission Report to the President on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling was recently released. The complete report is available at: [amazonaws.com/pdf\\_final/DEEPWATER\\_ReporttothePresident\\_FINAL.pdf](http://amazonaws.com/pdf_final/DEEPWATER_ReporttothePresident_FINAL.pdf)

The report finds willingness of those in charge to gamble recklessly without concern for consequences.

This brings to mind the discussion about rolling back rules to protect New Mexico water from possible contamination during exploration and development of oil and gas (Pit rule highlights [www.emnrd.state.nm.us/ocd/documents/PitRuleHighlights\\_000](http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/ocd/documents/PitRuleHighlights_000)).

(Continued on page 2)

Jim Hubert's

### Notable Quote of the Month

"Civil penalties like this send a strong message to anyone thinking about stealing New Mexico's valuable wildlife," said Brian Guzman, Conservation Officer and lead investigator on the case.

—Fall 2010 issue of New Mexico Wildlife, in reference to the conviction of Bradley A. Smith of Hobbs for the illegal taking of an elk resulting in a judgment of \$10,000 in civil penalties.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE** *(Continued from page 1)*

Certainly oil and gas revenues are important to our State's economy. It fair to conclude that increased regulations will increase costs of doing business in New Mexico. The price of oil and gas has a greater effect on exploration and development than the cost of the environmental rules. There is a limited supply of oil and gas, and it will be extracted. The question is not economics or the environment. If we allow our drinking water to be polluted, you and I will pay for the cleanup, not industry. We should learn from the *Deepwater Horizon* catastrophe and not play Russian roulette with our limited water supply. The costs are unknown to the economy and the environment.

Contact your State Congressional representative and/or write Governor Martinez to oppose changes to the "Pit Rule," or New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC) 19.15.17, which weakens environmental protection.

Below is an excerpt from the Commission's Report for your consideration.

*Gene Tatum*

**NATIONAL COMMISSION REPORT TO THE PRESIDENT ON THE BP DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL AND OFFSHORE DRILLING**

From the outset, the Commissioners have been determined to learn the essential lessons so expensively revealed in the tragic loss of life at the *Deepwater Horizon* and the severe damages that ensued. The Commission's aim has been to provide the President, policy-makers, industry, and the American people a clear, accessible, accurate, and fair account of the largest oil spill in U.S. history: the context for the well itself, how the explosion and spill happened, and how industry and government scrambled to respond to an unprecedented emergency. This was our first obligation: determine what happened, why it happened, and explain it to Americans everywhere.

As a result of our investigation, we conclude:

- The explosive loss of the Macondo well could have been prevented.
- The immediate causes of the Macondo well blowout can be traced to a series of identifiable mistakes made by BP, Halliburton, and Transocean that reveal such systematic failures in risk management that they place in doubt the safety culture of the entire industry.
- Deepwater energy exploration and production, particularly at the frontiers of experience, involve risks for which neither industry nor government has been adequately prepared, but for which they can and must be prepared in the future.
- To assure human safety and environmental protection, regulatory oversight of leasing, energy exploration, and production requires reforms even beyond those significant reforms already initiated since the *Deepwater Horizon* disaster. Fundamental reform will be needed in both the structure of those in charge of regulatory oversight and their internal decision-making process to ensure their political autonomy, technical expertise, and their full consideration of environmental protection concerns.
- Because regulatory oversight alone will not be sufficient to ensure adequate safety, the oil and gas industry will need to take its own, unilateral steps to increase dramatically safety throughout the industry, including self-policing mechanisms that supplement governmental enforcement.
- The technology, laws and regulations, and practices for containing, responding to, and cleaning up spills lag behind the real risks associated with deepwater drilling into large, high-pressure reservoirs of oil and gas located far offshore and thousands of feet below the ocean's surface. Government must close the existing gap and industry must support rather than resist that effort.
- Scientific understanding of environmental conditions in sensitive environments in deep Gulf waters, along the region's coastal habitats, and in areas proposed for more drilling, such as the Arctic, is inadequate. The same is true of the human and natural impacts of oil spills.

**RENEWED MEMBERS**

Pamela Bliss  
Beverly deGruyter  
Dale Hall  
Joanne Hertz  
Jim Hines  
Christianne Hinks & Chuck Houston  
Dave Huberty, Nancy Carrillo & Ian Carrillo  
Laurie Marnell  
Bob Nordstrum

*Thank  
You!*

**AWF OFFICERS AND BOARD**

**PRESIDENT** — Gene Tatum  
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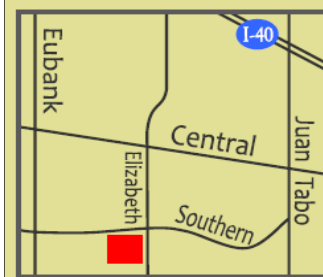
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**ALBUQUERQUE WILDLIFE FEDERATION**  
PO Box 1234 ■ Albuquerque, NM 87103  
<http://abq.nmwildlife.org>

**AWF MEETING LOCATION**

Manzano Mesa Multigenerational Center  
501 Elizabeth SE at Southern



# NEW MEXICO LEGISLATURE IN SESSION

## SB 196 = MORE RESIDENT HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES

By Larry Dwyer, AWF Board Member

Senate Bill 196 would end the current unfair law that actually discriminates against resident hunters and would bring New Mexico closer to surrounding states in the percentage of resident permit allocations. Current law gives nonresidents better draw odds in more than two-thirds of hunt codes.

New Mexico resident hunters could see their share of Big Game Draw licenses increase from 78 to 90 percent under a bill in the Legislature. Many senators have said they will support the bill, but it first must get through two crucial committees. Its first stop is the Senate Conservation Committee. A hearing date hasn't been set, but the committee's approval is critical.

If Senate Bill 196 passes, an additional 3,500 big game hunting licenses will go to residents. It is resident New Mexico sportsmen who are the true backbone of the state's hunting-related economy. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service found that resident hunters far outspend nonresidents in New Mexico (\$110 million to \$24 million in 2001; \$94 million to \$60 million in 2006). Residents also accounted for 98 percent of equipment expenditures for hunting in New Mexico in 2006 – the kind of spending that happens year-round and keeps a multitude of sporting goods stores and gun and bow shops in business.

## SOME FACTS SUPPORTING SB 196

From Joel Gay, NM Wildlife Federation

- **Resident hunters are the economic backbone** for sporting goods retailers and many other local businesses. More than 60 sporting goods stores, gun and archery shops and other business owners have signed a letter of support for SB 196.
- **State residents would receive some 3,500 additional** big game hunting opportunities under SB 196 – and 3,500 good reasons to spend their money in New Mexico rather than giving up hunting or leaving the state.
- **Many states guarantee at least 90 percent** of big game licenses for resident hunters. SB 196 would bring New Mexico in line with Arizona, Utah, Nevada, Idaho and Montana, among others.
- **SB 196 would eliminate the public subsidy to outfitters** – the 12 percent of draw licenses that are set aside for nonresidents who are required by law to hire an outfitter. But according to NM Department of Game and Fish data, over the last four years less than 4 percent – a third of the outfitters' 12 percent quota – were taken. The remainder of those licenses were then made available to nonresident hunters, who could choose to hire an outfitter or not.

## BILL WOULD ELIMINATE STATE GAME COMMISSION, MOVE NM GAME & FISH INTO ENERGY DEPARTMENT

— Excerpts from an article by Staci Matlock, Santa Fe New Mexican

A bill sponsored by Rep. Paul Bandy, R-Aztec, would ax the State Game Commission and merge the Department of Game and Fish with the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department. House Bill 80 also would “sunset all boards and commissions addressing energy and natural resources issues.”

The bill is one of several proposed by a government restructuring task force in order to streamline government and save the cash-strapped state some money, said Bandy, a rancher.

But several people think putting the Game and Fish Department under another agency is a mistake. “I would hate to see that happen,” outfitter and former San Miguel County Commissioner Hugh Ley said of the proposed consolidation. “Game and Fish is a free-standing department and they've paid their own way, balanced their budget and tightened their belts when they had to. They've lived within their means. I would hate to see that lost.”

**Jeremy Vesbach, executive director of the New Mexico Wildlife Federation, is opposite Ley on other issues, but agrees with him on this one. “We're not in favor of this bill at all,” Vesbach said. “This takes whatever is a problem with the State Game Commission and makes it worse.”**

HB 80 would place all current duties of the Game and Fish Department — such as licensing hunters, collecting fees and managing wildlife — under a new division within the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department. If approved, the newly formed Game and Fish Division would be created in July.

TENTATIVE 2011 PROJECT SCHEDULE	
MARCH	Local project at the Bosque
APRIL	Cebolla Canyon I
MAY	Magdalena Ranger District
JUNE	Rio de Las Vacas
JULY	[Undetermined]
AUGUST	Valles Caldera
SEPTEMBER	Cebolla Canyon II
OCTOBER	Cedro Creek + End-of-Season Celebration

## Green Fire TO PREMIERE IN ALBUQUERQUE

A joint production of the Aldo Leopold Foundation, the US Forest Service, and the Center for Humans and Nature, *Green Fire* explores the life and legacy of Aldo Leopold, and the many ways his land ethic idea is living on in the work of people and organizations all over the country today. The film's world premiere will take place at 7:00 pm on Saturday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque, NM.

AWF will have a table at this event  
...stop by and say hello!

- 6:30 pm**—Doors open to the public
- 7:00 pm**—Welcome and acknowledgements
- 7:10 pm**—Award presentation: Leopold Essay Contest winners recognized
- 7:30 pm**—*Green Fire: Aldo Leopold and a Land Ethic for Our Time*
- 9:00 pm - 10:00 pm**—Reception

Tickets are available through NHCC Box Office: \$10 advance/\$12 at the door (includes fees)

*World Premiere!* February 5 at 7:00 pm — National Hispanic Cultural Center

## COLORADO LANDOWNERS WELCOME HUNTERS —WOW!

By Larry Dwyer, AWF Board Member

This month I had a fantastic hunting experience. I had the opportunity to tag along with my nephew's son on a deer hunt near Buena Vista, Colorado. I was confused when they said they were hunting "private" land and that it was OK because the landowner wanted hunters to take deer that feed on their pastures. Having hunted almost exclusively in New Mexico, this seemed to go against everything I know about hunting private land.



Upon arriving at the unlocked gate to the private land, there it was, something you would never see in New Mexico...a sign welcoming hunters onto private land. I have heard about programs in surrounding states that give landowners incentives to allow hunters on their property. I'm not sure of all of the specifics but from the point of view of this New Mexico hunter, New Mexico could learn much from Colorado.

## A Preliminary Vision for an Urban National Wildlife Refuge

*Planning Update #1 February 2011*

The Price's Dairy property offers the last large undeveloped urban land along the Rio Grande. — Don J. Usner

As reported in last month's AWF Newsletter, the US Fish and Wildlife Service is studying the feasibility of establishing a national wildlife refuge along the Rio Grande at the former Price's Dairy property in the South Valley of Bernalillo County, just five miles from Albuquerque.

The USFWS is holding public meetings and workshops designed to provide information, respond to questions, and listen to the community's ideas, issues and concerns about the proposed refuge.



**Tuesday, February 1: 3 pm - 5 pm**  
Mountain View Community Center  
201 Prosperity Avenue SE

**Thursday, February 3: 6 pm - 8 pm**  
Raymond G. Sanchez Community Center  
9800 4th Street NW

**Saturday, February 5: 10 am - 12 pm**  
South Valley Multipurpose Center  
2008 Larrazolo Road SW

For any comments or concerns, or to obtain the six-page Planning Update #1, contact:

Jeannie Wagner-Greven, USFWS  
PO Box 1306,  
Albuquerque, NM 87108  
505-248-6667 or urbanrefugeABQ@fws.gov

**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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_**