



MONTHLY MEETING

Thursday, August 11, 2011 – 7:30 pm
Manzano Mesa Center (map p6)

Arrow Dynamics: The Art of Building Wooden Arrows
Guest Speaker: Dennis Muirhead, AWF Board Member and Archer

Join us for a talk from a hands-on practitioner of the art of fashioning arrows out of wood. Dennis Muirhead, AWF Board member and sportsman, started shooting the bow in 1949 and has competed in National Field Archery tournaments, indoors leagues, 3D shoots, and target archery tournaments. He has been building arrows, strings, and bows for many years, and his talk will center on wooden arrow construction based on the type of bow to be used and whether the arrows will be utilized for hunting or for target shooting.



He has hunted game animals with the bow in Michigan, New York, New Mexico, Colorado, Wyoming, Texas, and Arizona. He has taken white tailed deer, mule deer, antelope, elk, black bear, javelina, rabbits, carp, and grouse.

A mechanical engineer, Dennis earned a BSME from Michigan State University, MSME from the University of Michigan, and is a Licensed Professional Engineer in the state of New Mexico. In addition to hunting, he also enjoys two weeks in Alaska every year fishing for salmon.

Jim Hubert's

Notable Quote of the Month

"The nation behaves well if it treats its natural resources as assets, which it must turn over to the next generation increased, and not impaired in value."

– President Teddy Roosevelt,
early 1900s

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The 30 days at our farm in Idaho went by very fast for Pat and me. The work on the farmhouse was challenging with much accomplished, but not all our goals were met. The days were long but there was time for several walks each day along the irrigation ditches and through the fields. The nights were cool and sleep was easy.

The sounds of the city are non-existent there. The quiet has made me realize how much my senses are bombarded at home here in Albuquerque.

Before leaving Albuquerque, we decided not to watch television nor listen to radio. We were successful. We did not miss knowing what is happening around the world. The time away provided us the opportunity to reflect and reconsider. We have known that representations of current issues are tainted by pundits, ideologues, self-serving media and politicians. Sorting through all the commentary and rhetoric is confusing and confounding. The opposing sides appear to intentionally discourage us from participating in political processes.

An example is the New Mexico Game Commission who, appointed by elected officials, should be responsive to public concerns. However, the Commission seems to hide behind a cloak of appointment to serve a few politically well connected individuals. We need to contact our elected representatives to reform the means of selecting our Game Commissioners. This will not happen easily, but it is certainly a worthwhile effort.

continued on page 4

Volunteer Project #4

VALLES CALDERA NATIONAL PRESERVE August 19-21, 2011

This is an outstanding opportunity to camp in the Preserve and see some of the areas impacted by the Las Conchas Fire. The project is on a tributary to the San Antonio Creek in the Valles Caldera National Preserve. This work site was planned for a project in July, which had to be canceled due to the fire. The work site was not burned, but is in view of areas that were. We are again cooperating with Los Amigos de Valles Caldera to accomplish valuable wetland restoration. Our camp will be in the far northwest area of the Preserve near the work site. We invite you to join us for the two days of work and two nights camping. Children are welcome, but no pets are permitted on the Preserve. Tents, pickup campers and travel trailers are allowed. Access will be arranged through the main gate on Highway 4 in the Valle Grande or by the Sulphur Creek gate near the junction of Highway 4 and Highway 126.

Our main workday will be Saturday with some follow-up work done on Sunday. We will be using stone gathered from the adjacent slopes and sod clumps dug close by to stabilize head cuts and to plug gullies forming in a tributary of San Antonio Creek which are causing a wetland area to dry out.

There are worthwhile tasks for every level of endurance. Part of the area may be boggy, so wet feet are possible. We will hike ½ mile to the work area. This is New Mexico so sun, rain, overcast sky and wind or a mix of it all are to be expected. Day packs with appropriate clothing, lunches and plenty of water are necessary. Nighttime temperatures will be cold.

We hope you can join us Friday evening. We will serve coffee and a hot breakfast Saturday, and grilled bison and veggie burgers/hotdogs/brats at a POTLUCK Saturday evening. We generally have plenty of leftovers for Sunday meals.

The number of volunteers will be limited, so RSVP soon. It should be an interesting and fun weekend in a beautiful place. **Further directions and details will be provided once you have signed up.**

To sign-up or if you have questions, contact Michael Scialdone at rioscial@gmail.com or telephone 505-232-8756.

2011 PROJECT SCHEDULE

March 19	Montessori of the Rio Grande—Wetlands
April 29-May 1	Cebolla Canyon— CANCELED
May 20-22	Bear Trap Canyon—Magdalena RD
June 17-19	Rio de Las Vacas
July 15-17	Valles Caldera I – CANCELED
August 19-21	Valles Caldera II
Sept 16-18	Cebolla Canyon
October 15	Cedro Creek + End-of-Season Celebration



PHOTO BY CAROL HALLER

September Project may also be at Valles Caldera

This has been a season prone to changes for AWF—circumstances have necessitated cancellation of two of this year's projects, and it is possible that we will change the location of our September outing from Cebolla Canyon to Valles Caldera National Preserve.

The fire on Valles Caldera has presented us with possibilities for high-priority work to mitigate effects of the burn damage. The rock structures we could build would help capture the inevitable sediment that will be moving down arroyos, so we may hold the September project on the Preserve as well. This change to our schedule, however, is still under consideration, and subject to final approval from the Preserve's administration. We'll let you know.

NEW MEMBER

Bob Tilley

RENEWED MEMBER

Trudi Martinez

Thank You!

NEWS FROM NMWF

New Mexico Wildlife Federation conservation project on Rio Grande makes progress

An effort by NMWF and two federal agencies that will provide better public access to the Rio Grande near Santa Fe and clean up a long-neglected area along the river has taken a major step forward. Santa Fe National Forest and the Bureau of Land Management are seeking comments on the merits of proposed improvements at Buckman and Diablo Canyon, a historic site about 12 miles northwest of Santa Fe, that will transform the area into a haven for anglers and other recreational users.

New Mexico Wildlife Federation proposed the project in 2006 and has been working with the U.S. Forest Service and the BLM to plan the effort, now known as the Buckman Restoration and Recreation Enhancement Project. NMWF has been leading this effort since its inception and will take a lead role in implementing the plan once it is approved, said NMWF Conservation Director Alan Hamilton.

The area, located at the end of Buckman Road, is the site of Santa Fe's new water diversion project. A century ago Buckman was a town where the "Chile Line" railroad stopped and a bridge over the Rio Grande brought timber from the Pajarito Plateau. Buckman is the only area in Santa Fe County on the Rio Grande that is easily accessible to the public. It has tremendous recreational and educational value but unfortunately it is now being used primarily for parties and illegal shooting. The reclamation project will clean up 34 acres along the river that are marred by litter and trash, replace nonnative plants such as salt cedar with cottonwood and other native species, install vehicle barriers to protect riparian habitat, and provide picnic shelters and a launch ramp for canoes and kayaks. The plan also will make recreational and restoration improvements in nearby Diablo Canyon, a haven for rock climbers.

Hazards of Walking Through a Recently Burned Forest ...or Reasons to Stay Out of the Las Conchas Fire Area!

A recently burned forest is a very dangerous place to venture. The lack of vegetation in the burned area will contribute to high run off from almost any rainstorm or thunderstorm in the fire area. It is possible to see peak flows 10 times larger than the past normal. This is a significant danger for anyone in the fire area, in particular in drainage bottom locations where many roads are situated.

The fire has weakened or killed a great number of trees and they could fall any time with no advanced warning. Trees that still have green needles may have had their root system burned away, and may topple over in a slight breeze without warning. This is especially true for spruce trees. Burned branches may also fall from standing trees.

Trees that were consumed completely in the fire leave a "stump hole" and this may not be visible because of ash and dirt. It is very easy to break an ankle if you step in one of these. They may also still hold hot embers which can burn you.

On hillsides, where root systems that held rocks in place are now burned away, ***rocks may give way and roll down the hill.*** Footing can be tricky where the rocks are now loose.

Ground-nesting wasps can be disturbed by the fire and become quite agitated.

It is better to wait one or two years before walking through a burned forest. And even then you must be very cautious. Most of the weakest trees will have fallen in the first year, but snags will continue to fall for many years to come.

Agencies will have personnel and equipment working in the fire area for some time. The combination of the roads and work traffic adds a level of congestion which adds to hazards in the area.

Certain areas of the burned forest will experience radical change as a result of flooding, erosion and mudslides. With mudslides, it is not a matter of "if", but "when."

Source: US National Forest Service

Of increasing interest to us is local politics--neighbor to neighbor. As Pat and I walk around the farm irrigation ditches, pastures and adjoining BLM public land, we keep an eye out for noxious weeds. In the past, we have encountered musk thistle. We have shoveled and bagged musk thistle from several small over-grazed areas which has reduced its spread. In general, the musk thistle's spread has been limited by competition from other healthy plants.



The small purple flowered plant emerging through the thick wetlands vegetation is the opportunistic Canada thistle.

Pat had also noticed a small population of Canada thistle last year. Canada thistle is a different noxious weed, with a very aggressive deep tap root, reproducing by seed and by lateral root spread. This year we noticed that this plant has spread at an alarming rate; along wetlands, irrigation ditches, and on the edges of the fields. Once established, Canada thistle will out-compete healthy plants. It is difficult to understand why this invasion appears to be unnoticed. We can and will work on our property, but the larger issue is our neighbors. Politics at all levels can be thorny.

Gene Tatum

Sportsmen Split on Roadless Release Bill

By Phil Taylor, E&E reporter – July 26, 2011

Hunters and anglers offered mixed reactions...to a Republican-backed bill to remove roadless protections from tens of millions of acres of public lands.

Bill proponents say the proposal, [H.R. 1581](#), would require the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service to pursue locally supported management plans that could open areas to new roads, oil and gas developments, mining and other developments that would boost tax revenues to cash-strapped governments.

The Obama administration blasted the proposal...as a one-size-fits-all solution that would strip its ability to preserve wildlife and recreation opportunities while sowing new conflicts over land management decisions. But the bill drew unqualified support from Melissa Simpson, director of government affairs for Safari Club International, a group that promotes wildlife conservation and protection of hunting.

She said the bill – which would release more than 40 million acres of BLM and Forest Service lands into multiple-use management – would immediately increase access for hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation. “One of the main concerns of the sportsmen's community is that by requiring these lands to be managed as wilderness, the BLM and Forest Service are greatly reducing the ability of hunters to access this land,” Simpson said.

The BLM wilderness study areas that would be released in the bill are currently managed by the agency to preserve their wilderness characteristics, which in most cases means no motorized activities are allowed. On Forest Service roadless areas, most logging and new road building is banned to protect recreational opportunities and preserve landscapes.

“Hunters are understandably reluctant to hunt in areas where any harvested game cannot be readily accessed for transportation out of the field,” Simpson said. Her case was echoed by Rep. Steve Pearce (R-N.M.), a co-sponsor of the bill, who asked Harris Sherman, undersecretary for natural resources and environment at the Agriculture Department, to explain how he would remove big game shot far from a road.

Others, however, noted that big game such as elk tend to avoid areas with roads that fragment habitat and bring loud motor vehicles.

“While roads are important for enabling sportsmen's access to the lands where we hunt and fish, too many roads have been proven to decrease secure habitat while increasing species' vulnerability to overharvest,” said Joel Webster, director of the Center for Western Lands at the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, a sportsmen's group that promotes land protections. “Fewer mature animals can be the result and can lead to diminished hunting opportunities, shorter seasons and fewer available tags.”

Steve Moyer, Trout Unlimited's vice president for government affairs, said the bill would remove protections for millions of acres of top fish and wildlife habitat and hunting and fishing areas. “It would also undermine local stakeholder-driven processes that seek to determine the future management of backcountry lands,” Moyer said, “because once backcountry habitats are lost, they cannot be recovered.”

Sportsmen from the National Wildlife Federation and Izaak Walton League of America also expressed opposition to the bill. Natural Resources Committee staff said the National Rifle Association has come out in support of the bill.

Group calls for ban on motorized vehicles in Jemez

Non-profit petitioned area closure before Las Conchas Fire

From an article by Staci Matlock
The New Mexican | July 21, 2011

WildEarth Guardians is asking Santa Fe National Forest Supervisor Maria Garcia to issue an emergency ban on all motorized vehicles, including off-road ones, in the Jemez Mountain area burned by Las Conchas Fire. The Sierra Club and the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance also signed the petition.

Forest Service officials say the entire forest remains closed to the public, including all-terrain vehicles, at least [for a while] because of fire risks and while damage from the Las Conchas and Pacheco fires is assessed and lands are rehabilitated.

Forest officials say the fire has delayed and may force a reassessment of a federally mandated travel management plan dictating where off-road vehicles are allowed in all national forests. Santa Fe National Forest was expected to make a final decision on its plan by this fall. "We may have to push back the decision," said Santa Fe National Forest spokesman Bruce Hill. "The Travel Management Plan is not completely on hold, but the fire has slowed our progress (finishing it)."

Bryan Bird of WildEarth Guardians said the group and some residents who lost homes in the area are worried about off-road vehicles going into the burn area and causing more damage. The Santa Fe-based non-profit wanted much of the area closed to off-road vehicles such as dirt bikes even before the Las Conchas Fire torched everything.

The groups want the forest supervisor to close the area to cross-country motorized travel once the forest is reopened.

Their concern is that off-roading will add to erosion problems. "If there are changed circumstances in the fire area, the supervisor can amend the TMP later. But we need that certainty across the forest now," Bird said. "We are very concerned that fire recovery priorities could delay the decision for months, if not years, to come."

According to the July New Mexico Off Highway Vehicle Association newsletter: "The Las Conchas Fire has devastated some of the best single track riding in New Mexico. The Cochiti loop had to have been one of the most popular loop rides in the state for both motorcycles and mountain bikes. If history serves as an indicator, it will be some years before that area of forest will be open to trail use.

The Forest Service will exclude the public to protect them from falling trees until that danger has passed. Salvage timbering can greatly hasten that process but many will be deprived of their favorite trails for some period of time."

Forest Service and Department of Game and Fish law enforcement officers are fining people who ignore the closure order. [Between June 24 and July 21], officers issued 22 citations and fined each person \$125. None of them are repeat offenders. "If they do repeat, they would have to appear before a judge who would determine the penalty," said Hill. The penalty for repeat offenders is a fine of up to \$5,000 or six months in jail or both.

"Don't think our law enforcement officers are messing around," he said.

In Remembrance of Joanne Retha Hertz

1939 – 2011

Joanne was born in San Francisco, grew up in San Carlos, CA, and moved to Albuquerque in 1971. Her life was spent raising children, working for the news media, hiking in the great outdoors, and advocating for wildlife.

My friendship with Joanne goes back to March of 2000. We struck up a conversation one evening after choir practice and learned that we had a mutual love for wildlife and wild places. She would invite my husband, Scial, and me to holiday get-togethers and would always lay out an amazing spread.

For the better part of a decade, Joanne battled a particularly aggressive cancer. But even in its final stages, she would show great concern for others...she was a loving, nurturing person. Those who knew Joanne will remember her zany hats, her energetic spirit, her unconquerable love for nature. Master volunteer, guardian of the earth, and devoted friend, we will miss you.

Ann Ahlander

Joanne was a member of Albuquerque Wildlife Federation for many years.

AWF is highly honored to have been designated recipient of donations in Joanne's name.

AWF MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

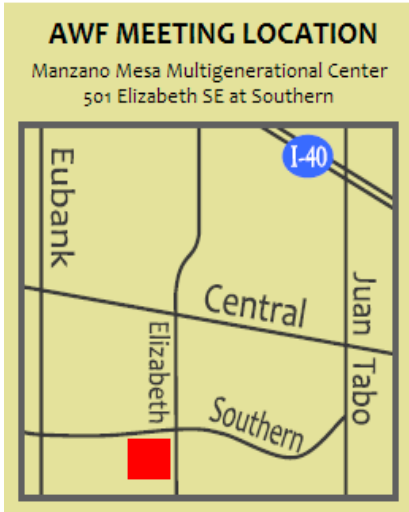
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PO Box 1234 | Albuquerque, NM 87103
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