

THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque
WILDLIFE
Federation

conservationists since 1914

April 2025

Celebrating New Protections for New Mexico Wildlife and Water

In the wake of the first Earth Day, 55 years ago this month, came a flurry of federal action. Within three years, the Environmental Protection Agency had been created and the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and Endangered Species Act were all enacted, laying the foundation of our modern environmental protections.

As this year's Earth Day approaches, environmental protections are sadly in retreat at the federal level, but New Mexico lawmakers have taken several significant steps to fill the gap.

During the legislative session that ended on March 22, the legislature passed and the governor signed Senate Bill 5, which we profiled in [the February issue of this newsletter](#). This new law marks the most significant reform of the state's wildlife management in over a century. It transforms the state Department of Game and Fish into the Department of Wildlife, and empowers it to steward all fish and wildlife species – not just those that are hunted and fished.

At a time when federal enforcement of the Endangered Species Act is very much in doubt, the New Mexico Department of Wildlife can now act to protect a diverse array of species that would otherwise be vulnerable to extinction.



In addition, the legislature passed Senate Bill 21, which allows New Mexico to enforce Clean Water Act protections on all of our state's rivers, arroyos, and wetlands – 95% of which were stripped of federal protection under the U.S. Supreme Court's 2023 *Sackett v. EPA* decision. The New Mexico Environment Department is already beginning work to put these protections into place, ensuring that the wetlands and creeks that AWF and others work to restore will not be subject to unregulated pollution.

In the long run, state action is not enough – after all, ecosystems do not end at state boundaries. But for now, the actions that New Mexico and other states are taking will help ensure that clean air, water, land and wildlife survive the current round of federal deregulation and give us the chance to rebuild the nationwide protections that they need.

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Kristina G. Fisher
AWF Secretary

APRIL 10, 2025 MEETING: New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse

Date: Thursday, April 10, 2025, 7:30 p.m.

Location: Albuquerque Friends Meeting House
1600 5th Street Northwest

Topic: The New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse

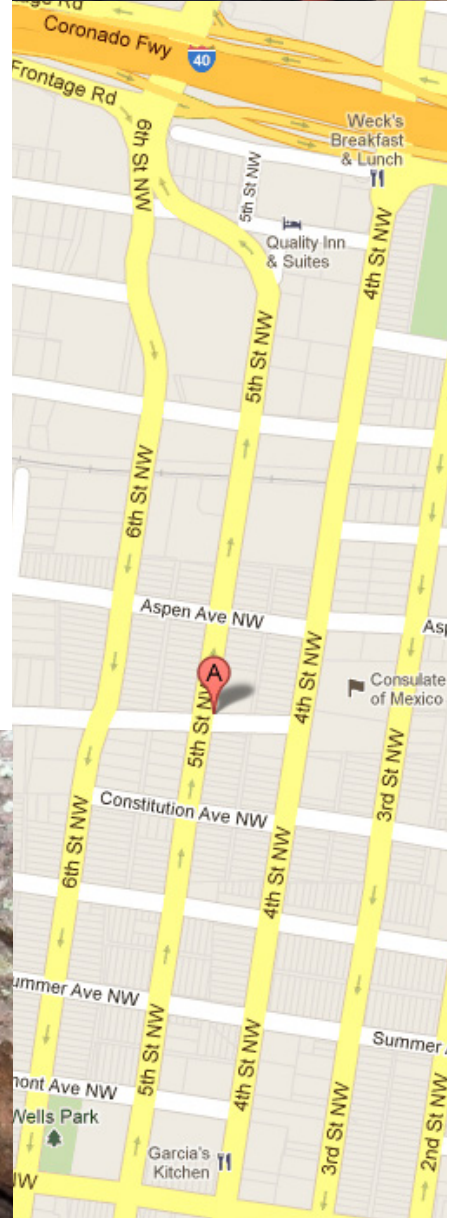
During the last century, riparian habitats across the arid American Southwest have declined due to the combined effects of intensive livestock grazing, fire, and other anthropogenic impacts. Riparian-dependent species, such as the New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse, face increasing threats in these fragmented, rapidly changing landscapes. Research indicates that active management efforts may be required in order to sustain viable local populations of these animals. Dr. Jason Malaney will discuss his work on the New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse and how improved understanding of this endangered mammal provides a foundation to develop and implement management strategies for other riparian species.

Speaker Bio: Dr. Jason Malaney

Dr. Jason Malaney is the Curator of Biosciences at the New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Sciences. He is a native New Mexican, received his undergraduate degree and MS degree from Eastern New Mexico University and his PhD from the University of New Mexico. He has a deep passion for wild places and uses museum specimens as a foundation to better understand the ecology and evolution of wildlife across Western North America.

Directions to the Meeting

The Albuquerque Friends Meeting House is located at the corner of 5th and Bellamah. From I-40, take the 6th street exit, then South to Bellamah.



APRIL 11-13, 2025 SERVICE PROJECT: Ft. Union Ranch

LOCATION: Ft. Union Ranch near Watrous, NM

THE PROJECT: Join us for AWF’s first weekend-long restoration project of the season, where we will continue our work restoring Higgins Canyon on Fort Union Ranch. During this project, volunteers will hand-build rock restoration structures designed by Bill Zeedyk to help heal a gully created by the old wagon highway to Mora.

SCHEDULE: Friday, April 11 – Sunday, April 13
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 and restoration work, including work gloves, hat, long sleeves, long pants, sturdy boots, and sunscreen. We recommend bringing a change of shoes, and boots you don’t mind getting wet or muddy. Rain gear, layers, warm clothes for the evenings, and plenty of water are essential. **Note that we will have access to the Marshall House at Ft. Union Ranch, which provides for indoor “camping” and gathering options in case of bad weather.**

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
Directions and further details will be sent to you once you sign up.



2025 SERVICE PROJECTS CALENDAR

- March 15.....Valle de Oro Wildlife Refuge
- April 11-13.....Higgins Canyon, Ft. Union Ranch
- April 26.....Galisteo Basin
- May 16-18.....Turkey Mountains, Ft. Union Ranch
- May 30-June 1..... Rito Peñas Negras
- June 20-22.....Rio San Antonio, Jemez Mtns
- July 11-13.....L Bar Ranch near Laguna
- August 15-17.....Midnight Meadows near Questa
- August 29-31.....Limestone Canyon, San Mateo Mtns
- September 19-21.....Rio Embudo, Dixon
- October 3-5.....Cebolla Canyon, El Malpais
- October 25.....Cedro Creek, Tijeras

AWF BOARD 2025

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- Bob Tilley*
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APRIL 26, 2025 SERVICE PROJECT: Galisteo Basin

IMPORTANT NOTE: No dogs are allowed at this project, sorry!

LOCATION: Galisteo Basin off Highway 14 between Albuquerque & Santa Fe, near Cerrillos

THE PROJECT: Join AWF for a day project on private property in the Galisteo Basin! We will be teaming up with Ecotone Landscape Planning to build several low-tech, process-based restoration structures on private land near Cerrillos, NM. The types of structures we will work on include one-rock dams, rock rundowns, Zuni bowls, and wicker weirs, which will be used to terrace a steep slope. Activities will include harvesting local juniper branches, sharpening and pounding posts, weaving juniper branches between the posts to create weirs, and building several rock structures.

SCHEDULE: Saturday, April 26, 9:00 am-4:00 pm

GEAR: Bring everything you need for a day of restoration work, including work gloves, hat, long sleeves, long pants, sturdy boots, and sunscreen. Rain gear, layers, and plenty of water are essential.

FOOD: Please bring your own lunch and snacks for the day, as well as lots of water!

TO SIGN UP: Email Kristina at abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com
Directions and further details will be sent to you once you sign up.



RECAP OF MARCH 15, 2025 PROJECT: VALLE DE ORO

Thanks, Volunteers!

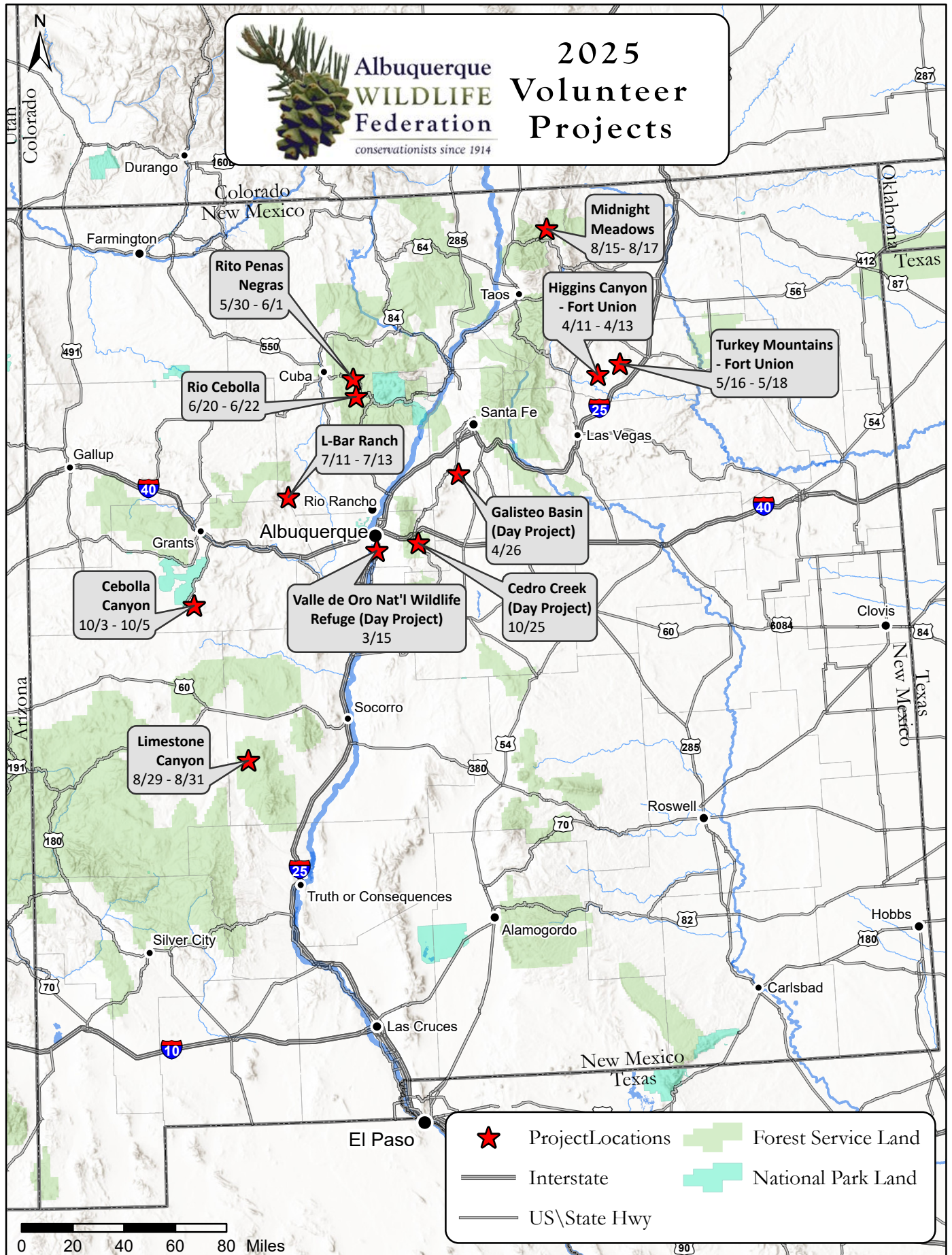
Kayla Agosto
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Allen Smith
Douglas B. Snider
Karely Tena
Hamish Thomson
Bob Tilley
Marcos Vigil
Salomie Ward
Cameron Weber



On Saturday, March 15, AWF held our first volunteer ecological restoration project of the 2025 season at the Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge. This tradition began in 2014, when AWF held its 100th anniversary celebration at the Refuge, and it has continued as an annual volunteer event with many community partners. Rio Grande Return once again coordinated and led the work. Other partner groups included Jaguars for Positive Change from Atrisco Heritage High School, as well as the ABQ Backyard Refuge Program, which is aiming to protect as many acres of backyard wildlife habitat as there are acres protected in Valle de Oro.

Volunteers planted native grasses, mulched past plantings, and created “seed balls” of native seeds and soil to add to the plant diversity on the refuge. The highlight of the day was throwing the seed balls into their new homes! We look forward to seeing the new plantings thrive and the Refuge habitat continue to grow in the years to come.





UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Thinking Like Water Films Screening in Taos

APRIL 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29, Taos, 6:00 p.m.

AMIGOS BRAVOS & TAOS CENTER FOR THE ARTS

Every Tuesday in April, Amigos Bravos and the Taos Center for the Arts will stream one film from this five-part docuseries about the watershed restoration work inspired by Bill Zeedyk! Doors open at 6:00 pm with tabling by local environmental and agricultural organizations, and the films start at 6:30 pm. The films will be followed by post-screening Q&A with experts and restoration enthusiasts, along with the filmmaker in attendance.

Tickets available at:

https://tcataos.org/film/#start_date=2025-04-01;categories=677485275,677486877

From Rooftop to Rain Garden:

Green Stormwater Infrastructure Workshop

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2, 9:00-4:00, New Mexico State Library, Santa Fe

SANTA FE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Interested in rain gardens and how to build your own? Join hydrologist Aaron Kauffman for a deep dive into Green Stormwater Infrastructure in this full-day, immersive workshop.

For more info and to register:

<https://santafewatershed.org/product/gsi-workshop/>

Earth Day Festival

SUNDAY, APRIL 13, 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Balloon Fiesta Park

350NM, the Sierra Club Rio Grande Chapter, and many other groups will demonstrate ways to make significant strides in mitigating and adapting to climate change. There are still many incentives for New Mexico families to make their homes and transportation clean, comfortable, convenient, and cost-effective. Energy Experts at the Earth Day Festival will show you how.

More info and tickets at: <https://earthdayfestivalnm.org/>

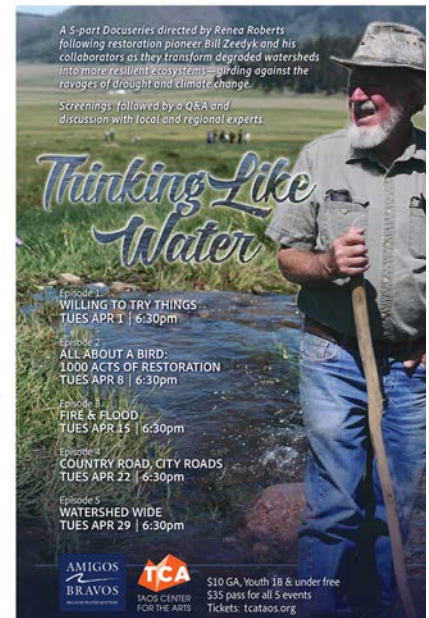
Ramah Cornfield Restoration Project

SATURDAY, MAY 3, 2025

NEW MEXICO HEALTHY SOIL WORKING GROUP

Help lay the foundation for spring planting at a traditional communal cornfield on the Navajo Nation. This cornfield is facing a major challenge of soil erosion during monsoon rains caused by concentrated runoff from a nearby culvert. During this field day, volunteers will create low-tech rainwater harvesting structures to transform the challenge into an asset, slowing and sinking much-needed water instead of allowing it to erode topsoil. These structures include swales and wicker weirs, which slow erosion and collect sediment, while also adding organic matter to the soil. In addition, we will refresh no-till lasagna garden beds for planting, complete with beneficial soil microbe inoculation from compost. Come lend a hand, enjoy a delicious lunch provided, and experience the beautiful landscape where this cornfield is located on the Navajo Nation near El Moro and El Malpais National Monuments. Bring gloves, hat, sun protection layers, water bottle, an extra shovel if you can, and a chair to sit in for lunch. Small children and friendly dogs are welcome.

Please RSVP at: <https://www.nmhealthysoil.org/portfolio/spring-field-day-preparing-for-summer-rains/>



UPCOMING EVENTS *continued*

Red Canyon Spring Gathering

MAY 9-11, 2025

QUIVIRA COALITION

Join the Quivira Coalition at their Red Canyon Reserve for a weekend of camping, bird watching, and conservation work. Red Canyon Reserve is a living laboratory for community building and learning about rangeland health, Southwestern flora and fauna, and erosion prevention. On Saturday morning, volunteers will learn how to build Zeedyk rock restoration structures. Then that evening, join a full moon bird walk through the canyon with Mathew Hayes, ecologist, and Amy Erickson, avian biologist and conservation coordinator for the Rio Grande Land Trust. During a full moon, birds like the prairie falcons and Western screech-owls living in Red Canyon have increased energy. Bring your binoculars and telescopes! Sunday morning will feature a plant ID walk around the Reserve.

Please RSVP at: <https://quiviracoalition.org/events/red-canyon-2025/>

AWF is seeking a reliable truck!

AWF is seeking a new (used) truck to haul our trailer, supplies, food, and various volunteers to remote project sites. Because its main duty will be hauling a heavy trailer over questionable roads, the truck will need to be tough and reliable, and should be 6 or 8 cylinders (AWF's current truck is a 2003 Ford F-150).

Because AWF is a lean, all-volunteer organization (our annual revenues and expenses are generally around \$10,000), we are turning to our amazing member community to ask for any leads you may have on either a donated truck or one that can be sold to us at a major discount.

The good news is that, because we are a 501c3 nonprofit, donations to AWF are tax deductible: if someone sells a truck to AWF at less than its Blue Book value, we can provide a charitable donation letter for the difference between the price we paid and the truck's value. And of course, for a donated truck we would provide a record of donation of the full Blue Book value of the truck!

So if you or someone you know has a lead on a truck that would be a good fit for what we're seeking, please reach out to Phil at abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com. Thanks!



JOIN US!

Become a Member of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation

The Albuquerque Wildlife Federation is an all-volunteer organization founded by Aldo Leopold in 1914 and dedicated to protecting and restoring New Mexico's wildlife and habitat.

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: \$ _____