

THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque
WILDLIFE
Federation

conservationists since 1914

January 2021

Tear Down The Wall

When President-elect Joe Biden is sworn in on January 20, he will face a mountain of environmental damage to undo, from restoring the protections of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act that Aldo Leopold fought for, to expanding Bears Ears and Grand Staircase Escalante national monuments back to their original sizes.

I hope that high on the list will be tearing down the environmentally devastating border wall.

I wrote about the border wall in this newsletter repeatedly in its early years, when we were doing all we could to prevent it. We marched in 100+ degree weather in Santa Teresa, NM in June of 2018, and indigenous groups repeatedly protested the wall's incursions on their lands. Public outcry managed to protect a handful of precious places, like the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge and the National Butterfly Sanctuary.

Sadly, much more was lost than was saved, and I stopped writing about the border wall because there was nothing left to do but watch the wound grow across the landscape. The most protected places were first on the chopping block because the federal government already controlled them and did not have to use imminent domain to take them from private landowners.

The wall tore through Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument and Cabeza Prieta National Wildlife Refuge in Arizona, dynamited across Guadalupe Canyon in the Peloncillo Mountains, bulldozed over saguaro cacti older than the international border itself. The wall severed wildlife corridors for jaguars and ocelots,



lots, lobos, javelina, pronghorn, and desert bighorn. It drained the sacred springs at Quitobaquito and cut across the previously undammed San Pedro River. It is hard to fathom the magnitude of what we have lost.

While it is a relief that President-elect Biden has pledged to halt construction of the wall on Day One of his administration, it is not nearly enough. The wall must come down and the migratory pathways must be reconnected so that wildlife can again move from south to north – something that is more urgent than ever as climate change shifts and alters habitats. This is the first time we have ever attempted to wall off a continent, and the damage inflicted by this barrier will continue to grow and multiply until it is removed.

We cannot undynamite a mountain any more than we can resurrect the passenger pigeon or the dodo. The wall's scars on the landscape will remain, permanently. But we can still save the species that have not yet been lost and give them a chance at a future.

So as of January 21 there is something for us to do again: contact the White House and demand that the wall be torn down and the landscape restored so that the jaguar and her companions may return to our lands.

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Kristina G. Fisher
AWF Secretary

2021 VOLUNTEER ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROJECTS

The AWF Projects Committee will be meeting soon to plan the schedule of this year's volunteer ecological restoration service projects. If you have ideas for projects or would like to be involved in the planning process, please contact Cameron at cameron.weber@gmail.com. Look for the 2021 project schedule in next month's newsletter!



NO AWF MEETING IN JANUARY – SEE YOU IN FEBRUARY!

Do you have ideas about speakers, topics, or educational workshops you would like to see at AWF's public meetings this year? Please email any suggestions to abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com! (AWF's meetings will continue to be held online until it is safe for us to gather in person again.)



CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS TO THE 2021 AWF BOARD!

As an all-volunteer organization, AWF's board is responsible for organizing our restoration service projects and educational presentations, as well as carrying forward the legacy of this 106-year-old organization.

We are grateful that most of last year's board members are continuing their service, and we bid a fond farewell to outgoing Vice President **Braden Bellevue** and wish him all the best on his move out of state. Longtime board member **Phil Carter** is stepping into the role of Vice President, and we are excited to welcome four new members to the AWF board for the coming year: **Lia Griesser, Barbara Rosensimon, Paul Ross, and Mara Yarbrough.**



AWF BOARD 2021

OFFICERS

President – Cameron Weber
Vice President – Phil Carter
Treasurer – Laurie Marnell
Secretary – Kristina G. Fisher

DIRECTORS

Lia Griesser
Rachel Moore
Toby Rosenblatt
Barbara Rosensimon
Paul Ross
Michael "Scial" Scialdone
Hamish Thomson
Bob Tilley
Mara Yarbrough
Bill Zeedyk - Director Emeritus

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Introduction to the Sunrise Movement of Northern New Mexico

SUNDAY, JANUARY 10, 4:00 p.m., online

PAJARITO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

Join Zoe Hemez from the Sunrise Movement of Northern New Mexico and PEEC's Young Adult Advisory Group for this introduction to the work of the local chapter of the Sunrise Movement. For more info:

<https://peecnature.org/events/details/?id=36568>

Bonus: catch up on past PEEC presentations at: <https://peecnature.org/learn/videos/>



Southwest Animal Tracking in Winter

THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 5:00 p.m., online

AUDUBON NEW MEXICO

Ann Hunkins will review basic animal tracks and gaits, differences between canine and feline tracks and domestic dog tracks. Then she'll show photos of track and sign in various snow conditions and talk about the way many animals move across the landscape differently in winter than other seasons. For more info: <https://nm.audubon.org/events/southwest-animal-tracking-winter-ann-hunkins>

Solitude Monitoring in the Dome or White Mountain Wilderness

MARCH-NOVEMBER 2021

NEW MEXICO WILD

NM Wild is seeking volunteers for 7 dates in the Dome Wilderness and 60 dates in the White Mountain Wilderness. Solitude monitoring requires hiking for 4 hours in one day and documenting visitor encounters. This data is essential for understanding how visited the wilderness areas are and how much solitude can be found there. For more info on how to volunteer: <https://www.nmwild.org/event/solitude-monitoring-in-dome-wilderness/>
<https://www.nmwild.org/event/solitude-monitoring-in-white-mountain-wilderness/>

Aldo Leopold Writing Contest for Students

ENTRIES DUE FEBRUARY 16, 2021

AWF is a proud supporter of the Aldo Leopold Writing Foundation's student essay contest. Students in grades 6-12 are invited to submit an essay on an environmental topic. Learn more about the details of contest and how to participate at: <https://www.leopoldwritingprogram.org/writing-contest.html>



Aldo & Estella Leopold Residency for Writers

APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 1, 2021

An inspiring retreat for professional environmental writers at "Mi Casita", Aldo and Estella's first home in northern New Mexico, the Aldo and Estella Leopold Residency provides a one-month residency with stipend for writers and respected thinkers interested in reshaping the cultural story about the relationship between humans and Nature. Learn more and apply at: <https://www.leopoldwritingprogram.org/residency.html>

New Mexico Beaver Summit

If you missed out on the beaver summit in October-November, you can see videos of all the sessions at: <https://nmbeaversummit.org/sessions/>

Send your event information to: abqwildlifefederation@gmail.com!

JOIN US!

Become a Member of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation

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

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: \$ _____