

THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque
WILDLIFE
Federation

conservationists since 1914

January 2025

States Step Up to Protect Wildlife

In the final weeks of 2024, the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission unanimously voted to protect more than 250 miles of rivers and streams as Outstanding National Resource Waters, including portions of the Rio Grande, Rio Chama, Cimarron, Pecos, and Jemez watersheds. This new designation means that those waterways will receive a higher level of protection from pollution or degradation, enforced by the state Environment Department.

This was just one of several recent actions taken by state agencies to expand environmental protections, such as the State Land Office halting any new leases for mining, transmission lines, or other major development on the state trust lands of the Caja del Rio Plateau.

And the state actions extend beyond New Mexico: for example, at the end of last year Texas Parks and Wildlife successfully reintroduced 77 desert bighorn sheep to the Franklin Mountains near El Paso. Desert bighorn were once common in those mountains, but they were extirpated by the 1960s due to unregulated hunting and disease.

State governments are acting at a time when the federal government is stepping back. This month, a new presidential administration takes office with a stated goal of prioritizing resource extraction over environmental protection. Meanwhile, a series of recent U.S. Supreme



Court decisions have stripped the federal government of authority to regulate many environmental matters, such as the ability to enforce the Clean Water Act on non-navigable waters (which make up 95% of New Mexico's rivers and wetlands).

As a result, the majority of opportunities for conservation and restoration over the coming years will occur at the state and local level. Here in New Mexico, we will likely see lawmakers taking action on a number of environmental issues during the annual legislative session that begins later this month. For example, one bill that legislators plan to consider would expand the mission and scope of the Department of Game and Fish, making it the Department of Wildlife and providing additional funding to allow the agency to proactively plan for wildlife conservation needs.

We'll include an update in next month's newsletter on the progress of conservation and environmental legislation during this year's session, as well as more information about what you can do to encourage your state and local lawmakers to step up for wildlife and keep the momentum going to protect and restore our lands and waters.

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Kristina G. Fisher
AWF Secretary

2025 VOLUNTEER ECOLOGICAL RESTORATION PROJECTS

The AWF Projects Committee will be meeting later this month to develop the schedule for 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 AWF President Phil Carter at philcrater@gmail.com. Look for the 2025 project calendar in next month’s newsletter!



NO AWF MEETING IN JANUARY – SEE YOU IN FEBRUARY!

Do you have suggestions of 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!



WELCOME TO THE 2025 AWF BOARD!

As an all-volunteer organization, AWF’s board does all the work needed to organize our restoration service projects and educational presentations. AWF continues to thrive after more than 10 years thanks to the commitment and dedication of our hardworking volunteer board.

We are grateful to all of last year’s board members for continuing their service, and we are excited to welcome three new members, Finn Gregor, Quintin Muhlenkamp and Alexcia Trujillo, to the board for 2025!



AWF BOARD 2025

OFFICERS

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

DIRECTORS

Abe Aufdermauer
Rod Flores
Finn Gregor
Lia Griesser
Quintin Muhlenkamp
Toby Rosenblatt
Barbara Rosensimon
Michael “Scial” Scialdone
Hamish Thomson
Bob Tilley
Alexcia Trujillo
Bill Zeedyk - Director Emeritus

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST

Botany at the BLM: Current Work on Plant Conservation and Restoration

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14, 6:30 pm, Christ Lutheran Church, 1701 Arroyo Chamiso Rd, Santa Fe
NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

Maria Mullins is the state botanist for the New Mexico Bureau of Land Management which coordinates the BLM's Plant Conservation and Restoration Program (PCRP) throughout the state. This talk will cover both the current implementation of the national native seed strategy and the persistent efforts to conserve rare plants on BLM land. For more details: <https://www.npsnm.org/santa-fe/>



New Mexico Beaver Project Presentation

THURSDAY, JANUARY 16, Cafe Sierra Negra, Abiquiu
NEW MEXICO BEAVER PROJECT

Hear from Chris Smith and Reid Whittlesey about the benefits of beavers in New Mexico. For more details: <https://nmbeaverproject.org/>

Acoustics in Wildlife

THURSDAY, JANUARY 23, 7:00 p.m., Los Alamos
PAJARITO ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

This program, led by wildlife biologist Milu Velardi, explores how acoustic monitoring is revolutionizing wildlife research. Milu, who works with LANL's biological resources team, uses sound to detect species presence and track movements, including efforts to better understand the Pinyon Jay. Discover how this cutting-edge approach is uncovering hidden wildlife stories and enhancing conservation efforts. For more info: <https://peecla.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/peecla/event.jsp?event=56581&>

Community Planting Day in the Bosque

SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 9:45 am-1:00 pm
NEW MEXICO WILD

NM Wild and the City of Albuquerque Open Space are partnering for a volunteer service project to restore this special habitat. Volunteers will learn about the flora and fauna that call this area home and spend some time seeding native plants and remove invasive plants. For more info and to RSVP: <https://www.nmwild.org/event/community-planting-day-in-the-bosque/>

Aldo Leopold Writing Contest for Students

ENTRIES DUE FEBRUARY 14, 2025, 6:00 pm

In the Aldo Leopold Writing Foundation's annual 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: <https://www.leopoldwritingprogram.org/2025-writing-contest.html>

Aldo & Estella Leopold Residency for Writers

APPLICATIONS DUE FEBRUARY 16, 2025

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>

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 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: \$ _____