

# THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque  
WILDLIFE  
Federation

conservationists since 1914

March 2025

## Public Lands Need Public Servants

The Albuquerque Wildlife Federation owes its existence to federal public lands employees.

In 1909, Aldo Leopold graduated from the Yale Forestry School and went to work for the U.S. Forest Service. That agency had been created just four years earlier to “sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation’s forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.”

Leopold was eager to be a part of this mission. He was assigned to the Arizona and New Mexico territories and eventually became Supervisor of the Carson National Forest. He also became one of the core founders of AWF and the New Mexico Wildlife Federation, launching over a century of volunteer-led conservation work.

Aldo Leopold was only the first of many federal public lands workers who have left their mark on AWF, including our Past President and Director Emeritus Bill Zeedyk, who had a distinguished career at the Forest Service and has been the driving force behind AWF’s expansion into ecological restoration over the past 45 years.

That ecological restoration work would not be possible without the dedicated staff at our public lands agencies. Throughout this year, we will be partnering with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge; the U.S. Forest Service on the



Carson, Cibola, and Santa Fe National Forests; and the Bureau of Land Management at Cebolla Canyon in El Malpais. In each of those locations, public lands staff work hand in hand with us to plan the restoration work, secure all permitting and permissions, and more often than not, they come out and spend their weekend with us doing hard labor alongside our volunteers.

Knowing how essential these public servants are, it is devastating to see the indiscriminate culling of the federal public lands workforce. Public lands need these incredible public servants to protect and care for them, and the loss of so many talented, hardworking public lands staff is an incalculable loss for current and future generations. We are all diminished, and our priceless national heritage is put at risk.

We urge our fellow Americans to stand with federal workers and speak out to your elected officials about how much we need them stewarding our public lands. We hope that with enough public outcry, many of the employees who have been recklessly fired will be ultimately be able to return to their invaluable work.

In the meantime, we hope we can be of service to our friends from the agencies; attached at the back of this month’s newsletter is a resource guide put together by the Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute at Highlands – [future issues can be found at this link](#).

### Inside this Issue:

March Restoration Project.....	pg 2
Map of 2025 Restoration Projects.....	pg 3
Events of Interest, Action Alert.....	pg 4
Membership Form.....	pg 7

*Kristina G. Fisher*  
AWF Secretary

## MARCH 15, 2025 SERVICE PROJECT: Valle de Oro Wildlife Refuge

**LOCATION:** Valle de Oro National Wildlife Refuge in the South Valley of Albuquerque

**THE PROJECT:** Join AWF for our first volunteer project of 2025! We will be partnering with Rio Grande Return, Friends of the Valle de Oro, ABQ Backyard Refuge, and students from Atrisco Heritage Academy High School, among others. Valle de Oro is one of the nation’s first urban wildlife refuges. Volunteers have assisted with its transformation from a former dairy farm to a refuge for an amazing array of birds and wildlife, an innovative site for wetlands restoration using stormwater run-off, and a resource for the local community.

During this year’s project, volunteers will be mulching and watering basins of trees; planting shrubs; and working with native seeds. Volunteers will learn how to collect native seeds, how to clean the seeds, and how to make seed balls for planting. After the seed balls are made, volunteers will get to plant them around the refuge!

**SCHEDULE:** 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. on Saturday, March 15

**GEAR:** For this project, you will need gloves, hat, long sleeves, long pants, sturdy boots, and sunscreen. Wear layers as the day may start off cool and warm up later.

**FOOD:** Please bring snacks, your own lunch, and plenty of water.

**TO SIGN UP:** Contact Cameron at [cameron.weber@gmail.com](mailto:cameron.weber@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 Cebolla, 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
- October 3-5.....Cebolla Canyon, El Malpais
- October 25.....Cedro Creek, Tijeras

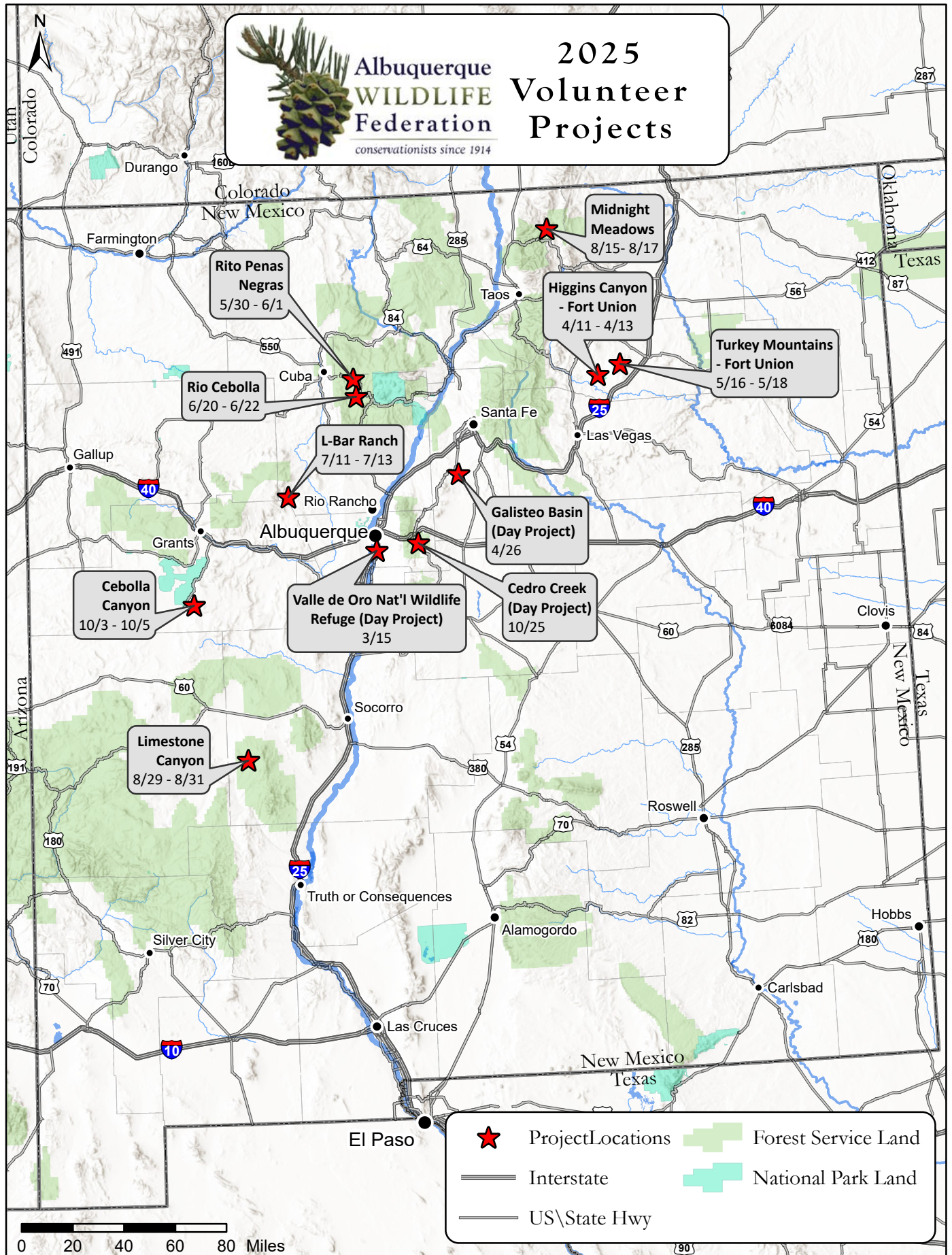
### AWF BOARD 2025

#### 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



### Rally for Public Lands at the Roundhouse

**FRIDAY, MARCH 7, 12:00-3:00 p.m., State Capitol in Santa Fe**

New Mexico's public lands unite us all – from hunters to hikers, climbers to cyclists, and everyone who loves our wild places. At a time when there are active efforts to privatize and transfer our public lands away from public hands, we must stand together to protect these cherished places. Join us in showing the strength and diversity of public lands supporters during the legislative session! This event is cosponsored by NM Wild and the New Mexico Wildlife Federation.

### 2025 Land and Water Summit

**MARCH 5-7, Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, Albuquerque**

Join us as we explore nature-based solutions to land and water resource management as a means of climate change adaption. For more info and to register: <https://www.landandwatersummitnm.org/>

### Presentation on Sandia Mountains Rosy-Finch Population Trends

**NEW MEXICO WILDLIFE FEDERATION**

**MARCH 12, 5:30 p.m., Marble Brewery, 9904 Montgomery Blvd., NE**

Rio Grande Bird Research, Inc. runs an ongoing study of the Rosy-Finches on the Sandia Mountains – the southernmost winter range for three North American species of the bird. Researcher Jason Kitting will discuss their findings. <https://nmwildlife.org/researcher-to-discuss-sandia-mountains-rosie-finch-population-trends/>

### 2025 Spring Ecosystem Restoration Weekend Workshop Series

**SYNERGIA RANCH & ECOTONE**

**MARCH 21-JUNE 15**

This is series of five workshops on building green restoration structures which can be attended in full or for select sessions. For more info and to register: <https://synergiaranch.com/workshop-registration/>

### 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/>

### Thinking Like Water Films Screening in Taos, Albuquerque

**ALBUQUERQUE: WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5**

**FUSION THEATER**

More information at:

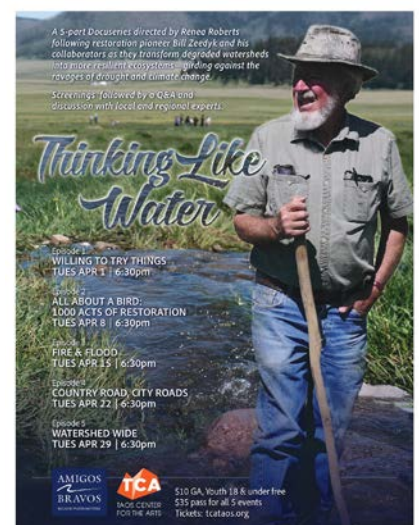
<https://www.fusionnm.org/upcoming/2025/3/5/thinking-like-water-episode-1-willing-to-try-things>

**TAOS: APRIL 1, 8, 15, 22, & 29**

**TCA & AMIGOS BRAVOS**

Tickets at:

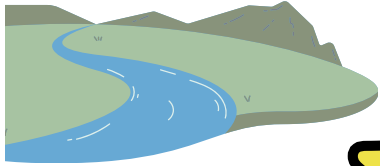
[https://tcataos.org/film/#start\\_date=2025-04-01;categories=677485275,677486877](https://tcataos.org/film/#start_date=2025-04-01;categories=677485275,677486877)





New Mexico  
Forest and Watershed  
Restoration Institute

New Mexico Highlands University



# Practical Skills for Restoration Professionals

Join us for a one-day workshop on data, GIS, and networking with other ecological restoration professionals!

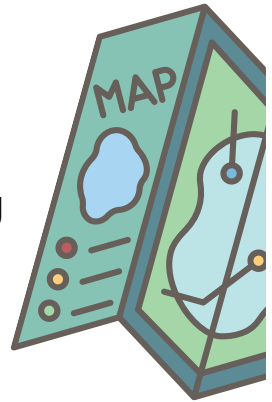


**APRIL 9,  
2025**

**8AM-5PM**

**STUDENT UNION  
BUILDING @ NMHU  
ROOMS 321-322**

800 National Ave  
Las Vegas, NM 87701



**REGISTER HERE:**



<https://wkf.ms/40Z9KPM>

## Topics Include:

- Best practices in data management & organization
- Ecological modeling with ArcGIS
- Sharing success stories & lessons learned

Lunch and snacks will be provided.

Please register by **March 26th!**

**Email [ahan@nmhu.edu](mailto:ahan@nmhu.edu) or [eyannayon@nmhu.edu](mailto:eyannayon@nmhu.edu) for assistance or questions.**

## ANNOUNCEMENT & ACTION ALERT

### **Action Alert: Comment to Protect the Pecos by March 12!**

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is considering a 20-year protection of the Upper Pecos River Watershed from new mining claims and mineral leases. This critical measure would protect 165,000 acres of public lands - and we need your voice to help make it happen. New Mexico Wild and other conservation partners have put together more information and guidance on submitting comments, which we encourage you to use.

**You can submit your own comments by March 12 here:**

**<https://stopterromine.org/takeaction/>**

### **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](mailto: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: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

# CAREERS CONNECT

Edition #001

A Weekly on Jobs and Resources

February 19, 2025

**Students, Colleagues and Peers:** For those of you who have recently had positions terminated or who are in pathways positions and need a new option — we see you and grieve the loss of your talents within our federal agencies. We are compiling resources to support you remaining within our STEM communities.

**Note:** some of you are receiving this email for the first time as friends and coworkers have shared your contact. You may unsubscribe any time by emailing me: [shantinir@nmhu.edu](mailto:shantinir@nmhu.edu)

**LIFE TIP:** You are entering a competitive job market and may have lost your dream position. Consider leads that grow your life skills in leadership, program management, communications and working with community.

**State of New Mexico:** Current openings for external candidates can be sorted by state agency, geography and salary range.



**NM Forestry Division's forestry and wildland fire positions are posted [here](#)**

- State wildfire crews with tiered pay series, hazard pay, overtime and benefits!
- On-call wildland firefighters – pay starts at \$22 p/hr
- Wildland Firefighter I positions require completion of S130/190 – classes available at the Wildfire Resiliency Training Center – check out their [Spring 2025 schedule](#)

**Water Resources positions**



- [Department of Environment](#) – where NM Environmental Department resides – is flush with open positions, including: [scientist](#), [advanced scientist](#), [surface water specialist](#), [wetland project officer](#) (closes 2/22/25), [river stewardship project officer](#) (closes 2/24/25)
- Also check out the [Office of the State Engineer](#)

**Other State Agencies:**

- Seasonal position with NM Dept. of Game and Fish on [invasive species](#) (closes 2/21/25)
- NM Department of Agriculture has an open [vet lab specialist](#) position



# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## ➤➤➤ NM FOREST & WATERSHED RESTORATION INSTITUTE

- Ecological Monitoring Crew Lead: seeking candidates with a natural resource background, some leadership experience, minimum 2 field seasons under their belt, and basic GIS competency. Term position starting at \$52,000 with benefits. Application review on a rolling basis beginning 2/24 with start date before 5/1
  - Our sister institute, Ecological Restoration Institute in AZ, is hiring field research technicians for Summer 2025 - \$18-\$23 p/hr starting in mid-May, based in Flagstaff

## WESTERN MORA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Mora-based full-time benefited District Manager position and seasonal equipment operator positions are open and active. Reach out directly to Wanda Martinez for details: [westernmorawcd@gmail.com](mailto:westernmorawcd@gmail.com)

## ➤➤➤ WILDFIRE RESILIENCY TRAINING CENTER

Full and part-time grant-funded term positions in program and project management in wildfire, land/forest restoration and community outreach. These programs require several years of experience and education in related fields. Several potential part-time grant funded term positions are in development in simulator lab operators and wildfire. There are also a few openings for contract instructors in the above fields. Contact [hblackwell@luna.edu](mailto:hblackwell@luna.edu)

## ➤➤➤ NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS UNIVERSITY

- Somos STEM Summer Internships – May 12 – July 11 @ \$18 p/hr for current NMHU undergraduates only
- Department of Forestry is seeking to grow their faculty cohort - Assistant/Associate Professor of Forestry

## ➤➤➤ COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS (ALPHABETICAL ORDER):

- Audubon Southwest will be opening two positions shortly: a full-time salaried program manager based in southern NM or southern AZ to lead habitat enhancements in grassland ecosystems; and summer camp educators based at Santa Fe's Randall Davey Audubon Center (10 weeks, seasonal at \$16-\$18 p/hr)
- Environmental Education of New Mexico – part-time coordinator position in Greater ABQ area @ \$25 p/hr, up to 20 hours p/week for someone with a passion for immersive outdoor education! Duties include strategic planning, operations and grant/program funding.
- Forest Stewards Guild has positions open in non-NM locations [here](#), plus Summer Crew Leader and Member positions (5 crews across the NM, including Las Vegas!) Their Fall Fire & Fuels positions will operate out of Santa Fe, Jemez Pueblo and Mountainair (stay tuned)
- National Forest Foundation has remote, and hybrid positions open now in the CO region

## COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS (CONT):

- Playa Lakes Joint Venture is recruiting for a [NM Grasslands Restoration Coordinator](#) (closing 2/28) and the **state-funded** [NM Terrestrial Wildlife Recovery Biologist](#) is active
- [Road to Recovery](#) Graduate Fellow position is accepting applications for an April 1 start date; part-time, \$30-40K, 1 year position for **current** graduate students
- [Rocky Mountain Youth Corps](#) are actively recruiting crew members, assistant crew leaders and supervisory positions, plus a full-time Taos-based staff position
- Taproot Collaborative is seeking a full-time [Program Manager](#) to implement field-based conservation projects in southern AZ
- [Trout Unlimited](#) has several positions ranging from as close as Denver, CO, to New Hampshire

## POPULAR JOB BOARDS

- Agricultural-related positions on the [Quivira Job board](#)
- [Conservation Biology job board](#)
- [Conservation job board](#)
- CO State Univ. Warner College's [career newsletter](#)
- [Josh waterjobs](#)
- Oregon State Univ. [College of Forestry](#)
- [Texas A&M](#)
- Univ of GA's [Warnell School of Forestry](#)

## RESUME-WRITING RESOURCES

- NMHU students *and alumni* - resume review and feedback available at [careerservices@nmhu.edu](mailto:careerservices@nmhu.edu) and if you need a professional headshot, you may utilize the photo booth at the Center for Professional Development and Career Readiness at NMHU/Las Vegas campus.
- Handshake is another resource built for [Gen Z](#)
- Ecological Society of America – [Resume Resources](#)

## MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR NMHU

- CARES Counseling: [cares@nmhu.edu](mailto:cares@nmhu.edu) | 505-454-3006
- After-Hours Crisis Line (Available 24/7): 505-795-3665
- Student Health Clinic (Medical & Mental Health Services - Sunrise Clinic): 505-454-3218 | 901 Baca Ave, Las Vegas, NM 87701
- BetterMynd: Free, confidential online therapy services available to NMHU students. Students can schedule virtual counseling sessions with licensed mental health professionals. Register at [www.BetterMynd.com](http://www.BetterMynd.com) using your NMHU email

## MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT FOR ALL

- NM Crisis & Access Line (24/7 Licensed Clinicians): 1-855-662-7474 (855-NMCRISIS); <https://naminewmexico.org/crisis-info/>
- Suicide & Crisis Lifeline (Call or Text 988): [988lifeline.org](http://988lifeline.org)
- The [Psychology of Your 20s](#) is a podcast available at your favorite app

## FAQS FOR THE NEAR-TERM

- [Help for probationary employees who were terminated](#)
- [Are you a fired federal employee? Here are resources...](#)
- [Resources for federal employees navigating job loss](#)
- [NM Unemployment](#)

*If you know of job opportunities or have a request for a type of resource that can be added to this newsletter, please reach out to Shantini Ramakrishnan ([shantinir@nmhu.edu](mailto:shantinir@nmhu.edu))*