

THE PINE CONE

Official Newsletter of the Albuquerque Wildlife Federation



Albuquerque
WILDLIFE
Federation

conservationists since 1914

May 2024

Saving New Mexico's Endangered Rivers

Every year, the national nonprofit American Rivers highlights a handful of the nation's most endangered rivers, in the hopes that shining a spotlight on the threats to these waterways will inspire people to protect them.

This year, for the first time in the 40-year history of the ranking, the most endangered river is not a single river: it is the "Rivers of New Mexico." All of them.

In past years, individual New Mexico rivers have been listed as most endangered due to specific threats: the Rio Gallinas due to impacts from the Calf Canyon-Hermit's Peak Fire, the Pecos River due to proposed hardrock mining, the wild Gila River due to a proposed dam.

The reason that *all* of New Mexico's rivers topped the list this year is because of a recent Supreme Court decision, *Sackett vs. EPA*, which stripped Clean Water Act protections from 95% of New Mexico's waters. As a result, federal law no longer prevents pollution being dumped into most of our state's rivers and streams, or shields our wetlands from being drained or filled.

With the Clean Water Act effectively dead in New Mexico, the only way to protect our waters is with state law. And there is hopeful news on the horizon: during



this year's legislative session, lawmakers appropriated \$7.6 million to the New Mexico Environment Department to develop a state-level permitting and pollution prevention program.

It's a promising start to address the threat to our rivers, but there is still a long road ahead: developing a whole new state water protection program will take time (NMED hopes to launch it in 2027), and it will only be effective if future governors and legislatures continue to fund and support it. With climate change projected to reduce New Mexico's overall water supply by about 25% over the next five decades, we urgently need to keep our water clean and drinkable for humans and wildlife alike.

So as you prepare to vote in this year's legislative elections (the primary is coming up June 4!), be sure to ask your candidates to pledge their support for protecting New Mexico's endangered rivers.

To read the full report from American Rivers, visit: <https://mostendangeredrivers.org/>

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Kristina G. Fisher
AWF Secretary

MAY 17-19, 2024 SERVICE PROJECT: Rio Mora Wildlife Refuge

LOCATION: Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge near Las Vegas, NM

THE PROJECT: This month, AWF is excited to be returning to one of our favorite project sites: the Rio Mora National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge was established in 2012 with the goal of protecting and restoring riparian and grassland habitat for the benefit of a wide variety of species, including burrowing owl, mountain plover, Southwestern willow flycatcher, aquatic species, and migratory grassland and woodland birds.

AWF volunteers have participated in restoration activities on the property for many years. This year, we will continue our work hand-building rock restoration structures to help hold water on the landscape and make the habitat even better for wildlife.

SCHEDULE: Friday, May 17 – Sunday, May 19

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 to camp for just one of the two nights.

On Saturday evening, Brian Miller will share a brief “campfire story” about the history of Rio Mora and its transitions from Native land to fort (and former governor’s residence) to ranch to wildlife refuge.

On Sunday from 9:00-1:00 AWF is hosting a special training workshop with Bill Zeedyk focused on learning how to read the landscape and develop a restoration plan, deciding which structures to build and where and how to build them to achieve restoration goals. When you RSVP, please indicate whether you plan to attend the Sunday training.

We are also seeking volunteers to assist with staging rock at the project site earlier in the day on Friday. Please let us know if you would be interested in helping with that and we’ll be in touch with more details.

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 waterproof boots or boots you don’t mind getting wet. Rain gear, layers, warm clothes for the evenings and plenty of water are essential.

FOOD: AWF will provide breakfast burritos and coffee/tea 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 Sean at solowiejs@gmail.com

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

If you are interested in ride sharing or carpooling, please let us know. With your permission we will include you in a small group email with others who express interest, and let you self-coordinate from there.



MAY 31-JUNE 2, 2024 SERVICE PROJECT: Rito Peñas Negras

LOCATION: Rito Peñas Negras in the Jemez Mountains

THE PROJECT: Join AWF for our first project at a new site, the Rito Peñas Negras on the west side of the Jemez Mountains. We will be partnering with Rio Grande Return to build structures that will remediate headcuts and prevent water from draining along trails and causing erosion.

SCHEDULE: Friday, May 31 – Sunday, June 2
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 waterproof boots or boots you don't mind getting wet, as we will be working in and around the creek. Rain gear, layers, warm clothes for the evenings and plenty of water are essential.

FOOD: AWF will provide breakfast burritos and coffee/tea 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 Abe at abeaufdermayer@gmail.com
Directions and further details will be sent to you once you sign up.



2024 SERVICE PROJECTS CALENDAR

- March 9.....Valle de Oro Wildlife Refuge
- April 12-14.....Wolf Creek, Ft. Union Ranch
- May 17-19.....Rio Mora Wildlife Refuge
- May 31-June 2.....Rito Peñas Negras
- June 21-23.....San Antonio Creek, Jemez Mtns
- July 19-21.....Gallinas Post-Fire Restoration
- August 9-11.....Midnight Meadows near Questa, NM
- August 30-Sept 1.....Limestone Canyon, San Mateo Mtns
- October 4-6.....Cebolla Canyon, El Malpais
- October 26.....Cedro Creek, Tijeras

AWF BOARD 2024

OFFICERS

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

DIRECTORS

- Abe Aufdermayer*
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- Barbara Rosensimon*
- Michael “Scial” Scialdone*
- Sean Solowiej*
- Hamish Thomson*
- Bob Tilley*
- Bill Zeedyk - Director Emeritus*

RECAP OF APRIL 12-14, 2024 PROJECT: FT. UNION RANCH

Thanks, Volunteers!

Abe Aufdermauer
Lyle Aufdermauer
Lauren Bansbach
Betty Bastai
Kate Brown
Peter Callen
Phil Carter
Joseph Casedy
Noah Duncan
Kristina G. Fisher
Tera Gambill
Finn Gregor
Patrick Gutierrez
Raena Kamakahi
Jess Karan
Jeremiah Martin
Nicholas Maurer
Anabella Miller
Peter O'Brien
Toby Rosenblatt
Sean Solowiej
Marilynn Szydowski
Hamish Thomson
Annie Topal
Cameron Weber
Jim Wilson
Leza Wimett
Jared Wood
Daryl Woolems
Bill Zeedyk

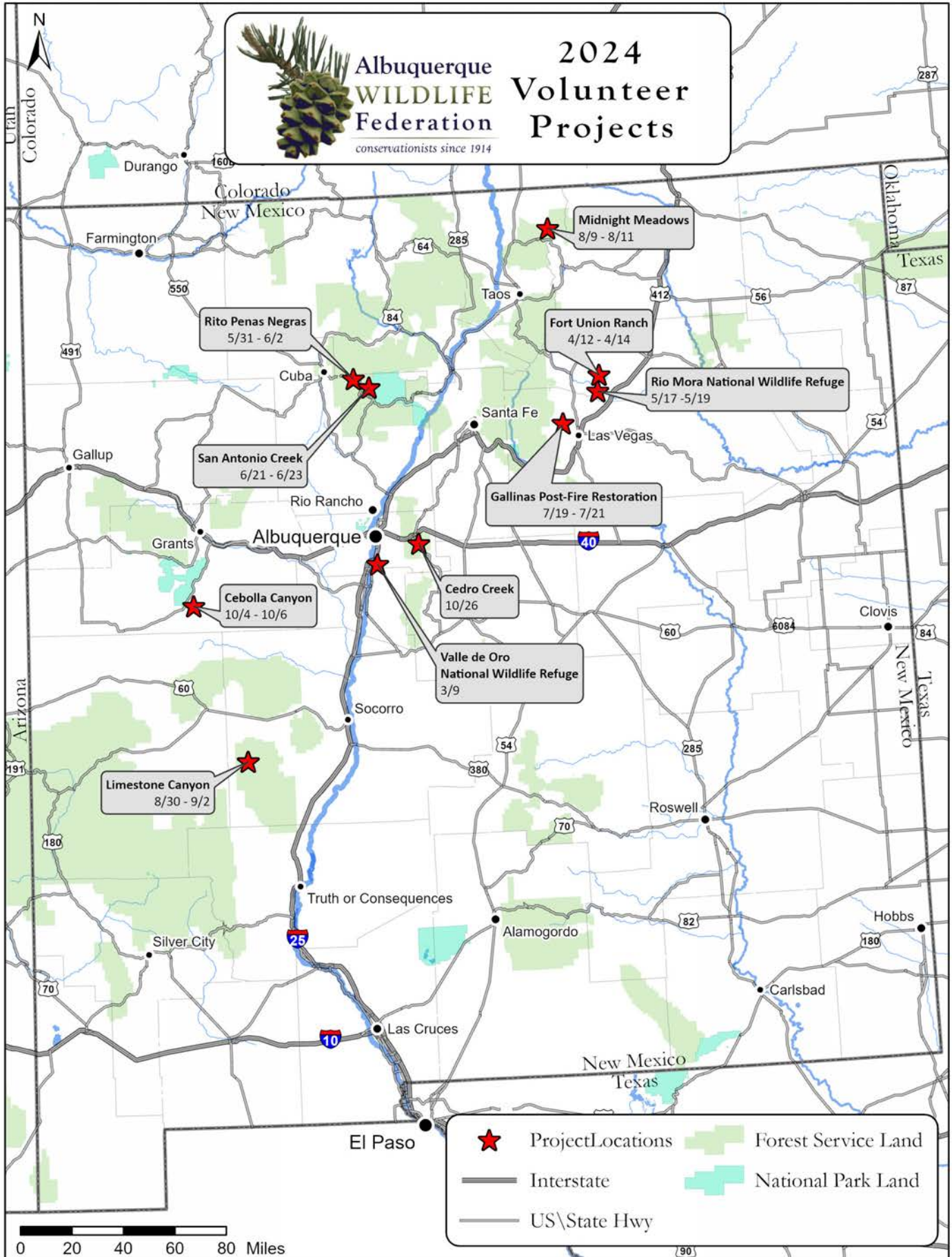


In mid-April, AWF returned to Ft. Union Ranch, a 90,000-acre property that is being managed with a focus on conservation and good range management. AWF and the Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance have collaborated on restoration projects on this property since 2018, repairing damage caused by many years of wagon roads and heavy grazing during the years Fort Union was active in the late 1800s.

This year we worked at a new site, a spring-fed tributary of the Needham Arroyo in the Turkey Mountains, which flows into Wolf Creek. Over the course of the weekend, volunteers built a series of 26 rock restoration structures—one-rock dams, a media luna, and a Zuni bowl—to stop the gully from downcutting. Volunteers also spread juniper cuttings on raw banks to hold moisture, cool the soil, and encourage the growth of vegetation.

We were pleased to welcome volunteers from Gallup, Ojo Caliente, Ruidoso, Taos, and even Gardner, CO as well as Santa Fe, Albuquerque, and Las Vegas, NM. First-time volunteer Raena Kamakahi from the New Mexico Land Conservancy brought information about her work on conservation easements on Ft. Union Ranch, and, along with her partner Noah Duncan, a delicious array of vegan offerings for the potluck and breakfasts. We look forward to partnering again with Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance for a project in Gallinas Canyon in July, and to returning to Ft. Union to continue enhancing the health of this landscape for many years to come.





Uplands Restoration Workshop *for* **Trout Unlimited + Albuquerque Wildlife Federation**

Saturday May 4, 2024
9:30am-2:30pm
Dixon, New Mexico



Join Wood Sharks and Ecotone for a day of creating and repairing erosion control structures in the piñon-juniper uplands. Directions and more information will be sent after registering.



Workshop is limited in space.
For more information or to register use QR code,
call 901-603-9496,
or email
adrienne.rosenberg@ecotonelandscapeplanning.com

Click Here to Register for this Workshop

UPCOMING EVENTS OF INTEREST



Love Your Watershed Day

**SATURDAY, MAY 4, 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., DeVargas Park, Santa Fe
SANTA FE WATERSHED ASSOCIATION**

Join the Santa Fe Watershed Association for the second annual Love Your Watershed Day at De Vargas Park, a celebration of our wonderful watershed community. Featuring family-friendly activities including

musical performances, a scavenger hunt, and informational exhibits.

For more info: <https://santafewatershed.org/lywd-2024/>

Open House on Draft Resource Management Plan for Bears Ears National Monument

TUESDAY, MAY 7, 6:00-8:00 p.m., Albuquerque Marriott Courtyard, 5151 Journal Center Boulevard

The draft management plan is a major milestone toward conserving the extraordinary values of this landscape in collaboration Five Tribal Nations Learn more and provide public comments. More info at:

<https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2020347/510>

Corrales Farmland Birdwalk

SATURDAY, MAY 11, 8:00 a.m.

NEW MEXICO LAND CONSERVANCY

New Mexico Land Conservancy is partnering with the Village of Corrales Farmland Preservation and Agricultural Commission to protect and enhance critical migratory bird habitat along the bosque and farmlands of the Middle Rio Grande Valley in Corrales, New Mexico. Participants will receive an introduction to bird identification and will visit three working farms held in permanent conservation easement. RSVP to:

Chantell Victorino, 505-986-3801, cvictorino@nmlandconservancy.org

Beaver Habitat Restoration in Northern New Mexico

TUESDAY, MAY 14, 6:30 p.m.

Christ Lutheran Church, 1701 Arroyo Chamiso Rd., Santa Fe

NATIVE PLANT SOCIETY

Join the Santa Fe Chapter Meeting for a presentation by Reid Whittlesey, Restoration Program Director for Rio Grande Return, on "Process-based Beaver Habitat Restoration in Headwater Streams of Northern New Mexico." Reid will discuss using ecological restoration techniques and partnering with beaver to achieve watershed restoration goals. More info:

https://www.npsnm.org/?event=tuesday-may-14-630pm-santa-fe-chapter-meeting&event_date=2024-05-14



Wetland Restoration Workshop for Students and Families

**SATURDAY, MAY 11, 9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Dixon
ECOTONE**

Join Ecotone us at Arroyo la Mina/Dixon for a day of restoration on Saturday, May 11th from 9:00-2:30 in Dixon! This hands-on workshop will focus on improving landscape health. Together, we will be planting willows, seeding native plants, and creating erosion control structures. RSVP at:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfSb1meSYQk_0rO0P9mzEGllm_bXNvsB0BYtiET5ezrwrTmw/viewform

CORRALES FARMLAND BIRD WALK

May 11, 2024 8:00 am

Join us for a walk with Los Ranchos-based birder and naturalist, Dave Mehlman.

New Mexico Land Conservancy is partnering with the Village of Corrales Farmland Preservation and Agricultural Commission to protect and enhance critical migratory bird habitat along the bosque and farmlands of the Middle Rio Grande Valley in Corrales, New Mexico.

Participants will receive an introduction to bird identification and will have the opportunity to visit three working farms held in permanent conservation easement by New Mexico Land Conservancy.

During the walk, we will be learning about the abundant migratory and resident birds in the area and discussing the connection between agricultural preservation and bird habitat.



Parking is limited. Please RSVP.

Location: Romero Road, Corrales NM 87048 - Parking is at the end of Romero Rd located off Corrales Rd/NM State Road 448. (Follow the signs).

What to Expect: The event will be held outdoors. Prepare to walk 1-2 miles along dirt and uneven ground. Please plan on bringing binoculars, it will be difficult to complete bird identification without them.

What to Bring:

- Binoculars
- Good Shoes
- Water
- Hats, Gloves, Jacket.
- Snacks



If you have any questions & to RSVP please contact:

Chantell Victorino at (505) 986-3801
cvictorino@nmlandconservancy.org

OR

Linda Walsh at
lwalshnm@comcast.net

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: \$ _____