It was 1998. After two decades of planning, environmental assessment, threats of litigation, and sometimes rancorous public debate, something special was happening. Mexican wolves were once again free in the wilds of the Blue Range of Arizona and poised to return to the Gila country of New Mexico. It was a hopeful moment for the most imperiled subspecies of gray wolf in North America—the Mexican gray wolf (*Canis lupus baileyi*). Much like recovery efforts in the northern Rocky Mountains, where wolves had been released into Yellowstone National Park and central Idaho, it seemed we had learned in the Southwest to share our lands with native wildlife. Working with ranchers and rural communities, conservationists sensed a new respect for nature and a desire for ecological balance taking root after generations of abuse and slaughter. But unlike Yellowstone’s success, the fate of the Mexican lobo is far from certain.

The story of *Canis lupus baileyi* is a complex and mostly frustrating tale of good intentions, an old West mentality, politics, and unsatisfactory results. Originally, the Mexican wolf ranged from central Mexico to today’s U.S. Interstate 10 in Arizona and New Mexico. It was exterminated from the southwestern United States by the U.S. Bureau of Biological Survey. In 1950, the Bureau’s successor agency, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, launched a program in Mexico that eliminated almost all of its wolves by the mid-1970s. Such
Notes from the Executive Director

The New Mexico Wilderness Alliance will be celebrating its tenth anniversary next year and a few people have asked, why is there not more wilderness created on a regular basis? I thought I would take a moment to better explain the frustrating pace of wilderness preservation.

Wilderness has never been an easy process. The Wilderness Act itself was not a simple piece of legislation. The first draft of the wilderness bill was written by Howard Zahniser in 1956. It was rewritten 65 times, and had over 18 public hearings spanning nine years. On September 3, 1964 President Johnson signed it into law. Overnight more than nine million acres of wilderness were put into the system and since that time 680 areas have been protected adding up to almost 107,000,000 acres in 44 states. (The bulk of the acreage was created with the passage of the Alaska Lands Act in 1980.)

But since the 80’s the pace of wilderness designation has slowed dramatically. In states like Montana, which has one of the oldest state-based wilderness organizations in the West, no new wilderness has been added since 1978. In Idaho, no wilderness has been added since 1980, though this year they may get legislation passed to protect an area known as the Boulder-White Clouds. In Wyoming, Washington, Texas and Oregon, the last wilderness bill passed in 1984. In South Dakota, the last bill passed in 1990 and for Hawaii and North Dakota no bill has passed since 1978. In Arizona, the last wilderness legislation was passed in 1990.

There are some exceptions to this wilder-
one of the nation’s newest wilderness areas with the passage of the Ojito Wilderness Act in 2005 and we are working closely with the delegation to introduce bi-partisan legislation for a Doña Ana County Wilderness bill. Such a bill could protect more than 320,000 acres of wilderness surrounding the city of Las Cruces, including protection for the beloved Organ Mountains. New Mexico lags behind many western states in its amount of designated wilderness. Less than 2% of our state currently enjoys wilderness designation. In California more than 15% has wilderness designation. In Arizona more than 6% is protected.

Wilderness has never been an easy sell, but for those of us who have spent time exploring and enjoying the solace of open space there is no substitute. Working with much smaller budgets than many western states, the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance and our 4,500 members continue to work hard at creating coalitions with diverse partners, ranchers, sportsman and the business community to make sure wilderness designation is part of the future of New Mexico.

New Mexico Wilderness Alliance would like to thank photographer David Muench for the use of his photographs in the Spring 2006 issue of New Mexico Wild, featuring many photographs of our Nation’s treasured National Parks. These photographs are from a beautiful new book, Our National Parks, photography by David Muench and Essay by Ruth Rudner. This book is thoughtfully dedicated to “those with the foresight to set aside parts of America’s original wildlands, and to those with the fortitude to protect them in our national parks, to the framers of the Wilderness Act and to those who uphold its tenets, often against preposterous odds, we offer what we can -- our images, our words, our thanks.”

Thank you David and thank you Ruth for celebrating the idea that there is no difference between the earth and us and for helping us celebrate your home state of New Mexico. Your photographs and your words are just a small reflection of your dedication to preserving our beautiful wild landscapes and for preserving us.

A LEGACY BEQUEST: NEW MEXICO WILDERNESS ALLIANCE

By Bob Howard

When folks talk about wilderness, and about protecting the wild places we all love, we use words like “forever” and “always”. We talk about the benefits of preserving our landscapes for our “children and grandchildren”, or the even larger category of “future generations”.

And yet, in most cases the actions we take to protect wild lands happen in much narrower time scales. We read newsletters, we write letters and call policy makers, and we support our favorite conservation groups with annual or monthly donations. However, it is possible to take personal action to protect the wild places we love while also taking a longer view: of ourselves, our environment, and of the groups, such as the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance, that do the work. We can take actions today that will protect the places we love now, and continue protecting them long after we’re gone. This is called creating a legacy.

Legacies can be created in many ways: from simple bequests to more complicated financial vehicles such as charitable remainder trusts. In all forms, however, legacies are about giving. In all forms they are about recognizing that most of the things we care about will be around longer than ourselves. In all forms they are about deciding what is most important to us.

In my case, my legacy will be about my family and the places I’ve been lucky enough to share with them. I want my family, for generations to come, to be safe and secure. I want them to be able to experience the vast open spaces of New Mexico, and the wildlife and plants that make them unique.

That’s why I’m including a bequest to the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance in my will.

The New Mexico Wilderness Alliance is committed to a long-term vision of wild lands protection in New Mexico. This vision extends beyond the horizon of my life and into the lives of my children, my grandchildren and beyond. This vision rightly and ably includes terms like “forever” and “always”.

I ask you to join me in creating a legacy. Talk to your financial advisor or your attorney about the options you have. And call the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance if you’d like to learn more about us, our vision, and the possibilities for protecting the places you love: forever and always.
New Mexico’s National Grasslands

By Michael Scialdone

The Great Plains of the United States begin east of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Many times plowed under and overgrazed, this neglected grassland ecosystem has probably seen more change and damage than any other. Their name is partly a misnomer. They are indeed ‘great’, but they are hardly ‘plain’, a term bestowed upon them by those who think in terms of topography vs. flatness and not in terms of ecological wonder. For the complex interactions of the plants and creatures of a wild or restored grassland are awe-inspiring.

Within the north-east portion of New Mexico are two National Grasslands (NG) that most New Mexicans know little about. The Rita Blanca NG is between Clayton and the Texas border. Further west, the Kiowa NG is near the town of Roy and includes portions of the Canadian River. National Grasslands are public lands akin to National Forests (NF) and are administered by the Forest Service. The Cibola NF administers the Kiowa NG and Rita Blanca NG.

The National Grasslands System was created after the Great Plains Dust Bowl in the 1930’s. Unsustainable farming practices caused massive erosion problems and sent farmers packing. The US government bought back thousands of acres of degraded lands and reseeded them for grassland agriculture.

Nothing highlights the interest of the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance in grasslands better than our Otero Mesa campaign, the last, best intact Chihuahuan Desert grassland. Now we’re setting our sights on the Great Plains. Since much of the Great Plains is in private hands, we are working to identify ranch owners who will be supportive of our efforts.

Restoration will be a key component. Re-introducing bison, prairie dogs, ferrets, and burrowing owls will be necessary to take the grasslands from ‘agriculture’ to places that are out many of the communities living along the river. Today, some of the historic buildings still stand. The Kiowa NG is in the process of moving and rebuilding the campground to pull it away from the floodplain. Given its setting, it will be one of the most scenic campgrounds in NM. To get there, take the Wagon Mound exit from I-25 and head east on Highway 120 to Roy and then take Highway 39 north for about 10 miles. Look for a fading brown sign saying Mills Canyon on it and turn left (west) on to this maintained dirt road. It will wind through some houses and then head through grasslands until it drops you down in to Mills Canyon.

Currently, the Mills Canyon area has some protection by being part of the Canadian River Inventoried Roadless Area (see pg. 8 for information on getting involved). In the Mills Canyon area, ATVs continue to use routes that have already been closed by the Forest Service including routes that cross and damage the Canadian River. The Kiowa and Rita Blanca NG are going through Land Management Plan revisions at this time, and NMWA is working on behalf of its members to see that conservation and restoration are part of the new plan.

For more information, visit the following sites:

www.fs.fed.us/r3/cibola/districts/kiowa.shtml
www.hardingcounty.org/kiowa_national_grasslands.htm
www.trailsandgrasslands.org/kiowa.html

www.NewMexicoWILD.org

LOCATOR MAP

New Mexico National Grasslands

Kiowa
Rita Blanca

Clayton

LOCATOR MAP

New Mexico National Grasslands

Kiowa
Rita Blanca

Mills Canyon

Canadian River

Cartography: M. Scialdone
Date: 5/18/2006

Key

Highways

Rivers

Mills Canyon
Canadian River
National Parks Update

By Nathan Small

El Malpais is one of New Mexico’s wild wonders, where coal-black lava flows lap up against golden sandstone cliffs. In Spanish, El Malpais means “the badlands”. Replete with razor sharp basalt formations, cinder cone craters, and outlaw legends, El Malpais also has a softer side. Rain fills sandstone potholes, begetting muddy explosions of invertebrate life. Deep inside the vast lava fields, Hole-In-The-Wall offers ponderosa pine forests and gramma grass meadows, regularly visited by deer, elk, bobcats, cougar, turkey and people entranced by this sublime land.

The entire El Malpais region encompasses 377,000 acres of public land. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) manages 262,690 acres as a National Conservation Area (NCA), with 100,210 of that federally protected as Wilderness. The National Park Service oversees 114,277 acres as a National Monument, none of which is federally protected Wilderness. Fortunately, the National Park Service has begun preparing a Wilderness/Backcountry Management plan, opening a window to permanent protection for the vast majority of the Monument’s many treasures.

After extensive field inventory and GIS (computer mapping) analysis, the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance recommends 104,290 acres of the National Monument be designated Wilderness. This is testament to the Monument’s considerable rugged beauty, wild character, and its biological, scientific, and cultural importance. The Park Service has indicated they believe 97,428 acres should be designated Wilderness.

Our higher Wilderness recommendation reflects critical meadows and open lands, especially along the lava flow’s periphery, which are important for wildlife. The New Mexico Wilderness Alliance will work to include all Wilderness quality lands in the Park’s final recommendation.

With the public comment period underway, engaged citizens must voice their support for El Malpais. The National Monument’s staff and Superintendent deserve credit for working on a Wilderness/Backcountry management plan, and managing some areas for Wilderness characteristics. However, management and staff need to hear that “edge areas” outside of the lava fields, but inside the Monument, deserve Wilderness protection. Currently, El Malpais National Monument seems reluctant to recommend non-lava flow Wilderness—the challenge is including these non-lava flow lands in the final plan.


The Superintendent seeks comments organized around three questions: 1) What issues and opportunities are there regarding wilderness and backcountry at El Malpais? 2) What are the significant Wilderness qualities of the El Malpais? 3) Other comments.

Address comments to:
Superintendent
El Malpais National Monument
123 E. Roosevelt Avenue
Grants, NM 87020

NOTE: The comment period listed on the El Malpais website has passed, but recently was extended. Send your comments today, and support non-lava flow Wilderness!

Comments should address several key points. The first is appreciation; in Washington, D.C National Parks budgets are being cut faster than birthday cake. El Malpais National Monument is actively working to protect its Wilderness areas, which is wonderful.

However, their current Wilderness recommendation almost completely disregards non-lava flow lands. Including “edge areas” and meadows in the final wilderness recommendation is critical. Because so much of the Monument is hardened lava, wildlife depends heavily on the relatively small number of open meadows that occur in and around the lava flows. Extending Wilderness protection to these areas ensures long-term protection for the wildlife resource in El Malpais National Monument. Additionally, since many of the meadows are next to Highway 117 and Highway 53, their protection as Wilderness increases the scenic resource of the Monument, especially considering the likely increase in wildlife viewing opportunities for park visitors.

The BLM already manages the Cebolla and West Malpais Wilderness, each of which adjoins the National Monument in places. Large, connected Wilderness areas are always better than small, fractured areas. It is very important that El Malpais National Monument recommend Wilderness designation for all of its lands that adjoin existing BLM Wilderness, and then work with BLM to manage NCA/National Monument areas as uninterrupted Wilderness ecosystems (one of the goals of the Wilderness/Backcountry Management Plan). Cur-
Doña Ana Wilderness Update

By Jeff Steinborn

Campaign Background

Like most Wilderness campaigns in our country today, our efforts to protect the wild lands of Doña Ana County have been both exciting and challenging. As a wilderness activist in Idaho recently stated – “Wilderness has always been challenging to protect just as the Wilderness Act itself took 10 years to write and get passed, but its permanence, and value, is also equally as significant after protecting it, which is why virtually no wilderness has ever been rolled back after protection.” This statement underscores the importance and realities behind our efforts in Doña Ana County – to protect some of the most beautiful wild places left in the Rocky Mountain West – right here in Southern New Mexico. Lands that not only hold spectacular natural qualities, but are also directly in the path of development and irresponsible off-road vehicle use.

The Doña Ana County campaign to protect approximately 320,000 acres of Wilderness and the establishment of a 100,000 acre National Conservation Area (NCA) in and around the famous Organ Mountains, possess many of the challenges, opportunities, and intrigue found in most conservation campaigns. But this bold conservation vision has taken hold, and has now truly become a “community vision” in Doña Ana County. The New Mexico Wilderness Alliance has assembled an unprecedented coalition of elected officials, conservationists, developers, sportsman, and business leaders to fight to protect these special natural places. According to Bruce Babbitt, former Secretary of the Interior who came to Doña Ana County to support the Wilderness Alliance campaign, “this is the most significant coalition I have ever seen assembled to support a conservation plan.

This high level of cooperation is only possible because most folks in Doña Ana County love the Organ Mountains, Broad Canyon, the Potrillo Mountains, and the wide open spaces that give this region its beauty and the quality of life that have made many want to call it their home. A poll conducted in March 2006 by Public Opinion Strategies, found that a strong majority of local residents, including self described off-road vehicle owners, support enacting this community conservation vision over a much smaller proposal, or no proposal at all. This high level of support is also nearly identical among both Republicans and Democrats. So, with all of this support, when will our community get permanent federal wilderness protection for any of these special places?

Campaign Update

In early 2006, New Mexico’s senior Senator, Senator Domenici, expressed a desire to help Doña Ana County protect its wild lands through wilderness designations, while also engaging other public lands issues including some land exchanges, and potential modifications to current BLM land disposal policy.

From January 2006 to March 2006, the communities of Las Cruces, Hatch, Mesilla, Sunland Park, along with the Doña Ana County Commission passed resolutions supporting the Senator in protecting our wilderness areas in Doña Ana County, and asked specifically for the designation of two additional citizens proposed Wilderness Areas as Wilderness (Broad Canyon and East Potrillo Mountains), and a more substantial National Conservation Area proposal than what was initially suggested. The resolutions urged the inclusion of the Doña Ana Mountains, Tortugas Mountain, and the foothills of the San Andres Mountains – home to the largest herd of Bighorn Sheep in the State of New Mexico – in a new National Conservation Area. They also gave the Senator official feedback stating that the BLM must continue to follow existing law regarding land disposal policy.

Currently, Senator Domenici’s staff is actively working with the staffs of the City of Las Cruces and Doña Ana County to collaboratively evaluate appropriate boundaries for a proposed National Conservation Area, as well the proposed areas to be protected as Wilderness. They will be seeking extensive feedback from a diverse group of interested parties in Doña Ana County to examine the various proposals, and intend to hold public meetings later this year.

The goal of these parties, Senator Domenici, and of our many wilderness supporters in Doña Ana County is to reach a consensus within our community and with our federal delegation by the end of 2006, and have federal legislation introduced in the United States Congress in early 2007.

The New Mexico Wilderness Alliance will continue to play a strong leadership role in developing and leading the diverse local coalition of Doña Ana County wilderness supporters, and work closely with Senator Domenici and the BLM to enact this historic conservation vision for our community, and for the people of New Mexico.

With less than half the amount of protected Wilderness as most other Western states, New Mexico and Doña Ana County need this leadership and vision now more than ever.

Get involved TODAY:

For more information on how you can get involved in this historic campaign, call Jeff Steinborn, the Southern New Mexico Director for the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance at 505-527-9962, and visit www.donaanawild.org.
ACTUALIACION DE LA CAMPAÑA DEL CONDADO DE DOÑA ANA

By Alberto Zavala

En el difícil trabajo de proteger lugares salvajes en Nuevo México, solo necesitamos mirar hacia el sur y ver las grandes extensiones de tierras públicas que tienen el potencial para estar dentro del Sistema Nacional de Preservación de Wilderness. El Sureste de Nuevo México es, en varias maneras, algunas de las tierras más silvestres restantes del país en las Montañas Rocallosas del Oeste. Pero como muchos otros lugares, enfrentan innumerables amenazas. Desde las perforaciones para petróleo y gas, al desarrollo urbano y uso de vehículos off-road, estas amenazas son reales. Estas amenazas hacen esencial la designación de Wilderness para proteger estos lugares silvestres de una manera permanente. A pesar del duro clima político que se vive en estos momentos en relación a Wilderness, existen indicaciones de la buena voluntad bi-partidaria para trabajar juntos en la protección de varias áreas clave en el Condado de Doña Ana.

Desde 1980, ocho diferentes Áreas Silvestres de Estudio (WSA por sus siglas en inglés) han sido designadas en el Condado de Doña Ana. Estas WSA’s son definidas por las agencias como verdaderamente potenciales Áreas Silvestre protegida (Wilderness) las cuales incluyen West Potrillo, Monte Riley, Aden Lava Flow, Montañas los Órganos, Agujas de los Órganos, Peña Blanca, Montañas Robledo y Sierra de Las Uvas, haciendo un total de arriba de 217,000 acres de potenciales Áreas Silvestres. Pero al momento de ver las amenazas más urgentes hacia las tierras silvestres en el país y trabajamos para obtener apoyo público para proteger estas áreas, esta claro que debemos hablar también acerca de Broad Canyon, Foothills de los Órganos y el Este de las Montañas Potrilllos.

En el último año en New Mexico Wilderness Alliance hemos estado trabajando con oficiales locales electos en el Condado de Doña Ana, incluyendo al Alcalde, Concejales de la Ciudad, Comisionados del Condado y un diverso grupo de líderes de la comunidad. Hemos obtenido apoyo importante de los deportistas locales y de la comunidad comercial. Hemos trabajado también muy de cerca con el Buró de Manejo de la Tierra (Bureau of Land Management) Personal de los Senadores Domenico y Bingaman y el Representante Pearce para impulsar una política que proteja no solo las Areas Silvestres de Estudio, sino que incluya las áreas que creemos son igualmente prístinas.

El apoyo a esta campaña ha sido inmenso, desde los cuerpos gubernamentales (quienes por cierto pasaron resoluciones unánimes en apoyo a esta propuesta), tanto en el comisionado del condado, como en cada uno de las diferentes ciudades) como por los diferentes grupos y negocios.

Si conoce a un grupo, negocio o iglesia que le gustaría ver una presentación sobre esta propuesta y de una u otra forma apoyar este movimiento, por favor contacte a Jeff Steinborn o Alberto Zavala al (505) 527-9962.

A Wild Return: Doug Scott in Doña Ana County

By Nathan Small

After four decades, the nation’s leading expert on the American wilderness movement, Doug Scott, returned to southern New Mexico in June. Mr. Scott lent his unique blend of historical knowledge and grassroots experience to the Doña Ana County Wilderness Campaign—currently one of the country’s largest.

Author of “The Enduring Wilderness”, which the late Christopher Reeve called “A must for ordinary citizens who care about saving our Wilderness heritage for future generations”, Scott has helped pass nearly every major piece of Wilderness legislation in the last 30+ years.

This time around, the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance immediately put Doug to work. His tour began Wednesday, June 21 with a 9am Talk Radio interview and ended with Doug’s presentation “Honoring Heritage: Protecting the Wilderness of Doña Ana County” to a packed house on Saturday, June 24. Over those four days Doug appeared on five radio shows, gave numerous print interviews, met with community leaders, and even found time to eat once in a while.

In between all the interviews and meetings, Doug re-visited Carlsbad Caverns National Park, where he worked as a seasonal summer ranger in 1963 and 1964. On duty September 4, 1964, the day President Johnson signed the 1964 Wilderness Act, Scott credits his experiences at Carlsbad for lighting the conservation spark still burning today.

Currently Policy Director at Campaign for America’s Wilderness, Mr. Scott is in a unique position to observe Wilderness campaigns across the United States. The New Mexico Wilderness Alliance is proud to have hosted Doug during his visit, and especially at Doug’s pronouncement that the Doña Ana County campaign is “one of the most remarkable and positive I’ve ever seen”, considering the fact that every incorporated community in Doña Ana County has endorsed a strong vision for Wilderness promoted by the Doña Ana County Wilderness Coalition and New Mexico Wilderness Alliance.

Doug Scott’s enduring commitment to Wilderness, spanning 40+ years, continues to inspire. More importantly, Wilderness unites communities and helps regular citizens find their voice in our democracy—citizens like Cecil Garland and Nancy Hall, whom Doug never misses a chance to mention. Garland owned a hardware store in Montana, and was the driving force in protecting the quarter million acre Scapegoat Wilderness. Hall was a cocktail waitress in Nevada, who led efforts to protect the 23,000 acre Lime Canyon Wilderness near Las Vegas. After the campaign, speaking to the Las Vegas Sun newspaper, she summed up the community power of wilderness: “I guess I’m an activist. It took me a long time to say that’s what I am.”

Protecting Wilderness means getting involved, and engaged citizens are the basis of a strong democracy. To learn more about New Mexico’s largest Wilderness campaign, visit: www.donaanawild.org, or contact Jeff Steinborn at: jeff@nmwild.org, or 505-527-9962.
GET INVOLVED TO KEEP FOREST SERVICE TRAVEL MANAGEMENT RULE MOVING FORWARD

By Michael Scialdone

When the Forest Service finally released its long awaited Travel Management rule on November 2, 2005, they set in motion a process to designate which routes will be open to motorized use. Each National Forest and Grassland is required to engage the public in this process and it is expected that it will be completed in four years.

It is important for the conservation-minded public to get involved. Though the Forest Service is moving in the right direction with these new regulations, public input is needed on each National Forest and Grassland to ensure route designation is done in a timely fashion, is sensible, and that the most ecologically damaging roads are closed to motorized use.

One of the positive aspects of the rule is that designated roads and trails shall be identified on a motor vehicle use map. These maps will also specify what type of motorized vehicle a trail is open to and, if needed, seasonal restrictions. It will be up to motorized users to acquire and know this map, much like hunters and fishers are expected to know the regulations of an area, regardless of signage. Lack of signs (often ripped down by the users themselves) will no longer be an excuse for renegade off-road vehicle use!

The federal advisory panel included members drawn from conservation groups, the timber industry, recreation interests and elected officials. They spent much of their time drafting recommendations to the federal agency.

In late April, the State of New Mexico held a public comment period on whether the state should join the above-mentioned eastern states in petitioning the federal government to protect the 1.6 million acres of roadless national forests in New Mexico. Over 95 percent of the comments submitted encouraged the state to protect all of New Mexico’s roadless lands.

With the vast majority of New Mexicans supporting the protection on roadless national forests, Governor Richardson and the Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department began to compose New Mexico’s petition. At the end of May, the Governor formally submitted the state’s petition to the federal government — making New Mexico the first Western state to do so.

The petition requested that all of New Mexico’s roadless national forests — 1.6 million acres — be protected. Yet the governor didn’t stop there. He went on to request that the Valle Vidal in the Carson National Forest, where energy companies have sought to tap coal beds for methane, be included in the petition.

For the sake of Valle Vidal’s elk herd and other wildlife, and for protection of watersheds and ecosystems across the state, Governor Richardson has stood up to an administration and to a Congress, abetted by a court system, bent on slashing, burning, gouging and drilling.

New Mexico also is one of four Western states — along with California, Oregon and Washington — that have sued the federal government to overturn the current process and restore the initial roadless rule.

Near the end of June, Mark Rey, understy secretary to the U.S. Department of Agriculture wrote a letter to Governor Richardson, indicating the review of the state’s petition would be blocked unless the state dropped its lawsuit.

“Simultaneously pursuing litigation and rulemaking is unnecessary and wasteful,” Rey said, adding New Mexico should tell the Agriculture Department whether it was willing to drop the complaint “and allow the petition process to go forward.”

In letters exchanged a day later, state officials explained that separate staffs would work on the petition and the lawsuit — which was filed by Attorney General Patricia Madrid — and Rey said the clarification “assures us that we can move forward with the petition process.”

This petition will now be reviewed by the Roadless Advisory Committee, which will consider its adoption of rejection. The approval of the three previous petitions by North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia gives an indication that New Mexican’s demands will in fact be heard.

SEND YOUR LETTERS!

Pick the office that manages your local National Forest, write them, and ask to be put on the list for public notification for their route designation process under their new Travel Management rule. It’s easy — send your letter to the Supervisors office of the National Forest you are interested in (feel free to pick more than one). Below is a list of addresses for all the National Forest and Grasslands in New Mexico.

Gila National Forest
Marcia Andre, Supervisor
3005 E. Camino del Bueque
Silver City, NM 88061

Santa Fe National Forest
Gilbert Zepeda, Forest Supervisor
1474 Rodeo Rd.
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Chihola National Forest
2113 Osuna Road NE, Suite A
Albuquerque, NM 87113-1001

Kiowa and Rita Blanca National Grasslands
Nancy Wells, District Ranger
714 Main St.
Clayton, NM 88415

Lincoln National Forest
Jose M. Martinez, Forest Supervisor
1101 New York Avenue
Alamogordo, NM 88310-6992

By Nathan Newcomer

This past month, a federal panel backed requests by North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia to protect more than 500,000 acres of roadless national forest land from logging and commercial development. This decision by the Roadless Advisory Committee restores a measure of confidence that is hope for keeping some wild places wild.

In 2005, the Bush administration lifted protections on 58.5 million acres of national forest lands and ended a roadless conservation rule instated during the Clinton administration. The three states are the first to go through a petition process to keep the backcountry land that had been termed roadless from losing that designation. The Bush administration has given governors until November 2006 to submit petitions to the U.S. Agriculture Department, which oversees the U.S. Forest Service.
New Mexicans Reach Consensus on the Valle Vidal – Members of New Mexico’s Congressional Delegation Have Yet to Act

By Jim O’Donnell, Coalition for the Valle Vidal

“I refuse to believe that we are as desperate as a nation that we are willing to drill every last nook and cranny of our last remaining wild lands for the last drop of oil or cubic foot of gas. I refuse to believe that we are defining the value of our lands by only what can be extracted from them. To me this is like valuing the worth of a human being only by what products of value can be rendered from flesh and bone.”

- Alan Lackey, rancher and hunting guide; former president of the Raton, New Mexico Chamber of Commerce; co-founder of The Coalition for the Valle Vidal

Rarely, if ever, do New Mexicans reach consensus on land use issues. However, consensus is exactly what has happened when it comes to the proposed drilling of the Valle Vidal and the two Valle Vidal protection acts before Congress.

To date, twenty New Mexico communities have passed resolutions opposing coalbed methane drilling in the Valle Vidal and calling for permanent protection. Several more are considering similar resolutions. Over the past two years, more than 70,000 people from all walks of life and geographies have written to the Forest Service with the same message. During the three-month scoping period in the summer of 2005 alone, 54,028 people wrote to the Forest Service regarding the Valle Vidal. Of all those letters, only nine people favored drilling – and one of those has since changed his mind!!

To sum that up, 99.98% of comments received by the forest service thus far have demanded permanent protection for the Valle Vidal! We have no doubt that this consensus will again be demonstrated in the upcoming draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) comment period (slated to begin sometime in late August, 2006).

In the US House of Representatives, the Valle Vidal Protection Act (HB 3817) has moved out of committee and onto the floor, where we are hopeful that it will quickly pass given the fact that Republicans Heather Wilson and Steve Pearce have joined Valle Vidal champion Tom Udall in support of the bill.

Besides being a culturally treasured landscape and vital ecological corridor, recreation in the Valle Vidal is a significant portion of the economy of the communities of northern New Mexico. Our community leaders are keenly aware of this fact and we don’t appreciate people in Washington, DC and Houston, Texas toying with our future.

Such clear consensus begs the question: why isn’t the Valle Vidal Preservation Act (SB 1734) moving swiftly through the Senate?

Senator Pete V. Domenici has thus far refused to place his significant weight behind this bill. The Senator says he prefers to wait out the Forest Service process before making a decision. But for the people of north-central New Mexico, waiting is not an option. In the next several months, we hope to persuade the Senator that permanent protection is needed now by demonstrating how the public’s will is being thwarted by policies that stack the deck in favor of opening the Valle Vidal to industrialization. For example, before any public input was solicited, the Forest Service decided to give up its authority to protect the Valle Vidal in the current Forest Planning process, committing, instead, to a costly, time-consuming, separate “leasing” analysis after the Forest Plan is completed. By committing to a separate leasing analysis, and in light of the severe weaken-...
Is Pete Domenici Poised to Make History... Again?

By Jeff Steinborn

Pete V. Domenici, New Mexico’s longest serving U.S. Senator in state history is poised to once again make history. He is poised to give current and future generations a powerful and lasting natural legacy, by protecting some of the finest natural crown jewels in our beautiful state. Senator Domenici stands on the brink of sponsoring the largest Wilderness protection plan of BLM lands in the history of New Mexico. With less than half the amount of protected wilderness as virtually every other western state, and no permanently protected land in Doña Ana County at all, the time for action is now.

No place in New Mexico holds more spectacular wilderness quality lands than Doña Ana County. With over 500,000 acres of beautiful and unique wild lands identified by the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance to be ideal for wilderness designation, Senator Domenici is actively considering the community’s proposal to designate much of it as Wilderness, and to create a National Conservation Area in and around the spectacular Organ Mountains. This proposal has the support of every incorporated community in Doña Ana County as well as a diverse coalition of elected officials, conservationists, developers, sportsmen, and business leaders.

Since the passage of the Wilderness Act in 1964, Senator Domenici has been involved in the protection of almost every Wilderness Area in the Land of Enchantment. His vision has extended beyond what federal agencies alone have recommended for protection, as he did in 1978 with the establishment of the Chama River Canyon Wilderness Area, an area opposed for Wilderness protection by the Forest Service, but supported by the local community. In the same legislation Senator Domenici led the way in protecting the Sandia Mountains, stating to his Senate colleagues that the mountain “forms a beautiful natural backdrop for the city (Albuquerque) which all the residents can enjoy.” Certainly, the people of Doña Ana County feel the same way about their breathtaking Organ Mountains. Almost 30 years after the protection of the Sandia Mountains, Doña Ana County is ready to see its most important natural treasures protected.

Now, in 2006, Senator Domenici is the 6th most powerful Senator in the United States Senate according to Congress.org, a non partisan political organization, and he is turning his attention to Doña Ana County, a county with no permanently protected wilderness, but more wilderness quality lands than most New Mexico counties combined. Will he once again embrace the needs of the community to unite their ancestral lands? It appears so.

The New Mexico Wilderness Alliance applauds Senator Domenici for his record of Wilderness stewardship in New Mexico, and stands ready to cross the precipice of history together, to protect the wild lands of Doña Ana County.
By Nathan Newcomer

Earth Day, 2006—Ascending from Albuquerque, Alamogordo, Las Cruces and El Paso, a group of 20 New Mexicans and Texans came to Otero Mesa to witness and experience the awe inspiring beauty and magic of this wild Chihuahuan Desert grassland. Our goal was to document and record petroglyph sites on Alamo Mountain, nestled within the heart of Otero Mesa.

Many petroglyph sites on Alamo Mountain were thoroughly documented using the system developed by the Rock Art Field School of the Archaeological Society of New Mexico. Groups of four to five people explored the western and northwestern slopes of Alamo Mountain, searching for petroglyph panels. Upon discovering a panel, the group proceeded through three important steps:

1) The petroglyphs coordinates were mapped using a GPS unit to ensure the proper location of the site;
2) A description of the drawings and the condition of each picture were written down;
3) Multiple photographs were taken of each individual petroglyph, and then a rough sketch of the panel was drawn on the Photograph Data Sheet.

Combined, these three steps fulfill the Archaeological Society of New Mexico’s requirements for documentation and submission into the state archives, where upon the sites can be monitored and protected for generations to come.

Throughout the course of one day, four groups documented petroglyphs with a total result of recording 50 different petroglyph sites, many of which contained 10 to 20 individual drawings. Many of the illustrations found on Alamo Mountain belong to the Mogollon people who may have lived in the area between about 900 and 1400 AD. A lot of the petroglyphs were very abstract, perhaps indicating maps, but there were also many glyphs that resembled people, animals, and religious symbols.

The petroglyph documentation was a tremendous success and adds to our efforts from last year, where over 60 petroglyph sites were documented.

Currently, the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance is working with the State of New Mexico and the Historic Preservation Division to initiate a complete archeological inventory of Otero Mesa’s historic sites. This inventory would be extremely beneficial to the long-term protection of Otero Mesa’s resources and would add complete information to the state archives, for many of the sites in Otero Mesa have not been documented.

The New Mexico Wilderness Alliance will conduct another outing to Otero Mesa in September, as well as leading hikes across the area’s tall grasslands. To RSVP for the September Otero Mesa Outing, contact Nathan Newcomer at 505-843-8696, nathan@nmwild.org

and don’t miss the
Otero Mesa Public Forum
September 21, 2006
An educational forum on why Otero Mesa is worth protecting and how oil and gas development is not environmentally sound.

In Alamogordo, New Mexico Location and Time TBA

2nd Annual Petroglyph Outing to Otero Mesa

Join us for autumn in Otero Mesa, where for the past two years the grasslands have been 2 to 3 feet high! We will explore the expansive grasslands and search for the endangered Aplomado falcon, as well as explore Flat Top and Deer Mountains. If you’ve never been to Otero Mesa, or if you’ve attended one of our previous outings, this is the time to be there and experience the wildness of the Chihuahuan Desert grasslands of Otero Mesa.

Be prepared for hot and mild weather plus the chance of afternoon thunderstorms. Bring plenty of water, sunscreen and a camera to capture the moments of pronghorn herds, prairie dog towns, petroglyphs, desert blooms, sunrises and sunsets, as well as a chance to document an Aplomado falcon!

During the evenings there will be a social campfire. Bring musical instruments if you’ve got them. Let’s get together and have some fun in the desert!

Maximum Participants: 50
To RSVP and more information: Nathan Newcomer, nathan@nmwild.org, 505-843-8696
**CAN WE SAVE THE WOLF?**

Continued from page 1

extermination campaigns reflected the anti-predator alliance that had been forged between government agencies and the livestock industry. Fortunately, a handful of Mexican wolves survived extermination in a few remote hideouts in Mexico. Five wolves were live-trapped between 1977 and 1980 and placed in a captive breeding program, which saved the subspecies from almost certain extinction. Other wolves held in captivity were later discovered and integrated into the captive breeding pool. All Mexican wolves alive today stem from just seven founders. These animals were truly rescued from the brink of extinction.

In 1976, the Mexican wolf was placed on the endangered species list; and in the late 1980s, the threat of a lawsuit by wildlife supporters prompted the Fish and Wildlife Service to undertake a reintroduction program with captive-bred animals. The agency selected the Apache National Forest of eastern Arizona and the Gila National Forest of western New Mexico as the initial reintroduction site, and called this 6,854 square mile area the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area (BRWRA). In 1998, the Fish and Wildlife Service began releasing wolves, but did so with major policy constraints. The rules were complex. Because the State of New Mexico and its Department of Game and Fish flatly opposed wolf reintroduction (a position that Bill Richardson’s administration reversed), captive-bred wolves would be released into Arizona, and only wolves that had been captured from the wild could be re-released (translocated) into New Mexico. In addition, wolves could get to the New Mexico portion of the BRWRA using their own four feet. Wolves leaving the recovery area would be captured and returned to the BRWRA or to captivity. The rules allow (but do not require) responsible agencies to control or kill, if necessary, wolves that depredate livestock and for other reasons. No reductions in livestock numbers or distribution or changes in livestock husbandry practices were required, such as the removal of dead livestock that may attract wolves to an area.

Flexibility was built into the reintroduction project’s regulations to allow the agencies to adjust management practices based on the nature and extent of conflicts, the results of population monitoring, and the progress toward the population objective of 100 wolves. The formal name for this approach is “adaptive management.” The formal regulation contained general guidelines, and implementation details would be spelled out in Fish and Wildlife Service approved management plans or operating procedures. Formal reviews of the reintroduction project were required at three and five years following the initial releases.

In 2001, the Three-Year Review of the BRWRA reintroduction project was completed. In that report, several prominent wolf researchers stated that the Fish and Wildlife Service must gain the authority to release wolves directly into New Mexico, allow wolves that are not creating problems to roam outside of the recovery area (just as endangered wolves and other animals elsewhere are allowed), and that ranchers should be made responsible for removing livestock carcasses (which attract wolves into the proximity of live cattle) from their grazing allotments. Congressman Joe Skeen then asked for another review which was conducted by the Arizona Game and Fish Department and jointly endorsed by the game commissions of Arizona and New Mexico. This led the Arizona Game and Fish Department to ask for more control over the reintroduction project. In late 2003, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed that created a multi-agency working group formally dubbed the Adaptive Management Oversight Committee (AMOC), chaired by Arizona Game and Fish. AMOC was to make decisions on management of the reintroduction project and the Fish and Wildlife Service retained responsibility for future recovery planning for the Mexican wolf. All formal cooperating agencies hold a seat on the AMOC, which operates by consensus.

Since the end of 2003 when AMOC took charge, the wild population of Mexican wolves has plummeted due to removals and mortality exceeding the capacity for the population to grow. An appropriate adaptive response would be to implement measures to increase the survival of wolves, reduce the number of wolves removed from the wild, and to release more wolves. No such measures and none of the critical recommendations in the Three-Year Review for increasing wolf survival and retention in the wild have been adopted by the AMOC. In early 2005 following a population decline the previous year, the AMOC proposed a moratorium on new releases of wolves and a revised procedure for addressing livestock depredation that would remove managers’ discretion and create a rigid formula for when to initiate trapping or shooting of wolves that prey on cattle. These draconian proposals closely followed two meetings held by Congressman Pearce on behalf of wolf recovery opponents. High-level regional Fish and Wildlife Service officials and the Forest Service’s AMOC representative attended these meetings at the Congressman’s request. Clearly, the AMOC jettisoned the mandated “adaptive management” approach at the first sign of political heat. This does not bode well for the future of the Mexican wolf reintroduction project.

Eight years after the first wolves tasted freedom, the wolf reintroduction program lags far behind the established goal of 100 wolves and 18 breeding pairs in the wild by the end of 2006. Instead, at the end of 2005 only 35 wolves and five breeding pairs could be confirmed. Recently, 12 Mexican wolves, including six pups in one pack, were killed through AMOC-authorized predator control actions. By our calculations (with wolves dying so fast it is hard to keep track), these mortalities reduce the five breeding pairs documented at the end of 2003 to three. A few additional pairs have reproduced this year and if at least two of their pups survive to the end of the year, they will be added to the breeding pair count. Clearly, current management of the program is not leading to recovery of the Mexican wolf as...
required by the Endangered Species Act. Furthermore, the Fish and Wildlife Service has abandoned all efforts to develop a new recovery plan for the Mexican wolf. The original 1982 plan did not set specific recovery objectives for removing the Mexican wolf from the endangered species list—a consequence of the dire straits of the “lobo” at the time and the seeming remoteness of the possibility of recovery. Thus, on at least two counts the Fish and Wildlife Service is in non-compliance with the Endangered Species Act: (1) failure of the reintroduction project to further the conservation of the wolf, and (2) failure to develop a recovery plan.

Unlike the northern Rocky Mountains, the Blue Range Wolf Recovery Area does not offer a large area free of livestock. And livestock in most of the BRWRA stay on the national forests year round, whereas in the northern Rockies most livestock leave the public lands over the winter. This leaves wolves less refuge from the possibilities of encountering livestock, and fewer areas in which native prey are not competing with cattle for available forage. Furthermore, year-round public lands grazing in the Southwest has allowed more ranchers to live on tiny parcels of private land and run their cattle on tens of thousands of acres of public lands, usually with little or no tending or monitoring by range riders. During drought, the cattle often stay on the national forest and sometimes die in significant numbers—drawing wolves in by their smell. Thus, the opportunity for the development of conflicts between wolves and livestock is present nearly everywhere and nearly all the time in the BRWRA.

On May 6, 2006, a male wolf came across the carcass of a bull that had died of a disease. The wolf fed on the carcass and later preyed on live cattle. On June 18 he was shot by agency personnel; and his mate was shot on July 6, without having preyed on livestock in the intervening period. The female was especially valuable to the wild population because she possessed genes from all three founding lines of wolves. The Three-Year Review identified unattended livestock carcasses as a problem that needed to be addressed, but AMOC refuses to take corrective actions. Current policies and procedures give livestock priority over wolf survival and recovery in all conflict situations.

Defenders of Wildlife, a national conservation organization, compensates ranchers at fair market value for confirmed livestock depredations. Confirmation of depredation is the job of USDA Wildlife Services (formerly Animal Damage Control).

In 2005, Governor Bill Richardson, responding to complaints expressed by Catron County residents, set up a task force to study the situation, chaired by his environmental advisor and by the Director of the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. In response to local demands for a compensation plan that would not require confirmation of every wolf depredation in order to receive payment, the representative of the New Mexico Department of Agriculture presented a state-funded plan, administered by the New Mexico Livestock Board, which would have paid compensation based on livestock losses compared with average losses in previous years. No confirmation would have been required beyond an occasional spot check. In addition, ranchers cooperating with the plan would have been paid a stipend of $150 to $200 per year for their trouble. Ranchers and other local members of the task force unanimously rejected the plan. Instead, they presented a list of “non-negotiable” demands, including putting wolves behind fences and allowing individuals to kill wolves for a variety of reasons including threatening the “physical and mental well-being of residents.”

While we may not all agree on wolf reintroduction, the position of one group in this equation that remains perhaps the most unclear is that of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Do they seriously support recovery of the Mexican wolf? Their policies and actions, particularly in the face of steady population declines, lead one to wonder. The Endangered Species Act, signed into law by Richard M. Nixon on December 28, 1973, endows the Fish and Wildlife Service with the responsibility to recover the Mexican wolf. NMWA Board member, Dave Parsons, once led the agency’s reintroduction program and was on hand for the release of the first wolves into the wilds of Arizona. He has acknowledged that from the start the reintroduction suffered from political compromises largely in response to the strong objections of the livestock industry. Parsons thought he had built enough flexibility into the rules to allow forward progress toward wolf recovery while addressing legitimate conflicts. But the agencies have used that flexibility to move in the wrong direction.

The role of the Fish and Wildlife Service is abundantly clear—they are solely responsible for recovery of the Mexican wolf, period. This remains true even though they have delegated management authority for the reintroduction project to Arizona Game and Fish. I truly believe that many members of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program staff are hard-working, dedicated people who genuinely care about the wolves and want this reintroduction to succeed. But despite their best intentions, the program has had its share of setbacks and politically motivated decisions that are not in the best interest of the Mexican wolf.

Dr. Benjamin Tuggle is the new...
Can We Save the Wolf?

Southwest Regional Director for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Albuquerque. He is faced with some tough decisions for reversing the declining population trend, advancing science-informed recovery planning, and putting the project on a trajectory toward recovery. Tuggle has clearly earned the respect of his staff and is perceived by many in the conservation community as smart, fair, and concerned. But the politics of wolf recovery and the Bush Administration’s continued “slow death” approach to conservation/environmental issues makes one wonder how far Dr. Tuggle will be willing or allowed to go for the lobo. Our hope is that he will be bold and willing to pursue new ideas and creative solutions, use the authority and flexibility he already has under federal regulations, and make the innovative changes necessary for advancing recovery of the Mexican wolf. The existing management paradigm is clearly not working.

Important changes must be made if Mexican wolves are to have a fighting chance in the wilds of the Southwest. We recommend that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service:

- Immediately institute a moratorium on all management removals and predator control directed at Mexican wolves, except for that which is specifically required by the existing reintroduction rule—specifically, capturing and returning wolves to the recovery area when they establish territories outside the boundaries of the BRWRA; capturing or killing wolves that threaten human lives; and on private or tribal land, allowing the take of wolves caught in the act of killing, wounding, or biting livestock. Additionally, wolves could be removed if such removal contributes to the immediate survival of that wolf.

- Immediately pursue a rule change that would eliminate boundaries imposed on Mexican wolves’ roaminings, eliminate restrictions on where wolves can be released, and hold blameless wolves that kill livestock after the same wolves have been documented to have scavenged on one or more livestock carcasses from animals they are found not to have killed. Alternately, in order to address the livestock carcass problem, the Forest Service could institute regulations requiring ranchers to remove or render carcasses inedible (as by lime). Such a rule change should provide a level of protection to the reintroduced Mexican wolf population sufficient to fulfill the Endangered Species Act mandate to recover the species.

- Reclaim full authority for all aspects of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program by placing the AMOC in an advisory role and review and revise all agreements, procedures, and regulations for compatibility with the removal moratorium and progress toward recovery.

- Add recommendations to the Five-Year Review that would serve to immediately increase the odds of survival and persistence of Mexican wolves in the wild and assign the highest priority for implementation to these recommendations.

- Immediately reinstate a functional Mexican Wolf Recovery Team and expedite the development and approval of a new recovery plan.

- Vest decision-making authority for wolf removals and control in the Mexican Wolf Recovery Coordinator (MWRC), as it was before the Memorandum of Understanding, rather than in the AMOC. Control decisions should be in writing, signed by the appropriate official (the MWRC or his designee), and include a statement as to the cause and full disclosure of the depredation investigations.

- Step up law enforcement efforts to deter illegal killing of Mexican wolves.

- Continue wolf releases to augment losses that cannot be replaced through natural productivity.

- Add recommendations to the Five-Year Review that would serve to immediately increase the odds of survival and persistence of Mexican wolves in the wild and assign the highest priority for implementation to these recommendations.

The killing must stop. We have a chance to restore the balance the mountain demands, but our silence meant more deer, that no wolves meant more deer, that no wolves would mean hunter’s paradise. But after seeing the green fire die, I sensed that neither the wolf nor the mountain agreed with such a view.”

The killing must stop. We have a chance to restore the balance the mountain demands, but our silence will be the wolf’s demise. Their howls are the real symbol of the wild we continue to fight for.

Leopold said it so sadly, but so well, in his famous essay on the wolf, that resonates today as it did then. “Everyone reached for their guns and began to fire away; we reached the old wolf in time to watch the fierce green fire dying in her eyes. I realized then, and have known ever since, that there was something new to me in those eyes-something known only to her and to the mountain. I was young then and full of trigger-itch; I thought that because fewer wolves meant more deer, that no wolves would mean hunter’s paradise. But after seeing the green fire die, I sensed that neither the wolf nor the mountain agreed with such a view.”

The killing must stop. We have a chance to restore the balance the mountain demands, but our silence will be the wolf’s demise. Their howls are the real symbol of the wild we continue to fight for.

You can help make a difference...TODAY!

Send your letters in support of the Mexican Wolf Recovery Program:

Dr. Benjamin Tuggle
US Fish and Wildlife Service
500 Gold Ave. SW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

RDTuggle@fws.gov
By Nathan Small

Wilderness recreation is like a grand buffet, with something for everyone. The only requirement is that we enjoy wild places as men, women, and children instead of as machines. Rafting and rock-climbing, trail running and tree hugging, donkey riding and dog walking—the list goes on and on. In fact, wilderness recreation opportunities are nearly unlimited. Mechanced transport is the one exception, prohibited except in very specific circumstances.

Outdoor sports increasingly demands more and more money, and sometimes it is easy to forget why we go to the outdoors in the first place. Wilderness recreation remains cheaper than motorized outdoor sports. Playing in the wilderness means not paying the extra thousands of dollars to purchase, maintain and fuel outdoor recreational vehicles. Wilderness recreation is unique because it is spontaneous and creative: "unconfined" in the original words of the 1964 Wilderness Act. Therefore, below is one version of the Wilderness Recreation ABCs—enjoy, but create your own as well.

A dventure, mystery and enchantment. You don’t need to spend weeks on the trail to find adventure. Adventure can be going beyond the next bend, or spending the night underneath stars instead of satins sheets.

B rings us back to bygone childhood days spent bug-chasing. Trail the ant as it braes giant human feet, bringing grass seeds to its colony. Chart a bee’s path between wild flowers or follow the stinkbug as it flits across open sand to a sagebrush refuge.

C atches leaves as fall breezes brush them to the ground. From the spectacular Big-tooth Maple stands of Red Canyon in the Manzano Mountains Wilderness, to an avalanche of aspen leaves high in the Gila Wilderness, catching leaves is a colorful way to enjoy New Mexico’s spectacular foliage.

D ances in the fading pink rays of a Sandia Mountain sunset, understanding why “Sandia” means watermelon in Spanish. Our wilderness ‘D’ also means desert, a land where color comes in infinite shades and summer shade is sacred.

E scapes rush-hour traffic jams and nightly crime reports, to where the sun and moon tell time and wristwatches are just extra weight. In New Mexico our wilderness ‘E’ stands for Enchantment—complete with White Sands and 13,000 feet high alpine lands, where the rare jaguar roams and native pronghorn antelope call Otero Mesa home. The Land of Enchantment gives people the chance to reconnect with nature through wilderness.

F inds wilderness in wilderness. Wilderness is the flow and rhythm of free systems interacting; as Gary Snyder says “wildness is the essential nature of nature”. Wilderness is all around (and inside) us. In our busy world, wilderness offers the best chance to re-discover wilderness.

G allops across wide-open spaces, with or without a horse.

H orseback rides through places like Soledad Canyon in the Organ Mountains. The Soledad Canyon trail is maintained in part by the Back Country Horsemen Society, proving that wilderness lovers savour and safeguard their wilderness experiences.

I nvites wilderness newcomers to experience wild land. Seeing wilderness and wildlife for the first time can change someone’s life. And, as the website www.wilderness.net notes, “...if something is not understood, it is not valued; if it is not valued, it is not loved; if it is not loved, it is not protected, and if it is not protected, it is lost.” Inviting wilderness newcomers nurtures wilderness defenders.

J ogs along the trail in the glowing light of a clear mountain dawn.

K ids around. Kids in wilderness are like harps in heaven, complimentary. Wild places offer discovery decision makers. Talking about wilderness can inspire wilderness newcomers, inform wilderness neophytes, and influence decision makers.

L eaps downed logs in a single bound, and laces up hiking boots before hitting the trail.

M akes maps to mystery. Wilderness mystery never yells, “you’ll never know”. Instead it whispers, “keep going and find out.”

N eedles, as in the Needles outside of Las Cruces. Signature backdrop to Albuquerque’s southern sister, the Needles offer fantastic rock climbing, gorgeous views, and the chance to recreate in an area that is now part of one of America’s largest wilderness campaigns. To learn more, visit: www.donaanawild.org.

O bserves wildlife. Seeing an animal in the wild connects us to our primitive past, when predator/prey relationships governed survival. While few of us (including myself) would trade the supermarket for stalking dinner every night, fewer still can deny the special thrill of seeing wildlife in its wild environment.

P ractices the Leave No Trace Ethic, proving that people can interact harmoniously with wild nature, instead of destroying it. To learn more about Leave No Trace visit: www.Int.org.

Q uacks like a duck, much to the amusement of your companions. Quacking without companions is perfectly fine; just don’t expect to observe any wildlife.

R exes in the solitude of wilderness. No palm pilot, pager, or plane to catch; in today’s world relaxing is recreation.

S implifies, taking only what we need into wilderness and leaving nothing behind but tracks and promises to return.

T alks about the importance of wilderness with other people, including elected officials. Talking about wilderness can inspire wilderness newcomers, inform wilderness neophytes, and influence decision makers.

U nderstands that wilderness dignifies all life with a basic freedom.

V isits often and never wants to leave.

W addles like a duck underneath a backpack filled with one week of supplies. Quacking while waddling with such a pack can be dangerous.

X eriscapes (low-water usage landscaping) our homes, searching for decorative inspiration in our dry environment. Like the way that ocotillo looks on Otero Mesa? Make a mental note to buy one from the local nursery to put in your back yard.

Y odes...yells and even Yipees!

Z early guards wilderness, educating those who want to enjoy it and opposing those who shortsightedly seek to destroy it.
The most important benefit of service projects is that we are helping to heal the wounds to our lands. When springs and riparian vegetation are fenced off from grazing and meanders are induced into our streams, the benefit to land and wildlife is extraordinary. Our members and supporters have an additional opportunity to get involved with public lands protection that is rewarding as well as a chance to socialize with like-minded individuals.

Another great benefit is that service projects provide a way to work cooperatively with the agencies that manage our public lands. In an age where these agencies are expected to do more under shrinking budgets, service projects may be the only way that critical work will get done in certain areas. The amount of work that 20 people working together can get done on a Saturday usually exceeds the expectations of agency personnel, often leading to on-the-site discussions about what we can work together on next year.

Finally, an important part of our success has been teaming up with other conservation groups that also lead service projects. By working together, we can share expertise on what work is needed (particularly with stream restoration,) as well as increase the volunteer turnout. Groups that we have worked with, or have projects scheduled with, include Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, Amigos Bravos, Qui-vira Coalition, Sky Island Alliance, Tijeras Safe Passage Coalition, Upper Gila Watershed Alliance, and NM Volunteers for the Outdoors.

We hope to see you out on a service project some time this summer or fall. If you are fit enough to go for a hike, then there will be activities on any outing with which you can help. See page 19 for a list of our upcoming service projects. For general information and questions about service projects, do not hesitate to call or email Michael Scialdone at 843-8696 (ABQ office) or scial@nmwild.org.
Uranium Mining on Mount Taylor?

Make your views heard for the land and it’s resident’s quality of life:

A member alerted NMWA to proposed uranium exploration on Mount Taylor’s “La Jara Mesa”, located in the Cibola National Forest, about 10 miles from Grants. If approved, uranium mining would pose significant threats to public health. Cibola County’s high cancer rate is linked by some to uranium mining that occurred there in the 80’s. The July 7th comment deadline has passed, but we encourage you to contact the Mt Taylor Ranger District to voice your concerns, especially if you live in the area. Their number is 505-287-8833. Chuck Hagerdon is the District Ranger.

When using public lands, we must support the greatest good, whatever benefits the greatest number of people and provides enduring values without further degrading quality of life. Public land’s intrinsic values easily trump resource gains that play out in a short time and leave us in the same position as before, but with degraded landscapes. Though the ‘multiple use’ concept is not inherently at fault, history reveals that particular “uses” such as uranium mining result in irreparable costs to public health and quality of life for wild and human residents. Residents near Mount Taylor are now fighting for the virtues of their landscape that attracted them in the beginning. To help, call Joe at 505-285-9857 or JOEFASANELLA 9857@msn.com.

Help Protect our National Parks

Tell them:
- to leave the National Parks Management Policy alone;
- give the National Parks more funding;
- and stop the outsourcing of National Park Service jobs.

Write to:
Dirk Kempthorne
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington DC 20240
Phone: 202-208-3100
E-Mail: webteam@ios.doi.gov

Also write the Chair of the National Parks Subcommittee, Congressman Steve Pearce

Send Your written comments by August 7!

Forest Service, USDA
Attn: Director, Wilderness & Wildlife & Scenic Rivers Resources
201 14th St SW
Washington, DC 20250

For more information go to: www.predatorcontrol.org or contact Trisha 505-843-8696

HELP PROTECT WILDLIFE IN WILDERNESS AND NATURAL AREAS!

The last vestiges of refuge for our wildlife are threatened by a Bush Administration proposed rule change relaxing restrictions on aerial gunning and poisoning of “problem” wildlife such as coyotes, mountain lions, bobcats and wolves in designated Wilderness and Research Natural Areas on Forest Service land. The most significant change would let “collaborative” groups set “management goals and objectives for wildlife,” by allowing interests who are traditionally hostile to predators, to actually set predator control agendas. The proposed rule change also reverses the current prohibition on M-44 cyanide guns, which are hidden explosive devices covered with an attractant. M-44’s have never been allowed in wilderness, but the new rule would explicitly permit them. Hidden cyanide guns are completely incompatible with the wilderness experience! Wildlife depends on you and I. Insist that the Forest Service not allow additional lethal control in Wilderness areas. Also, demand that the Forest Service remove and ban M-44 devices from ALL public lands!

BE HEARD.

GOVERNMENT CONTACTS

Call Washington, D.C. toll-free. Capitol Switchboard Number: 877-762-8762
Just ask the operator to connect you to your New Mexico Senator or Congressman.

Senator Pete V. Domenici
328 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510-3101
(202) 224-6621
(202) 228-0900

Senator Jeff Bingaman
703 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-5521
(202) 224-2852 fax

Congresswoman Heather Wilson
318 Cannon House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-6316
(202) 225-4975 fax

Congressman Steve Pearce
1408 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2365
(202) 225-9599 fax

Congressman Tom Udall
1414 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-6190
(202) 226-1331 fax

Governor Bill Richardson
Office of the Governor
State Capitol Bldg., Suite 300
Santa Fe, NM 87501
(505) 476-2200
(505) 476-2226 fax

Concerned about oil and gas development on our public lands?
write:
Linda Rundell
BLM State Director
P.O. Box 27115
Santa Fe, NM 87502-0115
Let's Go Hiking, Baby!

Jadzia Murphy of Las Cruces, New Mexico, went on her first hike at the age of 8 weeks—a brief tour of Soledad Canyon in the Organ Mountains east of Las Cruces. Though Jadzia, nestled against her mom’s chest in a baby frontpack, slept through the experience, her mom is sure that the fresh air did her good.

Since then, Jadzia has toured various Organ Mountain destinations: Soledad Canyon, Achenbach Canyon, the Pine Tree Trail, Dripping Springs and she has even been to the top of Baylor Pass via the Baylor Canyon Trail. She has been awake for her last several hikes and seems to enjoy them immensely.

Her parents, avid backpackers, also hope to be able to take her backpacking as she gets older and teach her the joys of camping in the wild. Mom Lisa Murphy, hopes that this early outdoor experience will be beneficial to Jadzia. “I hope to instill in her a love of the outdoors and an appreciation of wild places. My older children grew up in the suburbs of Atlanta and never got this experience—they lived in a world of subdivisions and shopping malls. Living in southern New Mexico allows us easy access to beautiful mountains and desert areas and we are fortunate to be able to take advantage of it.”

If family background has any influence, Jadzia should grow up to be a devoted hiker and advocate of wilderness, as her grandfather is Wesley Leonard, NMWA chair. Leonard looks forward to taking Jadzia to his favorite places once she is old enough to hike on her own.

As an old Haida Indian saying goes, “We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.”

NMWA Benefits From Member’s Generosity & Good Fashion Sense

Lucy McDermott was recently selected by MUDD Jeans as a model for their fall back-to-school campaign, “Girls Who Want to Make a Difference”. (Check-out the August edition of Seventeen Magazine). As part of her compensation package from MUDD Jeans, Lucy selected New Mexico Wilderness Alliance as one of her favorite charities, granting us a generous donation of $2500. Lucy is an Albuquerque resident who loves the outdoors and is spending a good part of her summer backpacking in Alaska. We are very proud to have Lucy as a Life Member of NMWA and we hope she will inspire many high school students to get out and enjoy New Mexico’s wild landscapes and take part in their preservation.

On May 11th, 2006 the Wilderness Society presented its Environmental Hero award to Wesley Leonard, Board Chair of the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance for his exceptional efforts to protect wilderness in New Mexico and across the Southwest.

“For more than three decades Mr. Leonard has helped inspire and lead the movement to protect wilderness in the Southwest,” said Neri Holguin, who directs The Wilderness Society’s work in New Mexico. “His ability to articulate the values of wilderness and his first-hand knowledge of the land earned from countless hours spent in wild country have been the hallmarks of his environmental career, which has seen the passage of several hard-won wilderness bills.”

After a stint as a sales and marketing professional in New York City, Wesley moved to El Paso in 1973 and began working to protect the Otero Mesa region of New Mexico. In 1977 the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) hired him to inventory wilderness, and in 1997 he and three other activists founded the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance to protect New Mexico’s special places.

He has been on our board ever since and currently chairs it. With hundreds of thousands of acres of public land in New Mexico not yet part of the National Wilderness Preservation System, Wesley is determined to do whatever it takes to protect it.

We’re proud to have such a strong, capable and experienced leader in our organization. The staff of the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance would like to join the Wilderness Society in saying thank you to Wesley. You’re our hero, too!
For information on upcoming hikes, please visit our website:  
www.nmwild.org

NMWA 2006 HIKING GUIDE  
NOW AVAILABLE!

This handy guide to all of NMWA’s 2006 hikes across New Mexico’s wildest, most beautiful country can help you plan your nature treks for the entire year! Includes color photos and hike descriptions.

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Warning:
Outdoor recreational activities like hiking and backpacking are by their very nature potentially hazardous. Weather can change drastically and unexpectedly and there are many places where a loss of footing can lead to injury or death. Each person participating in the outings and service projects described in this newsletter must ensure that he/she understands the risks involved, obtains the necessary training and hires any necessary precautions. By offering these outings and service projects, NMWA employees and representatives do not intend to hold themselves out as expert guides. Should you choose to take part in the outings or service projects set forth in this newsletter, you must assume the risks inherent in such activities.

The information in this newsletter does not replace your own sound judgment and good decision-making skills. It is not intended as a comprehensive explanation of all the potential hazards and risks involved. NMWA makes no representation as to the safety of any trail or route described because trails can and often do change. While this newsletter has offered suggestions about what to bring, what to wear and what skill level is required for each hike, every participant should do his or her own research and bring whatever is necessary for his/her own safety and comfort. Learn as much as possible about the activities in which you participate, be reasonable about your skill level, prepare for the unexpected, and be cautious. It is your responsibility to determine whether you have the skills and experience required.

Children under age 16 are welcome on outings, but only if they are supervised at all times by their parent or guardian. Children under the age of 16 may not participate in service projects. Should you undertake any of the above hikes or service projects set forth in this newsletter, NMWA does not assume responsibility for any accidents, rescues or injuries which may result. All participants must agree that they are entirely responsible for their own safety during the activity and during travel to and from the activity. While NMWA encourages participants to carpool, participants must coordinate carpooling on their own. Furthermore, participants must undertake to ensure that their driver is properly insured and a safe driver.

Be safe and have fun!

New Mexico Wilderness Alliance Service Projects:
A fun and positive way to help protect and heal the land

July 28, 29 & 30
Apache Kid Wilderness  
Membership Appreciation Outing  
Maximum participants: 75
Contact: Michael Scialdone at 505-843-8696, scial@nmwild.org for more info.
Driving time: Approximately 2 hours from ABQ or Las Cruces

August 4, 5 & 6
Bitter Creek, part 2
We will team up with Amigos Bravos for this one. We have had great success working on projects in this area and with one more we can install a gate that will help enforce a seasonal closure of trails to protect wildlife.
Note: This project was previously listed at Middle Fork Trail. We will try to do MFT on the weekend of Sept 22-24.
Maximum participants: 35
Contact: Michael Scialdone at 505-843-8696, scial@nmwild.org for more info.
Driving time: Approximately 3.5 hours drive north of ABQ

August 11, 12 & 13
Valles Caldera Revegetation
Hosted by Albuquerque Wildlife Federation with the Valles Caldera Trust. Do some planting and learn more about the on-going efforts to restore this wildlife oasis.

Northern NM Hikes
Please contact the NMWA Office at 505-843-8696 to reserve your spot.

August 12
Mesa Chivato Day Hike
Contact: Nathan Small  
8 miles round trip, easy skill level

August 19
Mt. Taylor Day Hike
Contact: Nathan Newcomer  
10 miles round-trip, moderate to strenuous

August 26
Sandia Mountains - Domingo Baca Canyon Trail Day Hike  
Contact: Nathan Newcomer  
6.5 miles round-trip, moderate to strenuous

September 9
Sierra Ladrones- Rio Salado Box Day Hike  
Contact: Michael Scialdone  
Approximately 12 miles round-trip, moderate

Maximum participants: 35
Contact: Glenda Muirhead at 505-281-2625, gmuirhead1@msn.com for more info.
Driving time: Approximately 2 hours north of ABQ

September 16
Cedro Creek Restoration
Hosted by Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, this is an excellent chance for those in the ABQ area to be part of an on-going stream restoration project.
Maximum participants: 35
Contact: Glenda Muirhead at 505-281-2625, gmuirhead1@msn.com for more info.
Driving time: Approximately 1/2 hour drive east of ABQ

First 3 weekends in November
Tijeras Canyon Wildlife Passages
Hosted by Albuquerque Wildlife Federation and the Tijeras Canyon Safe Passage Coalition, the proj ect will involve clearing out brush in an effort to provide passages for wildlife moving between the Sandia and Manzano Mtns.
Maximum participants: ?
Contact: Michael Scialdone at 505-843-8696, scial@nmwild.org for more info.
Driving time: Approximately 1/2 hour drive east of ABQ

Southern NM Hikes
Please contact Alberto Zavala at 505-527-9962 to reserve your spot.

August 11-13
Gila Wilderness  
Hummingbird Saddle Backpack  
10 miles round trip, moderate skill level

August 26
Black Range
Sawyers Peak Day Hike  
6 miles round-trip, moderate

September 8, 9, 10
Capitan Crest Car Camp
Driving time: 3 hours NE of Las Cruces, moderate hike
UNM Wilderness Alliance

By Phil Carter

One of the best things about being a student at UNM is the University’s library. Having moved to New Mexico only a few months ago, I immersed myself in the library’s shelves as one way of gaining perspective on my new home. I wanted to better understand what it is in New Mexico that has inspired Aldo Leopold, Stewart Udall, Dave Foreman, and so many others in the fight to preserve the nation’s wildlands. The struggle to defend wilderness in the modern era has been well-documented in the pages of the NMWA newsletter, so in this essay I have chosen to focus on the accounts of New Mexico prior to annexation by the United States, from eras when survival in the desert often resembled an act of faith. While no amount of words can completely describe the intangible wealth of New Mexico wilderness, this wealth is at the core of everything for which New Mexico Wilderness Alliance strives.

“We did not think of the great open plains, the beautiful rolling hills, and winding streams with tangled growth, as ‘wild,’” wrote Chief Standing Bear in his 1933 memoirs Land of the Spotted Eagle. Though Standing Bear was a member of the Lakota, he was speaking for all Native Americans. “To us it was tame. Earth was bountiful and we were surrounded with the blessings of the Great Mystery.” This notion of nature being a rational extension of humanity is common in New Mexico’s native folklore. The Navajo tell a unique creation story, recorded in Family of Earth and Sky. In “The Emergence,” a band of locust people wander through the first, second, and third worlds, never gaining long-term acceptance by the inhabitants of these realms. Finally, in the fourth world, the locusts are instructed by the holy entity Bits’ís lizhin to bathe, for their least-beastly attributes were to be the model for a new race of people. The locust people are witness to the birth of the first of the Navajo, a transformation of ears of corn into human infants. The last lines of “The Emergence” are instructions to its audience: “Look carefully at your own fingertips. There you will see where the wind blew when it created your most ancient ancestor out of two ears of corn, it is said.”

“Be praised, my Lord, through our sister Mother Earth, who feeds us and rules us, and produces various fruits with colored flowers and herbs,” wrote St. Francis of Assisi in his 1224 poem Canticle of the Sun. The saint’s followers, the Franciscan friars, came to New Mexico in the 17th Century for conversion of the native people. Understanding nature as an integral part of the natives’ belief system, the Franciscans manipulated the New Mexico wilderness as a means of proving superiority of the Christian God. As documented in Christopher Vecsey’s On the Padres’ Trail, the friars had little luck in increasing the rainfall amounts in New Mexico but more success in impressing the Pueblo Indians with massive herds of cattle.

When the Spanish Crown cut off sponsorship of the Franciscan missions in New Mexico in the 18th Century, the religious order largely disappeared from the territory. The resulting spiritual vacuum was filled by the rise of the Penitente brotherhood. The Penitentes filled a role as traveling priests and doctors necessitated by the remoteness and isolation of the desert. The brotherhood placed a high emphasis on Passion rituals that served as a response to the New Mexico desert. This connection is best expressed by Alice Corbin Hender son in her 1937 Brothers of Light: “[T]he sun sinking at our backs had turned the cliffs across the valley into splendid cathedral shapes of rose and saffron beauty—a beauty that is touched here in this country with a sometimes terrible sense of eternity, loneliness, and futility… the stark parable of the Crucifixion is close to the country’s soul.” With a crown of thorns made from cactus leaves, the Penitentes would stage elaborate scenes of the Crucifixion to reflect the hardship and beauty of life in the wilderness.

Phil Carter is a recent New Mexico transplant who is very active with the UNM chapter of the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance. He is majoring in Environmental Science.

Bike Sevilleta!

Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge/Fat Tire Fiesta

SUNDAY
September 10

Enjoy a rare opportunity for an early morning bike tour on the eastside of the Refuge that is generally closed to the public. This ride is moderately difficult on good quality roads.

News from the campus-Summer 2006

Thanks to all the students and faculty who participated this year in the UNM Wilderness Alliance. We are currently looking for motivated students interested in being officers for the group next year. The UNM Wilderness Alliance already has a strong infrastructure so with the right students involved, it has the potential to become one of the strongest environmental groups on campus. The goals for next year are to increase membership, increase awareness on campus, and possibly adopt a wilderness study area. Contact unmwild@unm.edu for more information.

Contact Socorro Striders & Riders at www.socorro.com/ssr for more information, registration and fees.

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By Neolina Hein

As a young person, it is easy to be amazed by everything that’s offered. Learning to drive invites the prospect of acquiring a car, iPods can cut out the entire world and cell phones can provide a conversation no matter where we wander. It’s easy to understand how distracted teenagers are, from where we sit, a lot of the world remains undiscovered, and as we take tentative steps forward a lot goes unexamined. We slowly open our eyes and hear the voices speaking out in our hearts. I am a sixteen-year-old girl who is more than aware of how easily being caught in between two worlds can be.

Recently, I moved from a large public high school to a smaller, more college oriented charter high school. As a part of my graduation requirements, I am instructed to complete a volunteer service project. At first, this seemed like another assignment to keep me busy, or just another task to complete but as the school year progressed, I grew into the idea.

Wasn’t there something I was passionate about? Wasn’t there something that filled me with the drive to want to make a difference? Of course there was. Throughout my life, I was always hungry for the outdoors. I loved animals; I loved the sounds of shifting gravel and sand beneath my feet. I loved seeing the side of the world that remained unharmed by man’s thirst for technological advancement—or in some cases, the inability to progress. I loved the part of the world that was always what it had been—only changing naturally. Though it has taken me some time to fully realize, I now know that it is necessary to preserve the fundamentals of life in order to have a firm grasp on where we stand in the scheme of things.

The natural world is humbling and equally empowering. Nature has always given me a sense of balance. For every noise there is a silence and for every death there is a birth. I have always had a sense of peace in the quiet existence of Earth (as it stands, we humans are the loud ones) and I have always felt more alive, more aware and more fulfilled away from the city and all of our cars, airplanes and small electronic annoyances, no matter how “necessary” they seem. But there is one reality that must be faced. My sanctuaries, these places I share with so many other people and native wildlife, are rapidly disappearing and filling up with illegal roads for dirt bikers, beer bottles and bullet shell casings. Moreover, what can we look forward to—highways, housing developments and more garbage?

It now seems to me that there really are things worth fighting for and beginning this service-learning program has helped me see this. I cannot sit idly and watch as the world is being drained of its most simplistic peace, beauty and balance. Something must be done.

There can never be too many advocates for nature, because the natural world is the fundamental base for life, as we know it. There is more history in the raw Earth than in any textbook. In nature, we can see our past, present and future. That is worth protecting. The Earth has sustained as long as we have existed and I truly believe that we have a duty to uphold her beauty and her dignity instead of simply taking advantage of what we have and choosing the most destructive paths, though they may be the most profitable. If we lose sight of where we’ve come from and stop being curious about the beauty of the Earth’s mystery then how can we understand who we are and who we will become?

Struggling to find yourself and your niche is no easy task, but just as the sun peaks over the mountains and looks down upon us, we all slowly fit into the larger and greater picture of the puzzle, easing toward a destiny of sorts. So, through my high school (Amy Biehl High School), I have crawled through my own complacency and mistrust of the future to a horizon that may just inspire me to fight for it tooth and nail.

There are things worth fighting for and that is just what I intend to do.

“"There are things worth fighting for and that is just what I intend to do.”

Howl for Wolves!

Visit

www.SaveSouthwestWolves.org

to learn more about reintroduction of the Mexican wolf, sign up to get the latest updates, and learn how you can get more involved.
Join the Friends of Wilderness monthly giving program.
Contact Roxanne at 505/843-8696 to get set up.

YES! I want to be a member of the New Mexico Wilderness Alliance!!! My contribution will go towards the continued protection and wilderness designation of New Mexico's natural heritage.

- $25 – Individual
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