**Aldo’s Steering Committee Notes for August 9, 2021**

Joanie, Denise, Steph, Mary Lynne, Carol, and Marcia met outside at Javalina coffee house

Fall Retreat -

 Registration / more detailed email to listserv: We added just several things to the good draft Steph prepared, such as those relevant to Covid safety, and membership. Marcia will add these updates and send to Steph and steering committee by this Tuesday. Steph will then send the final registration / invitation to Aldo’s listserv this week.

Service Project: Steph has contacted Oliver Green, who we have worked with in the past and who now works at Gila Cliff Dwellings Natl. Monument. Oliver is our liaison and will come up with a public lands service project for us (Tuesday morning of retreat) relatively close to where we are staying. (Natl. Public Lands Day is Sept. 25, so we’re also close to that date!) Thanks, Steph.

Anything else as of now?

 Guest speaker follow-up or postcard writing topics, etc.? Marcia or Joanie will get more Aldo’s postcards printed for the letter writing advocacy. Carol will come up with current issues for letter writing advocacy – share any of your ideas re this with Carol. Joanie will contact Carol Fugagli. (UGWA) regarding ideas to incorporate into her informal talk (climate change as it relates to public lands legislation coming up that she might be tracking, current advocacy, etc.).

Add agenda item for Sept. meeting: Specifically, who brings what for retreat

Border Wall and related issues: Coalition call NM highlights (Senator Heinrich trip) – Marcia mentioned that Heinrich (or his staff?) went to the NM border near Whitewater Mtn. to review wall construction related damage. This site is a suggested priority area for restoration. Also, he may move forward with trying to renew environmental reviews regarding border infrastructure. Have not heard any follow-up to this on the most recent coalition call, so Marcia will try checking his website, etc.

Chiricahua - Peloncillo Heritage Days (Sat. Sept. 11) booth and sponsorship, etc. – Mary Lynne provided an update. Marcia will bring card table(s) and we’ll all bring our own chairs. Will go “old school” with handouts, our new Aldo’s brochure, and relevant info for folks to look at rather than computer – internet video. We can get some “swag”, newsletter, and updated membership or related info from GOB via Sally. Carol suggested half- page issue sheets with relevant links as hand-outs too. (Update – after the meeting we found out that talks which were indoors in the Rodeo event center might be cancelled due to Covid. If so, we will probably not have a booth but still give sponsorship donation. We’ll keep you posted.)

Discuss authorizing co-leaders to sign-on when short notice – As before, assuming the sign-on emphasizes an issue in synch with Natl. GOB public lands / wilderness – Aldo’s co-leaders can quickly discuss and sign on without contacting the entire steering committee. Or in absence of one of the co-leaders, a co-leader can contact any one of the steering committee for short notice sign-on. Mary Lynne suggested we can “re-authorize” this on a yearly basis, for example in January.

Aldo’s BB Draft Brochure – Joanie passed around the latest draft – thanks, Joanie. The riparian monitoring (Stewardship section) will be updated with current info, and Denise suggested several changes. Carol suggested tweaking the “We invite you to join…” message to make it more proactive. We now have an Aldo’s email address (thanks Sally!) which will be the contact in the brochure. Joanie or Marcia will print the brochure and we will use it at booths, plus can leave it at places such as the library, etc.

Riparian - Grazing Monitoring Team Update: Denise told the tale of our recent “expedition” through winding Rocky and Black Canyons, out to Trails End perched above the East Fork, up past Wall Lake and the flash flooding, onto 59 through the Black Range and then home via T or C. District Ranger Allen Graves spent that entire long day with us, showing which sections are priorities for riparian monitoring relative to cattle grazing plus other useful information. We were not able to monitor due to flash floods, but hope for a return monitoring trip this fall, perhaps spending 2 nights camping.

Brief comments or news?

Joanie proposed the possibility of having an Aldo’s booth at the Farmers Market or Makers Market at some point this fall, particularly since Gila River Festival will not be including booths this year.

Marcia mentioned that Senator Heinrich also co-sponsored the bipartisan “Recovering America’s Wildlife Act” to invest in on-the-ground conservation work led by states, territories and tribal nations.

Marcia mentioned that Malone drilling exploration for evaluating subsurface mineral resources in the Burros near Knight Peak was approved by the Silver City Ranger District. Expect 4 – 6 months to complete. (See SC Daily Press article Tuesday July 27).

Carol mentioned that Carol Fugagli (UGWA) and her husband described the pressing problem of increased feral cattle populations along sections of the Gila River main stem during a recent talk. Marcia added that a Silver City Daily Press recent article featured the feral cattle problem along Gila River and an update – The GNF has a change of plans and will try again with cowboy contractors removing feral cattle. This has been attempted for several decades and has not been successful, plus extremely stressful for the cattle.

Marcia