**Aldo’s Steering Committee Nov. 2021 Meeting Notes**

**(**Joanie, Marcia, Steph, Carol, Marty, Sally attended)

Immediately prior to our steering committee Zoom meeting, we initiated a Zoom presentation on the Mexican gray wolf proposed 10j management rule update. Michael Robinson (Center for Biological Diversity) summarized this issue including background information and recommendations for improving the proposed changes. Eight “local” folks joined in, plus Sally. (Thanks for managing Zoom and helping with this in general, Sally.) Michael suggested about 6 specific issues that could be commented on regarding either strengthening or adding to the existing proposal. He will send the associated Federal Register information and will be available if we have questions.

#### NM Green Amendment - Carol provided a helpful update regarding this initiative relative to the Nov. Zoom session that she joined. The goal of this proposed amendment is to secure a constitutional right to clean water and air, a stable climate and healthy environment for all people. If adopted, the NM Green Amendment to the state constitution would allow proactive rather than reactive protection for our environment. It never made it out of the judicial committee last year but will be proposed for the upcoming state legislative session. As of November, there were 23 co-sponsors for this initiative from both houses and 12 more may be joining. The nmgreenamendment.org website has lots of useful information. This site also has a tool kit for downloading plus action items. If this proposal receives a majority vote in both houses, it would then be on a ballot for NM voters. So far, 5 states have approved green amendments and 12 more are considering such action.

Briefly discuss potential winter brunch - Determined that we can’t plan a brunch for January at this time, relative to Covid concerns. A brunch could be considered for a later point in time, for instance spring etc. particularly if held outside or if other things improve.

Mexican Grey Wolf 10J Management Rule - Initial Thoughts for Follow-up Commenting: While it is fresh on our minds and using info from Michael Robinson’s presentation, Marcia and Joanie will draft initial basic comments based on the 6 or 7 main points he outlined. After Roz Switzer’s GOB presentation in Jan. we can tweak and finalize Aldo’s Broadband comments and submit.

Aldo’s Broadband postcard image – Based on our votes, we chose the one showing three of us crossing a bend of the San Francisco River. (We already have a nice potential image for next year too.)

Getting Together with Las Cruces Members in Feb. – Most everyone on the steering committee is interested in going, if schedules work out. Carol suggested coming up with 2 potential Feb. dates for flexibility based on weather and asking if week days work OK or not – (will do that).

Riparian - Grazing Monitoring Team brief update: Marcia summarized the recent monitoring hikes and subsequent reporting, including Black Canyon Creek toward the East Fork, San Francisco River from Alma Bridge, and Gila River birding area. (Several downed fences & associated cattle “sign” were found – near Alma Bridge and crossing Ira Canyon.)

Cheers.

(Marcia)