**Aldo’s Steering Committee Meeting Notes for May 10, 2021**

Joanie, Marty, Denise, Mary Lynne, Steph, Carol, and Marcia gathered outside at Joanie’s shade shelter – our first in-person meeting in over a year! Thanks, Joanie. Ari, Joanie’s Workaway guest, also joined us for part of the meeting. We enjoyed meeting Ari.

Riparian Grazing Monitoring Team Update – Denise reported that we now have the updated survey app on our phones and are working through some reporting questions with Edgar. Marty, Denise and Nancy Coates met with Carolyn and Edgar (GNF Silver City District) near Mogollon Box to use the new app in the field, and this trip went very well. There were communication glitches with the forest service radio that we were issued. Edgar said he could get us a newer one, and we will have protocols on what to do if we cannot contact dispatch in the field. Nancy recently met with the Glenwood District range staff (Kendall) to find out what their priority riparian areas are for monitoring. Carolyn will try to determine the grazing schedule for the allotments so that we know when cattle will be in allotments near exclusion areas. Marty reported that she was recently at the Gila Birding Area and observed some locked gates, so they are addressing the situation.

Vaccine & masks general policy and our 2021 Events - After a brief discussion we all agreed we would request / require that everyone who wants to join our events that involve overnight stays have COVID vaccinations, including the fall retreat. This is consistent with what GOB (Durango) is requesting for the national events with overnight stays.

Autumn Retreat - After missing last year, we are really looking forward to our fall retreat close to the Gila River. We’ll camp at Gila hot springs campground – the far half of the campground. Thank you, Carol, for reserving this and for all of the relevant information to get us on our way! As in recent years, we aim to have a guest speaker and service project (details to be determined / Natl. Public Lands day is Sept. 25, so that’s timely!). We will also offer a hike and postcard writing – advocacy opportunity. We tentatively decided to cap attendance at 20, given # of campground sites, current NM DOH guidelines for outdoor gatherings, and how many folks we usually have attending. We discussed reserving one of the Red Barn rooms ahead of time but decided to just include it in our email communications so that those interested in such accommodations can contact them directly for reservations. We decided it would be best to send a heads up / save- the- date email regarding our general plans relatively soon.

Retreat save the date (Monday Sept. 20 and Tuesday Sept. 21) email: Steph will look for our previous retreat “FYI” messages and will send a draft to Joanie. Joanie will send to the listserv. Thanks, Steph and Joanie.

Earth Day video follow-up – The video is still available for viewing via Vimeo. We discussed whether or not we would be able to show the video at some of our events. Joanie will talk to Kate and Sally about this and will send Kate a thank you card.

Gila Forest Revision Plan Conference Call (April 14) – Marcia summarized this local coalition conference call. As of last month, the revision plan is still expected to be released during Aug. 2021. There will then be a 60 or 90-day objection period during the fall of 2021, unless there are further delays. A discussion of the 30 x 30 EO relative to the plan revision followed, including proposed actions.

Support and funding for National Academies of Sciences Study of upper Rio Grande

basin dams and reservoirs: FYI, we signed -on to this letter sent to Senator Heinrich.

Update from Sally on Border Wall Coalition – Sally updated Joanie and Marcia on some of the latest info from the border coalition this morning via Zoom. AZ Broadbands / GOB have created a social media campaign regarding border wall impacts and needed restoration and we will likely share this information via social media. In addition to other damage, in NM trenches were dug and are still there. Border wall coalition conference calls occur every other Friday, and Marcia will join in when she can. It would be very helpful to get one more Aldo’s member to also join this call - Mary Lynne will consider doing this and will let us know. Joanie and Marcia will join the listserv for relevant emails.

Brief comments or news? Mary Lynne will be in the Chiricahuas near Portal next week and offered to talk to some folks knowledgeable about the border wall and other issues in that region – thanks Mary Lynne. We briefly discussed the concept of a trip down to the border perhaps in late fall. Marcia and Rebecca explored the two sites of the proposed Malone mine exploration close to the Gold Gulch road / Gold Gulch riparian area. Marcia took GPS readings and photos, and Rebecca submitted a report to GRIP (Allyson).