**Aldo’s Steering Committee August 15, 2022 Notes**

(Denise, Joanie, Marty, Carol, Mary Lynne and Marcia met at Javalina’s)

Fall Retreat 2022 – Planning discussion

Sally Sharp will be our featured speaker at the retreat - she will speak about activism/ planning or similar. Sally will come up with a list of topics for her talk that we can choose from. We will cover her camping and registration fee. Marcia will ask her if she will have any other costs that GOBW is not covering.

Service project arranged by Stephanie for Wed. the 28th - ask Stephanie what we will be working on and if we need to bring any tools. We will have 2 or so additional folks (so far) coming up for the day to pitch in with the service project. (Update: Steph reminded us that we will be removing invasive plants in the same area as last few years – Gila Cliff dwellings area.)

Stephanie/ Carol ready to send out the final notice/agenda – Stephanie will send a draft this week for co-leaders to review. Marcia or Denise will send it out to the listserv by Friday Aug. 26th.

Carol will organize topics for advocacy postcard writing – topics could include mining reform act, grazing lease retirement, Gila Wild & Scenic River Act, Recovering America’s Wildlife Act.

Anything else? We will have an informal debriefing the last morning before breaking camp where everyone is welcome to provide feedback.

Meet our new Executive Director – Zoom meeting August 19th at 2:00 MT. Co-leaders and Steering Committee members welcome. Joanie will be sending out the link to the steering committee later.

Clean Energy Minerals Reform Act of 2022, Senate bill 4083 -write to Senator Heinrich to support his bill? Yes, Mary Lynn will look into and give us information on how we can review and comment.

Mining and Minerals Division public hearing on Freeport-McMoRan’s proposed open pit at the Tyrone Mine? (Tuesday August 16th, 5pm) Mary Lynne offered to attend. (if not in person, via zoom.)

Letter writing committee – Joanie suggested there be a committee to draft / work on comment and advocacy letters since there are numerous issues right now that we could be commenting on. (We can have a follow-up discussion, as needed.)

Plan to create trails for motorized vehicles in Grant County public lands – how can we provide input? Joanie will write to Alicia Edwards to see what planning has been done, or if we can get on a mailing list to find out about the proposal and provide comments.

Riparian - Grazing Monitoring Team update: There was one monitoring trip in the last month, on Sapillo Creek – no fresh sign seen. There’s been a wonderful monsoon season, so it’s not safe to wade through the Gila or the San Francisco right now. Marty emailed the FS to see if they had any suggestions about where we could monitor. Denise mentioned that a contractor is working on a potential rehab project proposal for Stone Creek.

Mary Lynne suggested trying to reach out and network with the new NM Wild wilderness ranger to let him know what we are doing and find out more about what he is doing. The group agreed this is a good idea. If we can’t monitor much right now given the monsoons, this might be a good time for such networking.

New folks meet and greet at the Museum – Joanie was there and talked to 4 women about GOBW’s, giving them a brochure. She suggested we get on the list to be able to put our information in the grab bags that were handed out (at least 50 organizations had info in the grab bags). Marcia is going to check with Silver City MainStreet to see how we get on the list.

Brief Updates or News?

Heinrich’s Message - The [M.H. Dutch Salmon Gila Wild and Scenic River Act](http://ct.symplicity.com/t/hnh/8495cb606487e430235317ff37aea8c9/2409810174/realurl%3Dhttps%3A/www.heinrich.senate.gov/gila)  passed out of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee with a bipartisan vote! What’s next? Mary Lynn said it’s likely going to a Reconciliation committee next and there will be other things to work out before it can be brought up for a vote. Marty will see if she can get info on the Heinrich staffer that handles environmental issues so we can contact them and possibly meet with them next time they are in town.

Article in Washington Post about Wildlife Bill – “The bill would provide nearly $1.4 billion annually to protect vulnerable wildlife and help them recover. This includes species classified as endangered or threatened — and thousands more that are at varying degrees of risk but do not face immediate peril.” It is in the process of being negotiated by the House and Senate.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/2022/08/09/recovering-america-wildlife-act-conservation-law/

Update on NM Wildlife Corridors Act (SB228): Final Wildlife Action Plan (that we commented on) has been released and is available at wildlifeactionplan.nmdotprojects.org/ An annual report must be submitted to Governor’s Office & Legislature describing the implementation progress.

It might be worthwhile to get on the federal (and state’s) legislative information listserve/ email alert list to get info on current legislation. For example, we could do this for the federal legislation mentioned above in order to better track the progress / status and this might help with our advocacy.

Marcia passed around the flyer for Chiricahua – Peloncillo heritage days (Rodeo, NM) on Sept. 10 & 11. Marcia may attend the lectures etc. on Sat. Sept. 10. (Informal networking might be possible relative to sky islands wildlife corridors, etc.) If I do go and someone else is interested – we could carpool.