**Aldo’s Steering Committee Jan. 2022 Notes**

(Joanie, Steph, Carol, Denise, Marcia)

Getting Together with Las Cruces Members in Feb. – By this weekend Marcia will email Las Cruces folks to come up with a targeted and back-up Feb. date. We will suggest an easy to moderate level hike (or similar) as the activity and let them suggest specific hikes or walks since they know the area better. Marcia will get Lisa’s email address from Carol so that we can include her.

Potential Aldo’s Hiking Group for an Outdoor Activity – Joanie met with Steph and Cathy Wessell (new GOB member in town) regarding starting a monthly Aldo’s hiking opportunity. This would be a good activity given members expressed interest in this in our 2020 questionnaire – and of course given the current emphasis on outside gathering. Joanie will draft a basic mission / purpose sentence for this activity. Joanie, Steph, and Cathy would take turns organizing / leading the hikes while offering a variety of hiking options such as easy or moderate. We discussed timing etc. and for now are suggesting the second Wednesday of each month.

Upcoming NM Legislative Session – Starts Jan. 18 and runs for just one month. We’ll follow the progress of the Green Amendment (Environmental Rights). Among other updates regarding the Green Amendment, Carol said that this amendment has been pre-filed and is listed as House Joint Resolution - 2. We also hope to follow any climate legislation that the Governor proposes to codify her Climate Executive Order. (There may be several more public lands / environmental proposals that we follow during this brief session.)

Mexican Grey Wolf 10J Management Rule - Based on Michael Robinson’s presentation and Lobos of the Southwest info, Marcia drafted initial comments and will incorporate Joanie’s suggestions. Steph had a suggestion regarding reorganizing paragraphs addressing genetics, and that will be incorporated. The GOB zoom regarding this is scheduled for Jan. 19. Sally suggested that we share our draft with the leader of our break-out group and we can get their suggestions and finalize it at that time. We plan on doing that.

Riparian - Grazing Monitoring Team update: Denise reported that we have not monitored for about a month because of cold water crossings and the holidays. We are planning on monitoring tomorrow to follow-up on issues we found along the Gila River birding area. We will be seeking clarification on who to report to in the Silver City District if issues are found, plus some clarifications on the monitoring app.

Marcia shared an article that the NM / AZ grazing issues listserv sent out recently, titled “Wolf-killing Rancher Ordered by Court to Remove Cows and Pay Trespass Fines for Unlawful Forest Grazing”. Carol found that this article is available on the Center for Biological Diversity’s webpage, and the Canyon del Buey allotment is in the Quemado District of GNF.

WALTS training scheduled for April 25 – 29 in Santa Fe! (Application due March 20th) – We discussed several ideas. Joanie will invite Cathy Wessell to join in our next steering committee Zoom meeting. Marcia will get in contact with our Las Cruces member (Michelle) who attended our recent retreat to see if she may be interested. We may have additional options for next year too.

Briefly discuss potential winter brunch (or substitute field trip or schedule depending on covid)? We currently can’t plan this but will keep options open. Joanie also mentioned the possibility of a Zoom event / presentation later in the year.

Brief comments or news? None.