**Aldo’s Steering Committee June 2022 Notes** (Joanie, Denise, Carol, Steph, and Marcia in attendance)

Fall Retreat 2022 – Sally Sharp (GOBW) hopes to attend. That would be great, and we hope she can! Carol will contact Carla (Gila Hot Springs campground) to see if we can reserve sites 6 – 12 for Tuesday Sept. 27 (check-in) through check-out on Sept. 29. (Gila River Festival ends on Sunday Sept. 25.) If that is not available, our back-up date would be Oct. 2 – 4 or Oct. 3 – 5. Carol will let us know and follow through with campground reservations. The topic of a service project was briefly discussed and it was noted that there may be several individuals who may want to drive up for just that day to help with the project or stay 1 night. Marcia will check availability / pricing for one of the four large units in the Red Barn, most likely for just one night. This would be in case several participants do not want to camp, or if it storms. Marcia will send out a brief “save the date” email to the listserv in early July. (Thanks, Carol, for being our retreat organizer! Carol will also provide Green Amendment update.)

Riparian - Grazing Monitoring Team update: Marcia and Nancy recently camped / monitored

Blue Dry Creek and Frieborn Canyon near the AZ border, just within GNF. (No cattle sign at all in Blue Dry Creek exclosure; 2 angus and “really fresh sign” observed in Frieborn.) Revised app went through OK, including multiple photos. There was enough water at points in these creeks to keep us cool. In late May we monitored the Gila river trail downstream from the south trailhead (south of Gila birding area) and found / reported an open gate. We practiced using the monitoring app in Saliz Canyon with Jose Delgado (GNF).

Denise reported that Alicia Edwards mentioned we may want to offer a presentation to the county commissioners regarding our riparian grazing monitoring activities and GNF partnership. We briefly discussed this. Denise will talk with Marty and let us know if we might pursue this. We also mentioned the possibility of sharing info regarding this stewardship activity more widely as the opportunity presents.

Summary of Healthy Public Lands Session (Addressing Cattle Grazing): Marcia summarized several of these sessions, including the “regenerative” grazing and the Wild Earth Guardian session on the last day which covered several GNF issues. One thing to note: We should track the status of Senate Bill 2980 (introduced by Senator Heinrich), the Wildlife – Livestock Conflict Resolution Act, which would clear the way for voluntary donation of grazing permits and leases within New Mexico. Sally will send us recorded conference sessions in some format. If you want to receive this in order to view some of the sessions, let Marcia or Joanie know.)

One Co-leader Rotation this summer based on schedules etc.? (Only for those several steering com members who want to do this. Follow-up to our discussion last month in order to schedule.) Joanie would prefer to take a break from co-leading hopefully starting in July. Sally is creating a pdf file documenting what we do, based on our activity reports. Marcia and Joanie will share that with Denise and Steph to provide a list / description of what co-leaders (and others) do on a monthly basis. We will provide additional info, as needed, in order to orient regarding current co-leader activities.

Brief Updates or News?

Feedback from our feral cattle grazing letter - Donna (UGWA) liked it and thanked us. (From Mike Martinez, acting GNF forest supervisor – “On behalf of myself, as well as the Southwestern Regional Office, I would like to thank you for your support letter regarding the removal of the unauthorized livestock within the Gila Wilderness located along the Gila River. This work is very important to the Gila National Forest as well as the Southwestern Region.  We recognize the importance of riparian areas in the southwest and the impacts unauthorized cattle have on these important ecosystems.  We as a region are committed to continuing the effort to ensure full removal of the unauthorized cows. We thank you for being a partner of the forest.”)

Signed-on to Wolf Recovery Plan Revision comments. (Comments were prepared by Roz Switzer.) Signed on to GOBW letter to USFWS regarding Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Draft Recovery Plan for the Mexican Wolf, 2nd revision. Focus was on failure to adequately address human-caused mortality.

May offer Aldo’s BB “hello monsoon picnic hike” in July