**Aldo’s Steering Committee March 14, 2022 Notes**

Joanie, Steph, Denise, Mary Lynne and Marcia met outside over lunch at Javalina coffee shop

Combined Earth Day & CDT Days April 22 – 24 – (Aldo’s GOBW Booth Discussion, etc.) Denise, Steph, and Marcia offered to set up / sit at a GOBW booth on Sat. April 23. We would like to have another person so that for two shifts (set up and 10 – noon; noon – 2 pm, take down). Joanie will contact Tashe to see if she is interested in helping with this. Denise and Marcia will look into climate change related info on the GOBW website that we can use as posters or binder info for our booth “exhibit”, given the Earth Day theme this year. We can bring sign-up lists, GOBW book markers and stickers etc., our brochure and newsletters, etc. Joanie contacted Doyne (Earth Day GRIP organizer) to let her know we will have a booth and verify some logistics. We decided not to “fundraise” at the booth and so will registered at the lesser amount. Denise and Steph will bring their camp tables for the booth material and Marcia can bring a card table if needed. Steph has a canopy if needed and could bring rocks for wind – Steph rocks! We can make a more detailed list of what to bring next month. Thanks, Denise, for covering our registration fee. (Also see update note\* at end.)

Aldo’s Monthly Hikes – Update (any discussion or ideas needed?) We had a good discussion. It is important to have 2 “hike leaders” for every hike we offer. We determined where to hike this week. We briefly discussed alternate schedules such as quarterly hikes rather than monthly but are sticking with monthly Wednesday hikes for now.

El Paso Sector Border Barrier Proposed Remediation Actions, Comments - Due April 7 & includes the border barrier in NM. (We plan on submitting comments in conjunction with Rio Grande Valley Broadband.)

Linda Starr offered to draft this. Sally is seeking input from Myles Traphagen re NM specifics to help with this. Aldo’s co-leaders will participate and review, provide comments, and sign. We will try to provide talking points for our listserv for individuals wishing to comment.

Riparian - Grazing Monitoring Team update: Denise reported on our monitoring activities for the past month. We observed and reported one “cow” and plenty of “associated sign” in the San Francisco down off Cosmic campground. We have not heard back yet from that district staff regarding this observation and our questions so we will be following up on this. We did not observe fresh sign etc. near Cienega Creek just north of Reserve. Denise, Marty, and Marcia met with Todd S. to communicate on our monitoring efforts and that meeting went well. Todd also provided us with several suggestions regarding exclusion areas to monitor which we hope to follow up on. We will likely attend GNF monitoring survey app training this spring. This is training GNF provides their grazing monitoring seasonal interns and they invited us. (Attending may also help with communications.) Upon our request, Edgar printed new grazing allotment maps for our targeted areas which should be easier to use. Nancy met with the new Quemado District Ranger who is very receptive to our monitoring efforts and is hoping we can monitor in that area too. That same day Nancy walked several small enclosure areas in that district and sent a helpful report. Denise will join the NM / AZ grazing listserv coordinated by Western Watershed Tucson office. (Marcia will ask the coordinator to add her name.)

Recent NM Legislative Session – Carol provided updates for us on progress / status of the NM “Green Amendment”.

Getting Together with Las Cruces Members in Feb. – Any comments or follow-up, ways to keep in touch? Brief discussion. (FYI Carol Swackhammer indicated she has a guest room and invited us to stay there if we are in the area.)

Opportunities for others (or “new folks”) to get involved in general, or Steering Com / leadership recruitment -Good discussion. Denise will talk to her former co-leader in case she is interested in being more involved again - either on the steering committee or co-leading, etc. Joanie or Marcia will talk to one of our Las Cruces members, when convenient, to see if she would be interested in attending / joining our steering committee meetings. We discussed some ideas if we are short one co-leader: Steph suggested a “revolving” co-leader function for one of the co-leader positions, for those who wish to participate. We thought this would be a good idea for 3 months at a time, and several said they would likely be willing to do this. No steering committee member who does not want to do this would have to – completely optional!! Marcia would continue to function as a co-leader all year. And of course, we will continue to look for another year- round co-leader.

Brief comments or news?

Air Force (AF) SUA Optimization for AZ missions proposal comments and NM Draft Wildlife Corridors Plan comments submitted. (AF proposal: The current schedule is for a draft EIS to be released in fall 2023 and final EIS in fall 2024.

Healthy Public Lands Project Conference June 1-3 Salt Lake City- addresses grazing. (Marcia has more info if you are interested)

* **\***Update note: Joanie, Steph, and Marcia discussed Earth Day booth a bit more when meeting for the “Wednesday hike” today. Marcia will print color images showing our various activities and when we meet in April we can figure out how to label / organize them along with other specifics and the climate change info. In lieu of our second Monday steering committee April meeting, we will instead find a date that works for Steph, Denise, and Marcia (and whomever else wants to join in!) to primarily focus on the Earth Day booth.