**Aldo’s Steering Committee May 2022 Notes**

(Joanie, Denise, Marty, and Marcia in attendance.)

Combined Earth Day & CDT Day - Feedback?

Everyone agreed that the Earth Day event coordinated by GRIP went well and was well worth our participation. Marcia shared the SC Daily Press Earth Day article that mentioned Aldo’s – GOBW several times, including a nice quote by Marty that they featured in the closing paragraph. Approximately 19 attendees signed up for our listserv. Marcia will enter these new contacts this week. Thanks Denise, Steph, Marty, Carol, Marcia and Tashe for helping out on Earth Day. A collage of images depicting our activities was included this year. Denise noted that the tripod exhibit panel worked very well as a focal point for communication.

Brief Follow-up Regarding Emails of Support Re Feral Cattle Issue (Per info from UGWA):

Marcia passed around copies of the draft letter that will be emailed to the recommended GNF and regional office staff. This will be sent this week as soon as any draft comments are received. Marcia will send the email and will sign it with both co-leader names, for Aldo’s Broadband GOBW. Other steering committee members are encouraged to send emails drawing on UGWA’s talking points to the recommended GNF staff if they so wish.

Picnic or Just Retreat 2022? – The feeling of those in attendance is to skip a picnic in July and start focusing on a nice fall retreat instead. This can be re-visited in June if anyone feels strongly that we should have a picnic. (Addendum – Marcia just had a thought about this. If one other person wanted to help, we could consider offering a “monsoon hike” instead of the picnic in July, as one of our quarterly hikes. Such a hike could include an informal picnic along the way.)

Riparian - Grazing Monitoring Team update: Denise summarized our productive 3-day monitoring trip in late April. It was indeed wonderful, including finding a substantial beaver dam, camping with elk nearby, and more. There was a major glitch with the Garmin InReach during this trip which has since been resolved. Welcome to Steph who is now part of the monitoring team and joined us on our 3- day monitoring trip. (She’s hooked.) All five of us attended the recent forest service training session on the new survey 123 monitoring app. We are headed up to Saliz Canyon this Friday to try out the new app along with several GNF staff including the natural resource manager.

Any Need to Start Co-leader Rotation this year? (Only for those several steering com members who want to)

We had a brief discussion regarding this. Marcia will continue on as a co-leader while Joanie would take a break when we kick off this rotation. Currently, Denise and Steph are interested in helping out with this. We will re-visit the schedule for starting a rotation during our June meeting. Joanie and Marcia will start making an informal list of what we do as co-leaders this month to help know what to anticipate.

Print Meeting Notes etc. or Use Google Docs for Access and “Archive”

(For purpose of not printing notes and filing, sign-ons etc.) The problem of storing notes and other Aldo’s Broadband printed information at home was mentioned. Several possibilities to remedy this while providing access include Google docs files or relying more on the GOBW dashboard because much of this info is uploaded with attachments to this dashboard via activity reports. We briefly discussed pros / cons and ideas. We will double check the dashboard to see if we can easily retrieve attachments such as meeting notes before deciding. If that access works, that might be the easiest solution.

Brief comments or news?

Brief Update - Old Forest Conservation Sign-on: Aldo’s BB joined GOBW and others in signing onto a letter to Biden etc. requesting a strong, lasting rule across fed lands that conserves mature and old growth forests & trees, noting carbon rich forests should be saved as a cornerstone to U.S. climate policy. (Biden announcement on Earth Day)

Brief Update - Aldo’s and GOBW sign-on to El Paso Sector Border Wall Remediation Comments: Participated in Zoom session with Rio Grande Broadband co-leaders, Sally Sharp, Wildlands Network staff, and Rio Grande Sierra Club activist to discuss comments. Signed on to comments put together mainly by Rio Grande Sierra Club activist (Antoinette). Aldo’s co-leader also prepared & sent separate 2- page comments for Aldo’s Broadband, including noting the Mexican gray wolf that was documented trying to travel south but was blocked by stretches of this wall in NM. Border Patrol acknowledged receipt & responded with “next steps” email. If anyone wants to see the comments – let Marcia know.

Brief update – GNF Final Forest Plan Update Status

Last August, the Gila NF planning team let us know that the final forest plan would be released in Spring 2022. The latest, per the GNF lead planner, is now saying that “late 2022” would be a reasonable timeframe for the final plan to come out.

Brief update – Mexican Gray Wolf Comment Period- Another comment period has opened for the Mexican gray wolf pertaining to the threat of human caused mortality on the wolves’ population. Comments due May 16th. Roz Switzer (Sonoran Broadband Co-leader) is drafting comments and we plan to sign on to her comments.

(Notes by Marcia)