**Aldo’s Broadband Steering Committee Feb. 13, 2023 Meeting Notes**

Table for Earth Day (combined with CDT Days) April 22, 2023 (“Be Inspired. Take Action /Green Revolution theme” - We will have a booth from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm using the props that we made last year. Denise and Marcia will set up and Denise will work the first 2 hours. Marcia, Joanie and Steph are available to fill in the other time slots and help take down. We will ask Carol is she wants to help this year as well. We need to order 100 brochures from Copies on the Run. Joanie will contact GRIP to see if there is a fee. We won’t be selling anything or taking donations this time around.

Winter/ Spring Potluck Brunch – We will have a brunch at Joanie’s house in late March or early April. Joanie will email several dates to the Steering Committee to choose from (Mar 18, 25 or Apr 1) so we can get the date set and a “Save the Date” email to the list serve.

NM Legislative Session – the latest accessible reports are online as these bills move through or get stalled in different committees. None have passed all the way through at this time.

SB9 – Create Legacy Permanent Funds – would create a dedicated funding stream for land, water and cultural conservation projects. This would be the first-ever dedicated source of recurring funding for conservation.

SB167 Strategic Water Reserve is a bill that would appropriate $25 million for the state to acquire water rights to help meet interstate compact and endangered species requirements, an increase over last year’s $15 million.

SJR6 Environmental Rights (Green Amendment) – this bill seems to have some momentum at this time, it is being debated in the Senate Finance Committee this morning (2/15/23).

Other bills that may be of interest are

SB70 NM Unit Fund – would provide assistance with regional water planning and project implementation for our region in SW New Mexico.

SB334 Black Fire Recovery Fund – would set aside $3 million to cover repair work for those impacted by the Black Fire. It doesn’t sound like it would be for ecosystem restoration.

Borderlands Advocacy Committee – held 2nd zoom meeting with a 3rd meeting scheduled for Feb 17th at 10am. The committee is brainstorming on how to be best effective in keeping our border open to wildlife movement and stop the destruction of the sensitive desert lands during wall construction. There are so many issues that decisions need to be made to narrow down the focus. Starr has volunteered to facilitate the Zoom meetings and notes are being taken that will be uploaded to the Google shared drive.

Protection of Beaver on Federal Land – Western Watersheds Project sent an email requesting that we sign a letter of support. Denise will follow up and sign on.

Riparian - Grazing Monitoring Team update: we had a meeting in January with the Glenwood Ranger District to talk about what we’ve been doing and how we can help in the future. Then we met with the Forest Service for tutoring on how to get into the monitoring report database. We hope to be able to find out what if any action was taken after we send in a report. The monitoring committee will hold a planning meeting on Feb 19 to talk about this year’s monitoring.

Gila Wilderness Centennial – Marcia and Denise will participate in the Zoom planning meeting today to see what is being planned and how we can best fit in. The steering committee will meet on Feb 16 at 1:00 to fill out the survey form and send it back to the Gila Wilderness Centennial planning team. We could plan for a Broad Walk or a Broad Work at the time of the celebration.

New members for Aldo’s BB – strategy for how to welcome new members

 Charmeine Wait, Anita Williams, James McGrath, plus one from last month- we will send a welcome email, and then invite them to come for a meet and greet after our steering committee meeting.

New Steering Committee Member (to replace Marty) - we will invite Charmeine to the next steering committee meeting, she indicated she may be interested but couldn’t make this meeting.

Thanking FS Supervisor for her help: Denise will draft an email for the committee’s review that thanks the Supervisor for her help with communication with the Ranger Districts and her support of our monitoring work.