



Protecting our outdoor way of life since 1914

August 2009 Sportsman's News Roundup

Congratulations, Jan!

Our spring raffle was won by Jan Dommers of La Luz (right). She and her husband, Richard, recently drove to Albuquerque to pick up her new Mossberg 12-gauge shotgun. Jan said she's already looking forward to the wild turkey season this fall. She and Richard are avid hunters and former owners of a gun shop in Alamogordo. Currently Jan is secretary of the Otero Practical Shooters Association. Congratulations to Jan, and best of luck to all our Sportsman's Action Alert members in the **next raffle – we're giving away a Ruger Model 77 Hawkeye**, with a walnut stock and your choice of caliber. If you received this e-mail newsletter you're already signed up for the raffle, but tell your friends and family they can sign up, too, at www.nmwildlife.org.



Read all about big game tags, who gets them and why

The summer edition of the **Outdoor Reporter** is now on the street. This issue focuses on big game hunting, and in particular the question of how big game tags are allocated. If you've ever wondered why it is so hard to draw a tag in New Mexico you'll appreciate this issue, in which we try to answer the question: **Where do the tags go?** We look at elk, antelope, bighorn sheep and other species, and at the legal and legislative decisions that formed the allocation system New Mexico hunters have today. How does the quota law affect your odds, how many permits are allocated outside the draw, how many tags do nonresidents get? These are some of the questions we take on in the *Outdoor Reporter*. There's also a full report on the Sportsman Survey we conducted in May and June, as well as a new survey for you to fill out. You should receive a copy in the mail, but you can also pick up copies at a sporting goods store near you. If you don't receive a copy soon, we may not have your current mailing address. You can update your information by going to our Web site (www.nmwildlife.org), and signing up for the Action Alert.

Antelope, elk, San Juan trout on Game Commission agenda

The **State Game Commission** meets **Aug. 20** in Albuquerque. On the agenda is a new policy that establishes a "consistent and predictable process for receiving public comment" on proposed rule changes, which will give sportsmen more opportunity to be involved in the decision-making. Also on tap are updates on elk management in Unit 6 and the statewide antelope management system for private lands, plus a proposal to make the entire San Juan River Special Trout Water catch-and-release only. You can read the entire agenda at www.wildlife.state.nm.us/commission. The meeting runs 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the State Bar of New Mexico auditorium, 5121 Masthead N.E.

In the news

The Department of Game and Fish has named **Phil Howes as its Wildlife Officer of the Year**, an award sponsored by the conservation organization Shikar-Safari Club International. Howes, 40, has been a conservation officer in Pecos for nine years, working with the community to promote wildlife management and law enforcement, the department said in a release. His day-to-day duties include horseback patrols in the Pecos Wilderness, monitoring the Pecos bighorn sheep herd and educating the community about coexisting with bears and other wildlife.

More than 5,000 native **Rio Grande cutthroat trout were stocked** in Comanche Creek in July as part of an ongoing effort by the Department of Game and Fish to restore native trout to more than 150 miles of streams and 25 small lakes in the Rio Costilla watershed of northern New Mexico. Barriers were built in the streams to prevent non-native fish from traveling upstream, and non-natives were removed from upstream waters before the cutthroats were planted. You can try your luck at catching them from July 1-Dec. 1. It's catch-and-release only, using only artificial flies and lures with single, barbless hooks. The fish stocked July 2 included 600 12-inchers.

Early birds can now catch the video version of the Department of Game and Fish newsletter. "New Mexico Wildlife" is being televised and broadcast at 6:30 a.m. Saturdays on KASA Channel 2. Topics this month include fall fly-fishing on the Rio Grande, baking sourdough biscuits in a Dutch oven, hunting elk in the Mount Taylor area and restoring quail habitat. If you can't catch it on TV, you can also watch "New Mexico Wildlife" at www.Myoutdoortv.com.

Classes offered for outdoorswomen

If you're interested in **Becoming an Outdoors-Woman** and don't mind driving to Arizona, a workshop is scheduled for Aug. 14-16 in Prescott. The workshops are designed to welcome women outdoors with expert instructors teaching in an enjoyable, non-threatening environment. On tap are classes in shooting/hunting, fishing and sports like camping, canoeing and rappelling. Classes are held during the day, and evenings are filled with fun and entertainment. Cost is \$240. For a registration form, call the Arizona Wildlife Federation office at (480)-644-0077 or e-mail awf@azwildlife.org. The next New Mexico Becoming an Outdoorswoman class is set for next May. For information on that one, go to www.bownewmexico.com.

Wildlife corridors subject of workshop

The **intersection of wildlife and infrastructure development** is the focus of a workshop this month put on by the state Energy, Minerals and Natural Resource Department. The Wildlife Corridors Information Sharing and Needs Workshop set for Aug. 20 in Albuquerque stems from a memorial approved by the state Legislature last spring. House Joint Memorial 4 calls for sharing information on wildlife corridors to help New Mexico contribute to a regional wildlife corridor plan. Eventually, the corridor information could help ensure that wildlife are taken into account when planning begins for highways, transmission lines and other large projects. For information, go to www.emnrd.state.nm.us/main/workshop.htm.

Catch of the month

How's this for a 7-year-old angler? Kennis Romero of Santa Fe (right) caught this 21-inch rainbow trout on July 3 at Shuree Kiddie Pond using a gold Kastmaster. Once again, thanks to Bill Dunn for passing this along. If you have a big catch to report, send it to Bill at fishforfun2@hotmail.com.



Mining Act reform starts

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee held its **first hearing on the long-awaited reform** of the 1872 Mining Act sponsored by Sen. Jeff Bingaman. Among those who testified was Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, who called mining reform a "top-tier issue." The bill, S. 796, has nationwide support from sportsmen's groups including NMWF. It would stop the giveaway of publicly owned minerals and would establish a fund to begin cleanup of thousands of abandoned mines around the nation, restoring valuable wildlife habitat. It also would end the sale of public lands at prices as low as \$2.50 per acre, replacing it with a lease system for public lands like that used for oil and gas drilling. Senate leaders have said they will take up the measure later this year. Read more at www.sensiblemining.org.

Heinrich bill aims to extend land acquisitions

In July Albuquerque Congressman Martin Heinrich and Wyoming Republican Rep. Cynthia Lummis introduced a bill that continues a program supported by sportsmen's groups to **buy public lands in key areas for wildlife and public recreation**. The Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act of 2000 directs the revenues generated from "nonessential" BLM lands that are going to be sold anyway back into an account for purchase of critical inholdings and adjacent tracts from willing sellers. In New Mexico, key lands in the Santa Fe National Forest, La Cienega area, Aztec Ruins National Monument and the Elk Springs area have been added to the public domain under the program. The Elk Springs purchase protected 2,240 acres of elk and deer winter range south of Cuba while also opening the area to public recreation.

The program expires in 2010, but the Heinrich/Lummis legislation, if passed, will make the program permanent and ensure that when BLM lands are sold that **money is directed to bring other lands into the public domain for wildlife habitat and public recreation, including hunting and fishing**. For a map of the FLTFA holdings, go to www.conservationfund.org/sites/default/files/FLTFA_Approved_Map.pdf.

New Mexico Conservation Calendar

The New Mexico Conservation Calendar is available to help keep sportsmen abreast of events and meetings around the state. Send your group's calendar information to nmwildlife@nmwildlife.org and we'll take care of the rest.

About the New Mexico Wildlife Federation

Founded in 1914 by sportsman and conservation pioneer Aldo Leopold, the New Mexico Wildlife Federation is New Mexico's first and most effective conservation advocate. We are dedicated to protecting New Mexico's wildlife, habitat and outdoor way of life. We spearheaded permanent protection of our hunting and fishing rights in the Valle Vidal, and stopped cold the previous sell-off of your public lands. We believe that the best way to get things done is to build consensus with common goals.

Our key priorities are: Opportunity Habitat Youth

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