



The Wild News



Wild Friends

Website: <http://wildfriends.unm.edu>

Fall 2012

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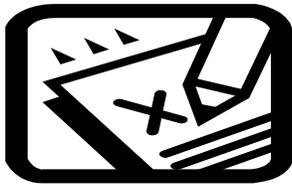
Wild Friends: Vote for your 2013 Legislation!

Now is the time for Wild Friends to choose their next legislative project. Use the ballot on this page to vote for the project you would like to work on. You'll research and help write legislation on the winning topic.

The 2013 New Mexico Legislative session will be:

January 15—March 16, 2013

**Deadline to submit votes:
September 21, 2012**



Your Vote Counts!

Be informed!

Read the articles on the back before you vote.

Choice A: Protect Wildlife! Expand Wildlife Safety Zones

The Wild Friends helped pass a memorial in 2011 to create a wildlife safety zone pilot project to reduce animal-vehicle collisions (see Update on p. 2). Wild Friends students could urge the state to find out where other dangerous areas are for animals and humans in our state, so that the project can expand and help save the lives of deer, bears and mountain lions, as well as humans!



Choice B: Get Outside! Outdoor Classroom Study

Last year, the Wild Friends helped to pass the Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights, which encourages all state agencies to do more to get students outside. This year, Wild Friends could ask the legislature to study the possibility of increasing the amount of outdoor classroom experience that each student receives.

Wild Friends Ballot

Choice A: Expand Wildlife Safety Zones

Choice B: Outdoor Classrooms Study

Students: After voting, cut out ballot and give to your teacher. Your teacher will tally the votes and report the results to the Wild Friends office **by Sept. 21:** phone 505-277-5089, fax 505-277-7064 or email: sgeorge2@unm.edu.

Expand Wildlife Safety Zones (ballot choice #1)

The Wild Friends have helped stop wildlife-vehicle collisions in New Mexico in the past, and we can do it again! Two state agencies, the Dept. of Game and Fish and the Dept. of Transportation, need to hold a workshop to find out where the most animal-vehicle



collisions occur, so that they can expand their pilot project (which

the Wild Friends helped pass in 2011!) to the entire state. This is really a problem in states like New Mexico, where lots of big critters such as deer, bears, and mountain lions cross highways. The state agencies need a memorial from the legislature urging them to hold a workshop. This memorial may lead to a bill to have wildlife safety zones across the state!



The 2011 Wild Friends memorial, HJM 10, is happening! The pilot project will be on US Hwy 64, from Tierra Amarilla to Chama. Soon, there will be flashing lights to warn drivers at dusk and dawn to be aware of wildlife that may be crossing the road. Way to go, Wild Friends! You truly make a difference.

Outdoor Classroom Requirement (ballot choice #2)

What you learn in school is governed by “state standards” that all public school teachers must follow. This includes subjects such as math, science, English, social studies and art. Does all learning have to take place inside a classroom though? Isn’t it

great to get outside, and even better, to learn outside? The Wild Friends could ask the legislature to look at ways to include outdoor learning experiences in the state standards, so that all



students get a chance to be outside more. After all, the studies show that being outside boosts brain power!

Wild Friends in the News!

The New Mexico Game and Fish Dept. publishes the New Mexico Wildlife every quarter. In June, it featured a story about the Wild Friends! During the last legisla-



tive session, a reporter came on several of our field trips to watch the students in action. She took photos and interviewed many of them to find out what Wild Friends does, and what makes it special. Read all about it



on our website at www.wildfriends.unm.edu. Good job, Wild Friends!