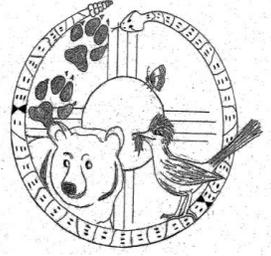




# The Wild News



**WILD FRIENDS**

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

**FALL 2014**

UNM Institute of Public Law, Wild Friends Program, School of Law  
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**Find Us on FACEBOOK! Wild Friends New Mexico**

## Welcome Back Wild Friends!



Hope everyone's summer has been wonderful and adventurous in the great outdoors!

## Our Fabulous Teachers

Jen Chavez-Miller, from Mt. Mahogany Community School, spent part of this summer in Columbia on a fellowship with the U.S. Dept. of State Teachers for Global Classrooms. She was in Bogota and Cartagena for 19 days learning about their school system, visiting schools, collaborating with teachers, and working with students.

In addition to the fellowship, she also received a Fulbright award and will be travelling to Finland in the spring to continue her journey of learning about education in other countries, sharing how our system works, and bringing back the best of both worlds. **Congratulations, Jen!**

Thanks to our friends at PNM, NM Educator's Federal Credit Union, Talking Talons and the NM State Legislature for financial support.



## Wild Friends in the News!



The New Mexico State Bar Bulletin recently published an article entitled "**A Walk on the Wild Side: Civics Education and the Wild Friends Program**", by our very own Sue George. Check it out on our website ([wildfriends.unm.edu/media](http://wildfriends.unm.edu/media)).

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The Santa Fe Reporter published an article about wildlife dying on our highways, in their Feb. 26—Mar 4, 2014 issue, entitled: "**LAST EXIT: Wildlife Dies by the Thousands on NM's Highways**". The article notes that Wild Friends legislation has been critical in creating wildlife crossings and safety zones in New Mexico. Hooray for Wild Friends!

## Wild Friends Receives Award to Fund Local Wildlife Presentations

The Wild Friends Program recently received an award of \$2000 from Talking Talons Youth Leadership Community Fund Grant program. The award will fund live raptor and reptile presentations to the seven Wild Friends schools in Bernalillo and Sandoval counties.



Talking Talons' mission is to elevate youth to become effective advocates and ethical stewards of themselves, wildlife and the environment.

## We have updated our website!

Check out our newly updated and expanded website, which will provide current information and materials, as well as an area just for teachers, including civics materials and wildlife links. Check us out!

<http://wildfriends.unm.edu>



This year is a 60 day session at the New Mexico Legislature,

January 20—  
March 21, 2015.



We are proud to have the following schools participating in Wild Friends for the 2014-2015 school year:

Alamosa Elementary (Alb.); Cielo Azul Elementary (Rio Rancho); Guadalupe Montessori (Silver City); Jemez Valley Middle School (Jemez Pueblo); Ladera del Norte Elementary (Farmington); Lovington High School (Lovington); Media Arts Collaborative School (Alb.); Mountain Mahogany Community School (Alb.); Rio Rancho Cyber Academy (Rio Rancho); 21st Century Public Academy (Alb.); Wilson Middle School (Alb.)



This year we will have a bill to work on. A bill becomes a law if passed by the House and Senate and signed by the Governor. So, this year will be challenging and rewarding!

**Choice A: Prohibit Drones for Hunting Animals:** Drones, aircraft without a pilot, are used by the military, fire fighters, and maybe soon by Amazon!—but should they be used to hunt wildlife? Several states have already banned the practice, and the New Mexico Game Commission recently passed a rule to ban their use. Now we need a statute to prohibit this unfair and unethical practice.

**Choice B: Protect Pollinators:** Pollinators (bees, butterflies, bats, birds) are critical for our food supply and other flowering plants. Yet, pollinators have been declining over the past decade due to pesticides, disease and loss of habitat. Wild Friends helped to pass a memorial in 2010 asking state agencies to use pollinator-friendly plants in their landscaping. Now we could help pass a bill to make this and other protections a requirement.



## Voting Ballot



Choice A: **Prohibit Drones for Hunting Animals**

Choice B: **Protect Pollinators**

**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. 12:** phone 505-277-5089, fax 505-277-7064 or email: [sgeorge2@unm.edu](mailto:sgeorge2@unm.edu).