



# The Wild News



Wild Friends

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

Fall 2015

UNM Institute of Public Law, Wild Friends Program, School of Law.  
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Wild Friends New Mexico

## Wild Friends is Celebrating 25 Years!

**WELCOME BACK**

**Wild Friends!**

*Hope your summer was fun  
and exciting!*



We have another sponsor! We are proud to welcome

Nusenda Credit Union for their support. In honor of our additional sponsor we will be adding their logo to our t-shirts.



**WOW!**

*Wild Friends will be celebrating 25 years in 2016!*

We will have activities throughout the year to celebrate, including a wildlife photo contest.



Celebrating 25 years of  
**WILD FRIENDS**  
The University of New Mexico  
School of Law  
Institute of Public Law

**Wildlife Photo Contest!**



Grab a camera, take your best picture of New Mexico wildlife!

Photos can be of bats, deer,



bears, bobcats, roadrunners, fish, etc.

Please, no people in photos. Be safe and have fun! Credits of the photos will be given, and the winner will receive a gift card, his/her class will have a class party. See your teacher for more details!

### 2015 Drone Memorial (SM 91/HM 81)

SM 91/HM 81 requesting that the Division of State Parks protect wildlife from drones on State Park lands passed in the New Mexico legislative session last year, thanks to the Wild Friends.



The Division of State Parks is meeting with New Mexico Game and Fish and the National Park Service, and will have a report finished soon. And have you noticed all the news stories about drones lately? Wild Friends is on the cutting edge!

Thank you to our sponsors!



## Bee Protection (Ballot Choice A) 2 year - Memorial/Bill

Bees are critical for our food supply and other flowering plants. Yet, native and domestic bees 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. This memorial and bill will be focusing on the importance of bees and their critical role in food production. Without them, humans and wildlife wouldn't have much to eat or look at! This could be a two year process, with a memorial in 2016 about the importance of bees, asking the NM Dept. of Agriculture to report on the health of bees in NM, and asking all state land management agencies to report on their efforts to protect bee populations, followed by a bill in 2017 based on the results of those reports.

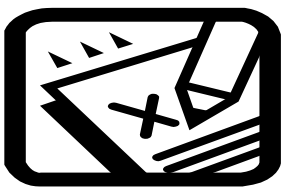
## Bat Protection (Ballot Choice B) 1 year - Memorial

Bats are important pollinators and insectivores, and are important predators of a great variety of night-flying insects, including mosquitoes, moths and beetles. Little brown bats may capture 500 to 600 mosquitoes per hour. It has been estimated that a colony of 20 million freetailed



bats may consume 250,000 pounds of insects each night. Despite their numbers, bats are among the least known and most misunderstood animal. Their ability to fly, their secretiveness, and their nocturnal habits have contributed to bat folklore, superstition, and fear. This in turn has led to eradication and serious endangerment of many species of bats. In truth, they are intelligent, gentle creatures of great ecological and economic value.

Protection measures based on education are having a profound impact on bat populations, reversing declines in many areas. The Wild Friends can educate the legislature about the importance of bats, the threats to bats, ask all state land management agencies to conduct a survey of bats on their lands to determine their location and health, and ask the Governor to declare a bat awareness week.



**Your Vote Counts!**

### Wild Friends Ballot

**Choice A:**  Bee Protection

**Choice B:**  Bat Protection

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