



The Wild News

Wild Friends Website: <http://wildfriends.unm.edu> Spring 2008

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WF Recycling Memorial Cycles through Legislature

The Wild Friends painted the Roundhouse “green” with the success of their recycling Senate Joint Memorial 20 (SJM20). It’s hard for legislation to make it through in the short 30-day session, but SJM 20 was unanimous all the way with three days to spare.

The Madison MS students were first up in the Senate Rules Committee. Sen. Linda Lopez allowed SJM 20 to be the first memorial to be heard in Rules. One thing Wild Friends learn every year is that you have to go through Rules before you can get anywhere because Rules decides what is “germane.” Then it was on to Senate Public Affairs. South Mountain ES students found themselves in a standing-room-only crowd, there to hear the outcome of a controversial bill. Sen. Dede Feldman called the WF witnesses, who were in the very back and could hardly squeeze through. The



WFs after the House Business & Industry Committee hearing with Rep. Jane Powdrell-Culbert and sponsor Sen. Michael Sanchez

audience burst into applause after the students testified.

Different committee assignments allowed the Wild Friends to meet new legislators this year. One of them was the House Business & Industry Committee. The Rio Rancho Elementary and Los Puentes High students testified and brought with them a large plastic bag full of trash -- a show-and-tell to demonstrate how much trash an average citizen of New Mexico generates each day.

The memorial calls for expanding recycling in the State Capitol. State agencies also will be sending recycling plans to the NM Solid Waste Bureau and even have a January 2009 deadline to submit the plans. Sponsor Michael Sanchez fought to keep the deadline as part of the memorial.

The Senate vote was 37-0. The House was 61-0.



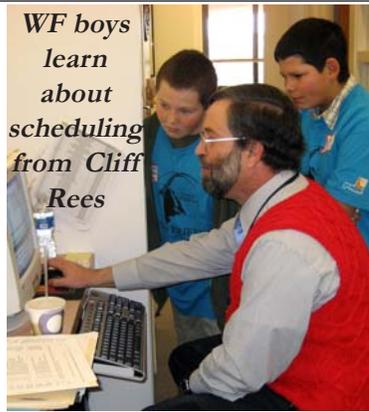
Walking the Talk

All Wild Friends groups got recycling projects going at their schools. The 92 Madison WFs split up into committees to study costs, materials, recycling processing, and outreach. Recycling Man (left center), made of recycled materials, was the mascot. Madison MS teacher Nick LaRue invited Albuquerque Mayor Chavez (right center) to talk about City recycling and how it could apply to their school.

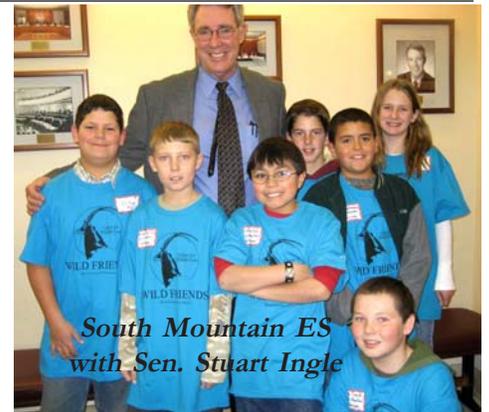




Los Puentes HS with Sen. Dede Feldman



WF boys learn about scheduling from Cliff Rees



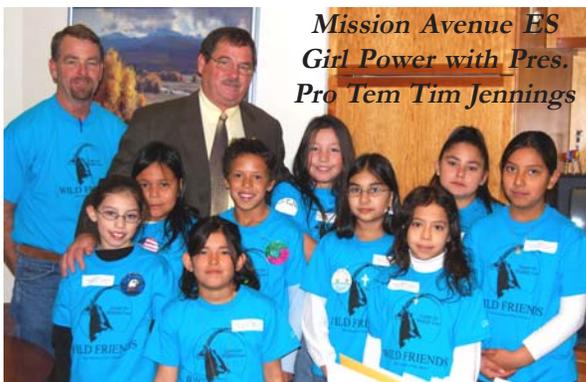
South Mountain ES with Sen. Stuart Ingle



South Mountain ES at the State Land Office



Horizon Academy West with Sec. of State Mary Herrera



Mission Avenue ES Girl Power with Pres. Pro Tem Tim Jennings



Mission Avenue ES Boy Power with Pres. Pro Tem Tim Jennings



Carlos Rey ES with Gov. Bill Richardson

Wild Friends sadly bid goodbye to their "grandpa" Sen. Ben Altimirano who always had time and a hug for all who came to see him.



Guadalupe Montessori from Silver City with Sen. Howie Morales

Working the halls ...



... with Sen. Diane Snyder



... with Rep. Ed Chavez and Rep. Kiki Saavedra



... with Rep. Lucky Varela



Sen. James Taylor with Native American Community Academy (NACA) students



Polk MS at the New Mexico Supreme Court



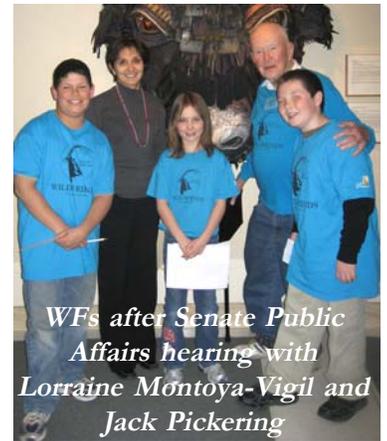
WFs after the Senate Rules Committee hearing



Rio Rancho ES with teacher Karla Sampson



Girls rule with Sen. Mary Kay Papen



WFs after Senate Public Affairs hearing with Lorraine Montoya-Vigil and Jack Pickering

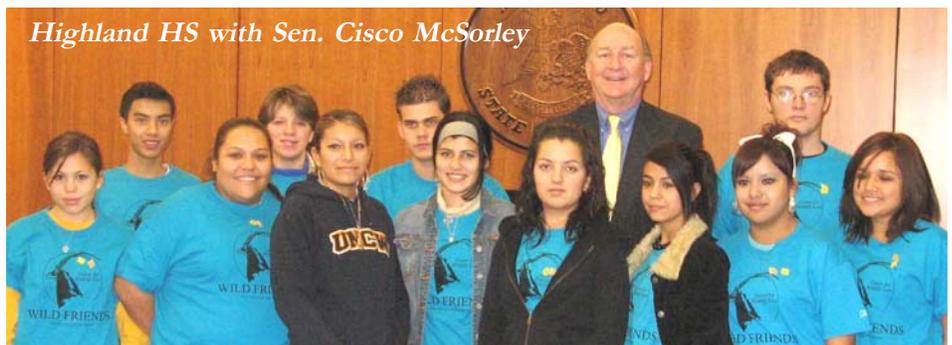


Harrison MS with Sen. Linda Lopez



Budding lawyer with SC Justice Petra Maes

Look for more photos on the WF website!



Highland HS with Sen. Cisco McSorley

Hybrid Critters Contest

There were so MANY winners in the hybrid critter contest this year that we are featuring the complete list on the Wild Friends website. Check it out at: <http://wildfriends.unm.edu>

Hello from West Virginia

by Adrianna Grady

In 2006-07, I had so much fun in Wild Friends at Polk MS. It brought me closer to animals. Plus, I made many new friends with all the Wild Friends I met. I was very sad when I heard I was moving to West Virginia. I had to leave Wild Friends and I didn't like that very much. I wondered how I could start a Wild Friends group here. I asked Carolyn, Judy, Daisy and Ruth. They all gave me pointers and now I almost have a Wild Friends group started where I live. I am also helping get some groups started in a few other states because I have so many friends interested in Wild Friends. They want to do the same thing I am doing. I thank Judy, Carolyn, Ruth and Daisy for all their help to me and my friends.



Ranger Rick, a famous national wildlife magazine for kids, featured Wild Friends in the November 2007 issue. The headline is "Young Lawmakers" in the Buzz section under Kids in Action. Extra, extra, read all about it!

NOTES FROM THE FIELD

Wildlife Crossings in Action

By Daisy Morgan

The Wild Friends memorial supporting wildlife crossings passed in 2003. Wildlife crossings in Tijeras Canyon were completed in the fall of 2007 to provide safe passage for wildlife underneath I-40. I worked with Mark Watson, wildlife biologist for the NM Department of Game and Fish, to track wildlife using the new wildlife crossings. We saw tracks of small mammals such as raccoon, skunk, domestic cat and opossum. We also observed tracks of larger mammals like deer, bobcat, bear, domestic dog, coyote, and mountain lion. We also saw bird tracks. As time goes on and the animals get familiar with the crossings, we expect even more animals to use these underpasses. Thanks to Wild Friends, these animals now have a way to stay off the road, making crossing safer for animals and people!

Think BIG!

By Sue George

An ice sheet the size of Connecticut broke off in the Antarctic just a few weeks ago! Scientists, who had predicted that global warming wouldn't cause this to happen for another 60 or 70 years, described the sound of it as "a hammer striking glass." Climate change and global warming are happening faster than the scientists had originally thought. I attended a climate change training at the university where I heard some experts talk about how to help slow down climate change. The most important thing we can all do is to "Think Big" about how to make this happen. Talk to everyone about climate change, recycle at home and school, write to policymakers and newspapers. The Wild Friends are doing a terrific job of thinking big by getting the recycling memorial passed this year at the Roundhouse.

Rally held for Wild Wolves

By Jack Pickering, Senior Mentor

The Dia de Los Lobos rally took place on March 14 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the lobos' return. Eleven years ago there were no lobos in our wilderness, only in zoos. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service made a recovery plan to put wolves back in the wild. Some years ago, three Polk MS Wild Friends went with me to Socorro to a big public meeting where the plan was approved.

In 1998, a few pairs of lobos were released in the Gila Wilderness. They had been raised as wild animals away from people. The plan was that they would increase to 100 in 10 years. Instead, their number went up to a few dozen and then down to only 23. The New Mexico Wilderness Alliance held the rally to support finding ways to help the lobos survive in the wild and increase in number.

Thank you for everything ...

Wild Friends Volunteers, Administrative Office of the Courts and Secretary of State's Office for coat and lunch space, PNM for t-shirts, Center for Civic Values and Mumford Family Foundation for bus money



WE WELCOME new groups of Wild Friends. Call 505/277-5089 or email cbyers@unm.edu if you are interested. Take a look at the **Wild Friends home page** at <http://wildfriends.unm.edu>.

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