



# The Wild News



Wild Friends

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

Fall 2018

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Wild Friends  
New Mexico

## What is Wild Friends?

Wild Friends is a hands-on education program in a dozen schools across New Mexico working to protect wildlife through science and legislative advocacy. **Wild Friends is YOU!**

## Wild Friends at the Albuquerque Bee City Pollination Celebration!

Wild Friends staff (and a student from Alamosa Elementary!) attended the second annual Pollination Celebration in June! We painted pie tins and filled them with rocks and sand to make pollinator baths. Other activities included creating ceramic pollinators, earth stencils, and face painting!



### Cool Bee Facts!

- There are over 4000 bee species in the US
- New Mexico has over 1000 native bee species, more than all the states East of the Mississippi River combined!
- Most bee species are solitary (they do not live in hives), and 70% of bees live in the ground
- The honey bee (*Apis mellifera*) was brought to the US from Europe in the 1600s

## What Did Wild Friends Students Do in 2017-2018?

Last year Wild Friends students studied pollinators and created a student-illustrated pollinator-friendly plant guide that was distributed to plant nurseries, botanical gardens, and nature centers around the state. One school planted a pollinator garden, and several schools visited plant nurseries to share what they'd learned about pollinators.

In May, students from Alamosa ES in Albuquerque were guests on KUNM's Children's Hour show, and talked about the importance of pollinators for food crops and also native flowers. They explained that in addition to bees, bats, birds, butterflies, and even flies are also pollinators. They also shared how their attitudes had changed since they started learning about pollinators:

*Angel:* "Now that I know much more about bees.... I like to get closer to them and watch them pollinate."

*Ashley:* "I used to be afraid of bees but now I've gotten more interactive."



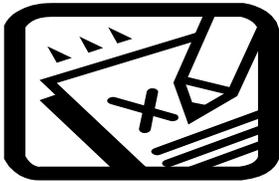
## Pollinator Protection License Plate (Ballot Choice A) Bill

Would you like to help design a license plate that helps protect pollinators? This bill would establish a new specialty license plate in New Mexico (like the Share with Wildlife license plate below). The money from the sale of these license plates (designed by Wild Friends!) would go to the Department of Transportation to fund more plantings of pollinator-friendly plants along our highways, and set up demonstration gardens at highway rest stops. Since habitat destruction is one of the leading causes of pollinator loss, this bill would directly benefit our bees, butterflies, bats, and birds!



## Dept. of Transportation Study (Ballot Choice B) Memorial

The experts at the Department of Transportation (DOT) say that, along with improving habitat, better information is needed about New Mexico's highway maintenance practices. Would planting pollinator-friendly plants save money for the state? Would it cut down on the use of herbicides, and require less labor? A memorial could request that DOT do a study to evaluate their current roadside planting and maintenance practices.



**Your Vote Counts!**

### Wild Friends Ballot

**Choice A:**  Pollinator Protection License Plate

**Choice B:**  DOT 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. 4**.  
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