



The Wild News



WILD FRIENDS

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

SPRING 2013

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Find Us on FACEBOOK! Wild Friends New Mexico

Wild Friends: Mission Accomplished!

Protect Wildlife! Expand Wildlife Safety Zones

During the 2013 legislative session, Wild Friends from across New Mexico descended on the Roundhouse in Santa Fe. Your mission: to protect wildlife and humans from injury and death in highway accidents.

By drafting House Memorial 1 (HM1) and Senate Memorial 11 (SM11), the Wild Friends urged the legislature to ask the Department of Transportation and the Department of Game & Fish to work together to update information on wildlife-vehicle collisions (when a car hits an animal on a road) in New Mexico. With efforts from all of the Wild Friends -- through letters, in person advocacy, and formal testimony before committees and on the House and Senate floor -- the memorials both passed unanimously. That means that the Wild Friends convinced *all* of the legislators, and even the lieutenant governor, to support the memorials!

HM1 and SM11 Taking Shape

In response to HM1 and SM11, the departments will hold a workshop on May 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Albuquerque, to collect information and map where wildlife-vehicle collisions occur in New Mexico and to produce a list of areas that have the greatest number of these accidents. This information will then be used to show where additional wildlife safety zones should be established to protect animals and people. If a student is interested in attending this workshop, please call Sue George at 505-277-5089 to sign up.



Update: Children's Outdoor Bill of Rights

- ◆ In 2012, Wild Friends' wrote memorials asking the legislature to recognize the rights of children to have access to outdoor activities, and encouraging state agencies to develop outdoor programs for children.
- ◆ The legislature unanimously passed these memorials!
- ◆ Now, state agencies are meeting and brainstorming plans and programs that would allow more kids to enjoy the outdoors more often.

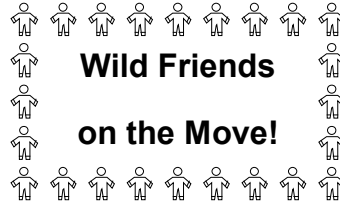


The Wild Friends 2013 Legislative Photo Gallery!



Mission Avenue Wild Friends with Rep. Chasey





Wild Friends

on the Move!



Students from Ladera Del Norte from Farmington working the Legislature on the floor!



Students from Guadalupe Montessori from Silver City discussing SM11 with Sen. Campos!

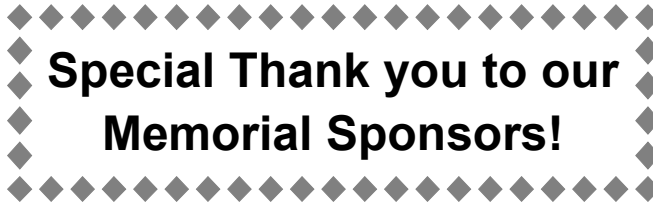


Sen. Shendo met with students from Jemez Valley Middle School



Students from Mission Avenue meeting with Justices Daniels and Vigil!





Special Thank you to our Memorial Sponsors!



Big thanks to Sen. Morales and Rep. Stewart for sponsoring SM11 and HM 1, and for their continuing support of Wild Friends!



Wild Friends from Bel Air Elementary with Sen. Smith

Right: Students from Rio Rancho Cyber Academy with Rep. Powdrell-Culbert



Right: Mountain Mahogany's Wild Friends with Rep. Miera



Sen. Martinez with students from Horizon Academy West



Students at GW Stout in Silver City weren't able to go to Santa Fe, but persuaded legislators with their superb letters and awesome artwork!!!



Left: Students from Media Arts Collaborative Charter in Albuquerque spoke with Rep. Stepleton, who represents neighborhoods around their school



Wild Friends from Carlos Rey met with Rep. Roybal-Caballero

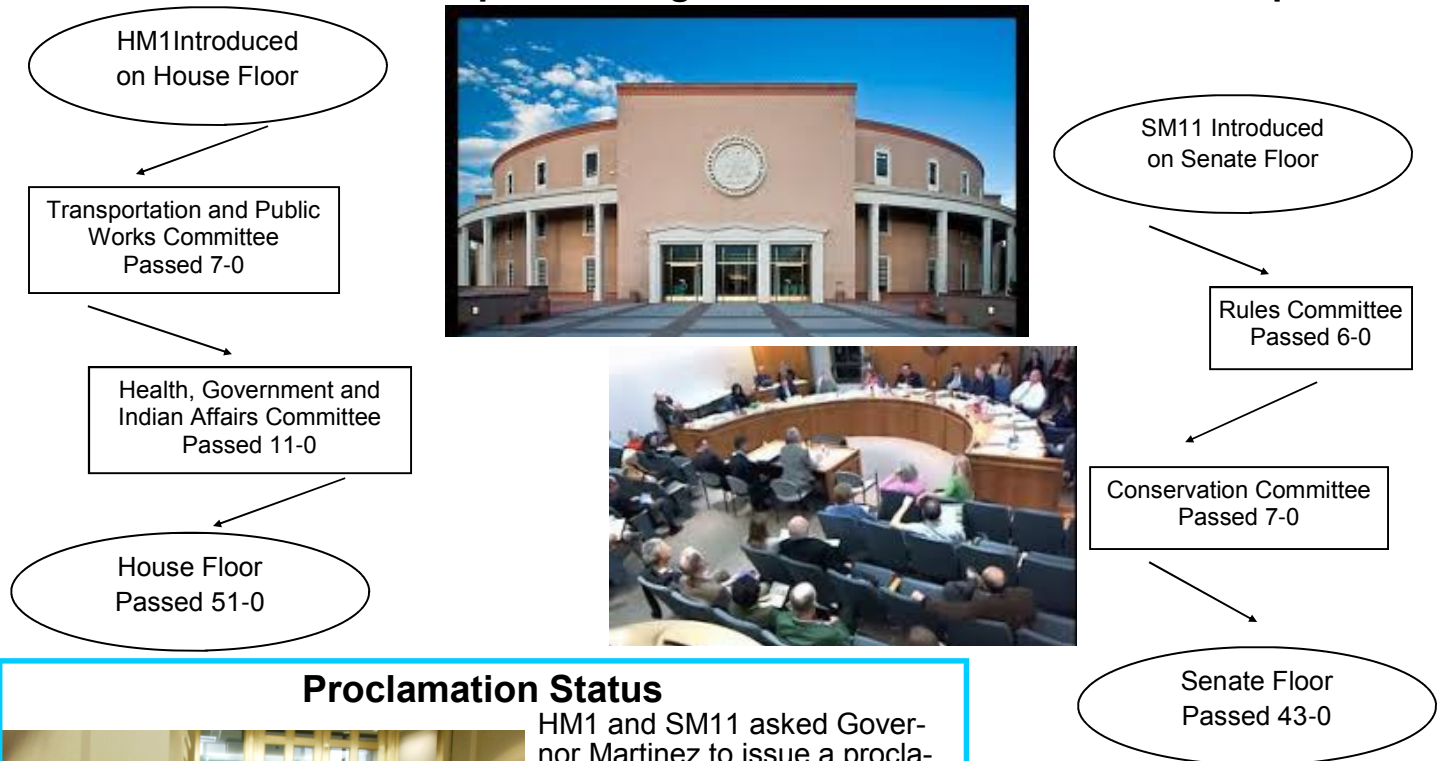
The Governor's office saved many of the committee and floor sessions videotaped from the 2013 legislative session. You can check them out online at www.governor.state.nm.us/Webcast.aspx.



Wild Friends students testified on:

- Feb. 8 (Senate Rules Committee);
- Feb. 12 (House Transportation Committee);
- Feb. 26 (Senate Conservation Committee - but not on website);
- Feb. 28 (House Health, Govt. & Indian Affairs Committee);
- Feb. 28 (Senate floor vote); and
- March 1 (House floor vote)

How did HM1 and SM11 pass through the Roundhouse? Follow their paths!



Proclamation Status



Wilson Middle School Wild Friends with Gov. Susana Martinez

HM1 and SM11 asked Governor Martinez to issue a proclamation to increase public awareness of wildlife-vehicle collisions. Wild Friends drafted, and sent to the governor, a proclamation that would declare a Watch out for Wildlife Awareness Week. Look for updates on the proclamation online at wildfriends.unm.edu, at Wild Friends New Mexico on Facebook, and in the fall newsletter.

The Students' Perspective

Students from Ladera del Norte Elementary School in Farmington talked with their teacher, Wendy Carpenter, about their experience with Wild Friends. You can answer the questions below with your teacher and classmates to reflect on your time with Wild Friends.

- ◆ **How much did you know about the legislative process before Wild Friends?**
 - ◆ Most of the students didn't know much about the legislature, and thought "it was very confusing." This scared some of the kids.
- ◆ **Did Wild Friends help you better understand the process? How? Which parts of the program helped you?**
 - ◆ Yes!!! Wild Friends helped the students understand what each branch of government does step by step. Seeing it in action on the field trip really helped bring it all together. The students thought Wild Friends was a "great experience" that was both "fun and educational." They really appreciated getting to know how laws are made.
- ◆ **How did you prepare for advocating for the memorials and talking with legislators on the field trip?**
 - ◆ Practice, practice practice. Students practiced at home and with friends. They brainstormed their ideas with their parents, but most of all, they practiced. They also taught their parents and other people which helped them to remember how it all worked.
- ◆ **Would you have been able to testify / advocate for the memorials without preparation? Were you nervous to talk to legislators?**
 - ◆ Some of the Wild Friends who spoke with legislators were nervous and some weren't. Emma testified as an expert witness in support of the memorials. She was nervous at first, but then "was able to relax and go with the flow."
- ◆ **Did Wild Friends make you more interested in making laws and protecting wildlife?**
 - ◆ Definitely! They learned about wildlife and realized that it needed protection. Most of them had not realized this before. Students felt like they made a difference for animals and people by passing HM1 and SM11!
- ◆ **What was your favorite part of Wild Friends?**
 - ◆ Learning new things. Feeling involved and making a difference to help animals. Meeting their representative and senator on the field trip to Santa Fe.