



TALE WATERS

A Monthly Publication of
Mesilla Valley Flyfishers, Inc.

P.O. Box 2222
Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222

www.MVFF.org

September

2021

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Tale Waters Edited by Jim Hulsey — newsletter@mvff.org

Meetings

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Club will hold no in-person meetings until later in the year. See the President's column for more details.

President's Corner

David Carmichael

Club News



The club board had a Zoom meeting scheduled for August 15, but we did not have a quorum, so we were prevented from taking action on a number of items of club business. Nevertheless, we had to make some decisions about upcoming meetings, given the resurgence of COVID-19. I am pretty darn tired of COVID, as I imagine many of you are too. But, as much as I would prefer not to need to discuss COVID, our collective failure to keep infection rates down via vaccinations is further delaying our return to a semblance of normalcy. The upcoming club events that were being planned for September and October have been postponed indefinitely.

"We are entering the worst surge in sheer numbers," said Dr. Mark Casanova, a palliative care specialist in Dallas and a member

of the Texas Medical Association's COVID-19 Task Force. "This is the fourth round of what should have been a three-round fight. We do have very sincere concerns that the numbers game is going to overwhelm us."

Infection rates in New Mexico are not as bad as in Texas, but they are still part of a spike that puts most of the state into the red level and stretches our hospitals to the breaking point. Dona Ana county is experiencing a 7% positive test rate, and a 14-day infection rate of 23 per 100K population. As of the time of this writing, we had 22 instances of multiple rapid responses in the county, 17 of which are schools. These statistics place us in the red level in terms of public health orders. Non-essential travel is to be curtailed, in-person gatherings are to be limited once again, and close contact businesses and recreational facilities are limited to 25% capacity, or groups of 10 people, whichever is smaller. [[Frequently Asked Questions | NMDOH - Coronavirus Updates \(nmhealth.org\)](#)]

Therefore, meeting at the Rio Bosque State Park for a BBQ lunch and casting event seems ill advised, if for no other reason than they can't accommodate a turnout as large as we had expected. The NMDGF is taking the threat of Delta Variant seriously too. Their offices and classroom are closed, and will most likely not be available for club meetings in the near future. For this reason, Taylor Streit has asked to postpone the presentation he and Evan Classen had been planning for our October meeting. So, I'm sorry to say that in some ways we are back to where we were last spring, and we'll need to wait to see how things go in the coming weeks and months before we can resume regular club meetings.

In the meantime, the NMDGF has published an unprecedented statement about what we anglers ought to be doing in response to the Delta Variant surge:

Fishing Activities

The Department would like to encourage anglers to stay home, mend equipment and prepare for the upcoming fishing season. In the [weekly fishing report](#), provided by Dustin Berg of [Go Unlimited](#) (supporting disabled anglers) and the Department of Game and Fish, we will be sharing tips and tricks to help you be ready to go on future adventures. [\[Alerts - New Mexico Department of Game & Fish \(state.nm.us\)\]](#)



Organ Mountain foothills in Soledad Canyon, (8/29/2021)

Plan that will guide management policies for at least the next decade. The comment period is already underway, and comments will be accepted through November 5. Further information and contact/submittal information for each project is provided elsewhere (pages 4– 6) in the newsletter.

Public comments must be solicited and considered, and our concerns often do have an impact on government policy, so it can be worthwhile to submit comments.

As those members living in Las Cruces and El Paso have undoubtedly noticed, we are having a real monsoon season this year. For members who live

elsewhere, trust me when I say that our desert hasn't been this green in years.

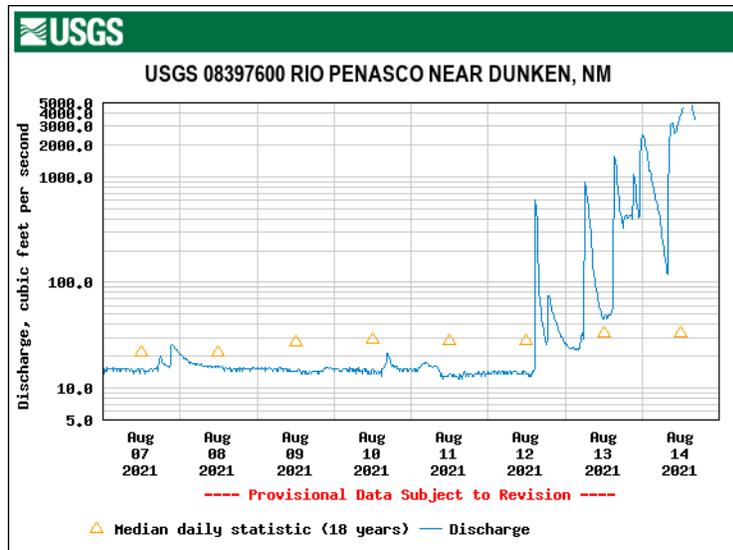
The Las Cruces Sun-News reports (8/29/21) that we are experiencing the 27th wettest monsoon season since data collection began at NMSU in 1892. Club members should have received a couple of emails from

Membership Chair Bob Silver containing information on the USGS gauging station just downstream from our club lease on the Rio Peñasco. In case you didn't save it, or if you want to set up your own connection to the site, here is the link: [USGS Current Conditions for](#)

[USGS 08397600 RIO PENASCO NEAR DUNKEN, NM](#). You can set it up so that you receive a notification whenever the flow rate exceeds a certain

Environmental News

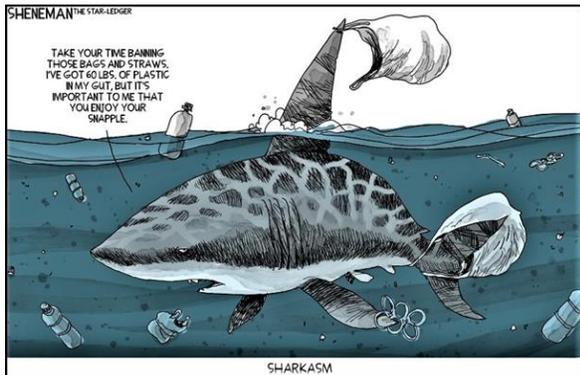
I'd like to call your attention to two new opportunities for club members to weigh in on how our public lands in southern New Mexico will be managed in the near future. The USFS is initiating the scoping process for a proposed watershed restoration project on Black Canyon Creek in the Gila National Forest. Comments are due September 15. The Lincoln National Forest is hosting three virtual public meetings in September and October, to discuss the draft Forest Management



threshold which you determine; I have mine set at 100 cfs. As you can see on this chart from August 14, the Peñasco has recently been experiencing some really massive flows (up to 5,000 cfs) which translate into flooding. So, you can refer to the daily updates to help determine when it may be a good day to fish, or when it would be another reason to stay home and mend gear.

New Mexicans who are concerned about maintaining fishing access to public waters in the state received some good news recently. At their August 12 meeting, the New Mexico State Game Commission rejected all five applications from private landowners seeking to have rivers crossing their property certified as non-navigable, in order to prevent public access to the streams. Commissioners confirmed the State Constitutional right of the public to access unallocated waters of New Mexico, provided they don't trespass on private property. Check out this article from the NM Wildlife Federation for more details. [\[NM State Game Commission Rejects Applications To Close Public Waters – New Mexico Wildlife Federation – New Mexico Wildlife Federation \(nmwildlife.org\)\]](#)

On August 16, the Las Cruces city council unanimously passed a ban on single-use plastic bags. More precisely, starting January 1, 2022, retailers will no longer be allowed to issue single-use plastic bags to customers at checkout. There are



some exceptions for certain kinds of products, such as newspapers and dry-cleaning bags, but the ban will very likely reduce the number of bags that end up on our roadsides, in our waterways, snagged in cacti or juniper trees, etc. Here's the link to the Sun-News story in case you missed it.

[\[Las Cruces passes retail single-use plastic bag ban \(lcsun-news.com\)\]](#)

Fly Fishing Tips

For those members who are relatively new to fly angling, or who mostly fish nymphs beneath a strike indicator, time to expand the repertoire. It is hopper season! That means that sloppy, noisy casts that splash the surface are appropriate, and the resulting smashing takes are exciting. Here's a quick tutorial from one of the companies that supplies blanks for my rod building: [\[Thomas & Thomas | BLOG | Hopper Season \(thomasandthomas.com\)\]](#).

While many of us work hard to perfect our casting, especially making long, tight loops, many of the waters we fish provide little or no opportunity to use casts longer than 25 feet. Many New Mexico streams require much shorter casts, no more than a rod length or so. Here are a few tips from Flymen Fishing Company on why and how to do short casts. [\[They're at Your Feet, Dude! 6 Reasons To Make Shorter Casts When Wade – Flymen Fishing Company\]](#)

Finally, in the "Everything's Connected to Everything Department: "

Wolves actually benefit trout.

Wolves keep elk on the move, preventing them from over-browsing streamside cottonwood saplings and willows. These plants fortify stream banks and prevent erosion, keeping the water deep, shaded and cool.

Willows and cottonwoods provide food for beavers and the materials they need to build dams. Beaver ponds replenish the water table and regulate surges of silty seasonal runoff, keeping the water clear.

Trout are sight-feeders and rely on clear, cool and deep water to thrive. Streams studded with beaver ponds and lined with willows and cottonwoods provide ideal trout habitat.

LEARN MORE on our blog at:

[LivingWithWolves.org](#)



Gila/Rio Grande Chapter of Trout Unlimited

Gila/Rio Grande Chapter (780) of Trout Unlimited

Jeff Arterburn, President



GRG-TU for MVFF September 2021

Free annual TU memberships through the Service Partnership Program

If you are, or if you have family and friends who serve as military and first responders, including medical, law enforcement, fire and other critical service members in our communities, please let them know about the exciting new TU Service Partnership Program.

TU is offering free annual memberships, and you can read more about the program at this link: <https://www.tu.org/conservation/outreach-education/trout-unlimited-service-partnership/>

If you would like to be involved in initiating and leading a program for southern NM through our chapter, or just want to participate please come forward and get involved.

GRG-TU Logo T-shirts to support local trout restoration and conservation efforts.

Our beautiful T-shirts with the GRG-TU logo in colors: green-on-ivory, and peanut-butter-on-black are sold as part of our fund-raising for trout restoration and conservation efforts. These are great looking, well-made shirts for a great cause at only \$20 each. Please include \$5 for shipping if you want the shirt(s) mailed. Contact Jeff Arterburn to get yours, and to sign up for the next volunteer event: <mailto:jeffgilatu@aol.com>.



Green logo on ivory



Peanut butter logo on black

If you are a current or former TU member looking

to renew your membership please use the standard renewal form on the TU website: <https://www.tu.org/trout-unlimited-3/> or call 1-800-834-2419.



MVFF Library

MVFF has a considerable library which is now in the custody of Club member Mark Dankel. Mark would like to make these books available to members. If you wish to borrow any of these books let Mark know and he will bring them to the next membership meeting. Mark can be contacted at mpdankel@msn.com.

A list of the books can be found in the November 2019 issue of *Tale Waters*.



Board of Directors Meeting

There was a Board Meeting scheduled via ZOOM in August, but a quorum was not met and, so, no minutes. See the President's column for details. The Board will probably meet in September, again via a ZOOM meeting. Discussions are ongoing.



Lincoln National Forest to Host Three Virtual Public Meetings on Management of the Forest for the Next Decade

Alamogordo, NM—August 30, 2021—The Lincoln National Forest is hosting three virtual public meetings to discuss the Draft Forest Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement. This is a part of the Forest Plan Revision process. The Forest Plan will guide forest management practices for the 1.1 million-acre Lincoln National Forest in Southern New Mexico for the next 10 to 15 years.

The meetings will be held on Zoom on:

- Sept. 22, 2021 at 4:00 PM
- Sept. 29, 2021 at 2:00 PM
- Oct. 12, 2021 at 4:00 PM

A general presentation on the content of the documents will be given. The presentation will cover topics such as proposed wilderness, caves, vegetation management, grazing and watersheds. Participants will have time to ask questions and make official comments during the meeting. The meeting is open to everyone. To register to attend the public meet visit https://empsi.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_4jbcPSTPSdGsxlDwnCuOkA.

Comments on the Draft Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be accepted during the formal comment period from August 6, 2021, until November 5, 2021. Project documents and additional information about how to comment are available at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=45148>. Hard copies of the draft land management plan are available at the Lincoln National Forest Supervisor's Office in Alamogordo and all district offices.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Wilderness Ranger
District
505.536.2250

HC 68 Box 50
Mimbres, NM 88049
FAX: 505.536.2242

File Code: 2630; 2670; 2520

Date: August 27th, 2021

Dear Interested Party:

This letter is to provide information and solicit your input in regards to a proposed watershed restoration project in Black Canyon submitted to the U.S. Forest Service from the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED). Black Canyon Creek is currently listed as impaired under the Clean Water Act Section-303d due to excessive temperature loading. Black Canyon is occupied recovery habitat for Gila trout (*Oncorhynchus gilae*) which are listed as "Threatened" under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The NMED has proposed the Black Canyon Watershed Restoration project to the U.S. Forest Service to: 1) Reduce excessive temperature loading in Black Canyon Creek through willow plantings and specific restoration practices; 2) improve recovery habitat for Gila trout in approximately 4 miles of stream; and 3) improve watershed function and connectivity through the encouragement of beaver expansion within the drainage. The purpose of the proposed project is to ultimately remove Black Canyon Creek from the 303d-list of impaired waters and improve the quality of recovery habitat for Gila trout.

Enclosed is a copy of the proposed action and project map which includes the details associated with this proposal. I invite you to review the proposed action. If you have any issues or concerns regarding the proposal please submit comments to comments-southwestern-gila-wilderness@usda.gov by **September 15th, 2021**. Your input will be used to identify and clarify potential issues associated with this proposal and help me determine the extent of analysis that will be necessary to make an informed decision regarding this proposal. Please be as specific as you can with any comments you provide to best assist us with our analysis process.

Also, in compliance with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), please be advised that written comments received on this proposal, including names and addresses, will be considered part of the public record and will be available for public review.

If you need additional information regarding this proposal, please contact Dustin Myers by phone at 575 388-8201, or email at comments-southwestern-gila-wilderness@usda.gov.

Sincerely,

Henry Provencio

Henry Provencio
District Ranger (acting)

Enclosures:

Proposed Action/Scoping Document
Project Map



Quick Look Contact Information

2021 Officers of the Club	
Officers	
• President:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• V-Pres.:	Taylor Gobble
• Secretary:	Jeff Arterburn (575) 649-9729
• Treasurer:	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
Board Members	
• Position 1:	David Carmichael (915) 204-7558
• Position 2:	Helen Zagona (575) 532-5668
• Position 3:	Jeff Arterburn (575) 649-9729
• Position 4:	Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880
• Position 5:	Robert Ardovino (575) 589-0653
• Position 6:	Chuck Mueller (575) 647-4045
• Position 7:	George Sanders (575) 527-5536
• Position 8:	Dillen Martinez (505) 401-3640
Newsletter & Web Page Editor	
• Jim Hulsey (575) 524-1880	newsletter@mvff.org
Membership Committee Chairman	
• Bob Silver (575) 642-5865	membership@mvff.org

Mabie Legacy Scholarship Fund

The Mabie Legacy Scholarship Fund is an endowed fund at New Mexico State University which is funded by MVFF member donations. Earnings from the fund are used to provide scholarships for students at NMSU majoring in fisheries or related fields.

The scholarship recipient is selected each April by the faculty members of the NMSU Department of Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Ecology.

Even though the fund is endowed additions can be made to it at any time. The larger the fund, the more earnings are available for award. If you are interested in contributing please make checks out to the **NMSU Foundation** and on the "for" line of the check, identify "Mabie Legacy Scholarship Fund, for deposit only." All contributions are tax deductible. For any questions please contact one of the MVFF Officers or Board members. If you have not made a donation to the fund please give it consideration and help honor Norm and Donna Mabie.

Current Email Addresses Needed

Many of the email addresses in our files are not current as members change to other internet providers. These addresses will not be distributed, but will only be used to relay club information or reminders for club meetings and other club events. Please send your address changes to membership@mvff.org.

Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout Print

Help support the MVFF Habitat Restoration Projects and purchase a limited edition "Rio Grande Cutthroat Trout" print. This beautiful printing of an original watercolor of our native state fish is a limited series of 150 high quality 12 x 18 prints that are numbered and signed by New Mexico artist Michelle Arterburn. The cost of each individual print is \$25.00, with the proceeds dedicated towards habitat restoration projects. If you live out of town and wish the print mailed to you please add \$5 for postage. See the MVFF website for purchase.



******* REMEMBER *******
MVFF MEMBERSHIPS & NM FISHING
LICENSES EXPIRE ON 31 MARCH

Membership Information

Membership is open to anyone who supports the activities of the club. Membership fees are shown below. Members are provided with the opportunity to attend informational monthly meetings, to purchase fishing access permits to the MVFF leased waters on the Rio Peñasco and to participate in other Club activities such as an annual awards banquet, casting clinics, fly tying classes, and Club sponsored fishing trips.

There are several options for the payment of dues. A family is defined as a club member, their spouse and all children 17 years of age or under.

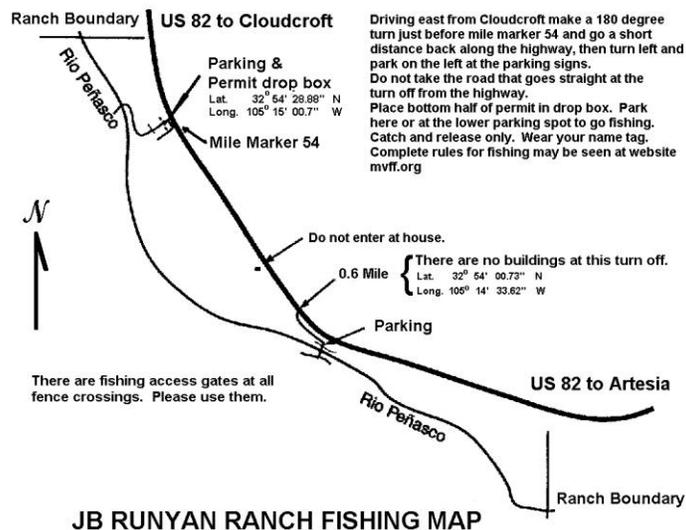
1 Year	\$20	Individual
	\$25	Family
3 Years	\$50	Individual
	\$60	Family
Life	\$400	Individual
	\$500	Family

Lease Information

Permits to fish the Club leased waters on the Rio Peñasco can be obtained from Jim Hulsey (575-524-1880) or Bob Silver (575-522-6325) in Las Cruces. Permits can be obtained from the land owner, but you should phone (575-687-3362) the night before to ensure someone will be there to sell them to you. Permits can be ordered through the club web page (mvff.org) by filling out the form and mailing as directed or, if you had rather, you may pay through PayPal. Cost is \$25.00 per day. Kids under 18 fish free but must be accompanied by an adult club member with a permit. You must be a current member (current dues have been paid) of MVFF to fish the lease. Please wear your MVFF identification badge while on the property. New or replacement badges can be obtained by contacting Bob Silver. In addition, members may purchase 1-day, 1-time permits for up to 2 guests per trip. Each guest must have a permit. One-time means a person can go as a guest one time only and must be a member to ever go again.

Directions to the Lease:

Follow NM 82 east from Cloudcroft, NM or west from Artesia, NM. The turn off to the lease is located on the right side of the road about 100 yards before mile marker 54 coming from Cloudcroft or 100 yards on the left past mile marker 54 coming from Artesia.



MESILLA VALLEY FLYFISHERS, INC.

PO Box 2222

Las Cruces, NM 88004-2222

Membership and/or Permit Application

(Please Print Clearly)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Work/Cell Phone: _____ Home Phone: _____ email: _____

Are you a current member? _____ Yes _____ No

Do you need a name badge? _____ Yes _____ No

New Membership _____ or renewal _____?

Membership Categories: Individual Family Circle the one desired.

1 Year \$20 \$25

3 Years \$50 \$60

Life \$400 \$500

For family membership: Name of spouse _____ No. of children _____

Note: All memberships expire on 31 March. New memberships received on or after 1 January will expire on 31 March of the following year.

Membership fee if applicable \$ _____
Adult Permits @ \$25 per permit = \$ _____

Total =\$ _____

Send remittance with this form to the address shown at top of page.