

Bitter Lake News

June 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS AT BITTER LAKE

Summer General Meeting: Saturday, June 21st at noon. Everyone is welcome! The speaker will be Allison Nelson of the BLM. She will be giving a presentation on "Grey Wolf, Red Wolf, Coyote and Hybrid Journey." Don't miss it! The main dish is provided, but please bring a side or dessert to add to the menu. Hope to see you there.

Dragonfly Festival: Saturday, September 6

Friends of Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge

4200 E. Pine Lodge Rd., Roswell, NM 88201 Contact phone: 575-244-6256

e-mail: bitterlakefriends@gmail.com, <https://www.friendsofbitterlakenwr.org/>



Friends of Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge

Cactus blooming at the Visitor Center



Winter Membership General Meeting

If you missed the General Meeting on January 18, you missed two outstanding presentations. Not to mention the wonderful food catered from



La Sierra Barbeque, and friendly conversation with people who love Bitter Lake. Please consider joining us for the next meeting that will be in June. We would love to have you there!

The first presentation was given by three young women, Camille, Alyssa, and Josephine, who are with the Bird Conservancy of the Rockies. They stayed at Bitter Lake through February conducting mist netting on various lands, including the refuge, BLM and TNC property. They trapped and fitted radio transmitters on specific grassland nesting birds, for their project "Great Plains and Chihuahuan Desert Regional Motus Network". Their presentation included maps that demonstrated how the birds are tracked once they are fitted with their transmitters, and exactly how and when they travel during their migrations. It was



amazing to see how

these little grassland birds get around our country, how some are very independent travelers, to see where the towers are located that pick up the data, and how that data is used to help monitor populations.

If you would be interested in donating to this

organization, their website is birdconservancy.org/donate

The second presentation was given by Danica Cooke, a wildlife biologist with the BLM. She spoke on the endangered lesser prairie chicken, who have a major breeding ground east of Roswell. The population of these birds in the 1950s was estimated at 50,000. By the 1970s, the count was 10,000 and now they are estimated to be at 3,000. Specific habitat loss is considered the major reason for this decline, along with our warming climate. The birds are believed to be moving north. The last time a lesser prairie chicken was seen near Carlsbad was in 2005. If you are interested in going to a prairie chicken “dance”, you can contact Danica at d.cooke@blm.gov, or call 575-291-9376.



Congresswoman Teresa Leger Fernández met with Friends of Bitter Lake president Merideth Hildreth. The congresswoman made time in her busy schedule to tour the refuge while she was in Roswell for a quick visit.

Oxbow Trail Flood Damage



Bitter Lake has obtained a tractor that will be used to facilitate work around the refuge. It will be an immense help in repairing the flood damage on the Oxbow Trail. We take possession of this equipment in August. In the meantime, remember that although the Oxbow Trail is open, it did sustain damage in the floods, and you will be hiking the trail at your own risk.

A new picnic pavilion has been installed by the Visitor Center. This will be great for events and a place for visitors to stop for a shady snack or picnic.



Board Meetings

The Friends of Bitter Lake board meetings are held each month at 6:00 pm on the first Wednesday of each month. We meet at 2025 Road Runner Trail Park, which is directly behind Los Cerritos Restaurant. Our meetings are open, and we encourage anyone who might be interested in joining to attend a meeting and see what we are about. We are always looking for new ideas and welcome all interested people to come and check us out.



Annual Butterfly Trail Work Day

A great crew showed up for the Butterfly Trail Work Day on April 19. The new wildflowers that were planted and the clean up of the area will guarantee a beautiful trail for the coming summer. Thanks to everyone who showed up for this event!





Good-bye To Lindsey

It is with great sadness that we are saying goodbye to our district manager, Lindsey Landowski. She has accepted a job at Necedah National Wildlife Refuge near Wisconsin Rapids. Lindsey will be returning to her native home, and her daughters are excited to be near family and friends. Lindsey has been an amazing manager for our refuge and will be greatly missed. She was involved in every aspect of the refuge, even climbing ladders on the highway to make sure the refuge sign looked its very best. Thank you, Lindsey, for your service and hard work at Bitter Lake. We hope to see you back in New Mexico one day and wish you nothing but the best in your new position.



The USFWS emblem, which had been stolen from the refuge entrance sign has been replaced. It is looking good on a beautiful, snowy day.

Updates for the Year

The refuge budget was reduced by another 13% last year. Although some funding was received to be used for flood repair, the refuge will only receive 8%. Staff received emails for the federal administration asking them to resign and take early retirement. The grant money that Carl was expecting to receive for biology is now on hold. Three seasonal firefighter positions have begun their summer work.

The assistant refuge manager position, and the manager slot that Lindsey held are currently on hold. In the meantime, Refuge Biologist Carl Jacobsen is the Acting Manager.

Friends of Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge



Membership Form

- ☐ Individual \$25 ☐ Family \$35
☐ Business \$50

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

E-mail: _____

Phone: _____

Are you interested in volunteer opportunities? ☐ Yes! ☐ No

Mail to:

Friends of Bitter Lake NWR

4200 E. Pine Lodge Rd.

Roswell, NM 88201

Friends of Bitter Lake National Wildlife Refuge
Membership Form Instructions

Just two easy steps to join:

1. Complete the form on the left side of the sheet and mail it with your dues to the Refuge.
2. Complete the Membership Card below and keep it for your records.

(Fold Here)



Friends of Bitter Lake
Membership Card

www.friendsofbitterlakenwr.org

(575) 244-6256

E-mail: bitterlakefriends@gmail.com

Name: _____

Date: _____

*Membership expires 1 year from above date.

Friends of Bitter Lake NWR
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