



2017 Final Report on Share with Wildlife Grant to New Mexico Department of Game & Fish

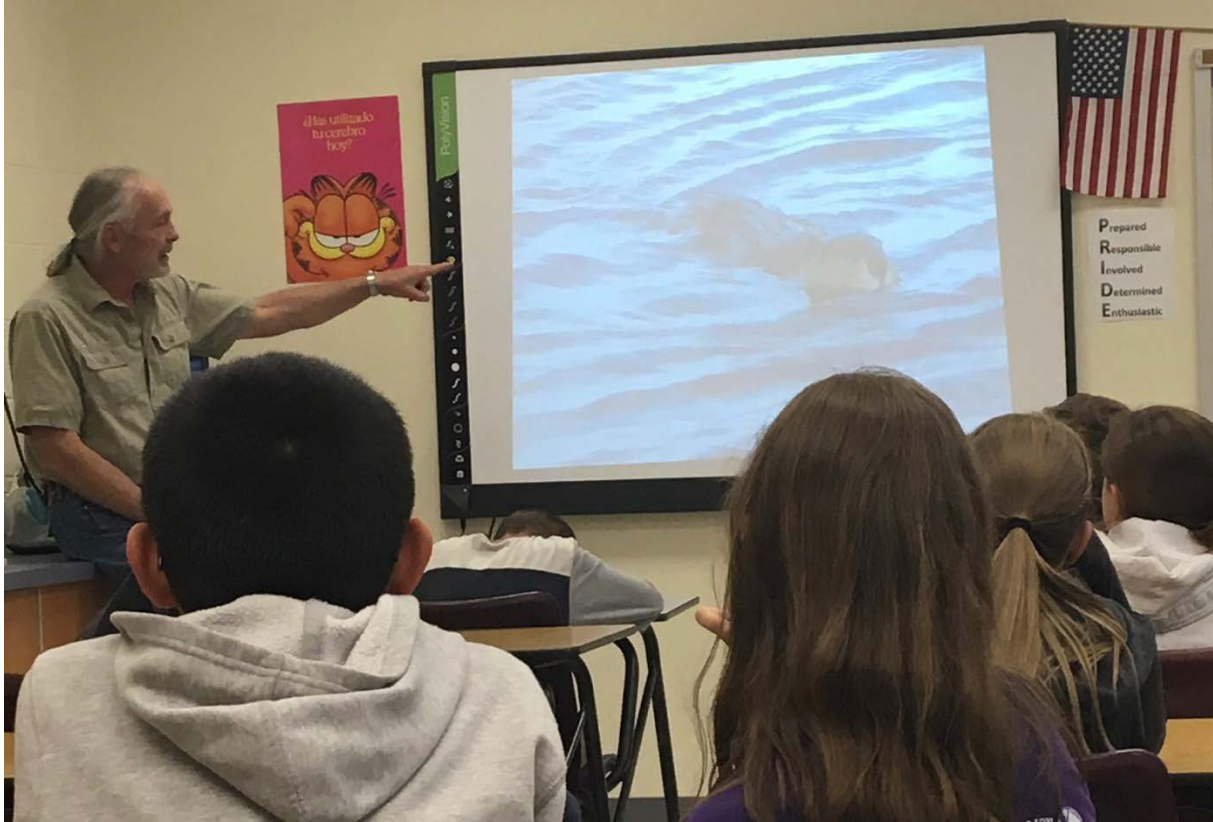
- On May 4, OC staff and a team of 3 presenters conducted a River Festival for the Santa Rosa Middle School in Santa Rosa, NM for approximately 150 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. The students participated in a Water Jeopardy game in which they learned about the importance of water conservation and the water cycle and its significance in eastern NM. The students also learned about native reptiles and amphibians with a hands-on program and the ecology of beavers and their important role in riverine ecosystems. After lunch, the students walked to a nearby privately-owned section of the Pecos River. Under guidance of the presenters, the students searched for reptiles and amphibians, invertebrates, crustaceans, and river plants.
- On July 13, Ogallala Commons held a river festival at the Mescalero Reservation Boys and Girls Club. Approximately 60 students from ages 6-13 attended the program. The students rotated through programs on nature journaling, water conservation and the water cycle, and reptiles and amphibians. The students also learned about plants and created their own art projects based on plants. After lunch, the presenters led the students on a field trip to nearby Tularosa Creek to learn more about riparian plants, aquatic invertebrates, and other wildlife in the area. The students used their nature journals to describe plants and animals seen during the day. This was OC's first program with the Mescalero Reservation and the students and teachers seemed to appreciate it greatly.
- On September 14, OC staff presented a river festival at Cochiti Elementary. Approximately 55 4th and 5th graders attended. The students learned about the life cycle of plants through art, played Water Jeopardy to learn about the water cycle and water conservation, and learned about native reptiles and amphibians, including getting to see live animals. After lunch, the students hiked to the Santa Fe River on nearby private land and searched for invertebrates and fish. The students used their nature journals to record events of the day and make drawings of plants and animals encountered.
- On September 21, staff from Ogallala Commons and Los Alamos National Labs organized a River Festival for 40 4th and 5th grade students at the Taos Day School at the Taos Pueblo. The students enjoyed playing Water Jeopardy, which focused on the water cycle and the importance of water conservation. The students also learned about reptiles and amphibian with live specimens and learned about plant life cycles and constructed their own plant cycle diagrams. The students also learned about the importance of keeping nature journals. After lunch, the students explored the nearby Rio Pueblo, searching for interesting plants and wildlife accompanied by local experts. The students

really enjoyed handling and observing a couple of garter snakes found on the banks of the Rio Pueblo.

- On October 4, OC led a team of 3 presenters in a Playa Festival for approximately 70 4th grade students at the Arts Academy in Clovis. Presentation subjects included playa formation and their role in the recharge of the Ogallala Aquifer, keeping a nature journal, and playa reptiles and amphibians. The students also attended a presentation on playa waterfowl where they learned to identify ducks, geese, and shorebirds and learn their calls. After lunch, the students were supposed to take a field trip to Goodwin Playa in Clovis. Unfortunately, a large downpour occurring at this time caused us to have to cancel the trip. Although, the students were disappointed, they still seemed to really enjoy the day and feedback from teachers and the principal were very positive.
- Pre and Post Assessments: All students were tested before and at the end of the program. The results showed an overall 29.5% increase in test scores from pre to post program. See results below for individual schools.

2017 Festival Test Results

<u>School</u>	<u>pre</u>	<u>post</u>	<u>% improvement</u>
Santa Rosa Middle School	70.1	85.4	21.8
Mescalero Reservation	58.2	69.7	19.8
Cochiti Pueblo Elementary	56.4	66.3	17.6
Taos Day School	47.0	58.7	24.9
Clovis Arts Academy	49.1	83.9	70.9
Overall Average	56.2	72.8	29.5



John David teaches the students about the importance of beavers



Tiana teaches some Mescalero Boys and Girls Club students about the plant life cycle using art



Robert Martin talks to Santa Rosa Middle School students about native reptiles and amphibians