



**New Mexico
Wildlife Center**

Connecting People and Wildlife for an Abundant Tomorrow

**Share with Wildlife Grant
Interim Report - June 23, 2021**

We at New Mexico Wildlife Center (NMWC) sincerely appreciate the opportunity to work with the NMDGF through the Share with Wildlife Program. The support we have received through this program has been, and continues to be, invaluable to our programs and to helping wildlife in our state.

Wildlife Rehabilitation Hospital

Between January 1 - June 23, 2021, our hospital has admitted 362 patients (1 amphibian, 9 reptiles, 96 mammals, 2 eggs, and 254 birds). We are currently in the midst of our busiest time of year, with 127 patients (35%) admitted between June 1 and June 23. As of June 23, we have 127 patients in-care, with dispositions pending. The top five most numerous native species admitted thus far in 2021 are House Finch, Rock Squirrel, Deer Mouse, Desert Cottontail, Common Raven, and Evening Grosbeak. We have also treated nine Great-horned Owls, two bobcats, and two Flammulated Owls, among many others.

Of all the patients admitted to our hospital this calendar year, we have released about 17%. This number is down from last year, but has been skewed by the admission of five Raccoons. This is a species that New Mexico wildlife rehabilitators are not permitted to treat, so all Raccoons presented to our hospital are admitted and then euthanized in keeping with regulations. In 2020, we did not receive any Raccoons, but this year we have not only had admissions, but numerous calls about Raccoons from members of the public throughout the months of May and June. While we have not been able to track exact numbers, our staff and interns field hundreds of calls each month from people with wildlife questions or concerns.

Our Wildlife Hospital has acquired some exciting new equipment and made some upgrades to facilities. Our new blood diagnostic machine analyzes blood chemistry levels to help better treat and care for our patients. We also purchased an oxygen concentrator to enhance healing time for certain patients in our care. Our surgery suite was remodeled to maximize sterilization and organization during medical procedures. A new adjustable warming table was also added to our surgery suite. All of these changes are helping us provide the best treatment to the wildlife in our care.

Pollinator Gardens

Our Education Coordinator, Chase Spearing, has spent the past six months developing our new Pollinator Gardens Education Program. She has completed the curriculum for each day of activity and a test garden has been created. With four days of intensive curriculum and garden building, Chase has detailed the main 4th-5th grade Next Generation Science Standard goals for each day, has created multiple hands-on activities to reinforce these science standards, and has planned an animal encounter with one or more of our Ambassador Animals to connect the lesson to a tangible, living animal. Chase has developed pre- and post-evaluations to determine the level of comprehension gained about the importance of pollinators in our ecosystems and how humans can impact these systems. We have marketing materials ready to send out to teachers at the beginning of August to encourage sign-ups before the school year begins.

To ensure success of the gardens at schools, we have created a test garden on site at New Mexico Wildlife Center. These gardens are in galvanized metal troughs (easier to move and transport) and have around 15 different native plants growing to determine the most resilient plants. We are creating a “care guide” for these gardens, so that when our education team is no longer going to the school, the teachers will be able to maintain the gardens.

Please see attached documents for curriculum and marketing materials for Pollinator Gardens.

Wildlife Education

After the impact of the pandemic on our education programs in 2020, we are excited to see that our education programs have picked up again with virtual programs, on-site field trips, and off-site visits. The data that follows is for January 1 – June 23, 2021:

Number of virtual programs presented: 17

Number of field trips to NMWC: 5

Number of off-site education programs: 2

Number of attendees at education programs: 876

Number of attendees at onsite Animal Encounters: 156

Number of visitors onsite for self-guided tours of education areas: 722

With our virtual programs, we have been able to reach New Mexicans far outside our normal range that we can travel to for programs. We also had a Start of Summer Celebration on May 29 to celebrate our full reopening and the start of summer break. With guided tours and scheduled animal encounters, we had a successful event with over 230 attendees. Animal Encounters programs have resumed after a pause in 2020, with three to five encounters per day throughout the summer.

All of these programs - Wildlife Rehabilitation, Wildlife Education, and Pollinators Gardens - will continue throughout the remainder of 2021, thanks in large part to support from the NMDGF's Share with Wildlife Program.