

Data Submitted (UTC 11): 10/15/2019 4:01:32 PM

First name: Morrow

Last name: Hall

Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am 71 years old and have lived in Estancia most of my life. When I was in the second grade, I remember the father of one of my classmates visited our class. He brought a young beaver kit, and told how he was trapping the beaver out of the Tajique Creek watershed in the Manzano Mountains (Cibola National Forest). He was wearing a uniform, but I don't recall whether he was state game and fish or federal fish and wildlife or some other agency. My memory of the event is old and subject to question, but I had the understanding that beaver were impeding the creek flow and that was the reason for their removal.

I had seen a beaver pond near Fourth of July campground, and still know where it was. I didn't think much more about beaver, but the Tajique Creek was a major part of my childhood. I would go there with my father to fish, and I became very familiar with its terrain. The creek ran down to the village of Tajique most years, but it gradually dried up as summer continued.

In the years that followed, I continued to visit the area, although not as often. Every year, the creek runs a shorter distance, and dries up more quickly.

I have studied the role of beaver in riparian health, and the successes of their reintroduction in increasing water retention and stream flow, and I am very supportive of bringing them back to our forest and their other historic watersheds in this very arid state. I would be very willing to participate in efforts to research this topic and encourage reintroduction.

We humans have often tried to take things apart and put them together in ways that are more convenient to us, often leaving out essential parts that we find unnecessary or threatening. I hope we have reached the point where we realize that this does not work. We tend to think we are the only important species of life, and that attitude has been a disaster.

Please record my full support for beaver reintroduction and other efforts to restore our precious public lands, and please keep me informed about the current proposal.

Thank you!