

The Wildwood Highlander is a periodic newsletter providing information to property owners in Wildwood Highlands, near Datil, New Mexico. It is published in Datil, NM by the Wildwood Highlands Landowners' Association (WHLA), Post Office Box 87, Datil NM 87821-0087. For further information, please contact any member of the WHLA Board of Directors, listed below, or visit the WHLA website on the Internet: www.wildwoodhighlands.org.

2024 Annual General Meeting

The 2024 WHLA annual general meeting was held on Saturday, May 18th, 2024, at the Datil Well Group Campground. Thirty-one (31) members presented ballots. Business conducted at the meeting included:

- A review of the 2024 WHLA budget, including \$2,000 for road maintenance, along with \$4,400 for road improvements.
- The election of Heart Cameron and John Kell as Directors of the Association for two-year terms.

Full details of the meeting are in the General Meetings minutes, posted on the website. Landowners are invited to submit their names to serve as WHLA directors (see sample nomination form on the website).

Board of Directors

In 2024, the Board of Directors held four meetings. At the Directors' meeting on May 21st, 2024, the following officers were elected for the next year:

- President: Rob Sanders
- Vice-President: Heart Cameron
- Treasurer: Aileen Law
- Secretary: Antoine Ribaut
- At-Large: John Kell

Full details of the meetings are in the Directors Meetings minutes, posted on the website.

Water Matters

In August 2022, the 2014 commercial water application from Augustin Plains Ranch LLC – to pump 54 thousand acre-feet of water a year from the San Agustin Plains basin – was returned to the District Court for a determination of the Applicant's appeal on its merits. The case was placed in the District Court queue in December 2022.

A hearing in this case was held on Friday, April 5th, 2024, at the Catron County Courthouse in Reserve, New Mexico. At this hearing, the **application was denied** by Judge Roscoe Woods, Seventh Judicial District Court Judge. But, on September 23rd, 2024, it was appealed, yet again, by Augustin Plains Ranch.

Editor's Note

The **Highlander** encourages feedback from its readers. Opinions, observations, concerns, reminiscences, and photographs are all welcome, although the **Highlander** does reserve the right to edit submissions for brevity and clarity. Please feel free to email me: johndawsonkell@gmail.com

2025 Assessment Amount

At the October 28th, 2024, meeting of the Board of Directors, the annual assessment for 2025 was set at \$91.00 per lot, as per Section 4.11.3 of the WHLA Bylaws. Payment is due by January 31st, 2025.

2024 Financials

Major items from the WHLA's 2024 Year End Financial Statement are shown in the table below. The complete report is available on the website.

Income	Budget	Actual
Lot Assessments (94 lots @ \$89 each)	\$8,455.00	\$8,366.00
Late Fees, Settlements, Liens, Prior Year Assessments	\$0.00	\$1,067.39
Other Income	\$0.00	\$1.00
Total Income	\$8,455.00	\$9,434.39
Expenses	Budget	Actual
Road Maintenance	\$2,000.00	\$450.00
Road Improvement	\$4,400.00	\$7,640.27
Insurance	\$795.00	\$795.00
Administration and Miscellaneous Expenses	\$618.00	\$793.98
Total Expenses	\$7,813.00	\$9,679.25
Margin	Budget	Actual
	\$642.00	-\$244.86
Checking Account Balance		Actual
Opening Balance January 1, 2024		\$6,342.77
Add (subtract) 2024 Margin		-244.86
Closing Balance December 31, 2024		\$6,097.91
Less Cash Designated as Reserve		\$5,000.00
Cash Available for Operations		\$1,097.91



Photo Credit: Rob Sanders

2024 Weather Report, by Chuck Baker

2024 was a year with less rain than average, but more snow than average. However, the extra snowfall was not enough to offset the lack of rain, so the total precipitation was only about two-thirds of normal. Over the last five years the annual precipitation was average for one year, above average for one year, and below average for three years; that might or might not be a trend towards drier years. Average monthly high and low temperatures fluctuated slightly from normal with most of the below average temperatures occurring in the first half of the year followed by above average monthly temperatures during the second half of the year. The temperature trend (over the last five years) continues to be a warming one. Snowstorms in March and April contributed to those months receiving above average precipitation while also making them colder than average. Snowstorms in early November were enough to drag the monthly low temperature down from normal, but the rest of November and through December had above average high temperatures and resulted in some folks wondering if winter was taking a break this year. We did not see our typical summer monsoon season either, with the rainiest day of the whole year only dropping 0.63" on July 1, whereas most monsoon seasons we see at least a couple of "frog-stranglers" with heavy downpours exceeding 1.00" in less than an hour.

2024 Highlights

Lowest Temperature	12 degrees Fahrenheit	January 12, 2024
Highest Temperature	94 degrees Fahrenheit	June 6, 2024
Average high temperature for entire year	66.5 degrees Fahrenheit	
Average low temperature for entire year	41.5 degrees Fahrenheit	
Largest deviation from 25-year average	December average high	8.3 degrees Fahrenheit warmer

25-Year Averages (and 2024)

Low Temperature	Units	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
25-year min.	Degrees F	17.0	19.6	26.7	33.7	40.2	49.5	52.5	51.2	46.6	37.5	21.0	17.1
25-year max.	Degrees F	29.3	31.2	37.4	41.7	49.6	59.4	62.2	58.7	54.1	45.3	38.6	30.6
25-year avg.	Degrees F	24.3	25.6	31.2	37.0	45.3	55.3	57.5	55.8	50.8	41.0	31.6	24.4
High Temperature	Units	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
25-year min.	Degrees F	41.3	42.0	50.9	60.3	66.2	73.4	79.0	76.7	73.1	60.4	48.5	40.4
25-year max.	Degrees F	56.4	57.0	62.9	75.0	83.5	96.3	95.0	86.3	84.9	72.9	70.5	53.9
25-year avg.	Degrees F	46.7	49.6	57.7	65.4	74.4	84.8	85.1	82.0	77.2	67.1	56.7	46.7
Precipitation	Units	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
25-year min.	Inches	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.40	0.99	0.30	0.00	0.00	0.00
25-year max.	Inches	1.61	3.05	1.50	2.45	1.57	3.02	5.81	5.10	4.15	3.73	2.12	2.00
25-year avg.	Inches	0.56	0.53	0.43	0.37	0.46	0.67	2.60	2.85	1.85	0.96	0.50	0.63
2024	Units	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average Low	Degrees F	25.0	28.7	30.2	36.7	45.6	58.7	57.6	57.5	52.6	46.4	29.8	29.4
Average High	Degrees F	43.0	50.2	51.0	62.9	73.0	85.4	85.9	84.9	80.2	72.8	53.9	55.0
Precipitation	Inches	0.47	0.43	1.46	0.63	0.22	0.45	2.07	1.13	0.21	0.31	0.56	0.00

Subdivision Guidelines**No Trespassing**

- No trespassing upon private property without written permission from the landowner. NM Stat § 30-14-1 (2021).

No Hunting

- New Mexico law requires that written permission be obtained prior to hunting, fishing or trapping on private property [see Note below]. Violations are a misdemeanor offense which can result in revocation of hunting and fishing privileges for three years. It is the sportsman/woman's responsibility to know the law and his/her location at all times. [<https://www.wildlife.state.nm.us/hunting/maps/lands-information>] In addition, residents are required to apply for and obtain a hunting license to legally hunt in the state of New Mexico. NM Stat § 17-3-1 (2021).
- Whoever commits shooting at or from a motor vehicle that does not result in great bodily harm to another person is guilty of a fourth-degree felony. NM Stat § 30-3-8 (2021). Furthermore, negligent use of a deadly weapon consists of: (1) discharging a firearm into any building or vehicle or so as to knowingly endanger a person or his property; (2) carrying a firearm while under the influence of an intoxicant or narcotic; (3) endangering the safety of another by handling or using a firearm or other deadly weapon in a negligent manner; or (4) discharging a firearm within one hundred fifty yards of a dwelling or building, not including abandoned or vacated buildings on public lands during hunting seasons, without the permission of the owner or lessees thereof. NM Stat § 30-7-4 (2021).

Light Shielding

- All outdoor lighting fixtures installed after January 1, 2000 shall be shielded, except incandescent fixtures of one hundred fifty watts or less and other sources of seventy watts or less. NM Stat § 74-12-4 (2021).

Drones

- Drones must comply with FAA regulations 14 CFR §107 and all other federal, state and local statutes and regulations.

Speed On Subdivision Roads

- The posted speed limit is 25 mph.

No Dumping

- All trash or junk must be deposited in sanitary containers.

No Junk

- No junk vehicles or junk mechanical equipment, tar paper shacks, unkempt trailers, mobile homes or buildings.

No Mess

- Lots shall be kept in a clean and tidy condition.

No Logging

- No logging or tree cutting allowed except to thin trees, including standing dead, and for fire prevention.

Setbacks

- All buildings, trailers, tents or mobile homes must be set back 65 feet to the street line and 25 feet to the side lot line and 25 feet to the back lot line. Side and rear lot lines must have a 20 feet utility easement.

Loose Dogs

- Animals shall be confined within the boundaries of each parcel.

Livestock

- Livestock must be kept in sanitary conditions.

Please refer to [<https://wildwoodhighlands.org/association-documents>] for further information.

Note:

19.31.10 NMAC: "Written permission" shall mean a document (which may include a valid hunting, trapping or fishing license) that asserts the holder has permission from the private landowner or their designee to hunt, fish, trap or drive off road on the landowner's property. The information on the document must be verifiable and include the name of the person(s) receiving permission, activity permitted, property's location and name (if applicable), name of person granting permission, date and length of time the permission is granted, and phone number or email of the person granting the permission. Licenses issued for private land which have the ranch name printed on them constitute written permission for that property and no other permission is required except for private land elk licenses in the secondary management zone pursuant to 19.30.5 and 19.31.14 NMAC.