



**Michelle Lujan Grisham**, Governor  
**Sarah Cottrell Propst**, Cabinet Secretary  
**Todd E. Leahy, JD, PhD**, Deputy Cabinet Secretary

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Contact:** Susan Torres  
Public Information Officer, EMNRD  
[susan.torres@state.nm.us](mailto:susan.torres@state.nm.us)  
505-476-3226

**November 18, 2021**

**Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department presents  
budget proposal to Legislative Finance Committee**

**Santa Fe, NM** – Today Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) Cabinet Secretary Sarah Cottrell Propst presented a proposed FY23 budget to the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC). The proposed budget of \$82,055,700 invests in significantly more staffing and resources for EMNRD, allowing the Department to fulfill its statutory authorities, implement new programs, and take full advantage of federal funding focused on climate action, conservation, and infrastructure.

The FY23 proposed budget would add staffing resources across the agency and invest in additional programs to help diversify New Mexico’s economy, oversee the oil, gas, and mining industries, continue to address climate change, and conserve our natural resources.

“Our agency is ready to take on ambitious programs that will protect our environment, diversify the economy, and improve our lands and waters for years to come,” said EMNRD Secretary Sarah Cottrell Propst. “To do that we must invest in the agency at every level so our experienced staff have the support and resources they need. The FY23 proposal is a manageable expansion that will help us fulfill our mission effectively.”

The budget request includes:

- Adding 25 new full-time employees in the Oil Conservation Division and investing in technology to track industry emissions and facilitate geospatial mapping of abandoned mines so EMNRD can effectively and efficiently regulate and permit the oil, gas, and mining industries.
- Investing in technology to fully digitize the solar and sustainable building tax credits process to further expand access to renewable energy statewide.
- Investing in the Energy Conservation and Management Division to support efforts to modernize our electric grid and expand the clean energy economy by conducting outreach to new businesses.
- Additional funding to hire staff at State Parks to support the state’s mission to expand outdoor recreation. The budget request also includes investments in technology to improve the visitor experience.
- Adding 12 new full-time employees in the Forestry Division to increase fire-fighting capacity, expand reforestation efforts, and protect endangered plants.
- Invests in additional resources and staff in the Program Support Division.
- Fully utilizing available funds to conserve lands and protect watersheds as outlined in the Governor’s 30 by 30 Executive Order 2021-052.

November 18, 2021

Page 2

Over the past year, EMNRD has made significant progress implementing the nation-leading natural gas waste rule, reclaiming lands impacted by mining, expanding access to renewable energy, and much more to meet the administration's ambitious climate goals and create New Mexico jobs. The FY23 proposed budget builds on this success and propels the agency forward to even greater achievements.

The presentation can be viewed [here](#).

State agency budgets for FY23 will be finalized during the 2022 legislative session.

###

*The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.*

<http://www.emnrd.nm.gov>