



Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
Sarah Cottrell Propst, Cabinet Secretary
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Gov. Lujan Grisham signs House Bill 2, investing in State Parks and oil and gas remediation

Santa Fe, NM – Today Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed House Bill 2 which appropriates additional funds to the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department’s (EMNRD) State Parks and Oil Conservation Divisions. The funds will make significant investments in State Parks allowing EMNRD to address a backlog of facilities and infrastructure maintenance. The funds will also enable additional plugging of abandoned oil and gas wells across the state.

“The legislature has recognized the importance of outdoor recreation and environmental protection by funding improvements to State Parks and remediating lands impacted by the oil and gas industry,” said EMNRD Secretary Sarah Cottrell Propst. “With the governor’s signature today, we are putting significant investments in our outdoor recreation economy and protecting human health and the environment.”

House Bill 2 invests \$20 million to plan, design, construct, improve, and renovate facilities and infrastructure at State Parks statewide. Our State Parks provide economic opportunities across the state and by improving infrastructure and investing in facilities to enhance the visitor experience, New Mexico will connect more people with the outdoors and diversify our economy.

The bill signed today also invests \$3.5 million for orphan and inactive oil and gas well planning, identification, and program implementation. When an operator goes bankrupt, their wells may become orphaned and the responsibility to plug and reclaim the site may fall to the state. Wells and associated facilities that are left abandoned and not plugged and reclaimed can cause environmental damage by leaking methane or damaging groundwater. The investment today will allow the Oil Conservation Division to plug and remediate more sites, protecting the environment and creating jobs.

Now that House Bill 2 is signed, EMNRD will begin directing funds to the most needed projects across the state.

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

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