



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
505-476-3226

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**Lujan Grisham administration, EMNRD announce
Land of Enchantment Bond as governor priority
for 2022 legislative session**

Santa Fe, NM – The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) on Tuesday announced that the Lujan Grisham administration will pursue a \$50 million general obligation bond in the upcoming 2022 legislative session to seed a new conservation initiative. An effort to sustain and support New Mexico’s pristine natural beauty and world-renowned outdoors, the Land of Enchantment (LOE) Bond will supplement ongoing administrative conservation and preservation efforts, including [Gov. Lujan Grisham’s 30x30 executive order](#).

Led by the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department, the LOE Bond would distribute \$50 million among established programs at six state agencies for conservation projects to protect and restore our watersheds, improve wildfire prevention and wildlife habitat, and expand outdoor recreation. This will be one of the governor’s signature 2022 legislative agenda items.

The LOE Bond would supersize already established and successful programs throughout state government including wildfire risk reduction, forest and watershed restoration projects, and expanding hiking, hunting, and fishing opportunities to grow the outdoor recreation economy. The funds would also support projects that improve soil health, food security, carbon sequestration, and productive agricultural lands, representing the diversity and effectiveness of land uses across New Mexico.

“Providing long-term funding for conservation initiatives will strengthen New Mexico’s dedication to maintaining our traditional ways of life and connection to the land,” said Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham. “Dedicating \$50 million to popular and successful programs will further our efforts to transform conservation in New Mexico.”

Spread across several state entities – EMNRD, the Department of Cultural Affairs, the Economic Development Department’s Outdoor Recreation Division, the Environment Department, the Department of Agriculture, and the Department of Game and Fish – the funds provided by the LOE Bond would provide financial stability and support the large-scale treatments necessary to build climate change resilience in our natural and working lands, create jobs and diversify our economy, and get more New Mexicans outdoors – all while honoring our land-use heritage.

“The Land of Enchantment Bond is an innovative way to invest in our cherished lands and watersheds that has been successful in other states and at the local level in New Mexico,” said

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EMNRD Secretary Sarah Cottrell Propst. “By using our existing programs we’ll be able to get critical funds where they’re needed quickly and have a measurable impact on conservation state-wide.”

A general obligation bond is one vehicle state and local governments use to finance projects. The debt is repaid through property taxes. Spread over a number of years, these are often only a few dollars per household. The Land of Enchantment bond will be included in the capital outlay general obligations bond bill during the legislative session. If passed the bond proposal will then appear on a statewide ballot for approval or rejection by New Mexico voters in November 2022. The LOE general obligation bond was designed to provide regular funding to proven programs, making it an effective and sustainable tool to fund conservation.

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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.

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