

Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
Sarah Cottrell Propst, Cabinet Secretary
Todd E. Leahy, JD, PhD, Deputy Cabinet Secretary
Laura McCarthy, Forestry Division Director

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Contact: Wendy Mason
Wildfire Prevention and Communications Coordinator
wendy.mason@state.nm.us
505-690-8210

Susan Torres
Public Information Officer, EMNRD
susan.torres@state.nm.us
505-476-3226



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Public Appointees Join the Natural Lands Protection Committee for the First Time in Nearly a Decade

SANTA FE, NM – Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham has appointed three new public members to the New Mexico Natural Lands Protection Committee (NLPC). Vicente Fernandez, Cheryl Goodloe, and Kim Barmann were nominated by experienced members of the environmental, conservation, and ranching communities within New Mexico as well as the directors of diverse local, regional, and national non-profit conservation organizations.

Mr. Fernandez is the President of Cannon Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association and is a retired New Mexico Army National Guard member. Ms. Goodloe is a retired teacher, ranch owner, and co-founder of the Southern Rockies Agricultural Land Trust (SRALT). Ms. Barmann has a significant background in soil health and helps manage her family's 125-year-old ranch in northeastern New Mexico utilizing regenerative agriculture.

“We’re delighted to welcome public members to the Natural Lands Protection Committee,” said EMNRD Secretary Sarah Cottrell Propst. “It’s important that we include a diverse group when recommending projects for land protection to ensure that our state’s private lands are fully represented, conserved, and protected.”

The newly appointed members will bring new perspectives and public representation to the NLPC, which makes recommendations for land conservation in the state. This includes making decisions about tax credits for land conservation. For example, charitable donations of land or an interest in land (such as a conservation easement) to public or private conservation agencies for conservation purposes are eligible for a state tax credit through the [New Mexico Land Conservation Incentives Act](#). The Secretary of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources

Department (EMNRD) makes final approvals for this tax credit based upon recommendations from the Natural Lands Protection Committee. Currently, more than 215,000 acres of the Land of Enchantment are permanently protected for conservation through the tax credit program.

The NLPC is made up of seven-members representing four state agencies, including EMNRD, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Game and Fish, and the State Land Office and three public members. The next meeting of the NLPC will take place in the fall. For more information log onto <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/>.

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