

PUBLIC NOTICE
NATURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION ACT PROGRAM APPLICATION
ISSUED BY THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO
ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT,
FORESTRY DIVISION
FOR STATE AGENCIES, PUBLIC STATE EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS,
NATIONS, TRIBES, PUEBLOS, AND POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS OF THE STATE

The State of New Mexico, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD), Forestry Division (Forestry Division) is seeking applications from state agencies, public educational institutions, political subdivisions of the state, or nations, tribes, or pueblos for conservation projects under the Natural Heritage Conservation Act (NHCA) Program. Applicants may partner with conservation entities that are a private nonprofit charitable corporation or trust. Conservation entities may not individually apply for or receive grants from this funding.

This Request for Applications (RFA) is directed to qualified entities that meet the criteria below:

1. a state agency; a state educational institution named in Article 12, Section 11 of the New Mexico Constitution; a political subdivision of the state; or for conservation projects wholly within New Mexico, an Indian tribe or pueblo; or
2. a qualified entity that is partnered with a conservation entity. A qualified conservation entity must be a private nonprofit charitable corporation or trust, authorized to do business in New Mexico, that has tax-exempt status as a public charity pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and that has the power to acquire, hold or maintain land or interests in land. A qualified conservation entity must be identified in the application.

The purpose of the Natural Heritage Conservation Act Program Grant is to protect New Mexico's natural heritage, customs and culture by funding conservation and agricultural easements and land restoration projects through action that preserves and conserves water quality and quantity to conserve and restore natural ecosystem function and processes; protects agricultural production on working farms, ranches and other agricultural lands; protects and restores New Mexico's forests and watersheds; conserves and restores wildlife habitat; maintains natural areas; provides outdoor recreation opportunities, including hunting and fishing and trails; or preserves cultural and historic sites with natural resources heritage value.

Projects must emphasize conservation projects involving acquisition of a conservation or agricultural easements or land restoration. Examples of eligible project activities include:

1. acquisition of conservation easements from willing sellers by Applicants, which may or may not be in partnership with conservation entities;

2. acquisition of agricultural easements from willing sellers by Applicants, which may or may not be in partnership with conservation entities; and
3. land restoration projects by Applicants, which may or may not be in partnership with conservation entities.

Questions regarding this RFA shall be addressed to:

Carmen Austin
Land Conservation Programs Coordinator
EMNRD, Forestry Division
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Santa Fe, N.M., 87505
Telephone: (505) 617-0119
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The full RFA and amendments, if any, are available on the Forestry Division website, <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/requests-for-proposals-and-grants/or> by contacting Carmen Austin as indicated above. Applicants must submit their proposals on the Forestry Division's Submittable webpage using this link: <https://emnrd-sfd.submittable.com/submit>.