

Landowner Resources Guide

NEW MEXICO FORESTRY DIVISION
2025



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Staff managers from the San Juan Soil & Water Conservation District, San Juan County Fire, and NM Forestry Division discussing cottonwood bosque restoration along the San Juan River.

Are You a Landowner in New Mexico?

New Mexico has approximately 24.6M acres of forested land and over 44% of that land is privately owned.

Our forests are more than just beautiful and fun to play in. If managed properly, healthy forests lead to healthy livelihoods, provide clean air and water, support habitat for wildlife and enjoyment, and can yield timber -- among many other benefits -- for generations to come.

You may be interested in learning more about your forest or bosque (riparian forest), improving the health of your land, creating better wildlife habitat, addressing wildfire hazards, or working with forest industry. If so, it can be hard to know where to begin.

NM Forestry Division has the resources and services to support you. The following pages contain resources for forest landowners, including technical and financial assistance, information on forest health, forest thinning and more.

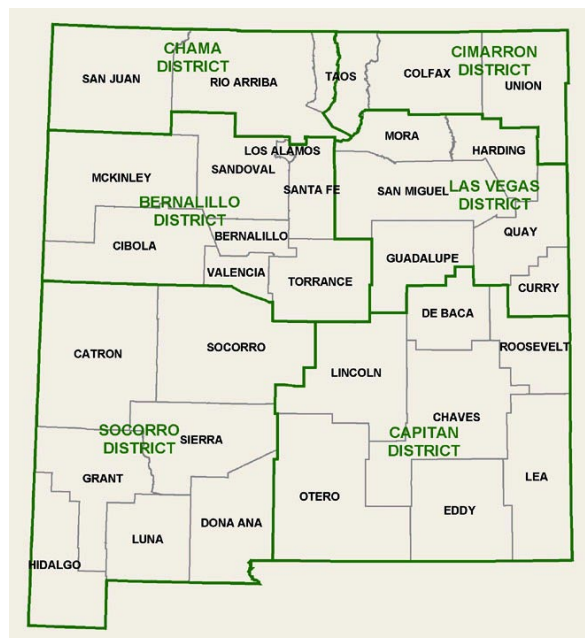
GET TO KNOW US

The New Mexico Forestry Division (NMFD) has technical experts at each of our District Offices statewide. Learn about how to best care for your forest by calling and/or scheduling a free site visit with a local forester. For the NMFD office near you, visit:

<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/contact-us/find-a-district-office/>

Our foresters provide expertise to assist landowners in meeting their land use/land care objectives, including:

- Providing site visits to address landowner concerns.
- Developing forest stewardship plans
- Identifying relevant funding opportunities
- Providing recommendations for management practice and cost-share assistance
- Implementing best practices for defensible space and other kinds of wildfire preparedness
- Conducting insect and disease inspections and making management recommendations
- Please note: not every program is available in every area -- consult with your local forester



Call us - we're here to help!

District 1 - Chama 17013 B, US Highway 84/64 Tierra Amarilla, NM 87575 575-588-7831	District 2 - Cimarron 29885 US-64 Ute Park, NM 87749 575-376-2204	District 3 - Socorro HC 32, Box 2 1701 Enterprise Socorro, NM 87801 575-649-8661
District 4 - Las Vegas HC 33, Box 109 #4 Las Vegas, NM 87701 505-425-7472	District 5 - Capitan 304 W 2 nd St. Capitan, NM 88316 575-354-2231	District 6 - Bernalillo 5105 Santa Fe Hills Blvd NE Rio Rancho, NM 87144 505-205-0343

FOREST STEWARDSHIP

8.7 million acres of New Mexico forests are private forests and woodlands. Now take a moment to think about your property. You own so much more than just your home. The trees and shrubs – even the soil under your feet all work together as part of a connected ecosystem.

Understand and protect your forest with a forest stewardship plan. This guide for managing your forested land can help achieve your individual goals for your property while ensuring the health of all our forests for present and future generations.

Forest and Landscape Stewardship Planning

Purpose: Assists private forest landowners to manage their forest and related resources more actively, keeping their lands in a productive and healthy condition and increasing the economic and environmental benefits by developing a comprehensive forest management plan.

The management plan should address landowner objectives, along with considerations for fish and wildlife, threatened and endangered species, soil, water, wetlands, recreation, aesthetics, cultural resources, and timber resources for the property. The program also recognizes landowners who apply good stewardship practices on their forested land as having a forest stewardship plan can unlock sources of funding for restoration and management assistance, like the Forest Health Initiative or Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) programs.

Forest stewardship and management plan [outlines](#) and landowner [templates](#) are available in PDF format.

Cost: Plans are developed with no charge to the landowner.

Who Can Apply: Private landowners; no minimum or maximum limits on parcel size for requested assistance. Small parcel landowners are encouraged to work with their neighbors to establish larger landscape stewardship plans.

Timeline: Stewardship practices must be maintained for 10 years.

Visit <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/stewardship/> for more information.

Tree Farm Program

Purpose: The American Tree Farm System is a nationwide community of nearly 60,000 landowners linked by a desire to promote effective woodland management. An estimated 58% of all timber harvested in the United States comes from non-industrial private woodlands owned by individuals, not the government or timber companies. Tree farms provide important public benefits such as watershed protection, wildlife habitat, and recreational opportunities. At a minimum, tree farms are inspected every five years to assure proper management.

Who Can Apply: To qualify for certification, the woodlands must:

- Be covered by a Forest Stewardship Plan (see above)
- Have ten acres or more but not more than 10,000 acres of forested land. (NOTE: Non-forested land suitable for growing trees may also qualify. Waivers may be granted for exceptions up to 5,000 acres)
- Be managed to produce timber and other forest products
- Be actively protected from fire, insects, disease, and destructive grazing

Pioneer Tree Farm Program: Managed forested land that does not qualify for full Tree Farm certification may be eligible for the Pioneer Tree Farm Program. The development of a written management plan and its successful execution will assist Pioneer Tree Farms in obtaining full certification.

Benefits: Certified tree farmers improve woodlands and supply the economic demand for forest industry products. When certified, tree farmers receive the iconic green and white Tree Farm sign, indicating keen forest management and conservation practices. Certified tree farmers also are eligible for FHI funding (see below).

Visit <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/tree-farm-program/> for more information.

Forest Health Initiative (FHI) Funding

Purpose: Forest insects, pathogens, and diseases play important roles in the ecology of New Mexico's forests. The disturbances they create help to recycle nutrients and thin overly dense stands. However, there are occasions when endemic insect and pathogen populations switch to an epidemic phase that can threaten entire forested landscapes. The FHI program provides technical assistance and grant funding to increase forest resilience to harmful insects and diseases (e.g. overcrowding, infestation, and/or infection). Grants to landowners are often used for thinning dense stands. Forestry Division staff provide training and field visits to build knowledge about native and invasive insect and disease outbreaks and improve management practices.

Who Can Apply: Private landowners who have a minimum of 10 acres of forestland and a stewardship/management plan in place. However, up to 10% of Forest Health Initiative funds can be used to help landowners develop long-term forest management plans where none presently exist. Eligible applicants include private, state, and local government owners of forest or woodlands.

Amount: Grant amounts vary up to \$100,000

Match Requirement: 30% non-federal

Deadline: Varies depending on funding Grant amounts vary up to \$100,000.

Visit <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/forest-health/> for more information.



Staff from Socorro District and participants with Tree New Mexico celebrate an urban tree planting project.

URBAN & COMMUNITY FORESTRY

This program supports communities in developing and sustaining healthy forests through education and technical assistance to the public and funding assistance to local governments and non-profits.

While urban and community lands and their forests account for just 2% of New Mexico's total land area, close to 80% of people live in these areas. Healthy urban forests provide essential benefits we cannot live without. This includes improving water quality and providing wildlife habitat, increasing our overall health by providing cleaner air, promoting physical activity, and cooling our cities during hot summers. They also help solve many community problems by supporting safer and more sociable communities, reducing physical and mental stress, improving local economies, decreasing noise, and providing a sense of place.

Visit <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/urban->

[and-community-forestry/](#) for more information.

Climate Ready Trees

Purpose: The Climate Ready Trees Program is designed to identify climate-adaptable tree species that can survive current conditions and climatic changes over the next century and introduce these species into our urban landscape. Using climate modeling, The Nature Conservancy and partners, determined future climate zones for New Mexico. Then a rigorous review protocol evaluated potential trees species' adaptability and tolerances to urban and climate conditions. Now demonstration sites are needed to introduce these new species into the urban landscape and to inform both nursery growers and the public about these new species. Demonstration Sites are eligible to receive a limited number of plants at no charge, with a commitment to provide basic data annually to NMFD, as trees grow. These sites provide educational opportunities for the public and allow for observations on how Climate Ready Trees perform under local and regional conditions.

Who Can Apply: Governmental entities such as cities, schools, counties, or non-profits that have public spaces that they own and are open to the public within New Mexico can apply; with capacity to provide care for seedlings as they grow and monitor at least annually.

Amount: Free seedlings!

Deadline: Applications are accepted year-round, distributions occur according to available funds and program demand.

Contact: Alyssa O'Brien, 505-690-8531,
Alyssa.O'Brien@emnrd.nm.gov

Tree Inventories

Purpose: Assist communities with tree inventory, including tree species, age, and condition which can be used to visualize and inform community priorities for your community's canopy. NMFD can set you up with a free [Tree Plotter](#) account, a GIS software for urban forest mapping, inventory, maintenance records, eco benefit analysis, and management. [iTree](#) is also an option, delivering peer-reviewed tree

benefits science from USDA Forest Service. We can help you determine which is the best option for your community. Many cities, our state office and organizations are gathering tree inventory and submitting information to consolidated information banks.

Who Can Apply: Municipalities, governmental entities, tribes, non-profits, schools, and universities

Amount: Free account and assistance to inventory public trees

Contact: Alyssa O'Brien, 505-690-8531,
Alyssa.O'Brien@emnrd.nm.gov

Community Tree Education Scholarships

Purpose: The New Mexico Urban Forest Council recognizes the need for skilled workers and continuing professional development in maintaining a sustainable healthy urban and community forestry. For this reason, we are offering scholarships to provide opportunities to participate in workforce development activities that will ultimately build local capacity to care for community and urban forests.

Who Can Apply: Scholarships are open to all. Prioritization will be given to applicants who live or work within communities identified as low-income using census data. This scholarship will cover conference registration fees, training fees, educational materials such as study guides or supplies, and examination fees. Travel costs will be covered for events in the state, recipients will be responsible for out of state travel expenses.

Amount & Deadline: Awards are based on the availability of funds and a scoring evaluation performed by a panel of urban forestry professionals. Applications are accepted year-round and reviewed periodically.

Match: None.

How to apply: Application form can be found on the website below and here:

<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/wp-content/uploads/sites/4/UFC-Scholarship->

[Application.pdf](#)

Visit <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/urban-and-community-forestry/> for more information.

Community Forestry Assistance Grant

Purpose: Funds to support communities in developing and maintaining sustainable stewardship of urban and community forestry resources in New Mexico. Funds can be used to support local urban and community forestry program development, tree inventory and assessment, professional training and development, and environmental education.

Who can apply: Non-federal governmental entities, including public colleges and universities and Tribes. Projects located on lands owned or administered by the federal government are not eligible for this funding.

Amount: Up to \$60,000

Deadline: Applications are accepted year-round; distributions occur according to available funds and program demand.

How to apply:
<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/requests-for-proposals-and-grants/>

New Mexico Forest Re-Leaf

Purpose: Provides funds for tree planting in public spaces. Since its inception through the State Legislature in 1990, the New Mexico Forest Re-Leaf Program has awarded more than \$500,000 to support tree planting in communities and schools across the state. The program has funded the planting of more than 18,000 trees through 190 projects. The New Mexico Re-Leaf program is solely dependent on financial contributions from donors. See the website below for more information and how to donate.

Who can apply: Schools, municipalities, or local non-profit organizations. Trees must be planted on

public land.

How to apply: We are currently not accepting applications but continue to accept donations.

Contact: Alyssa O'Brien, 505-690-8531,
alyssa.o'brien@emnrd.nm.gov

For more information visit
<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/urban-and-community-forestry/re-leaf/>

Technical Assistance

Technical assistance: NMFD can provide technical resources and training for municipal staff and advocacy/advisory groups. Our focus areas include tree ordinances, urban forest assessments and management plans, and professional staff development. NMFD also administers the Arbor Day Foundation, [Tree City](#), [Tree Campus](#), and [Tree Line USA](#) recognition programs.

Educational assistance: NMFD can provide resources to assist with volunteer coordination, and adult and youth education related to healthy urban and community forests. This includes resources developed for our statewide Tree Stewards Program, and curriculum for K-12 students.

Assistance with trees in your yard or landscape: NMFD can assist with your questions and help put you in touch with certified arborists or other "green" professionals. NMFD is a member of the NM Tree Alliance and the NM Tree Stewards program – a good resource for getting help with residential trees.

Contact: Alyssa O'Brien, 505-690-8531,
Alyssa.O'Brien@emnrd.nm.gov

For more information visit
<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/urban-and-community-forestry/>



Logs collected from a Forest and Watershed Restoration Act Project

FORESTRY AND FUELS GRANTS

These state and federal grants are available to local governments and may be used to improve resiliency on private lands. Staff at your local District forestry office are familiar with these programs and can suggest opportunities relevant for your needs/concerns.

Visit: <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/forestry-and-fuels-grants/> for more information on any of the below grant programs.

Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG)

Purpose: These federally administered grants are Intended to help at-risk local communities and Tribes plan for and reduce wildfire risks. CWDGs prioritize at-risk communities in areas identified as having high or very high hazard potential, are low-income, or have been impacted by severe disaster.

New Mexico applicants are encouraged to submit

applications that focus on the following activities:

- Development of building code ordinance proposals to improve wildfire safely in communities at-risk
- Hazardous fuel mitigation projects that are specifically described in Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPP) that are less than 10 years old.

Who Can Apply: Units of local governments, Tribal governments, political subdivisions of the state (i.e. Soil and Water Conservation Districts), and non-profit organizations including homeowner associations. Eligible applicants may apply for funding towards a project proposal that will be conducted on private land, or through local government, homeowner associations, state government, nations, Tribes, or pueblos.

Amount: Maximum amounts of \$250,000 for creating or updating a CWPP or up to \$10 million for a project described within a CWPP that is no more than 10 years old.

Match Requirement: Proposals to develop or update a CWPP is 10% match; proposals to implement projects described in a CWPP is 25% match. Low-income communities are eligible to request a match waiver.

Deadline: Applications for FY2026 are due March 14, 2025.

How to apply: Contact Abigail Plecki, 505-231-3086, Abigail.Plecki@emnrd.nm.gov

Visit <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/forestry-and-fuels-grants/> for more information

Forest and Watershed Restoration Act (FAWRA)

Purpose: This funding prioritizes and funds large-scale forest and watershed restoration projects on lands in the state that:

- Increase the adaptability and resilience to recurring drought and extreme weather events of the state's forests and watersheds

- Protect surface water and groundwater sources
- Reduce the risk of wildfire, including plans for watershed conservation
- Restore burned areas and/or thin forests
- Include related economic or workforce development projects or a wildlife conservation or habitat improvement project.

Who Can Apply: Local governments, Tribal governments and political subdivisions of the state (i.e. Soil and Water Conservation Districts). Project proponents and partners must work with EMNRD Forestry Division district staff to ensure the project meets requirements. Ideally, the process should start far in advance of the call for projects to allow for project development and secure partners' commitments (financial/organizational investments, or to meet logistical/operational needs).

Amount: Funding amounts vary

Deadline: FAWRA proposals are accepted year-round. *See link below for more information, including FAQ, guidelines, and annual reports.*

Match Requirement: None, but projects that leverage other funding sources may rank higher.

Contact: Your local District field office for more information.

Visit <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/forest-and-watershed-restoration-act-fawra/> for more information.

Hazardous Fuels Treatments on Non-Federal Lands (NFL)

Purpose: Projects must reduce fire threats to communities that are surrounded by hazardous forest fuels which pose a threat in the event of a wildfire. Outcomes include improving wildfire prevention before a fire, wildfire suppression after a fire, along with reducing hazardous fuels and

restoring fire-adapted ecosystems.

Who Can Apply: Local governments, Tribal governments and political subdivisions of the state (i.e. Soil and Water Conservation Districts).

Amount: Grant amounts vary up to \$400,000

Match Requirement: Matching funds are not required, but the Forestry Division encourages the use of non-federal funds or in-kind contributions.

Deadline: Applications are accepted year-round with batching cut-off dates which are usually set on April 31.

Contact: Your local District field office for more information

Visit <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/forestry-and-fuels-grants/> for more information.

Invasive Plants Program

Purpose: Projects must pertain to invasive plant management activities on non-federal lands where noxious weed invasions threaten forest health and national grasslands, and address species on the [NM Department of Agriculture's "Noxious Weed List"](#), and are encouraged to be within or partnered with a Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA).

Components of the projects may include:

- Integrated weed management
- Mapping and inventory
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Planning and coordination
- Public awareness and education

Who Can Apply: Non-federal governmental entities such as local governments, Tribal governments and political subdivisions of the state (i.e. Soil and Water Conservation Districts) (as long as other federal money is not involved.)

Amount: Grant amounts vary from \$5,000 to \$40,000.

Match Requirement: 1:1 non-federal; match assistance may be available through the NMDA Noxious Weed program. See program contact below for more details.

Deadline: Applications are accepted year-round and batch-reviewed periodically according to available funds and program demand. The program operates in two funding cycles:

- For Spring projects, submissions are due by a set date in November
- For Fall projects, submissions are due by a set date in April

Contact: Ash Taylor, 505-490-0580,
Ashley.Taylor@emnrd.nm.gov

Visit <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/forest-health/invasive-noxious-plants/> for more information.

Landscape Scale Restoration (LSR)

Purpose: Projects must promote collaborative, science-based restoration of priority forest landscapes, leveraging public and private resources and further priorities identified in the [New Mexico Forest Action Plan](#). Projects are encouraged to be cross-boundary and may include a combination of landownerships on non-federal lands including combinations of tribal, state and/or local government and private lands. Projects are encouraged to prioritize funding and other resources towards one or more objectives identified below:

- Reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfires
- Improve fish and wildlife habitats, including habitats for threatened and endangered species
- Maintain and improve water quality and watershed functions
- Mitigate invasive species, insect infestation, and disease
- Improve important forest ecosystems
- Measure ecological and economic benefits including air quality and soil quality and productivity

Who Can Apply: Local governments, Tribal governments and political subdivisions of the state (i.e. Soil and Water Conservation Districts).

Amount: Grant amounts vary from \$25,000 to \$300,000

Match Requirement: 1:1 non-federal

Deadline: Applications are typically due in November of each year.

Contact: Your local District field office for more information

Visit [Landscape Scale Restoration Competitive Grant Program | Western Forestry Leadership Coalition](#) or <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/forestry-and-fuels-grants/> for more information.

Wildland Urban Interface Grants (WUI)

Purpose: The Wildland Urban Interface (WUI), put simply, is where people and houses meet our forested landscapes. The planning and implementation of hazardous fuels mitigation projects seeks to reduce the wildfire threat in WUI areas in New Mexico. The emphasis is on hazardous fuel reduction, information and education, and community and homeowner action. Outcomes include improving wildfire prevention and suppression, reducing hazardous fuels, and restoring fire-adapted ecosystems.

Who Can Apply: Local governments, Tribal governments and political subdivisions of the state (i.e. Soil and Water Conservation Districts). Projects must be within the boundaries of an approved Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

Amount: Grant amounts vary up to \$300,000

Match Requirement: 1:1 non-federal

Deadline: Applications are typically due in January of each year.

Contact: Your local District field office for more information

Visit <https://www.westernforesters.org/wui-grants> or <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/forestry-and-fuels-grants/> for more information.

State Capital Outlay

Purpose: Projects must focus on large-scale forest restoration within priority watersheds as identified within the New Mexico Forest Action Plan. Projects can be multi-jurisdictional. Any federal lands considered within treatment areas should have existing environmental clearances (i.e. "NEPA ready") and could be implemented in a timely manner. Projects that compliment or connect to existing or planned treatments are encouraged. There is not a maximum project size or funding amount; however, projects must be completed within two years of award.

Who Can Apply: Local governments, Tribal governments and political subdivisions of the state (i.e. Soil and Water Conservation Districts). Project proponents and partners must work with EMNRD Forestry Division district staff to ensure the project meets requirements. Ideally, the process would start far in advance of the call for projects, to allow for project development and secure partners' commitments (financial/organizational investments, or to meet logistical/operational needs).

Amount: Based on proposal

Deadline: Continuous

Match Requirement: None



A view of aspens in the Brazos Cliffs area, which was recently protected in 2024 under the Forest Legacy Program

CONSERVING LANDS

Conservation easements are a tool for landowners to achieve family estate planning goals for land and water management, title, and tax benefits. Simply put, conservation easements help family lands stay in family hands and create opportunities for the next generation of land ownership.

A conservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement between a landowner and a qualified conservation organization, typically a land trust or a public agency. The conservation easement restricts use of the land (for example, prohibiting building on the land) to protect the land's conservation, agricultural and scenic values in perpetuity. The landowner still owns the land and can use, sell or transfer it. Conservation easements are flexible and tailored to meet the landowner's needs and wishes.

The best resource for landowners interested in conserving their property are local land trusts. Their staff members have expertise in completing the conservation easement process, implementing conservation projects and stewarding the land. Contact your local land trust or open space agency.

Forest Legacy Program

Purpose: To seek perpetual conservation easements on private forestland to conserve working forests (forests that provide water quality, habitat for threatened and endangered wildlife species, recreation, etc.) that are threatened by development or conversion to non-forest use. This program seeks partners for nationally significant project sites that rank well in the categories of being important, strategic, threatened and ready (i.e. "shovel ready").

Who Can Apply: Private landowners with a minimum of 40 acres, whereon at least 75% is forested land.

Amount: Varies year-to-year based on an approved budget by the U.S. Congress

Match Requirement: 25% non-federal. The non-federal match can be the donation of 25% of the conservation easement value.

Deadline: Project proposals must be entered by July 1st every year for review and receive a vote to proceed from the State Forest Stewardship Committee. Those approved with a vote will be submitted to the US Forest Service (USFS) Region 3 office by mid-September to be ranked by the national review panel for possible funding. Landowner applications can be submitted anytime throughout the year, but any submitted near or after July 1st will result in the project proposals being considered the following year.

Contact: Carol Bada, 505-660-0412,
carol.bada@emnrd.nm.gov

Visit <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/forest-legacy/> for more information on criteria and eligibility.

Natural Heritage Conservation Act

Purpose: To protect New Mexico's natural heritage, customs and culture by funding conservation and agricultural easements, as well as funding land restoration to protect the land and water available for forests, watersheds, natural areas, wildlife and their habitat, agricultural production on working farms and ranches, outdoor recreation and trails, and habitat restoration and management.

Who Can Apply: State agencies, public educational institutions, political subdivisions of the state, or nations, Tribes, or pueblos. Applicants may partner with conservation entities that are a private nonprofit charitable corporation or trust.

Amount: No cap on funding request.

Match Requirement: At least 10% of the cost of the conservation project.

Deadline: Applications are accepted year-round and batch-reviewed periodically according to available funds and program demand.

Contact: Carmen Austin, 505-617-0119,
carmelitam.austin@emnrd.nm.gov

Visit <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/carbon-sequestration-through-land-conservation/> for more information

Land Conservation Incentives Act

Purpose: To encourage private landowners to be stewards of lands that are important habitat areas or that contain significant natural, open space and historic resources. Programs conducted under this act provide private landowners with incentives that encourage the protection of private lands for open space, natural resources, biodiversity conservation, outdoor recreation, farmland and forest land preservation, historic preservation and land conservation purposes.

Who Can Apply: A taxpayer who on or after January 1, 2004, donates or partially donates (or for purposes of 3.13.20.8 NMAC plans to donate or partially donate) through a bargain sale for a conservation or preservation purpose. A perpetual less-than-fee interest in land that appears to qualify as a charitable contribution under 26 U.S.C. section 170(h) and its implementing regulations or a fee interest in land, which is subject to a perpetual conservation easement, to a public or private conservation agency.

Amount: A taxpayer owning an interest in the donated land or interest in land may receive a land conservation incentives tax credit worth the lesser of \$250,000 or the taxpayer's proportionate share, as determined by the taxpayer's ownership interest in the donated land or interest in land, of 50% of the donated land or interest in land's fair market value.

Married individuals who both own a recorded interest in a donated land or interest in land, as opposed to one spouse not being named on the deed but having a community property interest, may each receive a land conservation incentives tax credit worth the lesser of \$250,000 or the spouse's proportionate share, as determined by the spouse's ownership interest in the donated land or interest in land, of 50% of the donated land's or interest in land's fair market value.

Match Requirement: None.

Deadline: Application packages are accepted on a rolling basis or no fewer than three times per year spaced throughout the year.

Contact: Carmen Austin, 505-617-0119,
carmelitam.austin@emnrd.nm.gov

Visit <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/carbon-sequestration-through-land-conservation/> for more information



Seedlings available through the Division's Conservation Seedling Program.

OTHER RESOURCES

Prescribed Fire Burn Program

Purpose: To enhance the safe and effective use of prescribed fire as a land management tool by providing specialized training and certification for individuals responsible for planning and conducting prescribed burns. The program aims to ensure that certified burners and students possess the necessary knowledge and skills to follow best practices, comply with applicable laws and regulations, mitigate risks, and achieve ecological and wildfire prevention objectives. The certified burn manager program promotes responsible fire management, increases public and environmental safety, and supports sustainable land stewardship.

The New Mexico Forestry division offers two types of certifications for prescribed fire practitioners:

1. Pile Burn Certification:

This certification focuses on the safe and effective management of piled vegetation. It is designed for individuals responsible for burning concentrated piles of woody material resulting from thinning or other land management activities. The certification ensures practitioners understand the techniques, safety measures, permitting requirements, and environmental considerations involved in conducting pile burns, which is covered in our [free online nine-element training](#).

2. Broadcast Burn Certification

Broadcast burning involves applying fire over a larger area to meet specific land management objectives, such as reducing fuel loads, enhancing wildlife habitat, or improving forest health. The [Broadcast Burn Certification](#) provides training in planning and implementing prescribed burns over broad landscapes. This certification covers fire behavior, ignition patterns, smoke management, risk mitigation, and regulatory compliance. This training is free and covered in our nine-element training and burn plan writing course.

Who Can Participate: Anyone and Everyone!

Cost: FREE!!

Contact: NM Forestry Division, Brian Filip, 505-470-2210, brian.filip@emnrd.nm.gov

Visit <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/prescribed-burning> for more information.

Seedling Program

The Forestry Division offers tree and shrub seedlings for sale to landowners who own at least one acre of land in New Mexico and who agree to use the seedlings for conservation purposes such as post-fire restoration, erosion control, riparian restoration, wildlife habitat improvement, and windbreaks. Approximately 60 species of tree and shrubs are available. Conservation seedlings are distributed during the fall and spring. Spring sales

start the first Monday of December with distribution in March and April. Fall sales start in early July with distribution from mid-September through mid-October.

Contact: Carol Bada, 505-660-0412,
carol.bada@emnrd.nm.gov

Visit

<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/seedlings/>
for more information or call 505-660-0412.

Wildfire Prevention and Awareness

- Many programs exist for community **wildfire preparedness**, including Firewise USA™, Ready, Set Go! and Fire Adapted Communities. For links to these, visit <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/fire-prevention-programs/>
- To sign up for **wildfire alerts**, visit <https://nmfireinfo.com/>.
- **After a Wildfire:** Visit <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/after-wildfire-guide/> or call 505-345-2200 for information on who can help and more.

Partner Funding / Technical Assistance

There are other organizations that also provide technical assistance and/or funding for implementing forest health practices, including on private land. Some programs are statewide, and some programs are limited to smaller districts/geographies. Division staff can support you in finding the right resource for your forestry goals.

Partners:

Natural Resources Conservation Service:

NRCS helps America's farmers, ranchers and forest landowners conserve the nation's soil, water, air and other natural resources. All programs are voluntary and offer science-based solutions that benefit both the landowner and the environment. They offer a variety You can find your local service center by visiting: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/nm-contacts>

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program:

This program provides free technical and financial assistance to landowners, managers, tribes, corporations, schools and nonprofits interested in improving wildlife habitat on their land. Learn more at:

<https://www.fws.gov/office/new-mexico-ecological-services/new-mexico-partners-fish-and-wildlife>

Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs):

SWCDs conserve and develop the natural resources of the state, provide for flood control, preserve wildlife, and protect the tax base. This work promotes the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of New Mexico. SWCDs coordinate assistance from all available sources — public and private, local, state and federal — in an effort to develop locally driven solutions to natural resource concerns. To find a map of your local SWCD and contacts, visit <https://www.nmacd.org/directories>

NM Department of Agriculture (NMDA) Healthy Soil Program

NMDA awards grants to implement on-the-ground projects that involve one or more of the five soil health principles, stated as follows in the legislative Act that created the program:

1. keeping soil covered
2. minimizing soil disturbance on cropland and minimizing external inputs
3. maximizing biodiversity
4. maintaining a living root
5. integrating animals into land management, including grazing animals, birds, beneficial insects or keystone species, such as earthworms

Visit <https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/healthy-soil-program.html> for more information and to sign up for program updates.

NM Department of Game & Fish (NMDGF)

NMDGF provides guidance on minimizing impacts of land use practices on wildlife and wildlife habitats. They also support habitat enhancement projects throughout New Mexico. Visit <https://wildlife.dgf.nm.gov/> for more information.