

# Report to New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Districts

New Mexico Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Programs and Resources Division

<https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/apr/soil-and-water-districts.html>

## December 2024

### OMA Notification Requirements

Remember that if you have to hold a district board meeting at a date, time or location that deviates from the information you advertised in your Open Meetings Act resolution, you must advertise it accordingly. Here are the guidelines:

**Regular Meeting – 10 Days Prior**

**Special Meeting – 3 Days Prior**

**Emergency Meeting – 24 Hours Prior**

Nov to Dec	Adopt Open Meetings Act Resolution to cover upcoming calendar year (cc: NMDA)
December 1 <sup>st</sup>	Agreed Upon Procedure Report (AUP) Report or Certification forms due to the New Mexico State Auditor Office.
December	Review mileage and per diem policy. (See Item #1)
January	Reorganize district board: Elect chairman, vice chair, and secretary-treasurer
January	Report to SWCC name, address, and phone number of all board members and indicate chair, vice chair, and secretary-treasurer positions
January	Conduct district board mid-year budget review
January	Ensure the proper bonding policy is in place
January 31 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup> quarterly budget report is due to DFA-LGD (cc: SWCC region commissioner and NMDA)
January 31 <sup>st</sup>	WQ&C grant 2nd quarter report due to SWCC

## 1. SWCD Board Reorganization

During the January board meeting, SWCDs need to reorganize by electing a chairman, vice chairman and secretary-treasurer. Please be sure to have board reorganization on the January agenda as an action item.

Once the board is reorganized, please submit an updated list of all board members **with position numbers** to the SWCC and cc your SWCD specialist. Please indicate on the list of supervisors their contact information and the chair, vice chair and secretary-treasurer titles.

## 2. Review Your Mileage and Per Diem Policy

NMDA recently received some guidance from DFA on the questions posed by some SWCD auditors on the Mileage and Per Diem Policy. Please review the guidance below at the next board meeting.

*A Local Public Body can pay up to the full IRS published rate from the previous year **IF** they formally pass it by their counsel/commission/committee **and** have it written into their policy and procedure. If they do not formally adopt this change they can only pay up to the 80% of the published rate from the previous year.*

*This is the **ONLY** part of the travel and per diem rule that a Local Public Body can choose to pay a full IRS rate. A Local Public Body can choose to be more stringent in the other published rates but they **CANNOT** exceed the State issued maximums.*

The Internal Revenue\Service standard mileage rate can be found on the IRS website at: <http://www.irs.gov/Tax-Professionals/Standard-Mileage-Rates>

Beginning on Jan. 1, 2024, the IRS standard mileage rates for the use of a car (also vans, pickups or panel trucks) will be:

- 67 cents per mile for business miles driven
- 21 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes
- 14 cents per mile driven in service of charitable organizations

The following link summarizes the optional standard mileage rates for employees, self-employed individuals, or other taxpayers to use in computing the deductible costs of operating an automobile for business, charitable, medical, or moving expense purposes: <https://www.irs.gov/Tax-Professionals/Standard-Mileage-Rates>

## 3. Open Meetings Act Resolution Reminder

When preparing to publish the Open Meetings Resolution, remember that the state sets a limit on advertising rates that can be charged to governmental entities for required advertisements. Title 1, Chapter 4, part 4 of the New Mexico Administrative Code states: "...the newspaper publisher is entitled to receive no more than:

- A. \$.63 cents (\$.63) for each column line of eight point or smaller type for the first insertion
- B. \$.49 cents (\$.49) per line of each subsequent insertion
- C. All emblems, display headings, rule work and necessary blank spaces shall be calculated as solid type and shall be counted and paid for as such."

The New Mexico Attorney General (NMAG) continues to have Open Meetings Act (OMA) guidance related to conduct of public meetings during the period of social distancing, which can be found at: <https://www.nmag.gov/> .

#### **4. NMDA will hold an Elections Training via Zoom, January 24<sup>th</sup>.**

The Secretary of State (SOS) will present exclusively to SWCDs on the election process. Since 2025 is an election year for SWCDs, this training will be beneficial for SWCDs to attend in order to prepare for the November 2025 election.

More information will be available closer to the training. Please contact your SWCD specialist with any questions.

#### **5. NMDA's Healthy Soil Program Welcomes Requests for Technical Assistance**

If your district is planning to apply for a Healthy Soil Program grant in 2025 and you need assistance with technical project planning and development, Healthy Soil Program co-lead Dean Bruce is willing to personally assist your district. Dean brings a wealth of experience to his position, having grown up in production agriculture, having studied animal science, and having worked for many years with NRCS. He and his family farm and raise livestock in eastern New Mexico, putting into action many of the practices Dean offers guidance on.

Dean can help identify soil health-related resource concerns and assist in developing a project suited for your district and constituents. If your district works with tribal governments, acequias, land grants, or county Extension offices, Dean can assist them as well given their status as Eligible Entities. Dean can be contacted through the Healthy Soil Program email [hsp@nmda.nmsu.edu](mailto:hsp@nmda.nmsu.edu) or [dbruce@nmda.nmsu.edu](mailto:dbruce@nmda.nmsu.edu). Feel free to reach out if you need assistance in the planning or design of a Healthy Soil Program project.

### **The items below might be of interest to SWCDs. These items were retrieved from various sources outside of NMDA.**

#### **6. 2024 Joint Stockmen's Convention**

The 2023 Joint Stockmen's Convention will be held December 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>, 2024. The convention will be held at Hotel Albuquerque Old Town, Albuquerque, NM.

A limited amount of meal tickets will be sold at the convention, so please purchase tickets in advance. For more information or to register visit: <https://www.nmagriculture.org/joint-stockmen-s-convention>, call (505) 247-0584 or email: [nmcga@nmagriculture.org](mailto:nmcga@nmagriculture.org).

#### **7. NMSU to host weed management presentations in December**

New Mexico State University Department of Extension Plant Sciences and Western Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education will host weed management presentations and tours on Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup> and Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>.

The event will be held from 1 to 5 p.m. Thursday and 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Friday at Fabian Garcia Research Center, 113 New Mexico State Rd 101 in Las Cruces. Participation is free and open to the public. For registration or more information email Israel Joukhadar, senior research scientist, at [icalsoya@nmsu.edu](mailto:icalsoya@nmsu.edu) or by phone (575) 636-9634.

## **8. USFWS initiates 5-year review of T&E species in New Mexico, the Southwest**

*Excerpted by NMDA from the notice by the Fish and Wildlife Service published in the Federal Register on 11/14/2024*

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is conducting 5-year status reviews of 38 animal and plant species in the Southwest under the Endangered Species Act.

In New Mexico, threatened and endangered species undergoing such review are the Arkansas River shiner; New Mexico meadow jumping mouse; Noel's amphipod; Pecos assimineia snail; Koster's springsnail; Roswell springsnail; Pecos bluntnose shiner; Chupadera springsnail; Socorro springsnail; Gila trout; Yellow-billed cuckoo; Jaguar; and Gila topminnow (incl. Yaqui).

The USFWS states that “A 5-year status review considers all new information available at the time of the review. In conducting these reviews, we consider the best scientific and commercial data that have become available since the listing determination or most recent status review, such as:

- A. Species biology, including but not limited to population trends, distribution, abundance, demographics, and genetics;
- B. Habitat conditions, including but not limited to amount, distribution, and suitability;
- C. Conservation measures that have been implemented that benefit the species;
- D. Threat status and trends in relation to the five listing factors (as defined in section 4(a)(1) of the ESA); and
- E. Other new information, data, or corrections, including but not limited to taxonomic or nomenclatural changes, identification of erroneous information contained in the List, and improved analytical methods.

Any new information will be considered during the 5-year status review and will also be useful in evaluating the ongoing recovery programs for the species.”

USFWS states that “we are requesting submission of new information no later than December 16, 2024. However, we will continue to accept new information about any listed species at any time.”

Learn more via the Federal Register: <https://tinyurl.com/mpt49mwb>

## **9. BLM selling Christmas trees in New Mexico**

Bureau of Land Management (BLM) offices will begin selling personal Christmas tree permits for harvest of piñon and juniper. Permits will be available beginning Nov. 20 for the Farmington and Taos Field Offices and New Mexico State Office, Nov. 29 for the Socorro Field Office and

Dec. 2 for the Rio Puerco Field Office. The permits must be purchased before Dec. 24. The cost per tree is \$5. Permits and maps may be obtained over the counter at your local BLM Office or online for some locations at [forestproducts.blm.gov](https://forestproducts.blm.gov).

For more information, please see the attached flyer.

## **10. 2025 Annual Hay Conference**

The 2025 Hay Conference will be held at the Ruidoso Convention Center January 22<sup>th</sup>- 25<sup>th</sup>. Hotel reservations can be made at MCM Elegante located next to the Convention Center by calling (575) 258-5500.

For more information please visit: <https://nmhay.com/2025-conference>.

## **11. Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue training course, Feb. 11-13 in Las Cruces**

*From the Southwest Border Food Protection and Emergency Preparedness Center, Nov. 21, 2024*

The Southwest Border Food Protection and Emergency Preparedness Center has been awarded a USDA grant for the improvement of New Mexico's Agriculture Disaster Preparedness and Response Program. The Center is sponsoring a three-day Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue Training Course, Feb. 11-13 in Las Cruces. The training is modeled for first responders, fire department personnel, veterinarians, and livestock producers in order to be better prepared for handling large animals during emergencies, use of rescue equipment and the fundamentals of Incident Command System (ICS). The registration fee (\$800.00) for this training opportunity is being fully funded by a USDA Grant at no cost to the participants. To register, visit <https://tinyurl.com/5n94rj83>. The link requires registration in Preparing New Mexico and also attached is a slide deck explaining how to register.



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

# Announcement

BLM New Mexico State Office

**Media Contact:** Allison Sandoval 505-954-2019 [aesandoval@blm.gov](mailto:aesandoval@blm.gov)

Nov. 18, 2024

## BLM selling Christmas trees in New Mexico

**SANTA FE, N.M.** – Bureau of Land Management (BLM) offices will begin selling [personal Christmas tree permits](#) for harvest of piñon and juniper. Permits will be available beginning Nov. 20 for the Farmington and Taos Field Offices and New Mexico State Office, Nov. 29 for the Socorro Field Office and Dec. 2 for the Rio Puerco Field Office. The permits must be purchased before Dec. 24. The cost per tree is \$5. Permits and maps may be obtained over the counter at your local BLM Office or online for some locations at [forestproducts.blm.gov](https://forestproducts.blm.gov).

If purchasing online, you must have access to a printer for printing the permit and map. When transporting a tree taken from BLM public land, the haul tag provided with the permit must be attached to the tree. The BLM has developed georeferenced maps compatible with any georeferenced map mobile application. If you have a smart phone and would like to download a map before heading out to harvest a tree, please visit the following website for instructions on how to download the application: <https://www.blm.gov/maps/georeferenced-PDFs>.

Before you visit your local [BLM office](#) to obtain a permit, please call that office to confirm services and availability of staff. Below are the locations where the permits may be available:

Rio Puerco Field Office  
100 Sun Ave., NE, Suite 330  
Albuquerque, NM 87109  
(505) 761-8700

Socorro Field Office  
901 S. Old U.S. Hwy 85  
Socorro, NM 87801  
(575) 835-0412

New Mexico State Office  
301 Dinosaur Trail  
Santa Fe, NM 87508  
(505) 954-2000

Farmington Field Office  
6251 College Blvd  
Farmington, NM 87402  
(505) 564-7600

Taos Field Office  
1024 Paseo del Pueblo Sur  
Taos, NM 87571-5983  
(575) 758-8851

For more information about Christmas tree permits, please contact your local BLM office or the BLM New Mexico State Office at 505-954-2222.

-BLM-

*The BLM manages more than 245 million acres of public land located primarily in 12 western states, including Alaska, on behalf of the American people. The BLM also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. Our mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of America's public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.*



# The Southwest Border Food Protection And Emergency Preparedness Center

## Save the Date

# Technical Large Animal Emergency Rescue *3 Day Awareness/Operational Level Course*

**When:** February 11-13, 2025

**Where:** Southern NM Fair Grounds Las Cruces, NM

### [TLAER Registration](#)

**Emergencies involving large animals are exceptionally dangerous  
to all involved-both humans and animals.**

First responders are often unfamiliar with handling large animals and require specialized training in animal behavior, best handling practices and rescue equipment.

Participants in this training will get real world experience handling large animals.

They will master the practical application of large animal rescue equipment, tactics and use of the Incident Command System (ICS). The registration fee (\$800) for this training is being fully funded by a USDA grant at no cost to the participants.



**For Additional Information,**

**Please Contact:**

Kevin Padilla

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or

Marshal Wilson

([mwilson@nmda.nmsu.edu](mailto:mwilson@nmda.nmsu.edu))



**Southwest Border Food Protection  
and Emergency Preparedness Center**

College of Agricultural, Consumer  
and Environmental Sciences  
New Mexico Department of Agriculture

