

**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>

**June 2025**

**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**

June	Finalize annual work plan for coming fiscal year and submit to the SWCC.
June 1	Budget and budget resolution for the coming fiscal year due to DFA-LGD by June 1st, (cc: SWCC and SWCC Region Commissioner). Option: submit preliminary budget by June 1st; final budget with budget resolution by July 31st.
June 13	FY2027-2031 ICIPs due to DFA for interested SWCDs and other special districts <a href="#">Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP)</a>   <a href="#">New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration</a>
June 30	Fiscal Year Ends
July 15	Point System Worksheet due to SWCC and NMDA Specialist
*July 30	Independent Public Accountant (IPA) Recommendation Form and the Agreed Upon Procedures (AUP) contract must be signed and submitted to the State Auditor. This applies to Tiers 3-7.

*\*Corrected Date from Previous Reports*

**1. June 19: Soil and Water Conservation Commission meeting**

The New Mexico Soil and Water Conservation Commission will meet Thursday, June 19, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

<https://nmsu.zoom.us/j/82481334650>

Meeting ID: 824 8133 4650

## 2. NMDA's Healthy Soil Program: Award notifications and training for FY26 projects

There are two important dates this month for those who applied earlier this year for a Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26) Healthy Soil Program grant:

- **June 12:** On or about this date, NMDA will email each applicant – Eligible Entity and Individual Applicant, successful and unsuccessful – to notify them of the outcome of their FY26 grant application. At that time, those whose projects are selected for funding will be presented a final budget (the budget they submitted less any ineligible expenses) so they can make an informed decision to accept the grant or have those dollars reallocated to Healthy Soil Program research, etc.
- **June 24:** NMDA will host two trainings via Zoom: **one training for Eligible Entities, and one training for Individual Applicants and their Project Sponsors (SWCDs and tribal governments).** **The training is mandatory**, covering topics like pre-project soil testing and assessment; invoicing early and often throughout the grant term; and timely delivery of quarterly reports on grant progress. Information to register for this training will be included in the notification email sent to successful applicants on or about June 12.  
The period to implement an FY26 Healthy Soil Program grant-funded project is July 15, 2025 to September 30, 2026. Information pertaining to the Fiscal Year 2026 cycle remains on the Healthy Soil Program website so that those interested in applying for a Fiscal Year 2027 grant can get a sense of the application requirements.

NMDA intends to update the website with Fiscal Year 2027 requirements this fall. That timeframe allows Individual Applicants several *months* to complete conservation planning with USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), even before NMDA launches its next online grant application in early 2026.

## 3. SWCDs with capital outlay projects for FY27-31: Submit ICIPs to DFA by June 13

*Excerpted by NMDA from <https://www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/infrastructure-planning-and-development-division/icip/> on May 14, 2025*

The infrastructure capital improvement plan (ICIP) is a **PLANNING TOOL**, which establishes priorities for anticipated infrastructure projects for counties, municipalities, tribal governments, special districts [including soil and water conservation districts], and senior citizen facilities. The local government ICIP is administered through the Department of Finance and Administration, Infrastructure Planning and Development Division. The ICIP is a plan that establishes planning priorities for anticipated capital projects. The ICIP process encourages entities to plan for the development of capital improvements so that they do not find themselves in emergency situations, but can plan for, fund, and develop infrastructure at a pace that sustains their activities. The ICIP planning tool encourages entities to develop and

update their five-year plan annually which is submitted to the State. It provides an opportunity for communities to assist and assess any critical needs. Although the ICIP is not a funding source, it does include information in each project for state and federal funding opportunities.

#### FY2027-2031 ICIP Submission Deadlines

- **Senior Citizen Facilities – Wednesday, May 14, 2025**
- **Special Districts [including soil and water conservation districts] – Friday, June 13, 2025**
- **State Agencies – Tuesday, July 1, 2025**
- **Tribal Governments – Friday, July 11, 2025**
- **Counties and Municipalities – Friday, July 11, 2025.**
- **Final Publication – Friday October 3, 2025**

**ICIP Assistance Open Hours: Every Tuesday from April 8-July 8 at 3:00-4:30 PM**

**Meeting Link:** <https://tinyurl.com/yz89chd8>

**Meeting ID:** 217 430 105 781

**Passcode:** g9rb22Rx

If you have any questions about the **Local Government ICIP** process, contact: [Mary Ann Maestas](#)

Click on link for direct access to ICIP Database – <http://www.state.nm.us/capitalprojects/>

#### **4. 2025 SWCD Supervisor Elections**

NMDA strongly encourages all SWCDs to schedule meetings with all county clerks whose counties are within SWCD boundaries, not just the counties where the majority of the district land lies. Each county clerk may run elections differently. Therefore, you are responsible for contacting them soon to see what they need from your district and when it's needed. The NMDA election timeline, which clearly states what is due and when, is no longer valid for SWCD elections. County clerks are in charge and will be the ones to set due dates and how to comply with the new Local Election Act.

The sooner you make contact with each county clerk within your district boundaries, the sooner you will be on the right track to the 2025 elections. Neither NMDA nor the SWCC has any input if a deadline or document is not correctly fulfilled. Each SWCD is solely responsible for its 2025 election in accordance with the Local Election Act.

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

## 5. Training Information from NMACD

*Retrieved by NMDA from Jennifer Hopper, NMACD, April 25*

DFA is offering an essential training on Capacity Building, with the same training being held in different locations throughout the state. Preregistration is required. Flyers with links for registration are attached for the trainings that are currently scheduled. Two other trainings in the northern part of the state are planned, but have not yet been scheduled.

The training will cover OSA website navigation and requirements, capital planning and policy, and LGBMS (Local Government Budget Management System). You must pre-register, and space is limited. The flyer with the link for registration is attached.

Remember, these are important and essential elements of job requirements as state employees and elected officials with the SWCD. Employees and Supervisors are responsible and liable for having this information and a working knowledge of how to use the required systems.

Please contact Jennifer Hopper at [Jenniferhopper@nmacd.org](mailto:Jenniferhopper@nmacd.org) or 719-492-8547 with questions.

## 6. Grazing Together: A Gathering for Grazing Wisdom and Shared Voices

*Retrieved May 29 from <https://tinyurl.com/564xc6ey> by NMDA*

Join NCAT, Quivira Coalition, and Flower Hill Institute for this **FREE** community-building event, combining peer-to-peer networking and education for grazers in New Mexico. We will come together to identify opportunities to develop and fund local projects that meet the needs of our ranching community.

**Date:** June 24, 2025

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

**Location:** Indian Pueblo Cultural Center

2401 12th St NW, Albuquerque, NM 87102

Lunch will be provided.

## 7. State Wildlife Action Plan: Comments due to Game & Fish by June 9

*Retrieved from <https://wildlife.dgf.nm.gov/conservation/state-wildlife-action-plan/> by NMDA*

The Department of Game and Fish revised the **Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy for New Mexico (CWCS)** and produced the State Wildlife Action Plan for New Mexico. The revised and updated SWAP will serve as a guide for the Department and may help land management agencies, local governments, non-governmental organizations, private sector project proponents, and interested publics when identifying needs and opportunities to conserve New Mexico's Wildlife.

## Update 5-8-2025

The New Mexico Department of Game and Fish releases the [Draft 2025 State Wildlife Action Plan for New Mexico](#) for public comment from 5-8-2025 through 6-9-2025. To submit a comment via email, please write to [dgf-SWAP@dgf.nm.gov](mailto:dgf-SWAP@dgf.nm.gov) by 6-9-2025.

\*Please note: Sections highlighted in yellow in the posted SWAP will be updated prior to submission to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

## 8. USDA to Provide \$1 Billion to Livestock Producers Impacted by Drought or Wildfire in 2023 and 2024

*Retrieved May 29 from <https://tinyurl.com/5hytj3> by NMDA.*

**(Washington, D.C., May 29, 2025)** – U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins today announced the release of Congressionally mandated Emergency Livestock Relief Program (ELRP) payments to cover grazing losses due to eligible drought or wildfire events in 2023 and/or 2024. Secretary Rollins committed on May 7 to release these emergency payments by May 30, and today she is delivering on that commitment ahead of schedule.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) is leveraging existing Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP) data to streamline payment calculations and expedite relief. Emergency relief payments are automatically issued for producers who have an approved LFP application on file for 2023 and/or 2024, and do not have to contact USDA to receive payments.

“The Department of Agriculture is stepping up to support livestock producers by expediting disaster payments when drought and wildfires strike. Under President Trump’s leadership, USDA has the backs of ranchers, and that’s why we are delivering much-needed emergency relief ahead of schedule,” **said Secretary Rollins.**

The *American Relief Act, 2025*, provided funds for emergency relief payments. This program is the first of two programs authorized to assist with eligible losses suffered by livestock producers. FSA will announce additional ELRP assistance for other losses authorized by the Act, including flooding, later this summer. FSA expects demand for this first program to be great so the ELRP payments will be factored at 35%. If additional funds remain, FSA may issue a second payment.

### Supplemental Disaster Assistance Timeline

USDA is fully committed to expediting remaining disaster assistance provided by the *American Relief Act, 2025*. On May 7, we launched our [2023/2024 Supplemental Disaster Assistance public landing page](#) where the status of USDA disaster assistance and block grant rollout timeline can be tracked. The page is updated regularly and accessible through [fsa.usda.gov](https://fsa.usda.gov).

The Act also authorized \$10 billion in economic loss assistance to producers of covered commodities based on 2024 planted and prevented planted acres. To date, USDA has

delivered more than \$7.7 billion to producers through the [Emergency Commodity Assistance Program \(ECAP\)](#). The ECAP deadline is Aug. 15, 2025.

## 9. EMNRD leading Comprehensive Energy Transition Strategy for NM: *CETS will provide roadmap for sustainable, reliable & affordable energy future*

Retrieved May 12 from <https://tinyurl.com/2zvtpx2> by NMDA.

**SANTA FE, NM** – The New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) today launched the first of three phases of a major project to develop the state's first Comprehensive Energy Transition Strategy, or CETS.

The New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology has been selected to lead the first phase, which was announced at a workshop involving high-level energy and environmental experts from government, business and non-profit organizations.

"The CETS will address the ongoing need to provide all New Mexicans with affordable energy in the near, mid- and long-term," said **Travis Kellerman, senior climate policy advisor to Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham**. "This phase of the project, coupled with the two subsequent phases supported by an appropriation from the state legislature, will provide a detailed roadmap that will reinforce New Mexico's position as a national and global leader in the energy transition."

Phase I will start with consolidating and analyzing existing policies, rules, laws, regulations and studies from multiple state agencies that make up the state's energy ecosystem. This baseline work will identify key, successful legislative and executive acts in the last seven years and what elements have contributed to their success. The baseline will consider policy recommendations that were made but not implemented and what contributions, if any, these could make to a successful transition. Phase I will assess gaps in current policies and how they could be addressed to meet key goals of energy security, energy jobs, tribal issues and concerns, and clean energy and affordable energy.

More specifically, the phase I baseline analysis will identify key opportunities and challenges related to:

- Mapping of locations of various subsurface energy resources in New Mexico, such as geothermal energy and geologic hydrogen.
- Tribal needs and equities.
- Assessing the range of subsurface uses, including energy storage and carbon sequestration, to ensure their integrity and separation.
- Evaluating the developmental status of innovative energy technologies essential to the energy transition.
- Identifying the location, availability, and development challenges of critical minerals required for energy production and distribution.

- Developing a virtual, real-time emissions reporting and verification platform/database that reflects on the ground oil and gas operations.
- Analyzing Scope 2 and 3 emissions (indirect emissions from the use of electricity, heat or steam supplied by others, and supply chain emissions).

Additionally, the phase I analysis will evaluate current availability of relevant data, highlight critical data gaps, and establish a robust strategy for data collection to inform long-term energy and climate policy planning in New Mexico

“Building on a strong foundation laid by Gov. Lujan Grisham, the Comprehensive Energy Transition Strategy will provide a cross-cutting, analytically based roadmap for meeting the state’s energy needs,” said **EMNRD Sec. Melanie Kenderdine**. “New Mexico has large conventional and renewable energy resources. This roadmap will help ensure that New Mexicans have clean, affordable and reliable energy now and in the future.”

After completion of the project’s three phases—which will include deep-dive analyses of a range of options identified in phase 1 baselining, stakeholder outreach and workshops focused on regional issues—the final Comprehensive Energy Transition Strategy will provide specific recommendations that will enable and include:

- An integrated view of short-, intermediate-, and long-term objectives for state energy policy.
- Strong analytical bases to inform policies and decision-makers.
- Legislative proposals/needs/actions to inform state legislators.
- Resource requirements for RD&D and incentive programs.
- Interregional and cross-border engagement, opportunities and needs.