

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>

October 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

September 1st	Annual report of activities for the past fiscal year due to SWCC, SWCC region commissioner, and SWCD Specialist; Annual plan for current fiscal year, was due to SWCC, SWCC region commissioner, and SWCD Specialist by June 30, 2025
October 30 th	1 st quarterly budget report due to DFA-LGD (cc: to SWCC, SWCC Region Commissioner, and SWCD Specialist)
October 31st	Water Quality and Conservation Grant 1 st quarterly report and budget due to the SWCC and SWCD Specialist
Nov to Dec	Adopt Open Meetings Act Resolution to cover upcoming calendar year (cc: NMDA)
December 1 st	Agreed Upon Procedure Report (AUP) or Certification forms due to the NM State Auditor's Office

1. Special Fall RFP for NMDA Noxious Weed Management Grant now open

... with up to \$60,000 available for projects that prevent, control, or eradicate state-listed noxious weeds. Eligible applicants include soil and water conservation districts, local governments, tribes, acequias, land grants-mercedes, CWMA groups, nonprofits, and other entities, with applications due by **November 12, 2025, at noon (MT)**. Full details and documents are available at <https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/apr/noxious-weeds.html#gsc.tab=0>

2. SWCDs: Apply for the \$160,000 with NMDA for Capacity Building

Please see NMDA's attached guidelines and proposal instructions for the SWCD FY26-28 Capacity Building Funding Opportunity. There is also a budget template that NMDA suggests (rather than requires) SWCDs use.

NMDA will accept proposals for this round of capacity building funding from July 15, 2025 to July 15, 2026 (12 months). Once NMDA has approved a proposal and the necessary paperwork is completed, funded activities can begin.

Please email the completed proposal and budget to your SWCD Specialist and pdepner@nmda.nmsu.edu. If you have questions about this funding opportunity or require assistance, please contact your SWCD Specialist.

3. NMDA's Healthy Soil Program: Review webinar slides to prep for FY27 grant-application cycle; FY26 first quarter ending soon

The online application for NMDA's Healthy Soil Program grants opens January 16, 2026, and closes March 20, 2026, at 12 p.m. (noon) Mountain Time. NMDA will not accept or review late, incomplete, and/or paper applications. To prepare, NMDA encourages both applicant types to review the slides from recent webinars:

- **ELIGIBLE ENTITIES**, which include SWCDs, as well as tribal governments, acequias, land grants, and NMSU—Cooperative Extension Service
 - Review slides from the Sept. 30 webinar for Eligible Entities
 - Tackle **Step 1** of the sequential application process specific to Eligible Entities
 - The slides and application steps are available at <https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/hsp/requirements-for-eligible-entities.html>
- **INDIVIDUAL APPLICANTS**, which are farmers, ranchers, and other land managers who apply with project sponsorship from their SWCD or tribal government
 - Review slides from the Aug. 12 and Sept. 30 webinars for Individual Applicants
 - Tackle **Steps 1 and 2** of the sequential application process specific to Individual Applicants. **Step 2 (conservation planning with NRCS) must be completed by February 20, 2026.**
 - The slides and application steps are available at <https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/hsp/requirements-for-individual-applicants.html>

On-the-ground projects selected for grants in FY27 will run from July 2026 to September 2027. Projects must revolve around 1+ of the 5 soil health principles.

Keep up with all things HSP by reading a brief weekly email from NMDA's Healthy Soil Program team. Subscribing is simple: Send an email to hsp@nmda.nmsu.edu with the word SUBSCRIBE in the subject line. Questions about the program are welcome at the same email address.

FY26 REMINDERS:

- October 31 marks the end of the first quarter for FY26. First quarter reports, including pre-project soil test and assessment data, must be emailed to NMDA on or before Nov. 30.
- **All projects must be invoiced for reimbursement at least *quarterly*.** This requirement aims to help all parties keep pace with the paperwork during the nearly 15-month grant term.

4. Agricultural Workforce Development Program opened June 16

The New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) Agricultural Workforce Development (AWD) Program grant application period opens June 16, 2025, and will continue until funds are fully allocated or by March 31, 2026, whichever comes first. Internships must be completed by May 30, 2026.

NMDA's AWD Program offers incentives to the state's agricultural businesses to hire interns. The AWD Program is intended to provide hands-on educational opportunities for students aspiring to careers in agriculture, as well as young or beginning farmers and ranchers.

NMDA will reimburse qualified agricultural businesses up to 50 percent of the actual cost of hiring a qualified intern, not to exceed \$15,000 per internship. An agricultural business may request funding to hire as many as three interns per calendar year. Each intern must be provided with **at least one hundred thirty (130) hours** of work experience, not exceeding one (1) year in duration per intern.

Agricultural business operators, please read the [Agricultural Workforce Development FAQs](https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/agricultural-workforce-development-faqs.html) carefully before submitting an application at:
<https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/agricultural-workforce-development-faqs.html>

Please note:

- NMDA will *not* match agricultural businesses with potential interns.
- Agricultural businesses must identify an intern prior to applying for funding.
- Interns must be 18 years or older by the start of the internship.
- Immediate family members of the agricultural business are NOT eligible to participate.
- Participating agricultural businesses must pay minimum wage (or higher) to each intern, as well as carry workers' compensation insurance for each intern.

For more information, please visit: <https://nmdeptag.nmsu.edu/agricultural-workforce-development.html>

5. NMDA Grant Contact Emails

If your SWCD has an FY26 project with an NMDA grant or program, please submit invoices, requests, and reports with the **grant or program name to the email addresses below. For FY26 HSP projects, please also include the project number.**

- **Capital Outlay:** Patricia Depner at pdepner@nmda.nmsu.edu and Gabriela Hernandez at ghernandez@nmda.nmsu.edu
- **Healthy Soil Program:** HSP@nmda.nmsu.edu
- **District Opportunities grant (formerly known as the Land of Enchantment Fund Grant):** LOE@nmda.nmsu.edu
- **Noxious Weeds Management Grant:** weeds@nmda.nmsu.edu

- **Water Quality & Conservation Grant:** SWCC@nmda.nmsu.edu
- **\$160,000 SWCD Capacity Building Funding Opportunity:** Patricia Depner at pdepner@nmda.nmsu.edu; for questions about applying for the funding, contact your Specialist.

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

6. Wildland Urban Fire Summit (WUFS)

Published at: EMNRD; retrieved by NMACD August, 2025

Will be hosted at UNM-Valencia in Los Lunas from September 30 to October 2. You can register and find more information on the conference [here](#). If you need support for travel costs, the Southwest Fire Consortium has grant funds available to reimburse for travel. Please fill out [this form](#) by September 16th to apply. The maximum reimbursement is \$480, and per diem limits are \$94 per night for lodging. Meals are reimbursable with an itemized receipt up to \$45 per day.

7. YCC seeks 2026 project proposals – grants up to \$225,000

Published at: refer to the EMNRD link below; retrieved by NMDA July 25, 2025

The New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps is now accepting applications for grants up to \$225,000 to fund projects that improve public spaces statewide while providing job training to young New Mexicans ages of 14 to 25.

"We're looking for creative projects that make a real difference in communities across New Mexico," said **David Chené**, executive director. "These grants provide a win-win opportunity – improving our state while giving young people hands-on work experience and job skills."

Who can apply: State and federal agencies, public colleges and universities, governments (counties, cities, towns, villages), land grants, soil and water conservation districts, acequia associations, public school districts, charter schools, federally recognized Tribes, and 501(c) non-profit organizations.

What projects qualify: Any initiative that employs youth to conserve, improve or beautify New Mexico's public lands and facilities while creating lasting community benefits. Grant funds cover corps member wages, training, and project supplies.

How to apply: Complete details and deadline applications are available at:

<https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/about-ycc/yccrfp/>

<https://www.generalservices.state.nm.us/statepurchasing/active-procurements.aspx>

Free preproposal conferences will be held July 31 and August 21 to help applicants through the process.

Deadline: October 8, at 4 p.m.

The YCC has funded community improvement projects on public lands and facilities throughout New Mexico since 1992.

8. National NRCS webinars Oct. 14 and 16: the Emergency Watershed Protection [EWP] Program, Property Buyouts, and Sponsor Responsibilities

Published at <https://conservationwebinars.net/webinars/nrcs-watershed-programs-2025-webinar-1-introduction-to-ewp-program-and-sponsor-responsibilities>; excerpted by NMDA

Part 1 of 2: INTRODUCTION TO EWP PROGRAM AND SPONSOR RESPONSIBILITIES

OCTOBER 14, 2025 - 1:00-2:00 PM ET

The NRCS Watershed Programs Branch invites potential and current project sponsors to join us for an introduction to the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program. This is the first of a two-part webinar series that provide an overview of program requirements and project sponsor responsibilities. The event will provide valuable information for sponsors on program opportunities and will reserve time to respond to participant questions.

If you would like to submit a question or have an EWP Program topic you would like to be addressed, [please submit your question here](#).

Resources for the EWP Program are available at: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/emergency-watershed-protection>

[LINK TO PART 1 Webinar](#)

Part 2 of 2: EWP PROPERTY BUYOUTS AND SPONSOR RESPONSIBILITIES

OCTOBER 16, 2025 - 1:00-2:00 PM ET

The NRCS Watershed Programs Branch invites potential and current project sponsors to join us for an overview of property buyouts under the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program. This is the second of a two-part webinar series that provides an overview of the buyout process and project sponsor responsibilities. The event will provide valuable information for sponsors on buyouts as an EWP measure and will reserve time to respond to participant questions.

If you would like to submit a question or have an EWP Program topic you would like to be addressed, [please submit your question here](#).

Resources for the EWP Program are available at: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/emergency-watershed-protection>

[LINK TO PART 2 Webinar](#)

9. State agencies host public processes in September, October

Published at <https://tinyurl.com/3x2jpewm> by the New Mexico Commission of Public Records on August 26, 2025; content retrieved and summarized by NMDA

WHO: Office of the State Engineer

WHAT: Proposed rulemaking to establish a framework for Regional Water Security Planning Councils to develop, maintain, and aid in implementation and tracking of Regional Water Security Plans. Proposed Rule 19.25.16 NMAC identifies nine Regional Water Security Planning Regions that form the basis for Councils to be established and undertake a review of the science on the hydrology, use, and availability of water and produce Regional Water Security Plans.

WHEN: Written comments due Sept. 27; proposed rulemaking held in Santa Fe (and online) on Oct. 15-17

WHERE: Learn more at <https://www.ose.nm.gov/RulesRegs/rulemaking.php>.

WHO: New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED) Water Quality Bureau (SWQB)

WHAT: Public Hearing and Comment Period; States are required to hold public hearings at least once every three years to review, amend, and adopt water quality standards, as applicable. This is referred to as a “Triennial Review.” Pursuant to Section 74-6-4(F) of the WQA, the Water Quality Control Commission (WQCC) delegated NMED the responsibility for organizing and proposing amendments to the state’s surface water quality standards.

WHEN: Hearing held Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at 5:30 pm. Comment period opened August 15, 2025 and closes October 14, 2025.

WHERE: NMED SWQB will be hosting a virtual informational meeting via WebEx to present and discuss the draft amendments to the State’s Standards for Interstate and Intrastate Surface Waters.

Comments will be accepted via mail, email, and NMED’s smart comment portal at <https://nmed.commentinput.com/comment/search>. The public review draft and all other related information may be found on NMED’s website through the Smart Comment Portal or at <https://www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality/2026-triennial-review/>.

10. USDA Announces October 17, 2025, Application Deadline for Conservation Program Funding in NM

Published Sept. 22 by NRCS at <https://tinyurl.com/54jnu6w2>; retrieved by NMDA

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is announcing application deadlines for conservation program funding in New Mexico. The deadline for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), EQIP Conservation Incentive Contracts (CIC), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and the

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) is **October 17, 2025**. All other conservation programs offered through NRCS New Mexico will be announced later.

Programs with an **October 17, 2025**, Application Deadline

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- EQIP Conservation Incentive Contracts (CIC)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)

Although applications are accepted on a year-round basis, only applications received by these deadlines will be considered for funding for fiscal year 2026 for projects where the majority of the land is located in New Mexico.

11. Learning, Growing, Serving – the 79th NMACD Annual Meeting

Retrieved by NMDA from Jennifer Hopper, NMACD, September 22, 2025

NMACD will be gathering in Albuquerque, NM at the Sheraton Albuquerque Uptown. Hotel check-in starts at 4 PM on Oct 19th. Meetings are on Oct 20th & 21st. Check-out is at 11 AM on the 22nd. "Early Bird" registration goes through October 10th. Register early for a discounted price!

We have listened to YOUR requests for training and information and have planned a great program to support district staff and supervisors with the valuable work you do! You don't want to miss this! **Special room rate has been extended until Sept. 26.** Make your reservations now!

Meeting Highlights include:

- Supervisor Training:** this is for all new supervisors, those who have not yet taken the training, and those who want a refresher. It covers the basic and foundational aspects of SWCD's and the state regulatory acts related to operations of the boards. For everyone planning to attend this training, please RSVP to Linda Hood at: linda.hood@q.com
- Responsibilities and Authorities of SWCD Boards** - what you need to do and what you CAN do as a board
- State of NM Departments** - DFA, District Attorney Association, Workforce Solutions, Council of Governments, State Auditing, Cyber Security, and more!
- Exciting projects in other districts-** get ideas and ask questions during the presentation or at district booths set up for the meeting
- Capacity Building Grants-** ask questions and learn about district proposals that have already been approved.
- Annual business meetings**
- Awards-** NMACD and The Aldo Leopold Award
- Sponsors, Districts, and Potential partner exhibits**

NM Department of Finance Administration NM Infrastructure Finance Conference

November 3-7, 2025 at the Albuquerque Convention Center

View the complete schedule of sessions, speakers, and networking opportunities focusing on sustainable infrastructure funding, local project planning, and direct access to key funding agency representatives.

View agenda: <https://www.nmifc.com/at-a-glance-agenda>

To register: <https://na.eventscloud.com/ereg/index.php?eventid=851858&>

- Early Bird: \$350 – Available through Friday, October 3
- Regular: \$400 – October 4-27
- Onsite: \$450 – After October 27

Coronado SWCD is hosting a series of Land Management Workshops. Please contact them at the email or phone number below for more information.

SUSTAINABLE
Empowerment
Through Education:
A free Workshop Series for All
LAND MANAGEMENT
Hosted by
CORONADO SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
*Reservation appreciated, but not required.
Please send name and number of guests to:*
info@coronadoswcdnm.gov
or call 505-456-3182

EXPERT SPEAKERS
FAMILY FRIENDLY
PRIZE GIVEAWAYS
FREE LUNCH

WORKSHOPS: 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
El Zócalo Plaza
282 S. Camino Del Pueblo
Suite 1A Salazar Building
Bernalillo, NM 87004

SEP 20, 2025
REGENERATIVE GRAZING

OCT 18, 2025
COMPOSTING

APR 18, 2026
SOIL BIOLOGY/HYDROLOGY

MAY 16, 2026
RAIN HARVESTING

JUNE 20, 2026
**BEE POLLINATION
BENEFICIAL INSECTS**

12. NMED proposes Surface Water Quality State Permitting Program *comments due Oct. 28*

New Mexico Environment Department notice published August 29, 2025, at <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/NMED/bulletins/3efec1f>; excerpted by NMDA

The New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) invites the public to review and comment on NMED's draft amendments to the State's **Ground and Surface Water Protection, at 20.6.2 New Mexico Administrative Code (NMAC)** and NMED's draft new rule to establish the **New Mexico Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, at 20.6.5 NMAC**. **The 60-day public review and comment period for the draft amendments begins August 29, 2025, and closes October 28, 2025.**

You can access the public review draft regulations on NMED's website at <https://www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality/spp/> or through the Smart Comment Portal at <https://nmed.commentinput.com/comment/search>. Please note that comments submitted to NMED SWQB on the Public Review Drafts will help NMED further develop the draft amendments and rules prior to petitioning the Water Quality Control Commission for a rulemaking hearing. An additional public comment period will be held in conjunction with the rulemaking hearing pursuant to 20.1.6.204(B) NMAC.

Background

It is the objective of the federal Clean Water Act (CWA) to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the nation's waters, including those in New Mexico. New Mexico relies on federal CWA permits to control the discharge of pollutants into its surface waters. Recent federal rulemakings, Supreme Court decisions, and Executive Orders have scaled back federal jurisdiction, leaving many surface waters of New Mexico at risk of contamination and degradation.

To protect state waters not covered by the Clean Water Act, New Mexico is developing a state permitting program pursuant to **Senate Bill 21**, which was passed in the 2025 Regular Legislative Session, to ensure clean water for drinking, recreational, agricultural, cultural, and other uses. In the public review drafts, NMED proposes two (2) program components:

1. Regulations that allow NMED to implement the federal National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program in New Mexico, which regulates the discharge of pollutants into waters of the United States protected under the federal Clean Water Act, in 20.6.5 NMAC – a new rule; and
2. Regulations that create a new State permitting program to regulate the discharge of pollutants, including dredged and fill materials, into surface waters of the state under the authority of the New Mexico Water Quality Act, in 20.6.2 NMAC – amendments to an existing rule.

The program will not apply to discharges to tribal waters, but NMED will be responsive to tribal concerns and ensure that permitted discharges do not adversely affect tribal water quality programs.

How to participate

Comments will be accepted via mail, email, and NMED's smart comment portal at <https://nmed.commentinput.com/comment/search>. The public review draft regulations and all other related information may be found on NMED's website at <https://www.env.nm.gov/surface-water-quality/spp/> or through the [Smart Comment Portal](#).

For more information and to submit comments contact Trent Botkin, State Permit Program Team Supervisor, NMED SWQB, P.O. Box 5469, Santa Fe, NM, 87502, (505) 690-9319 or email swq.pp@env.nm.gov. To stay up to date with the latest news from NMED, please email swq.pp@env.nm.gov or signup for our listserv at https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/NMED/subscriber/new?topic_id=NMED_209.

13. Comments due Nov. 10: Department of Interior proposes to rescind Public Lands Rule

Published by DOI Sept. 10 at <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/interior-proposes-rescind-public-lands-rule-restoring-balanced-multiple-use>; excerpted by NMDA

The Department of the Interior is proposing to rescind the Bureau of Land Management's Public Lands Rule, aligning with Secretary Doug Burgum's commitment to restoring balance in federal land management by prioritizing multiple-use access, empowering local decision-making and supporting responsible energy development, ranching, grazing, timber production and recreation across America's public lands.

The 2024 Public Lands Rule, formally known as the Conservation and Landscape Health Rule, made conservation (i.e., no use) an official use of public lands, putting it on the same level as BLM's other uses of public lands. The previous administration had treated conservation as "no use," meaning the land was to be left idle rather than authorizing legitimate uses of the land like grazing, energy development or recreation. However, stakeholders, including the energy industry, recreational users and agricultural producers, across the country expressed deep concern that the rule created regulatory uncertainty, reduced access to lands, and undermined the long-standing multiple-use mandate of the BLM as established by Congress. Now, the BLM proposes to rescind this rule in full.

The Public Lands Rule exceeded the BLM's statutory authority by placing an outsized priority on conservation or no-use at the expense of multiple-use access, threatening to curtail grazing, energy development, recreation and other traditional land uses. Many rural communities depend on public lands for livelihoods tied to agriculture, mining and energy production. Rescinding the rule restores BLM to its legal mandate and protects these economic drivers from restrictive land-use policies. The people who depend on public lands for their livelihoods have every incentive to conserve them and have been doing so for generations—no new rule was needed to force what is already a way of life.

By proposing to roll back the Public Lands Rule, Interior is committed to no longer sidelining local voices by returning more authority back to states, counties and tribes who are directly impacted by the management of public lands. Additionally, rescinding the rule eliminates uncertainty for industry stakeholders concerning potential litigation risks and permitting delays. Consistent with Secretary's Order 3418, "[Unleashing American Energy](#)," the rescission of the Public Lands Rule will eliminate unnecessary barriers to energy development and support the multiple-use mandate of the BLM by not prioritizing conservation over all other uses.

14. 2025 Jornada Symposium – November 13 – Wooton Hall – NMSU

Published by USDA at link below; retrieved by NMDA on September 16

You are invited to register for the 2025 Jornada Symposium entitled "Innovations in Range Management".

Location: Wooton Hall, New Mexico State University campus and virtual option

Date/time: Thursday, November 13, 9:15 AM-4:00 PM

Registration link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=5zZb7e4BvE6GfuA8-g1Gl61VzUjYcARMutLMAPjpkL1UQkpKRFZDRzZWUEJBRldPTUFaSzZWUTkwNS4u>

More information will be provided to registrants once we finalize the agenda.

Preliminary agenda

Science and technological innovations are making great strides in helping users understand rangelands and create new opportunities for managing livestock and range health in the face of variability. Sustaining rangelands and ranch enterprises through extreme drought, such as we have experienced in the past several years, requires innovative thinking that may or may not be assisted by technology. The Jornada symposium aims to increase awareness of innovations supported by research. It also aims to help all of us learn from user experiences with technologies and ideas and to identify innovations of the future. This year, we will discuss the integration of proven range management wisdom with new concepts and technologies for precision range management and management in drought from the perspectives of producers, agency staff, and scientists.

Wooton Hall Auditorium, NMSU campus (2995 Knox Street, Las Cruces, NM, 88003; Carpooling encouraged).

15. Nov. 18-21 in Las Cruces: Agricultural Preparedness Training

Published in attached PDF; retrieved by NMDA on September 3, 2025

You are invited to attend an **Agricultural Preparedness Training** hosted by the [Southwest Border Food Protection and Emergency Preparedness Center](#) November 18-21, in Las Cruces, NM.

This training is designed for law enforcement, federal agents, first responders, veterinarians, NM Livestock Board inspectors, Extension personnel, agricultural educators, and producers. It will cover essential strategies for preventing and responding to emergencies in the agriculture and food sectors.

The training is supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, which means there is **no registration cost for participants**. Travel assistance can also be requested to ensure individuals can attend without financial barriers.

[Click here to register by November 4, 2025](#)

For questions, contact Marshal Wilson mwilson@nmda.nmsu.edu.

16. SW New Mexico ranch project wins BLM's 2025 Rangeland Innovations Award

Published by the Public Lands Council at <https://publiclandscouncil.org/news/details/44091/blm-announces-2025-rangeland-stewardship-and-innovations-award-winners>; excerpted by NMDA

At the Public Lands Council (PLC) Annual Meeting [in mid-September], the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announced winners of the 2025 Rangeland Stewardship and Rangeland Innovation awards to recognize exemplary management and outstanding accomplishments in restoring and maintaining the health of public rangelands.

The 2025 Rangeland Innovations Award – Collaborative Team Category winner is the Massey Ranch Precision Ranching and Virtual Fencing Project of Animas, N.M., nominated by the Las Cruces District Office, BLM New Mexico.

This project represents a significant advancement in sustainable agriculture and conservation practices, particularly focusing on the enhancement of rangeland stewardship, native plants, and wildlife habitat. It is a collaboration with the Massey family of Massey Ranch, New Mexico State University's Jornada Experimental Range, Dr. Santiago Utsumi with NMSU's Department of Animal and Range Science, Bat Conservation International, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, Sierra Water and Soil Conservation District, and the BLM's Abandoned Mine Lands Program and Las Cruces District Office.

The project applies emerging technologies to manage grazing while minimizing environmental impact to public lands. Ranchers use virtual fencing to direct livestock movement more effectively and target grazing to promote pasture recovery and enhance native vegetation. The project uses a custom real-time overview dashboard with remote and

local sensor systems to monitor livestock, water, and weather across 30,000 acres of arid rangeland in southwest New Mexico.

17. DFA NM Match Fund

Published at link below; retrieved by NMDA on July 22, 2025

The New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration invites state agencies, tribal governments, counties, municipalities, and political subdivisions to apply for the New Mexico Match Fund. See policy for full list of eligible entities.

The Match Fund provides a unique opportunity to leverage once-in-a-generation federal funding for infrastructure, research, economic development, the energy transition, and other critical projects that will benefit New Mexico.

FY26 Funding Available:

- **\$50 Million for Matching Grants**
- **\$4M for Project Implementation**
- **\$17.5M for Federal Compliance Offset**

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis, first-come, first-served. DFA reviews complete applications and makes determinations within 20 business days.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/nmmatchfund/>