

**Michelle Lujan Grisham**, Governor  
**Sarah Cottrell Propst**, Cabinet Secretary  
**Todd E. Leahy, JD, PhD**, Deputy Cabinet Secretary  
**Laura McCarthy**, State Forestry Division Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**New Forestry Business Founded in Albuquerque**  
*All Around Forestry secures first contract*

**SANTA FE, NM** – The Forestry Division of the State of New Mexico’s Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) is proud to announce a new business started by previous crew members in the Inmate Work Camp (IWC) program. All-Around Forestry recently secured their first contract for work – a key part of making the business successful. This entrepreneurship is a great example of the opportunities available through this partnership between the Forestry Division and New Mexico Department of Corrections.

The founders of All-Around Forestry, based in Albuquerque, earned relevant experience in forest management during their time in the IWC in Los Lunas, NM. Inmates work 4 ten-hour shifts per day thinning overgrown brush and trees on public lands with oversight provided by Forestry Division staff. During fire season the inmate crews respond to wildland fire, substantially boosting the firefighting capacity of the state. For the owners of All-Around Forestry, the work experience gained through the IWC program helped them prepare to run a successful forest thinning and restoration business.

The contract All-Around Forestry landed is to reduce the density of forest stands and increase trees resistance to bark beetles and other forest insects. After a competitive bid process led by the Forestry Division as part of the Forest Health Incentives Program, All-Around Forestry was determined to be the best fit for the job by the property owners. This is in part thanks to the experience gained through the IWC program. All-Around Forestry works on forest thinning, chipping, piling of or slash removal projects, to help reduce the threat of wildland fire and promote healthy forests.

“Our Forestry Division plays an important role in training New Mexicans in a variety of forest management skills,” said EMNRD Cabinet Secretary Sarah Cottrell Propst. “A new business taking off thanks to the training provided is an ideal outcome and EMNRD wishes All-Around Forestry many years of success.”

“I couldn’t be more proud that alumni of our IWC program have used the skills learned in the Forestry Division to start a new business right here in New Mexico,” said State Forester Laura McCarthy. “This is the kind of success story we hope to see more of as we continue expanding partnerships and implementing innovative forest management programs.”

“On behalf of All-Around Forestry we would like to thank the State Forestry Division and the IWC program for the training and certifications we have received. We have seen the need in our state for wildland fire prevention, which sparked our interest to start a new forestry business. This company was started by a group of guys with the residents of New Mexico in mind and we take great pride in all the jobs we do. All of us at All-Around Forestry LLC., are certified wildland firefighters, as well as certified tree feller's. We look forward to obtaining more contracts with the State Forestry Division as well as with the residents of New Mexico,” said Josh Melendrez and Lawrence Jaramillo, founders of All-Around Forestry.

“Our department is extremely grateful for our long-lasting partnership with the Forestry Division which makes the Inmate Work Camp possible,” said New Mexico Corrections Cabinet Secretary Alisha Tafoya Lucero. “All-Around Forestry’s success is a great example of effective facility programing that allows individuals to be successful upon their release from prison, and we look forward to many more years of stories such as theirs.”



*The All-Around Forestry crew at work.*

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*The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.*

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