

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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Deputy Cabinet Secretary

**Donald Griego, State Forester**  
Forestry Division



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**News Release**

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## **New Mexicans Encouraged to Get Their Hands Dirty and Celebrate Arbor Month**

**SANTA FE, NM** – The New Mexico State Forestry Division (NMSF) is encouraging all New Mexicans to celebrate Arbor Day all month long by getting their hands dirty and planting a tree in their community.

“Trees are the lifeblood of our communities,” said Jennifer Dann, NMSF Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager. “We want New Mexicans to recognize Arbor Day and Arbor Month by enjoying the intrinsic beauty and immense benefits of our trees across the state, from our picturesque mountains and bosque, to the trees along our streets and in our backyards.”

For more than 100 years, the observance of Arbor Day in New Mexico took place on the second Friday of each March. Given our state’s diverse climate, one day for planting simply isn’t enough, so we celebrate all month. Nationally, Arbor Day is April 27, 2018.

“Celebrating Arbor Month all month long and Arbor Day on March 9th presents an opportunity for New Mexicans of all ages to learn how vital trees are to our communities,” said State Forester Donald Griego. “Forests clean our air and water, prevent erosion, support wildlife, provide food, give us shade to help reduce energy costs, and they are proven to give us a better quality of life.”

NMSF invites all New Mexicans to make a difference now and for generations to come, by participating in tree planting events in their communities. This year, the New Mexico National Guard is doing their part by planting trees with State Forestry on March 16<sup>th</sup> at their facility in Santa Fe. For more information on how you can get involved in your community, contact the NMSF Urban and Community Forestry Program at (505) 345-2200, or email Program Manager Jennifer Dann at [JenniferL.Dann@state.nm.us](mailto:JenniferL.Dann@state.nm.us).



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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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