

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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**Michelle Lujan Grisham**  
Governor

**Sarah Cottrell Propst**  
Cabinet Secretary

**Todd E. Leahy, JD, PhD**  
Deputy Secretary



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Christy Tafoya Named Director of State Parks Division [Amended]**

**Santa Fe, NM** – Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department Secretary Sarah Cottrell Propst announced today that Christy Tafoya will serve as the Director of the State Parks Division, effective immediately. When first appointed in 2015, Tafoya was the first woman to fill the top leadership role since State Parks began in 1933. The Department is excited to announce her re-appointment to the position.

“With Director Tafoya’s twenty years in the State Parks Division, we are thrilled to have her at the helm,” said Secretary Cottrell Propst. “Her resource and education background, as well as her invaluable institutional knowledge, make her the perfect fit to lead the continued growth of the State Parks Division.”

“I am very excited to fill this important role and to continue work with our exceptional State Park staff to increase offerings for our visitors and protect park resources,” said Ms. Tafoya. “I am grateful to Governor Lujan Grisham for the opportunity to lead our parks into the future.”

An archaeologist by training, Ms. Tafoya began her career with State Parks over 20 years ago when she was the first State Parks Archaeologist. She held several different positions during her parks career.

State Parks has seen 5 million visitors per year and has had an excellent track record of great customer service. Ms. Tafoya was vice chair of the Rio Grande Trail Commission, which designated 86.65 miles of Rio Grande Trail statewide. She also serves on the executive board of the National Association of State Parks Directors, representing six southwestern states.

Tafoya has a Bachelor of Arts from Mary Washington College, Fredericksburg, VA with a double major in history and historic preservation. She also received a Master of Arts in anthropology in 1997 from New Mexico State University.

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State Parks has 34 parks within the system providing a wide variety of great recreational and educational opportunities. Visit [nmparks.com](http://nmparks.com) for more information.

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