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NEWS RELEASE

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New Mexico State Parks Opens Application Process for Recreational Trails Program Funds

SANTA FE, N.M. – New Mexico State Parks announced today that federal funds are available for eligible organizations to develop, maintain and improve recreational trails statewide. Funding is available for both motorized and non-motorized trail projects. The Recreational Trails Program application deadline is 4:30 p.m. on April 30, 2010.

“New Mexico loves trails and there are terrific trail project ideas out there, so we look forward to receiving some strong applications,” said State Parks Director Dave Simon.

The Recreational Trails Program (RTP) is a program of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration. These federal RTP funds make it possible to enhance, improve and increase recreational opportunities in New Mexico through the development and maintenance of recreational trails and trail-related facilities for both non-motorized and motorized recreational trail uses. The program provides up to 80 percent of project costs and requires a minimum 20 percent sponsor share.

Eligible applicants include local, state and federal agencies, Native American tribes and pueblos, and non-profit organizations in partnership with land management agencies.

Recreational Trails Program funds come from the Federal Highway Trust Fund and represent a portion of the motor fuel excise tax collected from non-highway recreational fuel use (fuel used for off-highway recreation by snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, off-highway motorcycles and off-highway light trucks). Under federal law, 30 percent of New Mexico's annual apportionment of RTP funds must be awarded to motorized trail projects, 30 percent to non-motorized projects and 40 percent to trails with diverse user types.

The application guidelines may be obtained by visiting the State Parks website at <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/PRD/rectrails.htm> or call 1-888-NMPARKS. For more information about the application process contact David Certain, state trails coordinator, at 505-827-1476 or davidl.certain@state.nm.us.

For more information about New Mexico State Parks, call 888-NMPARKS or visit www.nmparks.com.

Short Trips, Long Memories: Your Best Recreation Value Close to Home

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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