

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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News Release

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Hondo North Watershed Restoration Project near Albuquerque, NM Underway

Santa Fe, NM — Work on a 135-acre watershed restoration project near Cedar Crest and Sandia Park, east of Albuquerque, New Mexico has begun. The Hondo North Watershed Restoration project will protect and improve forested lands managed by the US Forest Service. The project will also increase watershed and forest health, and lower the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

The large watershed project and planning area is listed as a high priority by New Mexico State Forestry as part of a statewide assessment of at-risk watershed areas.

“We are working closely with the US Forest Service, Sandia Ranger District of the Cibola National Forest to reduce overly dense piñon and juniper stands and to reestablish open meadows,” New Mexico State Forestry Bernalillo District Special Projects Forester Lawrence Crane said.

Funding for the Hondo North Watershed Restoration Project was approved by Governor Martinez during the 2014 legislative session as a part of \$6.2 million in severance tax dollars to be used to treat approximately 7,700 acres of 14 high priority watershed areas on public lands.

The Hondo North Watershed Restoration Project will target tributaries that flow into San Pedro Creek intermittent streams. Cut materials will be chipped and spread to help prevent erosion.

New Mexico State Forestry is involved in the implementation of many other healthy forest and community protection projects, including Governor Susana Martinez’s water initiatives to protect and promote healthy watersheds.

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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.

