

State of New Mexico  
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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Cabinet Secretary

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**News Release**

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## **State Forestry Awards \$20,587 in Funding for Tree Planting**

SANTA FE, NM – The New Mexico State Forestry Division’s Forest Re-Leaf Program awarded \$20,587 in grant funding to plant trees across the state, according to the Division’s Urban and Community Forester Jennifer Dann.

“The importance of our urban forests cannot be underestimated when it comes to growing healthier communities,” said Dann. “Besides providing beautiful surroundings, urban trees can save energy, aid in economic development, improve air and water quality, increase neighborhood safety, and more.”

Awards for up to \$6,000 per community were made to projects in five communities across New Mexico. These funds, administered by New Mexico State Forestry Division, support valuable community tree planting efforts aimed at improving the environment, educating citizens, and beautifying public places. This year’s grant recipients include the communities of Corona, Raton, Rio Rancho and Taos.

New Mexico Forest Re-Leaf was established in 1990 to provide a tree-planting grant program for public entities such as public schools, cities, towns, counties, soil and water conservation districts, rural fire districts and others. New Mexico Forest Re-Leaf fills a budgetary void for these entities that lack tree-planting funds. Since its inception, New Mexico Forest Re-Leaf has awarded more than \$600,000 for tree-planting and education efforts.

New Mexico Forest Re-Leaf is solely funded through private donations from individuals, businesses and corporations. Donations can be made through a “New Mexico Forest Re-Leaf” check-off box on the New Mexico Individual Income Tax Form, Schedule D. There is also a donation check-off box on the Forestry Division’s Seedling sales order form. Donations can also be made online at [www.nmforestry.com](http://www.nmforestry.com) or by contacting the New Mexico State Forestry Division at (505) 476-3332 or at 1220 South St. Francis Dr., Santa Fe, NM 87504.

### **2014/2015 Grant Cycle Project Awards**

**Rainbow Community Park Tree Expansion** – City of Rio Rancho - \$2,025

**Trees for the Performing Arts** – Rio Rancho Public Schools - \$950

**Raton Urban Forestry Project** – Grow Raton - \$6,000

**Heartwood Coalition Parr Field Orchard Project** – Rivers and Birds (Taos) - \$6,000

**Simpson/Sloan Community Park and Cemetery** – Village of Corona - \$5,612

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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.*

