

**TITLE 19
CHAPTER 68
PART 2**

**NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE
TIMBER
FOREST CONSERVATION**

68-2-29. Short title.

Sections 1 through 5 [[68-2-29](#) to [68-2-33](#) NMSA 1978] of this act may be cited as the "New Mexico Forest Re-Leaf Act".

History: Laws 1990, ch. 96, § 1.

68-2-30. Findings and purpose of act.

A. The legislature finds that the health and safety of our increasingly fragile environment is threatened daily by increased emissions of carbon dioxide. These emissions deplete the stratospheric ozone and cause dangerous greenhouse and global warming effects. Trees naturally synthesize carbon dioxide into oxygen as a byproduct of photosynthesis and thereby reduce the harmful environmental effects caused by carbon dioxide.

B. Trees protect and promote soil, energy and water conservation and generally enhance the state's environment.

C. The purpose of the New Mexico Forest Re-Leaf Act [[68-2-29](#) to [68-2-33](#) NMSA 1978] is to help protect the environment and to improve the quality of life by encouraging and arranging for the planting of trees throughout the state by children, students, parents, schools, civic and community groups and all residents of New Mexico.

History: Laws 1990, ch. 96, § 2.

68-2-31. Definition[s] As used in the New Mexico Forest Re-Leaf Act [[68-2-29](#) to [68-2-33](#) NMSA 1978]:

A. "division" means the forestry division of the energy, minerals and natural resources department; and

B. "tree" means any living single-stemmed or multi-stemmed woody material.

History: Laws 1990, ch. 96, § 3; 1993, ch. 76, § 1.

68-2-32. Tree plantings; promotions and programs; duties of the division and the state forester; authorizing regulations; tree planting program applications.

A. The division shall promote the importance of planting trees for soil, energy and water conservation, to enhance the state's beauty and generally to protect and improve the quality of the environment. The division shall attempt, through the promotion of tree planting campaigns and other efforts, including public education, to grant or sell trees to individuals and groups to provide for effective planting of trees throughout the state.

B. To promote tree planting, the division shall implement, in harmony, the New Mexico Forest Re-Leaf Act [[68-2-29](#) to [68-2-33](#) NMSA 1978] and the conservation planting revolving fund provided for in [Section 68-2-21](#) NMSA 1978. The division is authorized to adopt regulations necessary or appropriate to administer and achieve the purposes of the New Mexico Forest Re-Leaf Act and the conservation planting revolving fund.

C. Persons may apply to the division, on forms and in accordance with rules and procedures the division may adopt, for grants or purchases of trees to plant in the state. The division shall encourage applications from schools and universities, environmental education programs and civic and community groups. Each application shall indicate whether any applicable local soil and water conservation district has reviewed and approved the application.

D. Applications to receive and plant trees shall be granted or denied by the division in accordance with criteria the division shall establish. In granting applications, the division shall ensure that no less than twenty percent of the balance of the conservation planting revolving fund shall be granted free to groups or individuals in any fiscal year for the purpose of planting trees.

History: Laws 1990, ch. 96, § 4; 1993, ch. 76, § 2.

68-2-33. Tree planting advisory committee created; purpose of committee; composition.

A. The state forester shall appoint a tree planting advisory committee. The committee shall meet at least twice a year to review the division's tree planting programs. The committee shall seek public input on the division's programs and may recommend to the division and the state forester how best to achieve the purposes of the New Mexico Forest Re-Leaf Act [[68-2-29](#) to [68-2-33](#) NMSA 1978] and the conservation planting revolving fund.

B. The committee shall include at least one member from the soil and water conservation commission, one member from the state association of soil and water conservation districts, two members from nonprofit environmental organizations dedicated primarily to protecting the environment and two members from the New Mexico association of nursery industries. Other committee members may include representatives from the state department of public education, state universities, the commission on higher education, the local government division of the department of finance and administration and other persons whom the state forester determines will assist the committee in performing its functions.

C. A majority of the members of the committee constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business. The committee shall elect a chairman from among its membership.

D. Staff for the committee shall be provided by the division.

History: Laws 1990, ch. 96, § 5.