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## News Release

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### **Sugarite Awarded 10,000 Seedlings To Help Restoration Efforts**

**Raton, NM** – Sugarite Canyon State Park has been awarded a grant by the Arbor Day Foundation for the purchase of 10,200 tree and shrub seedlings. The seedlings will greatly help restoration efforts after last year's Track Fire burned a large portion of the scenic state park.

"We are overwhelmed and grateful for this generous award," said State Parks Director Tommy Mutz. "Sugarite is on the road to recovery from last summer's devastation, and I can't wait to see these seedlings flourish in the years ahead."

The grant is made available through the Arbor Day Foundation's National Reforestation Program, which since 1990 has facilitated the planting of more than 32 million trees in state and national forests in the United States recovering from fire, storms, disease, and other threats. Sugarite qualified for the award in the first year that funding has been provided for reforestation of state park lands.

Seedlings will be purchased from New Mexico State Forestry's Conservation Seedling Program and will include 980 each of aspen, ponderosa pine, and white fir, 400 chokecherry, and 980 typical ponderosa pine forest shrub seedlings, including skunkbush sumac, mountain mahogany, and wax currant. The total cost of the seedlings is \$6,900, which will be covered by the grant.

"These seedlings will be planted in the fall of 2012 by volunteers and park staff in areas of the park most impacted by the Track Fire," said Bob Dye, Sugarite Canyon State Park Superintendent.

"State Parks are enormously valuable because they protect beauty and recreation and preserve some of our country's most recognizable historic sites," said Bradley Brandt, Reforestation Programs Manager, Arbor Day Foundation. "We value the assistance of the staff at Sugarite Canyon State Park in identifying 2012 reforestation efforts that will positively impact the environment, create habitat for wildlife, promote watershed restoration, and provide other benefits to the public."

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