

Resources for Private Forest Landowners in New Mexico



Staff managers from the San Juan Soil & Water Conservation District, San Juan County Fire and New Mexico State Forestry discussing work on private lands to restore the cottonwood bosque along the San Juan River in northern New Mexico.

Are you a private forest landowner in New Mexico? You may be interested in learning more about your forest, improving the health of your land, creating better wildlife habitat, addressing wildfire hazard or improving the health of your riparian forest (or bosque), or learning more about forest industry. If so, you may be unsure of where to begin. The following pages

contain resources for technical and financial assistance for forest landowners, including resources for **forest health, forest thinning** and more.

New Mexico State Forestry (NMSF)



Technical Assistance

New Mexico State Forestry (NMSF) has technical experts in its District Offices statewide. For more information, visit <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SFD/> or call 505-476-3325.

A Note on Assistance: Work with Your Local District

For most of New Mexico State Forestry's assistance programs, it is recommended that you contact your local NMSF District. Some of these resources require pre-application preparation with your District before an application is submitted. For the NMSF office near you, visit <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SFD/contact.html> or call 505-476-3325.

Hazardous Fuels Treatments on Non-Federal Lands

Purpose: Projects must reduce fire threat to communities that are surrounded by hazardous forest fuels which pose a threat in the event of a wildfire. Outcomes include improving wildfire prevention and suppression, reducing hazardous fuels, and restoring fire-adapted ecosystems.

Who Can Apply: Local governments, tribal governments and political subdivisions of the state (i.e. Soil and Water Conservation Districts). Projects must be in communities adjacent to federal lands where surrounding forest fuels pose a hazard in the event of a wildfire.

Amount: Grant amounts vary up to \$300,000

Deadline: Applications are typically due in March of each year

Match Requirement: 10% non-federal

Contact: NM State Forestry, Andrew Frederick, 505-476-3343, andrewg.frederick@state.nm.us

Wildland Urban Interface Grants

Purpose: The planning and implementation of hazardous fuels mitigation projects that will reduce the fire threat in Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) areas in New Mexico. The emphasis is on hazardous fuel reduction, information and education, and community and homeowner action. Outcomes include improving wildfire prevention and suppression, reducing hazardous fuels, and restoring fire-adapted ecosystems.

Who Can Apply: Local governments, tribal governments and political subdivisions of the state (i.e. Soil and Water Conservation Districts). Projects must be within the boundaries of an approved Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP).

Amount: Grant amounts vary up to \$300,000

Match Requirement: 1:1 non-federal

Deadline: Applications are typically due in March of each year

Contact: NM State Forestry, Andrew Frederick, 505-476-3343, andrewg.frederick@state.nm.us

Visit <https://www.westernforesters.org/wui-grants> for more information.

Invasive Plants

Purpose: Invasive plant management activities where noxious weed invasions threaten forest health, address species on the NM Department of Agriculture's "Noxious Weed List" and are encouraged to be within a Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) on non-federal lands or demonstrate partnership with a CWMA. Components of the projects may include: integrated weed management, mapping and inventory, monitoring, early detection and prevention, planning and coordination, and awareness and education.

Who Can Apply: Non-federal government entities

Amount: Grant amounts vary from \$5,000 up to \$20,000

Match Requirement: 1:1 non-federal

Deadline: Fall – Winter (the Request for Proposals typically released in August or September)

Contact: NM State Forestry, Shannon Atencio, 505-425-7472, shannon.atencio@state.nm.us

Forest Health Initiative

Purpose: Provides cost share funds for the reduction of insect and pathogen (disease) risk through forest improvement. The objective is to improve degraded (e.g. overcrowded, infested, and/or infected) forestland to a healthier, more resilient state.

Who Can Apply: Landowners who have a minimum of 10 acres of forestland and a stewardship/management plan in place. However, up to 10% of Forest Health Initiative funds can be used to help landowners develop long-term forest management plans where none presently exist. Eligible applicants include private, state, and local government owners of forest or woodlands.

Amount: Grant amounts vary up to \$100,000

Match Requirement: 30% non-federal

Deadline: Varies depending on funding

Contact: NM State Forestry, John Formby, Ph.D., 505-476-3351, john.formby@state.nm.us

Forest Legacy Program

Purpose: Seek perpetual conservation easements on private forestland in order to conserve working forests (forests that provide water quality, habitat for threatened and endangered wildlife species, recreation, etc.) that are threatened by development or conversion to non-forest use. This program seeks partners for nationally significant project sites that rank well in the categories of being important, strategic, threatened and ready (i.e. “shovel ready”).

Who Can Apply: Private landowners with a minimum of 40 acres, of which at least 75% is forested land

Amount: Varies year-to-year based on an approved budget by the U.S. Congress

Match Requirement: 25% non-federal. The non-federal match can be the donation of 25% of the conservation easement value.

Deadline: September 1st of each year for review and a vote to proceed from the State Forest Stewardship Committee

Contact: NM State Forestry, Carol Bada, 505-476-3334, carol.bada@state.nm.us

Visit <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SFD/ForestMgt/ForestLegacy.html> for more information on criteria and eligibility.

Urban & Community Forestry

The Urban and Community Forestry program provides communities with financial, technical, and educational assistance.

Financial assistance: NMSF offers funding to local governments and non-profit organizations: **New Mexico Forest Re-Leaf** provides funds for tree planting in public spaces; the **Community Forestry Assistance Grant** funds provide for local urban and community forestry program development, tree inventory and assessment, professional training and development, and environmental education.

Technical assistance: NMSF can provide technical resources and training for municipal staff and advocacy/advisory groups. Our focus areas include tree ordinances, urban forest assessments

and management plans, and professional staff development. NMSF also administers the Arbor Day Foundation, Tree City, Tree Campus, and Tree Line USA recognition programs.

Educational assistance: NMSF can provide resources to assist with volunteer coordination, and adult and youth education related to healthy urban and community forests. This includes resources developed for our statewide Tree Stewards Program, and curriculum for K-12 students.

Assistance with trees in your yard or landscape: NMSF can assist with your questions and help put you in touch with certified arborists or other “green” professionals.

For more information visit <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SFD/CommunityFor/Community> or call the Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager at 505-629-6643.

Seedling Program

The Forestry Division offers tree and shrub seedlings for sale to landowners who own at least one acre of land in New Mexico and who agree to use the seedlings for conservation purposes such as post-fire restoration, erosion control, riparian restoration, wildlife habitat improvement, and windbreaks. Approximately 60 species of tree and shrubs are available. Conservation seedlings are distributed during the fall and spring. Spring sales start the first Monday of December with distribution in March and April. Fall sales start in early July with distribution from mid-September through mid-October.

Visit <http://www.emnrd.nm.us/SFD/treepublic/ConservationSeedlings.html> for more information or call 505-476-3334.

Wildfire

- New Mexico State Forestry (NMSF) has many **resources related to wildfire**, such as wildfire planning. For more information, visit <http://www.nmforestry.com> or call the main office in Santa Fe at 505-476-3325.
- Many programs exist for community **wildfire preparedness**, including Firewise USA™, Ready, Set Go! and Fire Adapted Communities. For links to these, visit <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SFD/FireMgt/FirePreventionandOutreachProgram.html>.
- To sign up for **wildfire alerts**, visit <https://nmfireinfo.com/>.
- **After a Wildfire:** Visit <http://afterwildfirenm.org/> or call 505-345-2200 for information on who can help and more.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Environmental Quality Incentives Program



Purpose: The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is a voluntary program authorized under the Agricultural Act of 2018 that helps landowners install measures to protect soil, water, plant, wildlife, and other natural resources while ensuring sustainable production on their farms, ranches and forest lands. Funding toward conservation work is competitive, with priorities decided by local NRCS field offices. Forest work through NRCS can include items such as forest thinning projects and riparian restoration.

Who Can Apply: Landowners of “non-industrial” forestlands and/or agricultural producers; Tribes and Pueblos.

Amount: Varies. Reimbursements are made after the practice is complete and approved.

Match Amount: Match is not a requirement; however, often in-kind match is needed, and/or additional funds are sometimes needed based on practice, location and market rates.

Deadline: Applications accepted throughout the year with decisions generally made early in the year.

Contact: Your local NRCS office. Every county in New Mexico has a field office (except for Los Alamos). Visit the NRCS New Mexico website for contact information or call 505-761-4400.

Additionally, locate your Local Service Centers at

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/nm/contact/local/>

For More Information: www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/nm/programs/financial/eqip/

Conservation Stewardship Program

Purpose: The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is a voluntary conservation program through the Natural Resources Conservation Service that encourages producers to address resource concerns in a comprehensive manner by (1) undertaking additional conservation activities, and (2) improving, maintaining, and managing existing conservation activities.

Who Can Apply: CSP is available on Tribal/Pueblo and private agricultural lands and “non-industrial” private forestland.

Amount: Varies based on improvements and acreage.

Match Amount: Not required.

Deadline: Applications accepted throughout the year with decisions generally made early in the year (around February).

Contact: Your local NRCS office. Visit the NRCS New Mexico website for local contact information or call 505-761-4400. Additionally, locate your Local Service Centers at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/nm/contact/local/>

For More Information: www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/nm/programs/financial/csp/

Regional Conservation Partnership Program

Purpose: The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCP) promotes coordination between NRCS and its partners to deliver conservation assistance to producers and landowners. NRCS provides assistance through partnership agreements and program contracts or easement agreements. The process of developing RCP agreements includes prioritizing conservation issues, identifying the best solutions and developing outreach plans.

Who Can Apply: Agricultural or silvicultural producer associations, farmer cooperatives or other groups of producers, state or local governments, American Indian tribes, municipal water treatment entities, water and irrigation districts, conservation-driven nongovernmental organizations and institutions of higher education.

Amount: Varies.

Match Required: Yes. Proposals with high amounts of match are more competitive.

Deadline: Determined annually by USDA NRCS, and typically announced on national NRCS web site, in state news releases, and published on Grants.gov.

Contact: Your local NRCS office. Visit the NRCS New Mexico website or call 505-761-4404. Additionally, locate your Local Service Centers at <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/nm/contact/local/>

For More Information:

www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/national/programs/farbill/rcpp

Soil and Water Conservation Districts



Soil and Water Conservation Districts often have programs and grants for landowners. Since programs are dependent on funding and vary, contact your local SWCD. To find your local SWCD, call the New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts at (575) 981-2400 or the New Mexico Coalition of Conservation Districts at 505-832-1111. For a list of districts and phone numbers, visit <http://www.nmacd.org/swcds>.

Forest Stewardship & the American Tree Farm System

You do not need to be a “tree farmer” (i.e. producing trees for production or sale) to benefit from the American Tree Farm System. In New Mexico, the program focuses on forest stewardship by private landowners, working to give people the tools they need to be effective stewards of America's forests. If you are interested in a stewardship plan or additional resources (and recognition) for actively managing your forest, this system has a lot to offer!



Find out more at <https://www.treefarmssystem.org/> or contact your local New Mexico State Forestry office. For the NMSF office near you, visit <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SFD/contact.html> or call 505-476-3325.

Some Soil and Water Conservation Districts (such as the Ciudad) sometimes offer a ‘**Backyard Tree Farmer**’ program for people with 10 acres or less of forestland or anyone interested in forest health.

Other Resources

- **Local Contractors** can also assist you with managing your forestland, from writing plans and conducting inventory to helping you understand the local forest industry.
- **Community Groups** such as watershed associations or land alliances may provide resources to landowners.
- **Non-Profit Groups** such as the Forest Guild provide information for private landowners.