

**Michelle Lujan Grisham**, Governor  
**Sarah Cottrell Propst**, Cabinet Secretary  
**Todd E. Leahy, JD, PhD**, Deputy Cabinet Secretary  
**Laura McCarthy**, State Forestry Division Director

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**NM Forestry Division Releases 2020 Forest Action Plan**  
*Strategies for resource management and restoration set for next 10 years*

**SANTA FE, NM** – Today the Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) Forestry Division issued the 2020 New Mexico Forest Action Plan (FAP). The plan implements a set of strategies to improve the health, resiliency, and productivity of the state’s forests and watersheds to ensure long-term sustainability and resilience over the next decade and beyond.

“The Forest Action Plan integrates the work of dozens of stakeholders who contributed their invaluable expertise to its development over the last year,” said State Forester Laura McCarthy. “This collaboration is essential in moving forward with a solid foundation to address both human-caused and natural threats to our lands in a continually changing climate.”

The USDA Forest Service requires all states to develop a Forest Action Plan every ten years under the federal Farm Bill. This plan builds upon the first FAP developed in 2010 with two notable differences 1) a vision and next steps for collaboration between agencies and organizations, and 2) strategies and priorities to implement the [Agreement for Shared Stewardship](#) signed in 2019 by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham and USDA Forest Service Chief Vicki Christiansen. This agreement established the Forest Action Plan as the primary tool to guide the co-management of forests and watersheds.

The Forest Action Plan supports the Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department’s Strategic Plan and reinforces Governor Lujan Grisham’s Executive Order addressing Climate Change and Energy Waste Prevention. The plan also incorporates new programs recently created at the Office of Outdoor Recreation and the New Mexico Department of Agriculture’s Healthy Soil Program and works within the context of other state plans.

“Using the best science available, we have identified a set of ten strategies that will help guide our decision making when it comes to developing plans to focus on areas where hazards pose the greatest threat to New Mexico’s resources. These strategies also take public benefit into account by providing jobs and supporting rural economies where projects are taking place,” said McCarthy.

The ten strategies identified in the Forest Action Plan include restoring forests and watersheds, fire management, private stewardship, utility rights of way, rare plant conservation, reforestation, urban forests and communities, restoration economy, land conservation, and outdoor recreation.

The 2020 New Mexico Forest Action Plan and related documents can be viewed and downloaded at <http://www.emnrd.state.nm.us/SFD/>.



*Working with partners ensures widespread efforts are accomplished.*



*Local businesses benefit from projects in the Zuni Mountains and other rural areas around the state.*



*Forest treatments can help battle against damaging insects and disease. Douglas fir tussock moth damage on Shaggy Peak, Santa Fe National Forest*



*Healthy watersheds are crucial to the social, environmental, and economic well-being of our communities. Proper management helps protect ground water and local drinking water supplies, supports wildlife, and reduces the effects of climate change.*

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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.*