



Office of the Governor

**MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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May 4, 2022

**Gov. Lujan Grisham requests Presidential  
Disaster  
Declaration for New Mexico wildfires**  
*Request comes ahead of schedule,  
will get relief to New Mexicans faster*

SANTA FE – Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham on Wednesday submitted a request to President Joe Biden and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for a Presidential Disaster Declaration for New Mexico as a result of widespread wildfire activity across the state. Gov. Lujan Grisham has declared states of emergency under her authority in Colfax, Lincoln, Mora, Sandoval, San Miguel, and Valencia counties due to wind-fueled wildfire activity.

“The state has aggressively pursued a Presidential Disaster Declaration for New Mexico, using every available tool and technology to document the damage that we know New Mexico communities have sustained and are still experiencing in order to expedite the process,” said **Gov. Lujan Grisham**. “I am laser focused on getting New Mexicans the disaster relief they need and deserve, and I am confident that FEMA and the President will grant our request.”

While requesting a Presidential Disaster Declaration is typically a lengthy process that often only begins weeks after the conclusion of a natural disaster, the governor and state officials have been working diligently with federal authorities to expedite the filing process for a Presidential Disaster Declaration, using science and data to show how these fires were so dramatically affected and increased by a statewide windstorm in order to more rapidly meet the required financial threshold for damage and enable federal assistance to be available to New Mexicans more quickly.

The governor’s request for a disaster declaration includes both [Individual Assistance](#) and [Public Assistance](#) for New Mexicans and local governments affected by wildfires.

Relief requested by the governor in the form of Individual Assistance includes:

- Housing Assistance

- Crisis Counseling
- Disaster Unemployment
- Disaster Case Management
- Disaster Legal Services
- Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance
- Child Care Assistance
- SBA Disaster Loan Assistance

The state's request for Public Assistance from FEMA includes Category A, debris removal, and Category B, Emergency Protective Measures, in addition to a request for Direct Federal Assistance. The FEMA Public Assistance Program provides supplemental grants to state, tribal, territorial, and local governments, as well as certain types of private non-profits, to quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies. Categories A and B are categorized as emergency work that must be completed within six months.

Upon declaration being granted, FEMA will deploy staff to New Mexico to administer the federal assistance programs and support assistance delivery. The application process for New Mexicans eligible for Individual Assistance through FEMA will open following the expected approval of the governor's request for a disaster application, at which time the state will advise New Mexicans in affected counties how to apply for federal relief. **Affected New Mexicans are strongly urged to wait to submit claims for Individual Assistance to FEMA until the disaster declaration is approved in order to ensure they are properly classified under an approved disaster declaration.**

Gov. Lujan Grisham has also requested [Hazard Mitigation Assistance Grant](#) funding for the state to implement additional actions to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from future disasters.

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# State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham  
*Governor*

**REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATION  
COVER LETTER  
MAJOR DISASTER OR EMERGENCY**

**May 4, 2022**

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden Jr  
President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Through: Mr. Tony Robinson  
Regional Administrator  
FEMA Region VI  
800 North Loop 288  
Denton, TX 76209

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5191, and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I request that you grant a Major Disaster Declaration for the state of New Mexico as a result of wildfires that occurred on April 5, 2022 and are ongoing.

The state is requesting Public Assistance, Category A and B, including Direct Federal Assistance for Colfax, Lincoln, Mora, Valencia, and San Miguel counties. The state is also requesting Individual Assistance, including SBA Disaster Loan Assistance for Colfax, Lincoln, Mora, Valencia, and San Miguel counties.

New Mexicans have been doing their utmost to maintain their communities in the face of recent wildfires despite the anomalous statewide extreme drought conditions and overwhelming dormant vegetation which created a virtual tinderbox awaiting first responders and citizens at large.

Beginning April 5, 2022, conditions escalated quickly, and the state started to see numerous fires impacting several communities simultaneously.

Almost one month later, more than 234,977 acres have burned, and the fires continue to rage. Two New Mexicans have died in the fires, more than 550 cattle and other livestock have perished, and homes and businesses have been destroyed. Over the course of a month, New Mexico has been impacted by 151 fires.

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The east side of the state was hit especially hard. The atmospheric conditions supported a very critical fire weather situation with temperatures in the 50s, relative humidity in the single digits and teens, and winds gusting to over 80 miles per hour at times. NWS Albuquerque issued Red Flag Warnings for 20 of the 30 days of April, a phenomenon not witnessed since 2011. This includes nine straight days of Red Flag Warnings from April 9 to April 17, and 14 of 15 days from April 9 to April 23. Most of these Red Flag Warnings were issued for the northeast part of the state with the southeast and west-central areas not far behind. These conditions were supportive of the rapid spread and growth of all fires that ignited during this period. This includes the Hermits Peak Fire (started April 7, still ongoing), Big Hole Fire (April 11), McBride and Nogal Fires (April 12), Cook's Peak Fire, and Calf Canyon Fire (April 19, still ongoing), Cerro Pelado Fire (April 22, still ongoing), and several other smaller fires. The Calf Canyon Fire merged with the Hermits Peak fire due to the extreme fire weather conditions on April 22, 2022. This fire complex has grown to become New Mexico's third-largest wildfire on record at more than 145,000 acres burned.

The U.S. Forest Service was performing a prescribed burn called the Las Dispensas burn on April 6 that unfortunately lost containment, resulting in what was named the Hermits Peak Fire. These conditions allowed for the fire to grow beyond the limits of the prescribed burn and it was declared a wildfire on the afternoon of April 6, 2022. It is also worth noting that Red Flag Warnings were in effect on April 6, 2022, to the west and southwest of the burn. The Hermits Peak fire was then under Red Flag Warning conditions from April 9-17, 2022, with the highest winds occurring on April 12, 2022, with Las Vegas reporting peak wind gusts of 67 mph. These winds, combined with low relative humidity, would continue to support high rates of fire spread.

Lastly, after the high winds of April 22, 2022, the Hermits Peak fire combined with, or was to some degree overtaken by, the Calf Canyon Fire. The winds on April 22nd were widespread which allowed for rapid-fire growth for both the Calf Canyon fire and Hermits Peak fire. Las Vegas reported a peak wind gust of 72 mph on April 22, followed by a 53-mph peak wind gust on April 23. The combined fires are continuing to grow, with subsequent high wind events on April 29 and May 1, 2022. The combined fires have burned approximately 300 structures and an area of over 145,000 acres.

The Big Hole fire started in the bosque area north of East River Road, east of Belen, New Mexico, near the Rio Grande. While it was only 890 acres, it destroyed 1 home and 18 outbuildings. Valencia County was also under Red Flag Warnings from April 9-17, 2022, indicating prolonged critical fire weather conditions in the area.

The McBride Fire ignited near Ruidoso, New Mexico, prompting immediate evacuations as it spread through neighborhoods during the afternoon of April 12, 2022. The fire destroyed over 200 homes and unfortunately, led to two fatalities. April 12, 2022, was a high-end critical fire weather day with areawide Red Flag Warnings indicating the danger of any wildfires spreading rapidly. It burned 6,159 acres over the next 24 to 48 hours due to the strong winds and low relative humidity.

The Cook's Peak Fire started on April 17, 2022, but really did not start to spread rapidly until the high winds on April 19 and April 22, 2022. The high winds on April 22, 2022, led to the rapid-fire spread and prompted evacuations for the northwest parts of Mora County into southwest Colfax County. The fire has burned over 59,000 acres with an unknown number of structures destroyed at this time. This would make the Cook's Peak Fire the 14th largest wildfire in New Mexico history as of this writing.

Hundreds of firefighters and other first responders exhausted every effort to protect lives and property, but the daunting weather conditions and overwhelming flames were too much for many New Mexican communities. At least a dozen times, New Mexicans were evacuated due to approaching fire events. The heroic efforts of first responders saved numerous homes but many more were destroyed as this perfect storm of wildfire conditions laid claim to the state.

### **Fatalities and Injuries**

Two fatalities are attributed to the wildfires. New Mexico State Police reported an elderly couple died in their home as they tried to evacuate the wildfire in Ruidoso, New Mexico. The remains of the couple were found on Thursday, April 14, 2022, at their burned home in northeast Ruidoso after family members told police they attempted to evacuate but were unaccounted for.

### **Evacuations and Closings**

Many communities had to be evacuated to protect the population from advancing flames. The evacuations include the Philmont Scout Ranch in Colfax County, the communities of Turquillo, Los Cisneros, Lucero, Rainsville, North Mora, South Mora, Santiago Creek, Upper Morphy, Abuelo, Ledoux, Puertocito, South Carmen, Holman Puertocito, Rito Cebolla, Buena Vista, Golondrinas, and Peñasco Blanco in Mora County. Additionally, the communities of Luna, Cinder, Mineral Hill, San Pablo, San Geronimo, Hot Springs, Storrie Lake, East and West Sapello, Emplazado, Manuelitas, Las Dispensas, Gallinas, Trout Springs, San Ignacio, Lone Pine Mesa, Chavez, Cañoncito, Pendaries Village, Pendaries Valley East, Rociada, Upper Rociada, Tierra Monte Canyon, La Canada and Las Tusas have been evacuated.

An estimated 40,200 residents have been asked to evacuate their homes and businesses without knowing if those structures would be there when they returned. Numerous evacuation shelters have been established, including those in Las Vegas, Taos County Sherriff's Posse grounds, Peñasco High School Gym, Pecos High School, Raton Community Center, Jan Gonzales Agriculture Center, Red River Conference Center, Genoveva Chavez Community Center, Taos Youth and Family Center, and Glorieta Adventure Camp. Due to the impending threat from advancing flames, the shelter in Las Vegas was later evacuated and closed. It is estimated that more than 80 percent of the population of Mora, Colfax, and San Miguel Counties has faced evacuation requests due to dangerous smoke and flames. Additionally, the New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute in Las Vegas was forced to evacuate 197 patients who required special needs/supervision. These patients were evacuated to special shelter locations throughout the state.

Fire has forced the closure of many roads in the area including, NM Highways 65, 120, 518, State Roads 21, 94, 105, 266, 276, Mora County Road A011, and San Miguel County Roads A14A, A11A, A27, A3A, A4A.

The school districts of West Las Vegas and Las Vegas, Mora Independent School District, and Wagon Mound schools have been forced to close due to fires burning in these areas. In the West Las Vegas and Las Vegas areas, 116 students have been displaced. It is unknown at the time of this writing the exact number of students affected in Mora and Wagon Mound. The schools in West Las Vegas and Las Vegas are tentatively scheduled to re-open on May 5, 2022, contingent on fire behavior. At the time of this writing, there is no estimated date for the schools in Mora or Wagon Mound to re-open.

Over the course of these disasters, the state has had many shelters open or placed on standby to support a large number of evacuated citizens. Currently, we have five open shelters across the state, many being outside of the affected counties in order to provide life safety measures. Shelters are being managed mainly by the American Red Cross, but we have had many established by local agencies that see a need in a particular area. At the time of this writing, we are currently at the highest recorded population for the entire incident at 493 people sheltered across four different locations.

#### **Animal and Agricultural Care**

Preliminary assessment of evacuated livestock includes 550 head of cattle, 67 horses, and 66 other animals. Additionally, feed has been provided for: 100 chickens and ducks, 30 pigs, 100 head of cattle, 20 horses, and numerous domestic pets. Verified losses currently include 16 goats and 3 cows. Given the ongoing nature of the fire incident, these numbers are extremely preliminary and are likely to increase once fire activity allows for preliminary damage assessments to occur, and law enforcement to reenter the area.

The John T. Harrington (JTH) Forest Research Center in Mora remains under threat. The JTH Forestry Research Center has the largest forest nursery and seed bank in the southwestern US with a growing capacity of 300,000 seedlings per year using over 35 different native tree species. This center is estimated to be worth upwards of \$500,000. Additionally, the research program at the Research Center is one of only five programs in the United States dedicated to investigating the entire “reforestation pipeline” (from seed to nursery to tree planting), especially as it relates to post-fire reforestation. The expertise and valuable information gathered from the long-term research plots at the Research Center are commonly sought after by neighboring institutions in the four corner states (NM, AZ, UT, and CO). Examples of long-term research topics conducted at the Research Center include seed transfer guidelines in response to climate change, planting strategies that promote long-term improvements to water resources, and the development of drought-conditioned seedlings for tree planting.

#### **Damages**

According to National Wildfire Coordination Group incident management team estimates, the wildfires have caused more than \$43.75 million in response costs alone, with fires still uncontained. Over 243,000 acres of New Mexican land (0.311%) have burned from April

6, 2022, to May 3, 2022, with many more acres projected to burn in the coming days and weeks.

According to the New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Emergency Operations Center Geospatial Information Systems preliminary analysis, numerous categories of critical infrastructure were impacted. According to NASA Visible Infrared Imaging Radiometer Suite (VIIRS) satellite data, the following critical infrastructure is reported to be within the fire perimeter with major infrared energy reported directly on or immediately nearby the site: over 10.4 miles of major power transmission lines and at least one electrical substation; at least one fire station; the La Placita Fire Department, which provides services to numerous rural communities; at least three agricultural facilities, including crop production, animal production and aquaculture, and support activities for agriculture; and two educational facilities. The Armand Hammer United World College of the American West and Luna Community College are within immediate threat of the fire and are projected to be engulfed by the Calf Canyon Fire today. Over 859 houses are immediately within the fire perimeter and are presumed destroyed or damaged.

Due to the rapid and consistent growth of these fires, it is projected that many more buildings will soon be engulfed. Since these fires are ongoing, Public Assistance preliminary damage assessments for most of the fires have not started, and most information is preliminary and remotely reported.

### **Disaster History**

The wildfires came as New Mexico continues to recover from state-declared disasters and a larger number of open federal disasters. In 2021, there were a total of 18 Executive Orders that were declared during monsoon, flooding season, as well as snow squalls and wind events. Previous executive orders from 2013 to 2021 also have many projects that are still in process. A total of 9 open federal disasters with many incomplete projects are currently pending completion.

#### **Federal Declarations:**

- DR 1783, 29 applicants
- DR 1936, 20 applicants
- DR 4047, 10 applicants
- DR 4079, 25 applicants
- DR 4148, 25 applicants
- DR 4152, 122 applicants
- DR 4197, 31 applicants
- DR 4199, 28 applicants
- DR 4529, 80 applicants

Due to high turnover rates and the high number of open projects, these disasters continue to stress the budgets and response capabilities at both the local and state levels.

### **State Action**

In response to the situation, I have taken appropriate action under state law and directed the execution of the State Emergency Plan. On April 22-23, 2022, I declared a State of Emergency for five New Mexico counties, in accordance with 42 U.S.C.A § 5170 (Procedure for Declaration) of the Stafford Act. Those orders are as follows: Executive Order 2022-021 Declaring an Emergency in Mora County due to the Cook’s Peak and Calf Canyon fires; Executive Order 2022-020 Declaring an Emergency in Lincoln County due to the McBride and Nogal Canyon Fires; Executive Order 2022-019 Declaring an Emergency in Colfax County due to the Cook’s Peak Fire; Executive Order 2022-018 Declaring an Emergency in Valencia County due to the Big Hole Fire; Executive Order 2022-017 Declaring an Emergency in San Miguel County due to the Hermits Peak Fire. All Executive Orders are included. Pursuant to 44 C.F.R. §206.36(a), I submitted a written request for an extension within 30 days of the occurrence of the incident.

New Mexico has secured six Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAGs) during this wildfire outbreak. An FMAG was awarded for the Big Hole Fire in Valencia County on April 11. On April 12, New Mexico was awarded three FMAGs for the Hermits Peak Fire in San Miguel, the McBride Fire in Lincoln County, and the Nogal Fire in Lincoln County. An FMAG was awarded on April 28 for the Cook’s Peak Fire in Mora County and Colfax County. New Mexico’s sixth FMAG for the Calf Canyon Fire was approved on April 30.

I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response and recovery is beyond the capabilities of the state and the affected local governments, and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary. I am specifically requesting Individual and Public Assistance for five counties.

I am requesting Individual Assistance, including SBA Disaster Loan Assistance, and Public Assistance, Categories A and B, including DFA. On May 2, 2022, Response and Recovery Bureau Chief Ali Rye requested Individual Assistance and Public Assistance Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) from FEMA Region VI. Individual Assistance assessments have taken place via aerial imagery and Public Assistance physical assessments will occur when the declared wildfires are contained.

<i>Percentage of the population:</i>	<i>for whom poverty status is determined</i>	<i>already receiving governmental assistance</i>	<i>Pre-disaster unemployment rate</i>	<i>65 years and older</i>	<i>18 years and younger</i>	<i>with a disability</i>	<i>who speak a language other than English</i>
<b>Data Source</b>	Census.gov	NM HSD	Dws.state.nm.us	US Census	US Census	IBIS.Health.state.nm.us	IBIS
<b>National Average</b>	11.4%	13%	3.6%	16%	22.3%	12.6%	22%
<b>State Average</b>	18.2%	25%	5.3%	18%	22.7%	26%	27.7%
<b>Requested Jurisdictions</b>	Lincoln Co: 13.7% Valenca Co: 17.6%	Lincoln Co: 14.2% Valenca Co: 20.9 %	Lincoln Co: 5.2% Valenca Co: 4.6%	Lincoln Co: 28.2% Valenca Co: 17.2%	Lincoln Co: 18.2% Valenca Co: 23.3%	Lincoln Co: 19.8% Valenca Co: 20.3%	Lincoln Co: 22.2% Valenca Co: 32.9%

San Miguel Co: 23.8%	San Miguel Co: 24.5%	San Miguel Co: 5.2%	San Miguel Co: 23.8%	San Miguel Co: 17.5%	San Miguel Co: 28.8%	San Miguel Co: 57.4%
Mora Co: 21.2%	Mora Co: 22.2%	Mora Co: 4.8%	Mora Co: 27.2%	Mora Co: 17.3%	Mora Co: 33.6%	Mora Co: 65.8%
Colfax Co: 17.0%	Colfax Co: 18.3%	Colfax Co: 4.2%	Colfax Co: 25.9%	Colfax Co: 17.9%	Colfax Co: 22.9%	Colfax Co: 22.4%

The PDAs will focus on the Public Assistance Program damages and costs associated with Category A, Debris Removal, and Category B, Emergency Protective Measures. I am requesting Public Assistance, Categories A and B, including DFA, for Colfax, Lincoln, Mora, San Miguel, and Valencia Counties.

The state of New Mexico’s Natural Disaster Hazard Mitigation Plan has been approved by FEMA through September 12, 2023. This disaster provides an opportunity to implement Hazard Mitigation projects that will reduce the impact of future disasters. Therefore, I am also requesting Hazard Mitigation Grant Funding for the entire state.

Additionally, I am requesting crisis counseling under the Individual Assistance Program for Colfax, Lincoln, Mora, Valencia, and San Miguel counties due to the disruption to the lives of individuals in the communities impacted starting on April 5, 2022, and the loss of lives to the fires. We have conducted aerial imagery and virtual PDAs while the wildfires are being contained. While 198 primary homes and 8 businesses were destroyed or damaged, more residents lost livestock, crops, grazing land, barns and other outbuildings, farm equipment, and their livelihoods.

Residents reported anxiety and fear at being evacuated, some multiple times, and not knowing if their homes would still be there when they returned. Firefighters would fight to save a home only to have the fire change directions with the wind and threaten the home once again days later. Families in these communities have owned their land for generations, often building a new home next to the home a parent or grandparent built many years ago, and while their primary home may have been saved, the old family home wasn’t as lucky. Children’s lives were disrupted by school closures, with others impacted by the evacuation of long-term care facilities, and a hospital in San Miguel County.

The impacted population in Colfax, Lincoln, Mora, Valencia, and San Miguel counties already face significant risks in mental and behavioral health. The national rate for suicides among farmers is the highest in the nation at 84.5 per 100,000 people, according to a Centers for Disease Control study published in 2016. This risk is 60 percent higher than the next at-risk occupational group.

**State Response**

The following information is furnished on the nature and amount of state and local resources that have been or will be used to alleviate the conditions of this disaster:

The New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Emergency Operations Center has supported statewide fire operations beginning April 5,

2022, to May 3, 2022, at an elevated Level Two partial activation level, and Level One, fully activated from May 1, 2022, to May 3, 2022, including 24-hour coordination of all state response and recovery activities, as required. NMDHSEM continues to provide WebEOC support and assistance to the local jurisdictions and NMDHSEM staff support in the affected areas.

The New Mexico Department of Public Safety (NMDPS) has responded to thousands of calls for assistance from local emergency management, fire departments, and law enforcement agencies during the fires. NMDPS assisted in the evacuation of the towns of Mora, Ruidoso, Alto, Las Vegas, and additional surrounding communities. Officers responded to numerous short-term road closures and downed power lines and worked on initial injury assessments and traffic control in the affected areas. Officers assisted in the evacuation of thousands of residences in San Miguel County, Lincoln County, Mora County, and more. The Aircraft Division also conducted over 25 missions using rotary-wing aircraft, conducting flight operations for numerous state agencies and incident management teams. Over 1,000 calls for service were initiated by the New Mexico State Police Communications Centers.

There were ten calls for service with over 250 responding officers, providing tens of thousands of manhours from the New Mexico State Police alone.

The New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) has provided personnel and equipment necessary to repair and/or barricade damaged transportation routes as well as staffed barricaded areas to prevent traffic flow. NMDOT also provided support, in the form of heavy equipment, to local incident commanders to help prepare firebreaks and clear major routes, including critical county roads.

The New Mexico Human Services Department (NMHSD) has provided critical mass shelter support and assisted in planning for the evacuation of over 20,000 New Mexican residences. NMHSD has provided behavioral health services, critical access to medical care, analysis of access and functional needs at evacuation sheltering locations, opioid disorder treatments, laundry, shower mobile units for evacuees, and coordination of community volunteers for shelter site meals and services.

The New Mexico Department of Agriculture (NMDA) has assisted with the care of impacted animals and managed livestock evacuations, including going into burned areas to perform welfare checks for livestock and providing food and water to affected livestock and pets. NMDA has also managed the deployment of livestock shelter support trailers and staff, including the coordination of feed donations for evacuated families.

The New Mexico Department of Health (NMDOH) has deployed state medical volunteers with the Medical Reserve Corps to assist in emergency care at numerous shelters and monitored and managed public health at evacuee shelters, including the management of COVID-19. NMDOH also coordinated the evacuation of the Behavioral Health Institute, the only psychiatric hospital in the state of New Mexico, transporting all patients safely to secondary locations. NMDOH also monitors the healthcare system across regions to balance patient loads and proper distribution of resources. NMDOH closely cooperates

with major hospitals throughout New Mexico to notify them of fire locations and to assist in continuity of operations planning in case of evacuations.

The New Mexico Department of Military Affairs/New Mexico National Guard (NMNG) has assisted in numerous operations including the evacuation of patients at the New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute, residents of San Miguel County, and additional communities. The New Mexico National Guard has transported critical supplies, including 10,000 gallons of potable water and 5,000 gallons of non-potable water to areas that had their services cut due to fire activity. The National Guard has also performed numerous water drop flights, providing over 100,000 gallons of water to assist suppression efforts. The NMNG stood up the 93<sup>rd</sup> Troop Command to assist in manual labor and evacuation efforts and has been providing 24-hour support to the state emergency operations center. Additionally, the NMNG staffed the COVID-19 Joint Operations Center.

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) has consistently monitored the air quality index and coordinated with numerous agencies to notify at-risk persons of the increased smoke threat. NMED is in constant coordination with the National Weather Service and USDA Forest Service to determine the best location for air quality monitoring equipment and places this equipment in the identified locations to provide the most up-to-date information and keep New Mexicans safe from ill effects from wildfire smoke. Additionally, NMED conducts consistent water-quality assessments to ensure the integrity of critical watersheds in New Mexico which may have been affected by the fires.

The New Mexico Forestry Division has provided personnel, bulldozers, brush rigs, and guidance to local personnel to help combat the fires. They are also coordinating out-of-state ground and air support. Six incident management teams have been ordered to manage the fires in Lincoln County, San Miguel County, and Mora County and to support local and county resources. New Mexico Forestry Division personnel have also flown aerial spotter missions and coordinated National Guard airdrops.

New Mexico Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) have played a vital role in supporting the impacted communities. The New Mexico Red Cross has managed more than seven shelters for evacuees, providing aid to thousands of New Mexicans. New Mexico Baptist Disaster Relief has provided meals, laundry service, and portable shower facilities at various shelters. World Central Kitchen has and continues to provide meal service to various shelters. Many faith-based groups have also assisted in shelter operations.

I certify that for this major disaster, the state and local governments will assume all applicable non-Federal shares of costs required by Public Law 93-288, as amended. Total expenditures are estimated at **\$120,000,000.00**.

I am requesting Public Assistance Categories A and B, including Direct Federal Assistance, for the counties of Colfax, Lincoln, Mora, San Miguel, and Valencia.

I am requesting Direct Federal Assistance for: debris removal, specifically for potential household hazardous waste; emergency protective measures for our watershed and any

potential firefighting resources due to the ongoing fires; emergency communications to assist in counties that have experienced a loss in cell towers, radio towers, and other disruptions; mass care and evacuation assistance, including potential transportation for possible long-term evacuations of citizens.

I anticipate the need for debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to the lives, public health, and safety of the citizens in the respective counties. Regarding my request for debris removal, the following is submitted:

In accordance with 44 CFR § 206.208, the state of New Mexico agrees that it will, with respect to debris removal:

1. Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, and rights-of-way necessary to accomplish the approved work;
2. Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the requested work, and shall indemnify the Federal Government against any claims arising from such work;
3. Provide reimbursement to FEMA for the non-Federal share of the cost of such work in accordance with the provisions of the FEMA-State Agreement; and
4. Assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

I have designated Kelly Hamilton, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, as the Governor's Authorized Representative. In addition, I have designated Ali Rye, Response and Recovery Bureau Chief, New Mexico Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, as State Coordinating Officer for this request. They will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to coordinate continued recovery efforts, and they may provide further information or justification on my behalf.

Sincerely,

Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Governor



Enclosures

A: FEMA-State IA Preliminary Damage Assessment Report  
Governor's Executive Order  
FEMA Extension Request Letter  
Weather Statement  
OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13