

New Mexico Agricultural & Natural Resources Trust Fund

Funding the Future of New Mexico

SB 102
HB 223

Problem

New Mexico's **land and water** form the foundation of our communities, and yet without investing in both, we risk our future and that of our children.

1. Our ancient acequias, water systems and watersheds face grave uncertainty under volatile climate scenarios;
2. New Mexico's land base faces drought, soil erosion and lost productivity, while our forests grow increasingly vulnerable to catastrophic wildfire;
3. New Mexico loses an average of 50,000 acres of undeveloped land per year, threatening the future of our agricultural way of life, and resulting in increased habitat fragmentation for our states' wildlife.
4. Residential, commercial and energy development decreases available agricultural lands, increases wildlife habitat fragmentation and increases the need for restoration;
5. Two of New Mexico's most important economic sectors, agriculture (\$10 billion) and outdoor recreation/eco-tourism (\$1 billion) are threatened by these impacts;
6. Our rural economies struggle to sustain vibrant communities, yet programs in similar states resulted in 15-24 local jobs created for every \$1 million spent.
7. New Mexico could be capitalizing on millions of dollars of available Federal funding simply through the availability of state matching funds.

Vision

We seek to sustain and enhance New Mexico's agricultural and natural heritage through stewardship, conservation and restoration of our forests, grasslands and watersheds; to provide for wildlife populations and habitats; and to ensure the continuation of agricultural production on working farms and ranches.

Need

New Mexico needs to invest in its land and water resources in order to ensure the integrity and sustainability of our water supply, wildlife, agriculture, and wide-open spaces – all of which comprise our incredible and unique natural and cultural heritage recognized nationally and worldwide.

Opportunity

Given the record high revenue surpluses New Mexico is projected to enjoy, we have a limited window within which to take steps to conserve and restore high priority landscapes, watersheds and resources that sustain our state. Surpluses will not last forever, now is the time to invest in the conservation and restoration of our natural resources. It is estimated that at least 20 to 30 million dollars annually can be leveraged with the State's investment, a 6:1 match ratio.

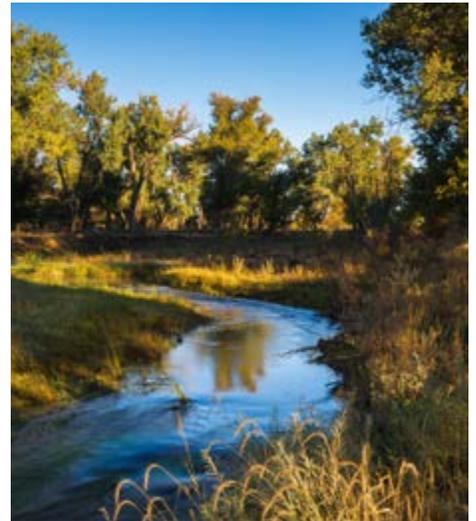




Proposal

Create an endowment fund where only the accrued interest will be used to conserve and enhance land, water and habitat across New Mexico. The Coalition's long-term vision is to see the Fund reach \$400 million through a combination of surplus revenue from oil/gas and other sources of public and private funding.

Create a Board representing different regions within the state and different areas of expertise to evaluate, rank and select projects, and to periodically submit progress reports back to the Governor and Legislature.



Partners

A broad coalition of agricultural, conservation and restoration organizations as well as management agencies including, but not limited to: New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts, Western Landowners Alliance, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, National Young Farmers Coalition, New Mexico Land Conservancy, Rios Unidos, New Mexico Acequia Association, Taos Valley Acequia Association, Rio Grande Agricultural Land Trust, Santa Fe Conservation Trust, Taos Land Trust, Defenders of Wildlife, Trout Unlimited, Audubon New Mexico, New Mexico Wildlife Federation, Quail and Upland Wildlife Federation, Quivira Coalition, Holistic Management International, American Forest Foundation, Alianza Agri-Cultura de Taos and others.

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or visit wla.social/policy-nmanr-trust-fund

**Let us together conserve and enhance
New Mexico's agricultural and natural
heritage for current and future generations.**

