

Revised: September 25, 2026

**TENTATIVE AGENDA
for the
FOURTH MEETING
of the
WATER AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

**September 28-30, 2026
Don Fernando Hall
Taos Civic Center
120 Civic Plaza Drive
Taos**

Monday, September 28

- 9:15 a.m. **Call to Order and Introductions**
 —Representative Kristina Ortez, Chair
 —Senator Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics, Vice Chair
- 9:30 a.m. (1) **Welcome and Local Updates**
 —Daniel Barrone, Mayor, Town of Taos
- 9:45 a.m. (2) **Regenerative Agriculture Practices, Soil Health and the Agricultural Water Resilience Program**
 —Kris Hulvey, Ph.D., Founder and Lead Scientist, Working Lands Conservation
 —Jim Armendariz, Rancher and Farmer, Rancho Armendariz
 —Debbie Hughes, Executive Director, New Mexico Association of Conservation Districts
 —Kirsten Holles, Manager, Agricultural Water Resilience Program (AgWRP), Water Resources Research Institute (WRRI), New Mexico State University (NMSU)
 —Ahmed Mashaly, Ph.D., Research Scientist, AgWRP, WRRI, NMSU
 —Jon Hupp, Owner, Goat Orchard Farms
- 11:00 a.m. (3) **Circular Economy Plan and Composting and Recycling Initiatives**
 —Shirlene Sitton, Chief, Resource Recovery Bureau, Department of Environment (NMED)
 —Sarah Pierpont, Executive Director, New Mexico Recycling Coalition
 —Robb Hirsch, Co-Founder, New Mexico Healthy Soil Working Group
- 12:00 noon **Public Comment***
- 12:15 p.m. **Lunch**

- 1:15 p.m. (4) [Strategic Water Reserve Updates](#)
—Hannah Riseley-White, Director, Interstate Stream Commission
—Anjali Bean, Senior Policy Analyst, Healthy Rivers, Western Resource Advocates
- 2:15 p.m. (5) [River Stewardship Program Updates and River Protection, Health and Economic Impacts](#)
—Kate Lacey-Younge, Watershed Protection Section Program Manager, NMED
—Shannon Romeling, Projects Coordinator, Amigos Bravos
—Cisco Guevara, Founder, President and Head Guide, Los Rios River Runners
—Tricia Snyder, Director, Rivers and Waters Program, New Mexico Wild
- 3:30 p.m. (6) [Nature-Based Solutions](#)
—Sarah Hurteau, Director, Resilient Cities Program, Spatial Informatics Group-Natural Assets Laboratory
- 4:15 p.m. **Tour of Red River Restoration Site and Red River Hatchery
(Committee Members and Committee Staff Only)**

Tuesday, September 29

- 9:00 a.m. (7) [Wildfire Mitigation, Forest and Watershed Restoration and the Rio Grande Water Fund](#)
—Lindsey Quam, Deputy Director, Forestry Division, Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)
—Steve Bassett, Director, Conservation Programs, The Nature Conservancy
—Kyle Harwood, Attorney and Administrator, San Juan Chama Project Contractors Association
—J.R. Logan, Owner, Del Medio Forestry, LLC
- 10:15 a.m. (8) [Land Grant-Merced Forest Co-Management and Opportunities for Value-Added Economic Development](#)
—J.R. Logan, Owner, Del Medio Forestry, LLC
—Juan P. Lopez, President, Board of Trustees, Santo Tomas Apostol del Rio de las Trampas Land Grant-Merced
—James Duran, Supervisor, Carson National Forest, United States Forest Service
- 11:15 a.m. (9) [Wildfire Mitigation Plans and Utility Liability](#)
—Jay Sturhahn, Senior Vice President and General Counsel, Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association, Inc.
—Wes Gray, P.E., Vice President, Operations and Engineering, Public Service Company of New Mexico
—McLee Kerolle, Technical Advisor, Public Regulation Commission
—TBD, Office of Superintendent of Insurance

- 12:15 p.m. **Approval of Minutes**
- 12:20 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1:15 p.m. (10) [Noxious Weeds Program and Funding Updates](#)
—Max Henkels, Director, Agricultural Programs and Resources Division,
New Mexico Department of Agriculture
—Tyler Zander, Manager, Healthy Soils and Noxious Weed Program, Taos
Soil and Water Conservation District
—Larry Mondragon, Landowner, Ranchos de Taos
- 2:15 p.m. (11) [Uranium Mining Proposals and Permitting Process](#)
—Jonas Armstrong, Director, Water Protection Division, NMED
—David "D.J." Ennis, P.G., Program Manager, New Mexico Mining Act
Reclamation Program, EMNRD
—Buster Green, Commissioner, District 1, Catron County Board of
Commissioners
—Laura Watchempino, Member, Laguna-Acoma Coalition for a Safe
Environment
—Misaël Cabrera, Senior Vice President of Sustainability and Regulatory
Affairs, Energy Fuels Inc.
—Nick Martin, Environmental Manager, Energy Fuels Inc./Roca Honda
Mine
- 3:30 p.m. (12) [Free-Roaming Horse Herd Management and Funding for Equine
Shelters](#)
—Nina Eydelman, Chief Program and Policy Officer, Equine and Wildlife,
Animal Protection New Mexico and Animal Protection Voters
—Susan Hemmerle, Executive Director, The Horse Shelter
—Karen Herman, Ph.D., Director, Sky Mountain Wild Horse Sanctuary
—Belinda Garland, Executive Director, New Mexico Livestock Board
- 4:30 p.m. **Public Comment***
- 4:45 p.m. **Recess**

Wednesday, September 30

- 9:00 a.m. (13) [Renewable Energy Siting for Wildlife and Ecosystems](#)
—Stephanie Herbert, Deputy Director of Stewardship, State Land Office
—Michael B. Sloane, Director, Department of Wildlife (NMDOW)
—Michael Dax, Wildlands Network
—Jeremy Turner, Senior Director for New Mexico Development and
Strategy, Pattern Energy
- 10:00 a.m. (14) [Black Bears: Managing Human-Wildlife Conflicts](#)
—Michael B. Sloane, Director, NMDOW
—Jesse Deubel, Executive Director, New Mexico Wildlife Federation

- 10:30 a.m. (15) [Elk Private Land Use System](#)
- Michael B. Sloane, Director, NMDOW
 - Kerrie Romero, Executive Director, New Mexico Council of Outfitters and Guides
 - Donald Martinez, Rancher; Agricultural Extension Agent, New Mexico Cooperative Extension Service, NMSU
 - Lance Bernal, Natural Resources Manager and Wildlife Biologist, Vermejo Park Ranch
 - Jesse Deubel, Executive Director, New Mexico Wildlife Federation

12:00 noon **Adjourn**

*Members of the public may make virtual public comments during the public comment period of the meeting by following the instructions under the "Additional Information" section of the Water and Natural Resources Committee [web page](#).

If you have a disability and require assistance accessing a meeting, please [click here to request an accommodation](#). You may also call Robin Garrison at (505) 986-4685 or email ada.assist@nmlegis.gov. Please help us prepare your accommodation by submitting your request at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting or as soon as possible. Requests made with less than a 24-hour notice cannot be guaranteed.