COALITION FOR OUTDOOR EQUITY FUND NEW MEXICO



INVEST IN NEW MEXICO'S OUTDOOR FUTURE

Education. Workforce. Trails. Opportunity.

New Mexico made history by creating the nation's first state-funded **Outdoor Equity Fund (OEF).** Today, OEF is doing more than getting young people outdoors—it is connecting youth to **education, leadership, culture, stewardship, workforce skills and future careers.** The **Coalition for Outdoor Equity Fund New Mexico** brings together OEF grantees, community organizations and advocates working to strengthen this proven program and build a long-term outdoor education-to-workforce pathway for New Mexico.

OEF IS WORKING

Since its launch, the Outdoor Equity Fund has:

$12.8M
invested in youth outdoor programs

145,000+
young people connected to outdoor education and experiences

25
counties reached across New Mexico, including rural and Tribal communities

OEF programs introduce young people to environmental education, conservation, cultural knowledge and outdoor recreation while creating pathways into careers such as **guiding, conservation, restoration, agriculture, trail work, natural resources and environmental education.** In FY26 alone, demand reached **228 applicants requesting $7.8 million,** compared with approximately $4 million available. Many funded programs included workforce development, paid opportunities and career training.

FROM OUTDOOR ACCESS TO OUTDOOR CAREERS

Career development starts long before a young person submits their first job application.

EXPOSURE
Discovering outdoor places, professions and possibilities.

EDUCATION
Learning about water, land, wildlife, climate, culture and stewardship.

SKILLS
Building leadership, technical skills, certifications and hands-on experience.

WORKFORCE
Connecting young people to internships, paid work, mentors and career pathways.

OEF can become the front door to New Mexico's outdoor workforce.



OEF IS WORKING

Investing in People + Investing in Places

New Mexico is simultaneously making major investments in outdoor infrastructure through the **Trails+ Grant Program.** Since 2020, Trails+ has invested approximately:

$39.8M
in outdoor infrastructure

282
projects across 29 counties

2,650
jobs estimated to have been supported

Trails+ helps communities build and improve trails, outdoor classrooms, active transportation routes and recreation infrastructure. Together, these programs create an opportunity to connect New Mexico's investment in outdoor infrastructure with the young people who can someday **maintain it, steward it, work in it, teach in it and build local economies around it.**

THE COALITION'S 2027 PROPOSAL

$10 MILLION PER YEAR FOR 3 YEARS

Through the Government Results & Opportunity Fund

The Coalition proposes a three-year GRO investment to scale OEF as an **outdoor education and workforce-development initiative** and measure its statewide impact. GRO was created to give New Mexico the ability to fund promising initiatives over multiple years, establish clear performance measures, evaluate outcomes and use those results when considering future recurring funding.

A three-year OEF investment could measure:

- Youth served and geographic reach
- Outdoor and environmental education delivered
- Rural and Tribal participation
- Workforce-development participation
- Paid internships and work experiences
- Credentials and certifications earned
- Career mentorship and job exposure
- Connections to conservation, restoration and Trails+ projects
- Partnerships with schools, Tribes and employers
- Movement into additional training, higher education or employment

A THREE-YEAR OPPORTUNITY

YEAR 1
Expand access, education and career exposure.

YEAR 2
Deepen workforce pathways & statewide partnerships.

YEAR 3
Measure outcomes and demonstrate long-term return on investment.

Then let the results guide the path forward. The Coalition's goal is to determine whether sustained investment can transform OEF from a successful outdoor-access grant program into a durable statewide pathway.

The Coalition for Outdoor Equity Fund New Mexico (COEFNM) is sponsored by The Semilla Project.
The Semilla Project, a New Mexico nonprofit corporation, conducts its education and advocacy work in a nonpartisan manner consistent with its 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. Currently COEFNM is comprised of: Friends of OMDP, Together for Brothers, Nuestra Tierra, Total NM, Santa Fe Children's Museum, Story Riders, The Semilla Project, Western Resource Advocates, and The Wilderness Society