

# Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Claims Office

## Director Angela Gladwell

Presentation for New Mexico State Legislative Finance Committee  
August 22, 2023

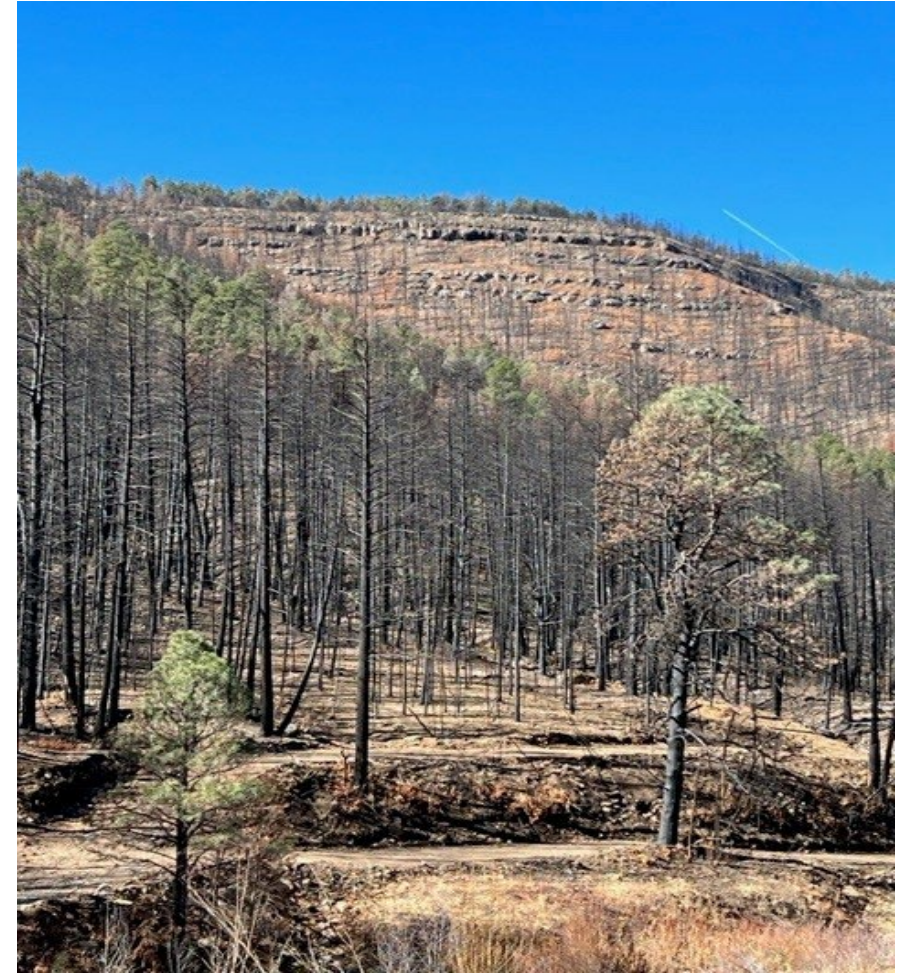


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# Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire Assistance Act

- On Sept. 30, 2022, President Joseph R. Biden signed the Hermit's Peak Fire Assistance Act.
- The Act appropriated an initial **\$2.5 billion** to **compensate** individuals, businesses, Tribal Nations, and state and local governments impacted by the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire and subsequent flooding.
- An additional **\$1.45 billion** was included in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, which passed Dec. 29, 2022.



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# Claims Office Compensation vs. FEMA's Individual Assistance

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- The Claims Office differs from traditional FEMA disaster assistance programs. We will provide **compensation** for those impacted by the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire for personal injury, property losses, business losses and financial losses resulting from the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire, including flooding and other impacts.
- Submitting a Notice of Loss is the first step in the Claims process. Claims will currently be accepted through November 2024
- FEMA's Individual Assistance program was designed to only provide funds for **basic work to make a home livable.**



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# Claims Office Public and Intergovernmental Communications

- Six **public comment meetings** on the interim regulations in Mora, San Miguel, Taos, and Colfax counties between November 17, 2022, and January 9, 2023.
- Three **job fairs** in which 43 local staff hired.
- Monthly **public townhall events** in Mora and San Miguel.
- Weekly **News Releases** and updates on our **Facebook** page and at [FEMA.gov/Hermits-Peak](https://www.fema.gov/Hermits-Peak).
- Weekly coordination calls with **New Mexico DHSEM**, bi-monthly calls with staff from the **Office of the Governor**, and monthly calls with the **New Mexico Congressional Delegation**.



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# Claims Offices Opened to the Public on April 26, 2023

**Mora Claims Office  
Mora County Courthouse**

1 Courthouse Drive  
Mora, NM 87732

**Las Vegas Claims Office**

216 Mills Avenue  
Las Vegas, NM 87701

**Santa Fe Claims Office**

1711 Llano Street, Suite E  
Santa Fe, NM 87505

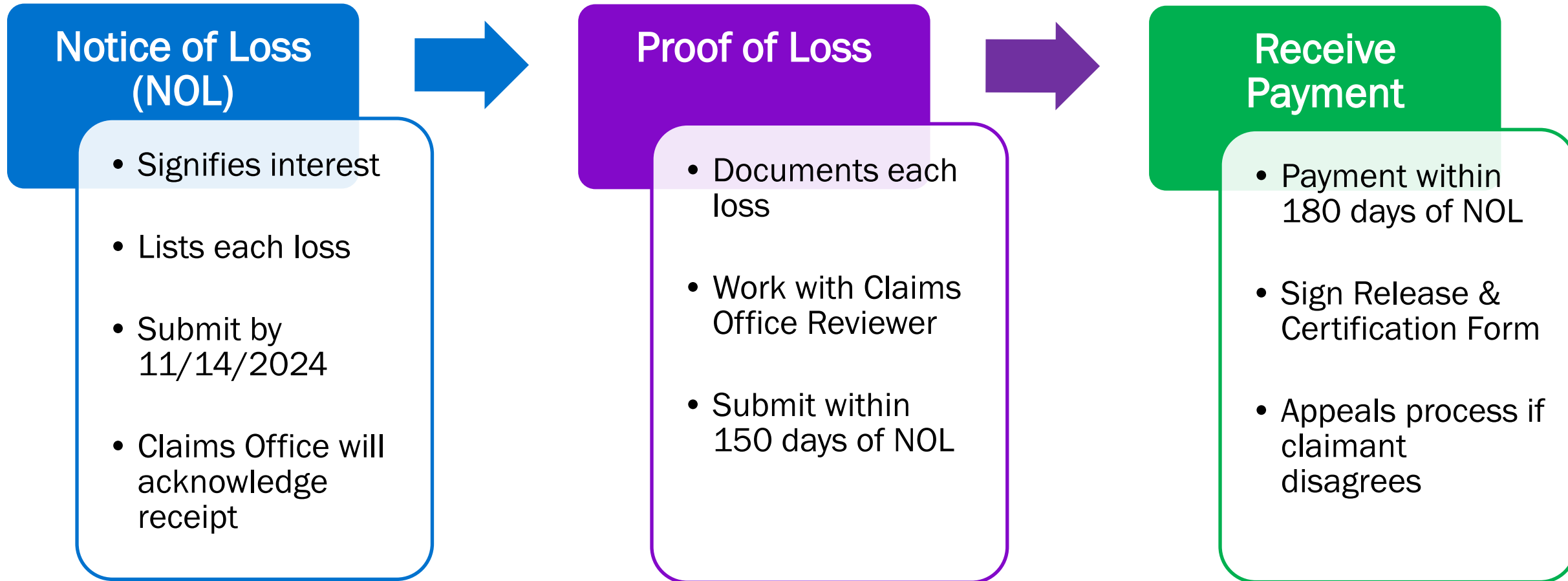
**Claims Office Helpline – (505) 995-7133**

**Monday – Thursday, 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.**



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# General Claims Process and Timeline



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# Establishing a Consistent Pace of Payments

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- As of today, more than **1,870** Notices of Loss have been received.
- As of today, the Claims Office has obligated **over \$27 million**.
- Projecting an obligation total of \$50 million to claimants by October of this year, \$100 million by January 2024, and over \$1 billion by the January 2025.



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# USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Partnership

- Partnership provides claimants with free NRCS conservation restoration plans tailored to recovery from the Fire and subsequent flooding.
- To date, more than **480 landowners** have been connected with USDA NRCS and **227 plans** have been completed.
- The Claims Office has obligated 35 plans through the Claims Office for a total of \$23 million.
- There are **69 plans** currently being processed.



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# Flood Insurance Coverage

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- The Claims Office can reimburse both for an existing flood insurance policy or the purchase of a new flood insurance policy for five years of coverage.
- Those who have a reasonable fear of heightened flood risk due to the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon fires are eligible. Claimants living in NFIP participating communities in Mora and San Miguel counties are automatically eligible.
- As of today, we have received **461 requests** for NFIP policies, **62 of which have been processed.**



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# Valuing Tree Loss

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- Under the Interim Final Rule, the Claims Office team has made a determination that we can narrowly apply the 25% cap on trees and landscaping to ornamental landscaping found close to a claimant's home.
- We plan to fully compensate for reforestation and revegetation of lands directly impacted by the fire.
- Hosted a public focus group in July to ensure feedback from the impacted communities is received, respected, and included in this process.
- Actively engaging experts from the state, local and federal governments to ensure our methodology is sound.



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# The Final Rule

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- The issuance of final regulations is not holding up the claims process. The claims process is operational and will continue to ramp up in the coming months.
- Some claimants may benefit from the final rule, but none will be harmed, and none will lose access to any compensation if made available later through the final rule.
- Under the Act, claimants have **150 days** from when we formally acknowledge the Notice of Loss Form to complete the Proof of Loss Form.
- Any claimant who is unable to collect estimates or receipts for the full scope of loss during this 150-day period for good cause, will be granted an extension. That is the commitment of the Claims Office.



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# Closing Remarks

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- The Claims Office will continue to work closely with federal, state and local leaders, and with the public directly to reinforce our commitment to helping those affected by this disaster in their recovery.
- We will continue to listen, adapt, and improve the claims process to ensure we meet the commitment that every claimant impacted by the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire receives the compensation they are entitled to under the law.
- Please contact us with any questions, visit our website, and follow us on Facebook.



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# Questions?



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