

SENATE CONSERVATION COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE BILL 262

**57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

AN ACT

MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR PROGRAM COORDINATORS TO OVERSEE  
CITIZEN SCIENCE PROJECTS AND TO CREATE AND MAINTAIN WEB PORTALS  
AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS TO TRACK AND EVALUATE CITIZEN SCIENCE  
PROJECTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. APPROPRIATIONS.--

A. The following amounts are appropriated from the  
general fund to the following agencies for expenditure in  
fiscal years 2026 and 2027 to employ program coordinators to  
oversee citizen science projects in which members of the public  
volunteer to assist in conducting scientific research and  
collecting data on wildlife and to collaborate with the other  
state agencies enumerated in this subsection:

- (1) the state parks division of the energy,

.230613.3

underscoring material = new  
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1 minerals and natural resources department, two hundred seventy-  
2 five thousand dollars (\$275,000); and

3 (2) the department of environment, two hundred  
4 seventy-five thousand dollars (\$275,000).

5 B. Four hundred thousand dollars (\$400,000) is  
6 appropriated from the general fund to the board of regents of  
7 the university of New Mexico for expenditure in fiscal years  
8 2026 and 2027 for the natural heritage New Mexico program  
9 within the museum of southwestern biology and the department of  
10 biology of the university of New Mexico to provide for program  
11 expenses and employ staff to support citizen science project  
12 coordinators, create and maintain web portals and create  
13 information systems to track and evaluate citizen science  
14 projects.

15 C. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining  
16 at the end of fiscal year 2027 from the appropriations pursuant  
17 to this section shall revert to the general fund.