



Energy, Minerals and natural Resources Department

Water and Natural Resources Committee

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State of New Mexico
Office of the Governor

Susana Martinez
Governor

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**Governor Susana Martinez Announces \$6.2 Million for Major
Watershed Restoration Initiative**
*Funding Helps Rehabilitate Watersheds from Unprecedented
Drought, Fire, and Floods*

Santa Fe — Governor Susana Martinez today announced \$6.2 million for watershed restoration on public lands throughout New Mexico. This funding will help restore and rehabilitate vulnerable watersheds throughout the state, improving water quality and quantity.

“Unprecedented drought, wildfires, and flooding have decimated New Mexico’s watersheds,” said Governor Susana Martinez. “Water is our most precious natural resource, and we must take an active role in preserving it. By taking action now, we will not only help restore these vital areas for future generations, but we will also help improve the quality and availability of water, and support economic growth.”

Governor Martinez signed this \$6.2 million into law as part of the 2014 capital infrastructure legislation – which included an unprecedented \$89 million worth of investment in water infrastructure throughout the State. The funding will treat approximately 7,700 acres of 14 high-priority watershed areas on public lands, as identified in the New Mexico Forest Action Plan.

This funding includes the following projects:

- Two Goats Watershed Restoration Project (Otero County) \$1,236,950
- Gallinas Municipal Watershed (San Miguel County) \$885,000
- Dos Rios Restoration Project (San Juan County) \$645,150
- Mescalero Apache Tribe Watershed Restoration Project (Otero County) \$600,000
- Coyote Creek/Blake Lake (Colfax County) \$500,000

- Canjilon/Cebolla Watershed Improvement (Taos County) \$465,520
- Black Deer/Six Shooter Watershed Restoration Project (Catron County) \$390,000
- Bluewater (Cibola County) \$303,210
- Los Vigiles Community Land Grant (San Miguel County) \$300,000
- Sandia Ranger District, Sulphur Sub-Unit B (Bernalillo County) \$229,153
- Leggett-Starkweather Watershed Restoration Project (Catron County) \$217,363
- Mormon Canyon, Valles Caldera National Preserve (Sandoval County) \$210,987
- Sandia Ranger District, Sulphur Sub-Unit A (Bernalillo County) \$117,514
- Sandia Ranger District, Hondo North (Bernalillo County) \$99,153

Some projects, such as the Dos Rios project in San Juan County, will remove invasive species along the San Juan and Animas Rivers. The project in the Valles Caldera will consist of forest thinning within an overstocked watershed adjacent to the Thompson Ridge Fire. Cut materials from the project will be used to provide erosion control to the remaining watershed from the Thompson Ridge incident. Other projects, such as one located in the Gila National Forest, will improve watershed condition by restoring woodland vegetation to a more open savannah in a major tributary of the San Francisco River.

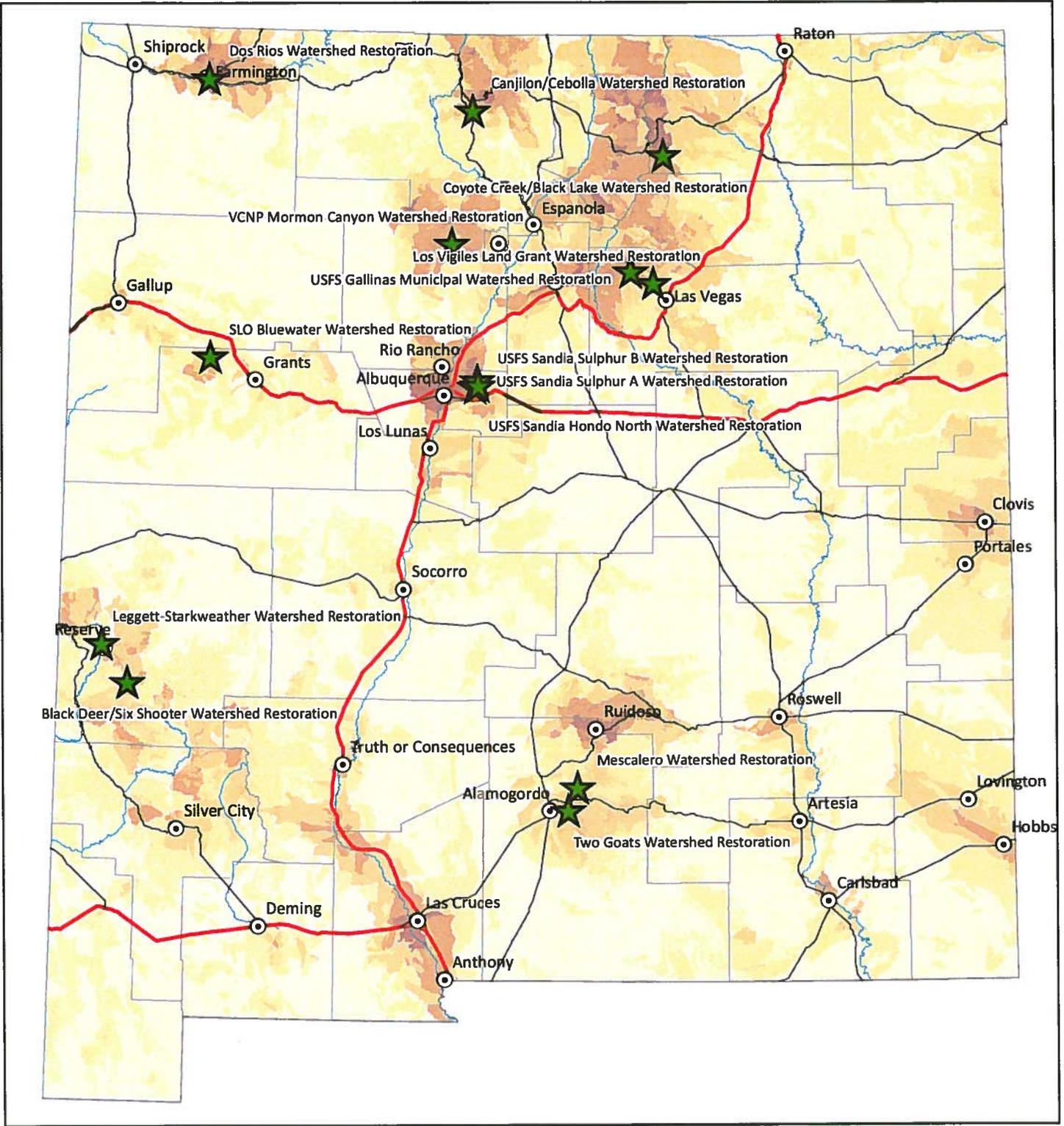
“Governor Martinez, the New Mexico Drought Task Force and the State Legislature have been extremely supportive of our efforts to restore and protect our vital watersheds across the state and this funding will make a real difference for years to come,” said New Mexico State Forester Tony Delfin, who chairs the Drought Task Force’s Watershed Sub-committee. “We look forward to working with our interagency partners on these projects to better protect our natural resources so our communities have access to better quality and quantities of water.”

The projects will also help reduce threats to public and firefighter safety, as well as reduce ecological threats. Healthier watersheds provide economic benefits such as improved recreational opportunities, forest products, livestock forage, and wildlife habitat. These projects will also bring jobs to rural communities.

In related news, Governor Martinez recently announced the opening of the River Stewardship Program Request for Proposals (RFP). The River Stewardship Program funds projects that improve surface water quality and river habitat statewide. Proposals will be considered from towns, cities, counties, state agencies, soil and water conservation districts, irrigation districts, and community watershed groups, as well as Indian Nations, Pueblos, and Tribes. Additional groups that work to restore river habitats are also encouraged to apply. Examples of past projects include clearing non-native vegetation in river areas, lowering river bank lines, replanting native species vegetation, revitalizing wetlands, and installing erosion control.

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EMNRD Watershed Restoration Projects



Legend



Priority Watersheds

- 1 - Lowest Priority
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5 - Highest Priority

