

Support the New Mexico Conservation Fund Proposal

Protect your Communities from Wildfire, Flood & Drought + Grow NM's Outdoor Economy



Why pass a Conservation Fund in 2023?

- After years of negotiation, a **bipartisan coalition** is coming together to support a new conservation fund. This fund would help protect New Mexico communities from the threat of wildfire, flood and drought while growing our outdoor economy in rural & urban areas.
- **State investments must be made this session** to unlock millions of dollars in federal money that will go directly to your local communities.
- EMNRD's proposal would provide a **long-term funding solution** for existing programs that are popular in all four corners of the state, focused on public and private land and water conservation.
- **New federal money is on the way** – but New Mexico communities could be left out if our state does not provide basic matching funds.
- The proposal would help invest in NM's booming outdoor recreation economy, which supports 33,500 jobs and \$1.2 billion in income every year.

Who will benefit?

✓ **Every single county in New Mexico.** Whether it's the threat of wildfire, flood or drought, every corner of our state is now at risk and needs this support.

As we're seeing with ongoing wildfires and floods, local communities need more support for land & watershed protection. This session, you have an opportunity to deliver for them.

The challenges are too big for your county commissions, mayors and local leaders to do it on their own – they must have more resources from the state.

Ranchers, farmers, private landowners and tribal communities would also benefit greatly from investments to this conservation fund.

SUMMARY

New federal money is on the way to New Mexico - but only we provide state matching funds. Tens of millions of dollars are at stake.

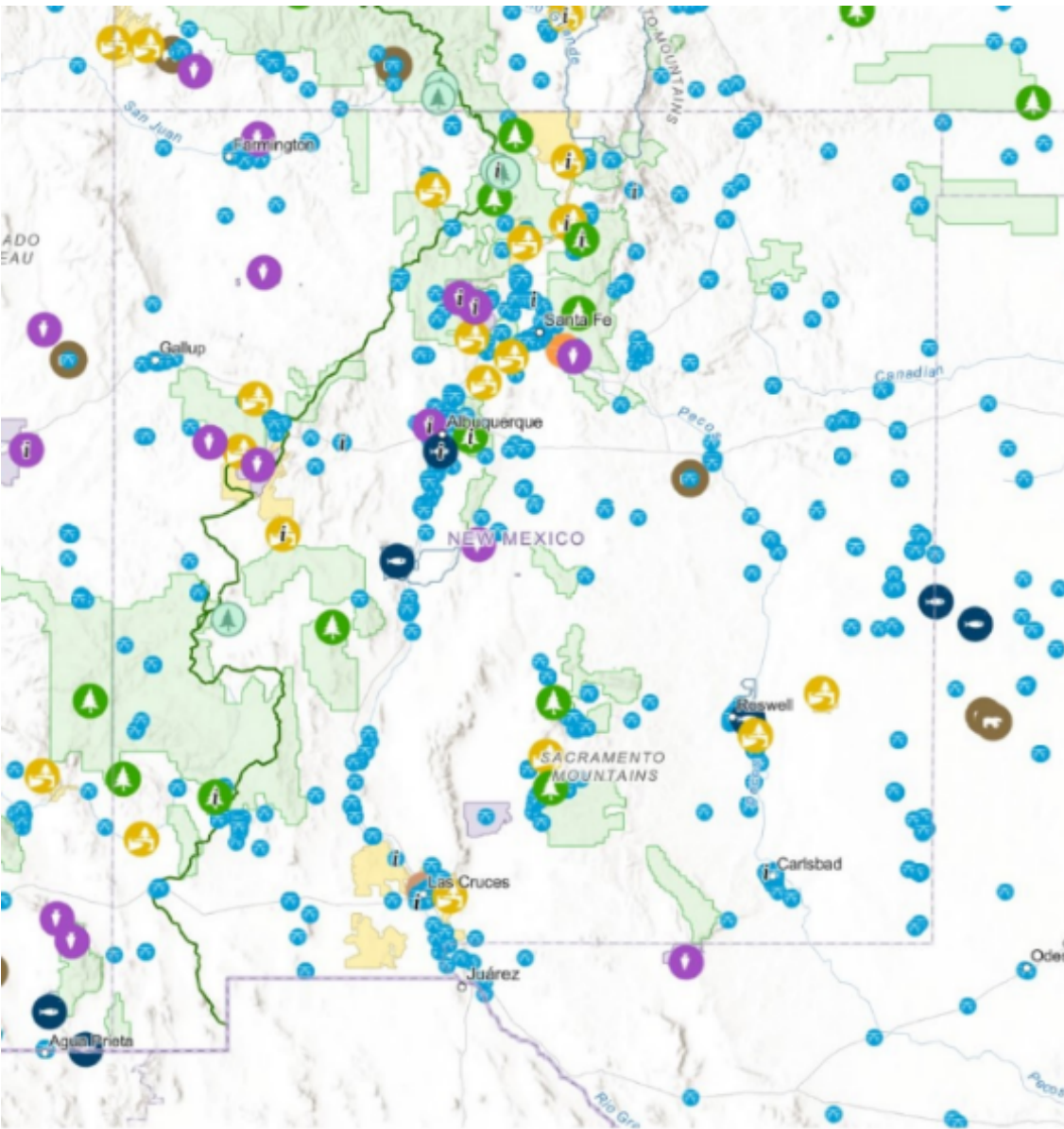
Local communities are primed to apply for projects they know work for them.

What is missing?

Investments from the New Mexico Legislature.

Opportunity, by the numbers:

- Billions of dollars nationally through the 2021 federal *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law*
- Over \$700 million in wildfire resilience funds for states, tribes, and local communities
- \$1.5 billion for wildlife conservation and outdoor recreation
- Over \$3 billion available nationally in the 2022 federal *Inflation Reduction Act* for forest health, wildfire resilience, and conservation
- \$700 million in new money for the Forest Legacy Program
- The bi-partisan Great American Outdoors Act, championed by the NM Congressional Delegation and signed by President Trump, quintupled the amount of funding available for state and local parks and open spaces, but it requires a 50% non-federal match through the Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF).
- **Local communities need help from the state to provide matching funds** to leverage federal LWCF dollars.



Land and Water Conservation Fund

New Mexico projects 1964 - Present

- State and Local Assistance Program
- Forest Legacy Program
- **Every county in New Mexico has benefited from LWCF \$ since the 1970s.**
- LWCF projects have helped fund rodeo grounds, little league fields, local parks, recreational centers, river/walking trails and other popular spaces.
- New Mexico has not provided a state-based funding source since the mid-1980s.
- **New federal money is at risk without additional state investment.**