



Aubrey Dunn, State Land Commissioner  
State of New Mexico

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***State Land Office Continues Watershed Restoration Work in Lincoln County***

**SANTA FE, NM** — Under the direction of New Mexico State Land Commissioner Aubrey Dunn, the State Land Office is continuing work to improve watershed conditions on State Trust Lands near Capitan.

The Red Lick Canyon watershed health project is part of an ongoing effort to restore desired conditions within the forest and floodplains, increase resiliency to wildfire, drought, disease and insect infestation, and create favorable habitat for wildlife and livestock in the area.

“Watershed restoration is an important part of my land management plan and essential to the health and safety of communities across the state,” said Commissioner Dunn. “This project not only safeguards the watershed against the threat of wildfire, but it will restore the forest structure and improve the ecosystem.”

The project site consists of 450 acres of overgrown pinon-juniper and crews are removing sparsely crowned, diseased, damaged and deformed trees. Their efforts will promote the growth of understory vegetation, restore the meadowland, and reduce ladder fuels.

The project is expected to cost upwards of \$207,000 and will be entirely funded by the State Land Office.

Since taking office in 2015, Commissioner Dunn has spent nearly \$3.134 million on 59 projects related to rangeland, forest and watershed remediation, wildlife habitat improvement, illegal dump site cleanups, and cultural resource stabilization across 18,554 acres of State Trust Lands. Restoration and remediation projects in fiscal year 2018 could reach \$2.4 million.

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***Oil, gas, and mineral production, ranching and farming, and commercial development on State Trust Lands support public schools, seven universities, New Mexico Military Institute, New Mexico School for the Deaf, New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, three hospitals, correctional facilities, water conservation projects, and public building construction and repair.***



*A section of the Red Lick Canyon watershed before treatment.*