



Aubrey Dunn, State Land Commissioner
State of New Mexico

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Mountainair Conservationist Joins State Land Office's Advisory Board

SANTA FE, NM - The New Mexico State Senate today confirmed Mountainair conservationist Dierdre "Dee" Tarr to the State Land Office's State Lands Trust Advisory Board. Ms. Tarr was sponsored by Sen. Elizabeth "Liz" Stefanics (D-39).

The seven-member board assists the state land commissioner with policies and programs associated with the Trust the State Land Office manages. Two members represent the Trust beneficiaries, one member represents the extractive industries, one member represents the agricultural community, one member represents conservation interests, and two members represent the general public. All members are appointed by the state land commissioner and must be confirmed by the Senate. Each term runs six years.

Ms. Tarr is filling a recently vacated seat and will represent conservation interests.

"Range, forest, and watershed restoration are my administration's top priorities and Dee will play a fundamental role in identifying and implementing land management projects," said State Land Commissioner Aubrey Dunn. "I welcome her to the State Lands Trust Advisory Board and look forward to working with her."

Ms. Tarr is a native New Mexican, born in Mountainair. She is a graduate of Roswell High School.

Dee began her career in Mountainair as operations manager and later branch manager of First National Bank of Belen's Mountainair branch, which has a large agricultural base.

Currently, she serves as district manager for the Claunch-Pinto Soil & Water Conservation District (CPSWCD) collaborating with local, state, federal, and tribal partners on conservation projects.

Ms. Tarr manages \$3 million in grants for various projects within the district, including the Greater Rio Grande Watershed Alliance and the Estancia Basin Watershed Health Restoration and Monitoring Project. There are 30 partners, including the State Land Office field operations team, working cooperatively with CPSWCD on conservation efforts in north-central New Mexico.

As a member of several professional associations, Dee has served as state president of the New Mexico Association of Conservation District Employees, recording secretary of the Estancia Basin Planning Committee, and president of the Mountainair Chamber of Commerce.

She currently represents the Town of Mountainair on the Estancia Basin Resource Association and she is president of the Mountainair Rotary Club.

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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. In fiscal year 2017, the State Land Office collected \$664 million from lease payments, oil and gas lease sale earnings, rights-of-way, permits, interest, fees, and oil, gas, and mineral royalties.