

NEW MEXICO STATE LAND OFFICE



FISCAL YEAR 2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Commissioner of Public Lands Stephanie Garcia Richard



White Peak

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NEW MEXICO STATE LAND OFFICE

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New Mexico State Land Office

Executive Team



Stephanie Garcia Richard
Commissioner of Public Lands



Francesca DiPalma
Director of Constituent
Services



Chase Henzler
Research & Policy
Analyst



Sunalei Stewart
Deputy Commissioner of Operations



Tarin Nix
Deputy Commissioner of Public
Affairs



Selena Romero
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Ethan Ortega
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Michael Sage
Assistant Commissioner of
Commercial Resources



Joey Keefe
Assistant Commissioner of
Communications



Ari Biernoff
General Counsel



Greg Bloom
Assistant Commissioner of Mineral
Resources



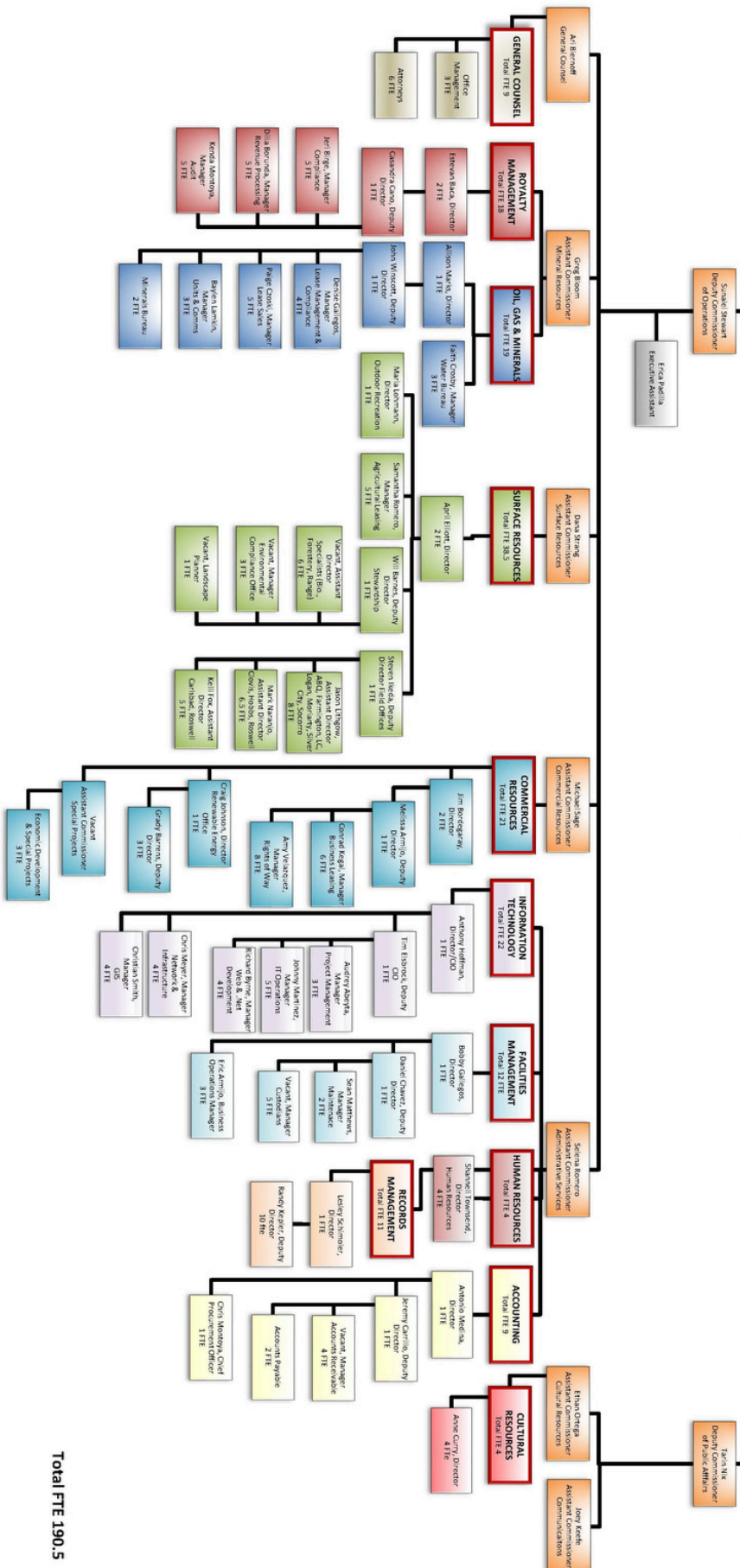
Dana Vackar Strang
Assistant Commissioner of Surface
Resources

Stephanie Garcia Richard
Commissioner of Public Lands

Chase Heuzer
Researcher & Policy Analyst

France Director
Service A

Tarin Nix
Deputy Commissioner
of Public Affairs



NMSLO ANNUAL REPORT FY24 - COMMISSIONER STEPHANIE GARCIA RICHARD - PAGE 5



A MESSAGE FROM: COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS STEPHANIE GARCIA RICHARD

We have a saying here at the State Land Office that “all roads run through us.” Whether you’re drilling for oil and gas, using state land for grazing cattle or any number of other uses, the State Land Office has a much bigger impact on the state than many people realize.

We like to think of the State Land Office as a potential problem solver. Regardless of where you live in New Mexico, there are likely state trust lands in or very near your community. Through teamwork and a little creativity, the State Land Office can help communities meet critical needs. Whether it’s affordable housing, increased renewable energy production, or large-scale economic development projects that allow communities to diversify and provide local jobs, state lands can deliver for New Mexico’s communities.

This variety of projects helps us diversify our revenue streams, which is good for the long-term financial health of the public schools, universities, and hospitals that rely on funding from activities on state lands. In fiscal year 2024 (FY24), we did our best job yet of diversifying our revenue streams, earning more money than ever before from sources other than oil and gas royalties.



In total, we earned \$2.56 billion for New Mexico's beneficiaries in FY24 – the second highest total ever following the \$2.75 billion earned one year prior. The money the State Land Office raises saves the average New Mexico taxpayer around \$3,000 a year!

We've continued to break revenue records while ensuring that state lands are well-maintained for the benefit of future generations.



By the end of FY24, the Accountability & Enforcement program I launched in 2020 within our Legal Division to hold lessees accountable had compelled companies to plug 490 abandoned oil and gas wells at no cost to New Mexico taxpayers. These efforts save the state at least \$49 million in cleanup costs and help remediate state lands that have long been neglected.

Our new Environmental Compliance Office reviewed 679 incidents and spills and developed 111 remediation and reclamation plans. This team of dedicated environmental experts will help me and future Commissioners identify issues on state lands and keep them clean and beautiful for decades to come.

Across the agency, we saw major developments in FY24. Our Cultural Resources Office hosted a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Summit to strengthen tribal consultation between the State Land Office and sovereign nations and signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Isleta Pueblo to define consultation process and areas of interest.

Our Office of Renewable Energy staff secured two major wind leases – a 12,000-acre project in Hidalgo County and a 27,000-acre project in Grant County, which will earn over \$146 million and generate enough electricity for about 110,000 homes.

The Surface Resources Division Completed 844 agricultural lease renewals and issued 378 Recreational Access Permits. This team is often, quite literally, our boots on the ground. They handle a wide variety of tasks related to the care of New Mexico's surface lands, including wildfire mitigation, conservation of state lands, fuelwood collection partnerships with Land Grant communities and the Navajo Nation, and much more!

The Royalty Management Division does much more than process oil and gas royalties. This team finds other ways to earn money for New Mexico's beneficiaries, collecting \$9.4 million from audit and compliance efforts that included weeks-long visits to oil and gas producers to review finances. They also maintain a healthy working relationship with industry partners, hosting an annual training day that in FY24 attracted more than 200 industry professionals to learn about a wide variety of activities and processes related to oil and gas.

These are just a few of the many accomplishments I could list, and it is all possible because we have the best staff in all the land! The State Land Office was named a regional Top Workplace by the Albuquerque Journal for the second year and a National Top Workplace by USA Today for the first time in 2024. We also maintained a 7.1% vacancy rate throughout the year – much lower than the state average. Much of this is due to our incredible Human Resources and Administrative Service teams, who have contributed to: large IT project development, a pristine building and grounds, a finding-free audit and stellar record-keeping!



We look forward to building on all of this in the years to come with more success and more record revenue for our public schools and other institutions. We'd like to thank New Mexico's communities for the partnerships we've formed throughout the state to benefit our residents.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Stephanie Garcia Richard".

New Mexico State Land Office

A Brief History



Since its inception over 100 years ago, the New Mexico State Land Office has remained one of the most vital, self-sustaining state agencies in the Land of Enchantment. Charged with managing 9 million surface acres and 13 million mineral acres, the State Land Office earns billions of dollars to fund public schools, universities, and hospitals. The State Land Office mission is to help finance public institutions, while also protecting the health of the lands for future generations, with recognition that state lands rest on the ancestral homelands of 22 Native American Tribes and Nations.

Did you know?

The role of Commissioner of Public Lands was created before New Mexico was even a state!

The endowment of these public lands for educational purposes was established by the General Land Ordinance of 1785 and the Northwest Ordinance of 1787. The United States Congress recognized the importance of public schools to a developing nation, and although there was little money available to support the public needs of newly organizing states, the federal government had one resource in abundance – land. By granting land to newly organized states, the federal government could provide state governments with a source of revenue that could be used to fund public education and other essential public institutions.

Following the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848, under which most of the lands constituting present-day New Mexico became part of the United States, Congress approved the Organic Act for the Territory of New Mexico, establishing New Mexico as a territory, authorizing its civil government, and reserving sections 16 and 36 in each township. Nearly 50 years later, after losing the battle for statehood, Congressman Harvey B. Fergusson proposed legislation authorizing the granting of lands for certain purposes to the Territory of New Mexico.

New Mexico State Land Office

A Brief History



The Ferguson Act of 1898 gave sections 16 and 36 in every township to the territory for public beneficiaries. In the event these sections were mineral lands or had otherwise been appropriated under the mining or homestead laws, the territory was entitled to make alternative (or “in lieu”) selections.

Other provisions of the Ferguson Act included land grants designated to support additional beneficiaries, which are known today as New Mexico Public Schools, University of New Mexico, New Mexico State University, Western New Mexico University, New Mexico Highlands University, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology, New Mexico Military Institute, New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, New Mexico School for the Deaf, New Mexico Behavioral Health Institute, Miners Colfax Medical Center, Penitentiary of New Mexico, New Mexico Boys School, Water Reservoirs, Improvements to the Rio Grande, and Public Buildings.

**Just a few of our
beneficiaries**



In 1899, Territorial Governor Miguel A. Otero urged the Legislature to activate the federal land grants and appointed the first Commissioner of Public Lands, Alpheus A. Keen.

The Enabling Act, which provided for a Constitutional Convention, was passed by Congress on June 20, 1910. After delegates drafted a constitution, the document was submitted to the people for a vote. By presidential proclamation, the Territory of New Mexico officially became the State of New Mexico on January 6, 1912.

One of the articles of the new constitution provided that the Commissioner of Public Lands shall exercise custody, control, and the power of disposition of the trust lands as the agent for the state. The State Land Office issued its first oil and gas lease in 1916 and received its first royalty payment in 1924.

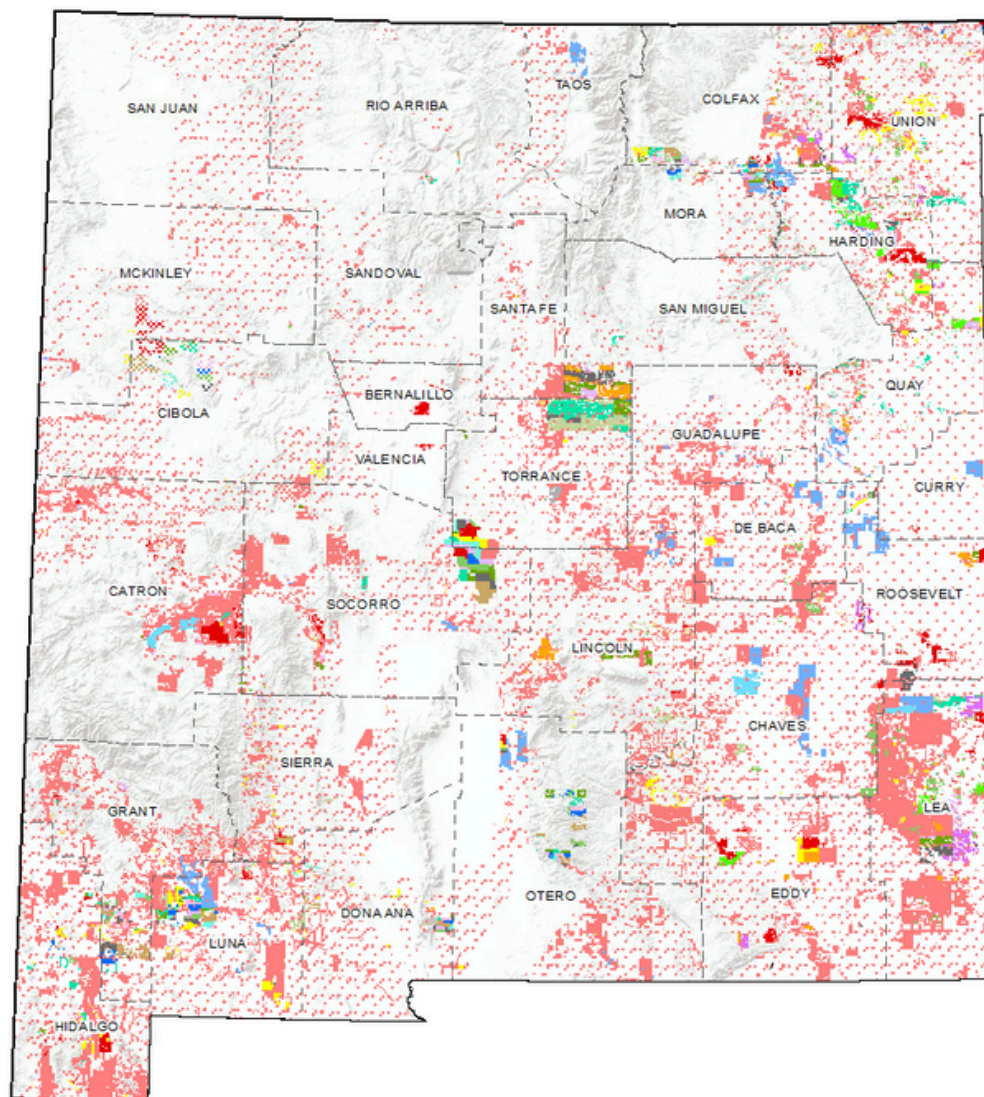
New Mexico State Land Office

State Land Trust Beneficiary Lands



New Mexico Land Trust Beneficiaries

Common Schools	New Mexico State Hospital
Charitable, Penal and Reform	New Mexico State University
Carrie Tingley Hospital	New Mexico School for the Deaf
Eastern New Mexico University	New Mexico Schools for the Deaf / Blind and Visually Impaired
Improvements to the Rio Grande	New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired
New Mexico Miners Hospital	Public Buildings
New Mexico Military Institute	University of New Mexico
New Mexico Boys School	Water Reservoirs
Northern New Mexico College	Western New Mexico University
New Mexico Highlands University	Western New Mexico University/New Mexico Highlands University
New Mexico Institute of Mining Technology	
New Mexico Penitentiary	



New Mexico State Land Office

Beneficiary Acreage



Beneficiary	Surface Acreage	Mineral Acreage
Common Schools	6,802,297	9,768,518
University of New Mexico	253,219	344,005
Saline Lands	1,044	15,03
New Mexico State University	194,492	254,200
Western New Mexico University	186,956	293,846
New Mexico Highlands University	186,956	293,846
Northern New Mexico College	95,603	169,350
Eastern New Mexico University	82,802	104,039
New Mexico Tech	162,588	219,019
New Mexico Military Institute	135,577	160,010
New Mexico Boys School	50,815	62,331
Miners Colfax Medical Center	98,558	120,766
Behavioral Health Institute	101,241	164,024
State Penitentiary	113,266	159,694
School for the Deaf	129,365	156,912
School for the Blind	143,113	179
Charitable Penal & Reformatory	74,471	99,620
Water Reservoirs	341,781	470,418
Rio Grande Improvement	54,221	89,202
Public Buildings	88,806	132,072
Carrie Tingley Hospital	19,864	13,692
State Park Commission	0	520
TOTAL	9,317,035	1,3077,766

New Mexico State Land Office

Revenue Earned By Source (*RENTALS*)



Rentals	FY24 Total	Rentals (cont.)	FY24 Total
Sand & Gravel	21,238	Solar Energy	904,526
Special Use Agreements	1,336	Wind Energy	3,243,523
Potash	21,254	Energy Transmission	352,467
Grazing	6,755,540	Land Contracts Int.	1,870
Salt	1,223	Gas Storage Units	393,316
Coal Rental	6,455	Fuel wood	5,205
General Mining	27,111	Seed Harvesting	-
Shut-in-Royalty	16,594		
Oil & Gas Rental	1,772,833	RENTAL SUBTOTAL	\$168,992,923
Oil & Gas Bonuses	90,801,479		
Oil and Gas Int.	5,117,820		
Seismic Permits	21,520	Other	FY24 Total
Business Leases	14,823,923		
Business Lease Options	-	Fees & Copies	17,000,714
Land Use Restrictions	10,000	Interest Earnings	28,534,393
Billboards	119,740	Other	38,929
Geothermal Rental/Income	11,018		
Water	7,749,815	OTHER INCOME	
Salt Water Disposal	16,242,534	SUBTOTAL	\$45,574,036
Right-of-Way	20,541,821		
Caliche	28,764		
		TOTAL	\$214,566,959



New Mexico State Land Office

Revenue Earned By Source (*ROYALTIES*)



Income Source	FY24 Total
Sand & Gravel	1,621,235
Potash	1,283,087
Salt	56,639
Caliche	3,790,556
Coal	2,197,754
Oil & Gas	2,336,836,868
Land Contracts	3,416,992
General Mining	34,778
Other	876,203
ROYALTY SUBTOTAL	\$2,350,114,112
RENTAL AND ROYALTY GRAND TOTAL	\$2,564,681,071



New Mexico State Land Office

Revenue Distributed Per Beneficiary



Beneficiary	Monthly Distribution to Beneficiaries	Revenue Invested in LGPF on Behalf of Beneficiaries	FY24 Total
Common Schools	117,763,736	2,179,419,402	2,297,183,138
University of New Mexico	4,333,306	17,558,042	21,891,348
Saline Lands	42,726	599,174	641,900
New Mexico State University	10,770,859	6,299,384	17,070,242
Western New Mexico University	223,830	26,195	250,025
New Mexico Highlands University	226,421	26,195	252,616
Northern New Mexico College	159,599	26,268	185,867
Eastern New Mexico University	283,465	19,805	303,270
New Mexico Tech	1,122,575	291,845	1,414,420
New Mexico Military Institute	1,220,366	22,228,980	23,449,345
New Mexico Boys School	131,083	0	131,083
Miners Colfax Medical Center	729,842	1,102,398	1,832,240
Behavioral Health Institute	8,867,134	6,104,292	14,971,426
State Penitentiary	14,335,411	32,041,737	46,377,148
School for the Deaf	578,238	8,674,497	9,252,735
School for the Blind	545,991	8,715,732	9,261,722
Charitable Penal & Reformatory	338,204	1,163,156	1,501,360
Water Reservoirs	599,076	1,546,880	2,145,956
Rio Grande Improvement	148,335	109,600	257,935
Public Buildings	4,045,320	64,160,531	68,205,851
Carrie Tingley Hospital	48,401	0	48,401
TOTAL	\$166,513,916*	\$2,350,114,112	\$2,516,628,028*

**Note: Amounts shown above indicate total transfers after withholding for the agency's budgetary expenses and contributions to the Restoration and Remediation Fund. The State Land Office will also distribute \$45,574,036 from interest and other fees to beneficiaries.*

New Mexico State Land Office

Administrative Services



Assistant Commissioner Selena Romero oversees Administrative Services, in addition to serving as the agency's Co-CFO. Administrative Services encompasses the Accounting, Human Resources, Facilities Management, Records Management, and Information Technology Divisions.

ACCOUNTING DIVISION

Division Director and CFO Antonio Medina leads the Accounting Division, which provides support services, financial control, and financial reporting activities. It is also responsible for ensuring compliance with the rules and policies of the Department of Finance and Administration, the State Treasurer's Office, and State Auditor's Office. In FY24, the Division managed a \$25 million budget and distributed \$2.56 billion on behalf of beneficiaries.



The Accounting Division receives, classifies, and records all revenue generated from over 35,000 active leases on state trust land. After paying operating expenses, the revenue recorded in the Land Maintenance Fund is directly disbursed to the assigned beneficiary. Revenue recorded in the Land Maintenance Fund comes from what are known as “renewable sources,” which includes renewable energy, agriculture, business development leases, rights-of-ways, rentals, and other income.

New Mexico State Land Office

Administrative Services



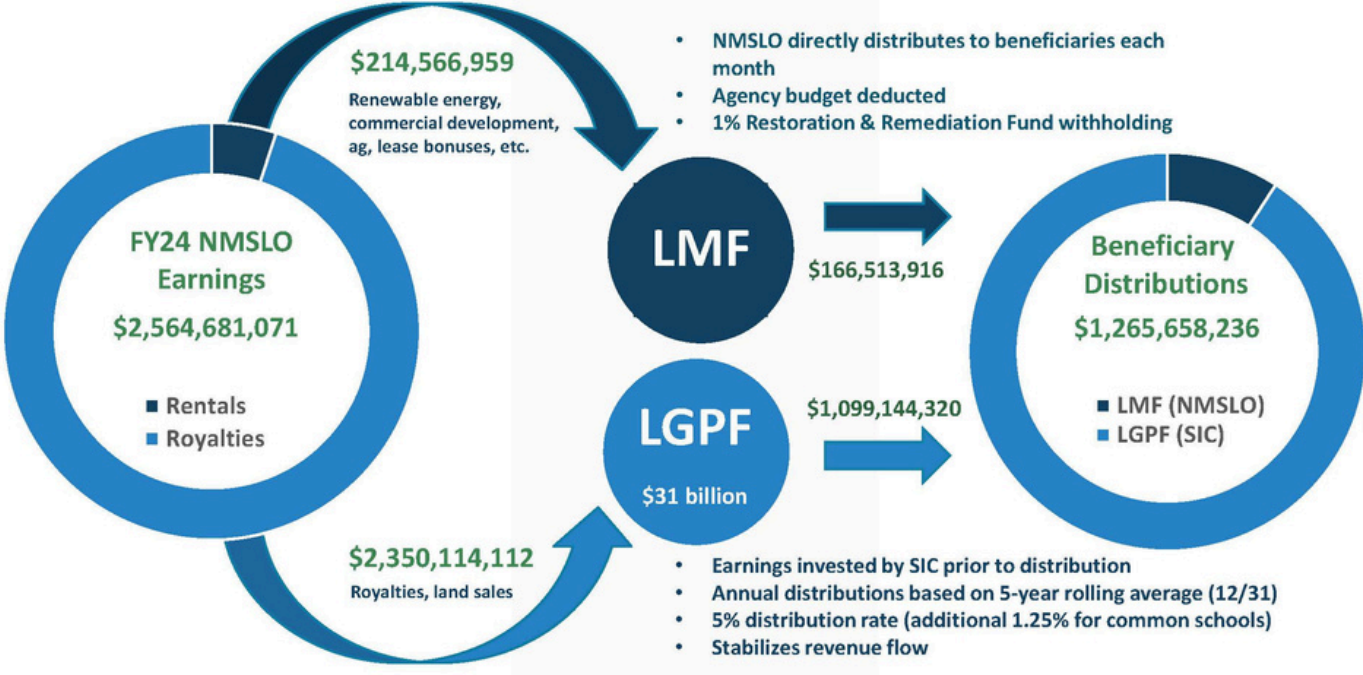
The revenue transferred to the LGPF is derived from non-renewable sources such as royalties earned from oil, gas, and minerals or the sale of state trust land. Revenue from non-renewable revenue sources is transferred monthly to the Land Grant Permanent Fund where it is invested by the State Investment Council.

The Accounting Division generates monthly revenue reports and posts them on the State Land Office website: www.nmstatelands.org.

These revenue reports provide monthly and year-to-date collection amounts sorted by revenue source, as well as distributions from the Land Maintenance Fund and contributions to the Land Grant Permanent Fund for each beneficiary.

The work that the Accounting Division does is crucial, not just to keep the agency running smoothly, but to ensure that the beneficiaries of our land receive what they are owed.

NMSLO Earnings and Distributions



New Mexico State Land Office

Administrative Services



FACILITIES MANAGEMENT DIVISION

The State Land Office’s Facilities Management Division operates and maintains the primary office building in Santa Fe, which first opened in 1960. Bobby Gallegos heads the division, which covers all maintenance, custodial services, and security.

The Business Operations Center, which includes a print shop, graphic design, mail services, supply distribution, and agency fleet management, is also housed under Facilities Management. Business Operations made approximately 122,887 copies in the print shop in FY24. There are 42 vehicles total in the fleet managed by Business Operations, including 24 district office vehicles, seven utility task vehicles/all-terrain vehicles, and four trailers).



IN FY24, THE FACILITIES MANAGEMENT DIVISION:

- MAINTAINED A SAFE AND SECURE BUILDING AND INCURRED ZERO PROPERTY LOSSES
- COMPLETED LEGAL OFFICE REMODEL DESIGN
- REPLACED THE SERVER ROOM UPS BATTERY BACKUP
- COMPLETED REPAIRS TO HVAC MAIN FANS
- PURCHASED 2 NEW FIELD TRUCKS & 1 ELECTRIC FORD LIGHTNING

New Mexico State Land Office

Administrative Services



HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION

The State Land Office received a 2024 Top Workplaces USA Award from USA Today in March 2024, and for the second year in a row, a Top Workplaces Award from the Albuquerque Journal - ranking 2nd in 2024 in New Mexico for a midsize employer. The State Land Office was the only organization from New Mexico to rank in the top 25, regardless of size or sector. The agency was also the top ranked government agency in its category. Commissioner Garcia Richard credits the continued hardworking, dedicated, and talented NMSLO staff for this honor.



The State Land Office created 5 new positions to support the growth in several divisions. Commissioner Garcia Richard continues to support initiatives to reduce the NMSLO vacancy rate, from a high of 25% in FY19, to an average of 7.1% in FY24. The agency's rate continues to remain much lower than the State's FY24 average of 22.7%. The NMSLO maintained a less than 1% monthly average turnover rate in comparison to the State's average of over 4%.

The Human Resources Division is comprised of four staff: Director Shannell Townsend, and three Human Resources Generalists. The Division assists the leadership team by providing counseling, guidance, and direction on agency and State Personnel Board policies and procedures, as well as state and federal laws. Human Resources manages all payroll and benefit transactions as well as personnel and position requests and approvals. Human Resources manages all recruitment efforts from advertising to overseeing the interview and hiring process. Recently, Human Resources worked with the State Personnel agency (SPO) and successfully created a Royalty Compliance Auditor series for our Royalty Division. This series created new classifications that better describe the work of the Royalty Management Division staff, and created more structural career ladder opportunities.

New Mexico State Land Office

Administrative Services



HUMAN RESOURCES DIVISION (CONTINUED)

The State Land Office values its employees and their work-life balance. NMSLO is one of the few agencies that has continued to allow telework up to three days each week. Teleworking has reduced expensive fuel costs from commuting, allows employees to care for children and/or elderly family members, and has increased productivity, job satisfaction, and work-life harmony. Commissioner Garcia Richard recognizes that our employees have responsibilities outside of their jobs.



The agency has a celebrations committee that is heavily involved in ensuring the employees feel valued and appreciated. Several times a month the committee will have employee appreciation days that consist of free popcorn, snow cones, or nachos. Care packages are sent to employees in NMSLO district offices. Commissioner Garcia Richard has continued to maintain employee morale via the monthly agency-wide meetings which are available in person and virtually for teleworkers. The Commissioner acknowledges staff work anniversaries, birthdays, and milestones that are noted in the newsletter and gives shout outs to employees who are recognized by their management or peers as going “above and beyond.”

New Mexico State Land Office

Administrative Services



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

The Information Technology Division develops and maintains the technology and applications that deliver most of the information regarding state lands provided to the public. In addition to managing the agency's network, equipment, and software, the Division oversees projects to automate agency records and record-keeping systems.

CIO Tony Hoffman leads the IT Division, which is comprised of five bureaus: Project Management; IT Operations, Network & Infrastructure; Web & Net Development; and GIS.



The Division accomplished the following in FY24:

- Continued to strengthen IT security with ongoing dedicated remediation patching security issues using the security Tenable.io and Tenable.ad.. Throughout FY24, the agency maintained a top tier score among NM government agencies.
- The Lease Invoice and Accounting (LIA) project added required Office of Renewable Energy invoice enhancements and Water Bureau invoicing features.
- Completed expansion of the Cultural Property Rule implementation website, adding Tribal access for review of pending cultural surveys and projects.
- Obtained the NMSLO.gov address for web and email services and successfully migrated NMSLO user email accounts to the Microsoft Cloud.
- Moved LIMS version 4.5.0 (ORE Phase 1) to production in August 2023, adding ORE invoicing enhancements and reports.
- Continued satellite tasking activity that allows staff to identify and evaluate surface changes, spills, unauthorized activity, and trespass on state lands.
- Reorganized NMSLO IT to increase efficiency for big projects planned in FY25-FY27, including adding a Deputy CIO to manage all business systems development.
- Supported agency efforts to identify, remediate and plug non-producing wells.
- Added reports requested by oil and gas leaseholders to public self-service web portal.

New Mexico State Land Office

Administrative Services



RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Director Lesley Schimoler oversees a team of six title examiners and abstractors, two scanning techs, and a digital records specialist in the Records Management Division. Records plays a key role in identifying lands to generate new revenue sources while preserving historical records and ensuring the business continuity of the State Land Office.

The Division's work helps support Commissioner Garcia Richard's initiatives to expand renewable energy and find other potential leasing, sale, or exchange opportunities. In FY24, Records staff performed title and document searches covering over 114,000 acres of state trust land.

These reports provide valuable information to assist the Commissioner and prospective lessees in selecting the most appropriate land for certain activities.



Access to State Land Office records is critical to enable potential lessees to make informed bids and/or proposals for new NMSLO leases. This year the public room was fully reopened. In FY24, Records staff delivered over 96,000 digital documents to public room visitors and remote clients.

In addition to supporting the agency's day-to-day activities, the Division is the repository for all original, legal documents relating to ownership, along with all leases, rights-of-way, easements, and any related procedural documents.

The original documents, some dating as far back as the early 1900s, are held in a climate-controlled vault.

New Mexico State Land Office

Administrative Services



RECORDS MANAGEMENT DIVISION (CONT.)

Each title document is recorded both manually in special ledgers or “tract books,” and electronically in the agency’s specialized Land Information and Management System (LIMS). In FY24, the Division recorded and processed over 3,500 title activities. All title documents, along with procedurally related documents, are also scanned and digitally preserved.

The Records Division also continues to audit and verify state trust land ownership in the LIMS program, which improves overall data integrity and availability; which, in turn, enables staff to verify the land and its current use to identify and secure new revenue sources.



New Mexico State Land Office

Commercial Resources Division (CRD)



The Commercial Resources Division (CRD) is comprised of four main areas: the Business Leasing and Rights-of-Way Bureaus, the Office of Renewable Energy and the Special Projects Team. Assistant Commissioner Michael Sage is responsible for general division oversight which includes a team of 23 personnel, as well as overseeing the Special Projects team. Jim Bordegaray, Director of the Commercial Resources Division, oversees the Bureaus of Business Leasing and Rights-of-Way. Craig Johnson, Director of the Office of Renewable Energy, oversees renewable energy projects on state trust lands.

CRD is responsible for the timely processing of project applications, which seek to use state land for commercial leasing activities (retail, hospitality, billboards, and surface activities associated with commercial development in the oil and gas industry, etc.), rights-of-way (roads, pipelines, transmission lines, telecommunication towers, fiber optic, etc.), and renewable energy projects (solar and wind generation, and battery energy storage systems).

In addition, through the Special Projects Team, the State Land Office has increased its outreach with communities across New Mexico, leveraging its economic development lease for cities and counties which have enabled communities to undertake projects involving affordable housing, industrial parks, recreation and quality of life.

A rendering of Farolito after completion, courtesy of the architecture firm Dekker.



New Mexico State Land Office

Commercial Resources Division (CRD)



Most recently, the NM State Land Office has partnered with the City of Albuquerque and Sol Housing (formerly the Greater Albuquerque Housing Partnership) on the Farolito Development, a new 86-unit senior housing development to be located on state trust lands in the East Central Corridor, which is set to break ground this year and will provide more affordable housing options to residents within the city while serving as a catalyst for corridor revitalization. The Farolito Development will complement the recently completed Luminaria Development (also located on State Trust Land), a senior affordable housing development constructed in 2022 and consisting of 92 one- and two-bedroom units, located near Eubank Blvd. and Central Ave.

RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Rights-of-way are a critical infrastructure component for roads, pipelines, transmission lines, low voltage electric lines, telecommunications and other purposes. In FY24, applications for rights-of-way and rights of entry were up almost 15% from the previous fiscal year, with corresponding revenue up about 33%. There are over 25,000 of these instruments currently active on state trust lands.



A total of 1,128 rights-of-way and rights-of-entry were executed in FY24, generating approximately \$21 million in revenue for beneficiaries. Over 1/2 of the rights-of-way issued were for pipeline easements, accounting for approximately 70% of rights-of-way revenue. Our team continues to prioritize the timely processing of instruments and continues to have an average turnaround time of less than 60 days.

In coordination with the state's Office of Broadband Access and Expansion (OBAE) and various rural telecom companies, the rights-of-way bureau is also actively expediting the rollout of broadband infrastructure in rural New Mexico communities and elsewhere.

New Mexico State Land Office

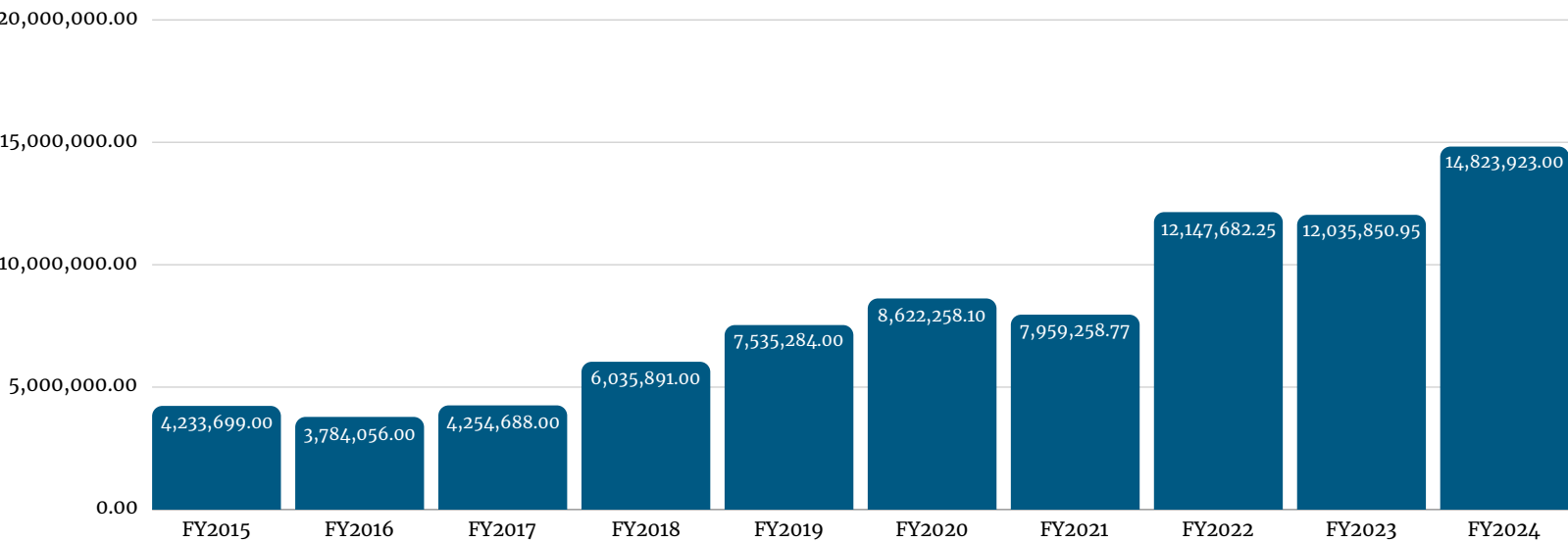
Commercial Resources Division (CRD)



BUSINESS LEASING

In FY24, applications for business leases were up over 14% from FY23. For the same period, revenue increased by about 23%. While continuing to increase revenues, the business leasing bureau has also continued decreasing the average turnaround time for applications for new leases and reissues. Among other things, business leases are used for a diverse range of purposes such as well pads, storage yards, and electrical substations. There are approximately 1,100 active business leases on state trust land. Most are short-term leases of five years or fewer. However, an increasing number of these are long-term leases which address a similarly wide range of needs, such as retail operations, truck stops, and affordable housing projects.

Business Leasing Revenue (\$), FY2015-FY2024



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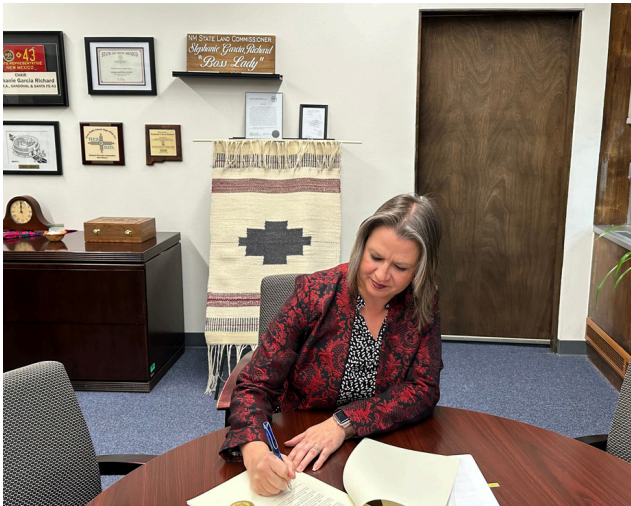
New Mexico State Land Office

Commercial Resources Division (CRD)



OFFICE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

Renewable energy leasing is a relatively new source of revenue for the NMSLO and contributions from the Office of Renewable Energy (ORE) continue to grow. Revenue exceeded \$4.5 million in FY24. Renewable energy leased on state trust land in New Mexico has increased more than six times since 2019, bringing renewable energy generation potential under lease to 2,505 megawatts (MW), up from approximately 400 megawatts when Commissioner Garcia Richard took office.



In FY24, Pattern Energy Group began full construction of the 3,515 MW SunZia Wind facility, the largest wind project in the entire Western Hemisphere! ORE worked collaboratively with the developer to review and approve detailed project plans prior to construction. SunZia Transmission will deliver the power generated from the project. SunZia Wind and Transmission will employ more than 2,000 workers on-site during construction.

ORE continues to respond to increasing demand to lease State Trust Lands for renewable energy projects with several applications for large projects currently being evaluated. ORE also manages a growing portfolio of 13 active solar leases and 29 active wind leases.

By the Numbers: Renewable Energy

2,505

Megawatts under
lease on state lands

29

Active wind
leases

13

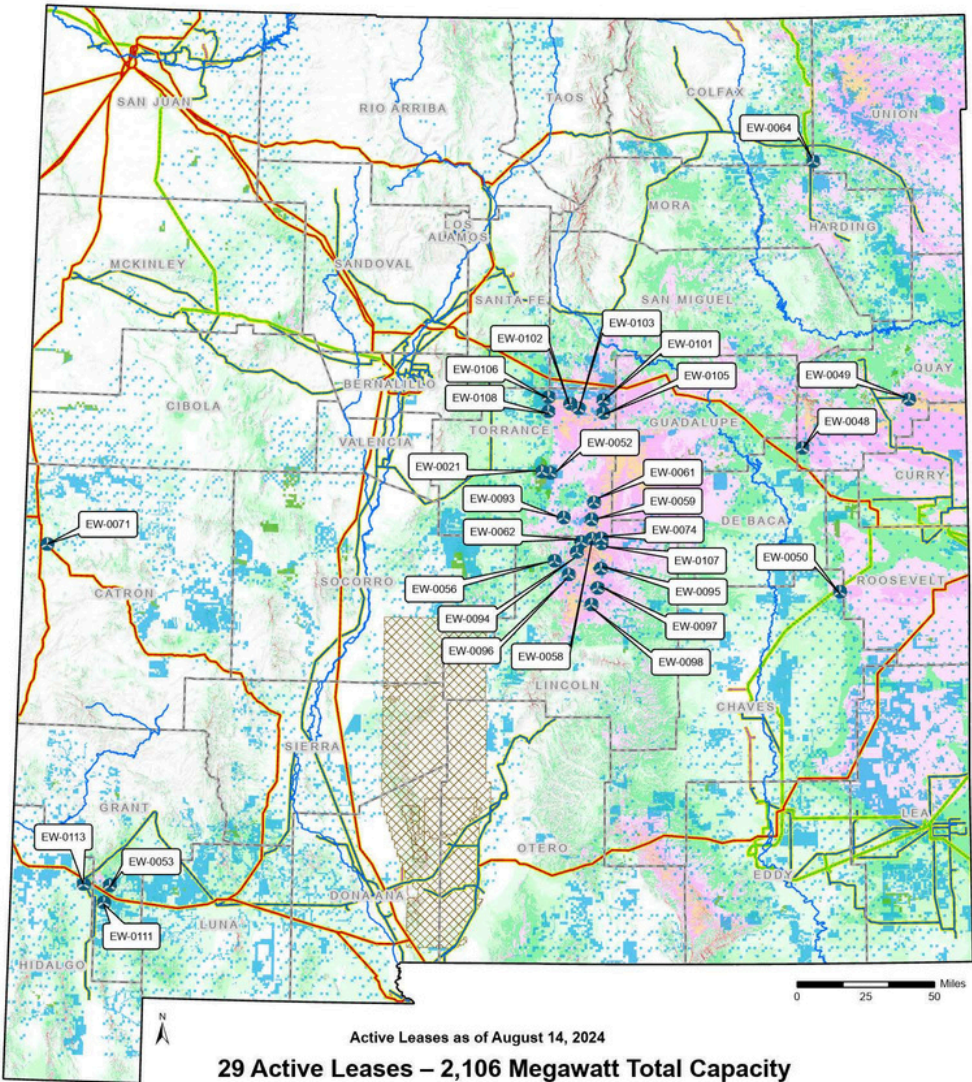
Active solar
leases

New Mexico State Land Office

Commercial Resources Division (CRD)



Active Wind Energy Projects on NM State Trust Land



Active Leases as of August 14, 2024

29 Active Leases – 2,106 Megawatt Total Capacity

NM State Land Office	Mean Speed at 50 m		Electric Transmission Lines	
Wind Leases	mph	m/s		
Active	< 12.3	< 5.5	Under 100 Kv	
State Trust Lands			100 -161 Kv	
Surface Estate	12.3 - 13.4	5.5 - 6.0	220 - 287 Kv	
Both Estates	13.4 - 14.5	6.0 - 6.5	345 - 500 Kv	
Rivers	14.5 - 15.7	6.5 - 7.0	White Sands Missile Range	
	15.7 - 16.8	7.0 - 7.5		
	16.8 - 17.9	7.5 - 8.0		
	17.9 - 19.0	8.0 - 8.5		
	19.0 - 20.1	8.5 - 9.0		
	20.1 - 21.3	9.0 - 9.5		
	> 21.3	> 9.5		

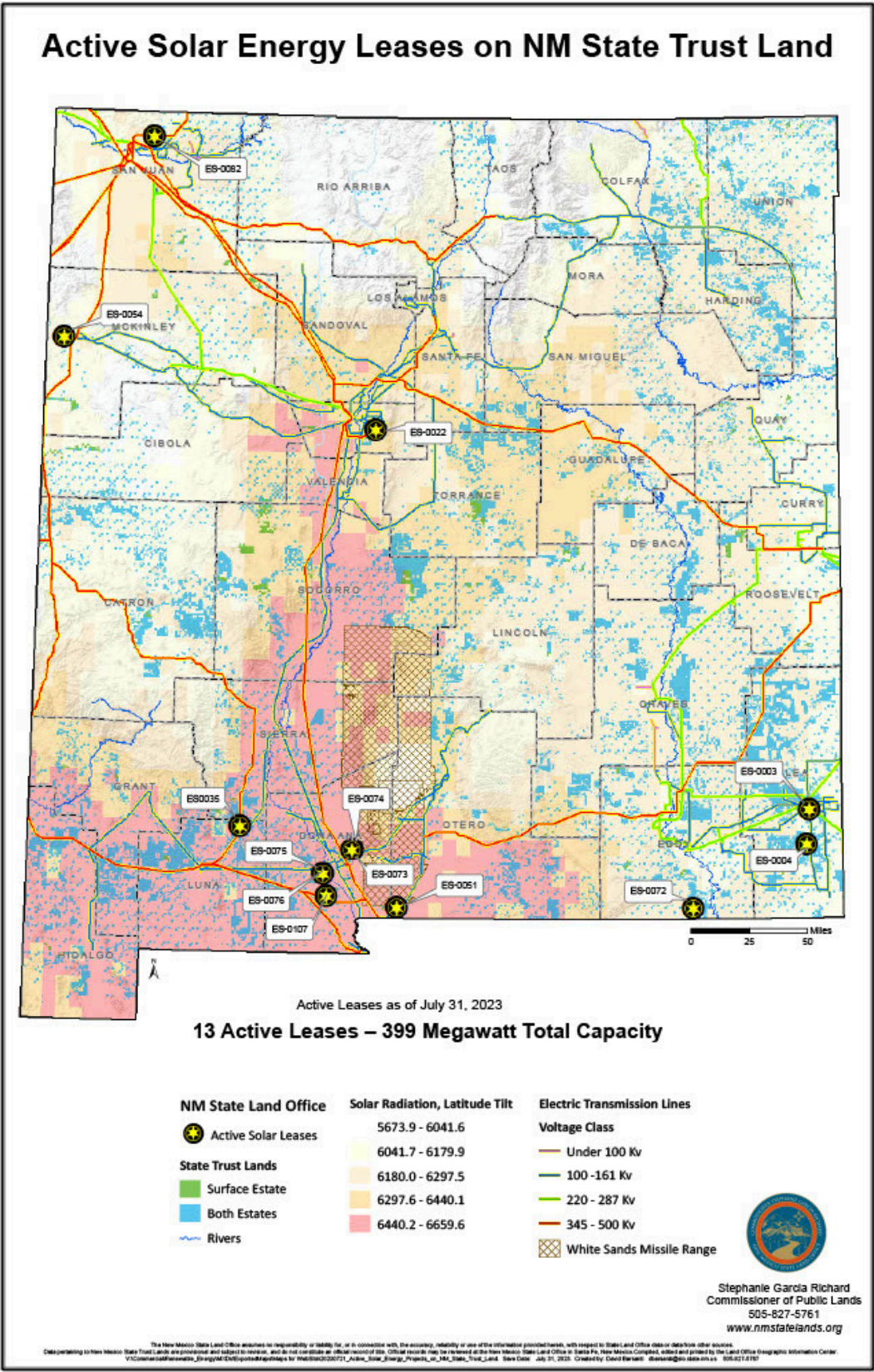


Stephanie Garcia Richard
Commissioner of Public Lands
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www.nmstatelands.org

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New Mexico State Land Office

Commercial Resources Division (CRD)



New Mexico State Land Office

Commercial Resources Division (CRD)



SPECIAL PROJECTS TEAM

New Mexico communities and NMSLO beneficiaries both benefit economically from the leasing of state trust lands for community needs. Examples of economic development leases used to generate job creation include Spaceport America, Sandia Science and Technology Park, and Mesa Del Sol.



In FY24, the State Land Office completed a sale of land known as Paseo Gateway Tract 17, approximately 45 acres in Rio Rancho that netted \$4,331,635 and will result in the construction of approximately 100-115 new single-family homes and assist with increasing additional demand for residential tracts surrounding Sue Cleveland High School.

Recently, Netflix unveiled its expanded Albuquerque Studios facilities spanning more than 100 acres in the Mesa Del Sol Development in southeast Albuquerque. The Albuquerque Studios facilities expansion is located on State Trust Land leased to the City of Albuquerque and subleased to Netflix. In FY24, lease revenue in the Mesa del Sol development generated \$466,688, a 27% increase over the prior fiscal year.

Additional projects completed include a municipal lease to the city of Las Cruces (West Mesa) for approximately 500-acres to sponsor economic development opportunities on the I-10 corridor as well as a land sale of 77-acres to Las Cruces (East Mesa-Waterfalls) for a residential development that will target median income households.

The Special Projects Team continues to leverage leases offered by the NMSLO to bring innovative solutions to the needs of communities across New Mexico.

New Mexico State Land Office

Cultural Resources Office (CRO)



The Cultural Resources Office (CRO) continues to grow and adapt to meet requirements of identifying, documenting, and protecting cultural resources on State Trust Lands. To-date over 680,000 acres have been surveyed and over 11,823 cultural properties have been documented and identified. To accomplish this work, over the last year the CRO reviewed over 1,005 projects in consultation with Tribes, the State Historic Preservation Officer, and other government agencies when appropriate. An illustration of the Agency's commitment to protecting cultural resources is the extension of an Executive Order in December of 2023 and posed a moratorium of new Oil and Gas development in the Greater Chaco Canyon Region for an additional 20-years.

*Petroglyph located near
Abo, NM.*



Assistant Commissioner of Cultural Resources, Rachael Lorenzo departed the agency in December 2023. The NMSLO is grateful to Assistant Commissioner Lorenzo for their contributions to the agency, efforts to build relationships with Tribes, and their role in creating the Cultural Resources Office and the Cultural Properties Protection Rule. The Commissioner of Public Lands filled the vacant position by appointing Ethan Orland Ortega, whom had previously served as the Cultural Resources Office Director since 2022.

In FY24, CRO was granted budgetary approval by the NM Legislature to add a full-time employee to the Cultural Resources Office. This position will be a Tribal Liaison and will assist the agency in conducting meaningful consultation with Nations, Tribes, and Pueblos that have cultural connections to state trust lands. The agency hosted an annual Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Summit in 2024, which was well attended by Tribal representatives. During this time, the CRO held discussions and workshop sessions to guide policy and procedural development with Tribal perspectives in mind.

In January 2024, the NMSLO completed a Memorandum of Understanding with Isleta Pueblo defining areas of interest and consultation procedures. This successful agreement has been used as a template to initiate development of similar agreements. The NMSLO understands that the definition of consultation is different for each Tribe, Nation, and Pueblo. Procedures established in these agreements have been included into the CRO's Standard Operating Procedures and cultural resource report review process, to engage groups in meaningful consultation.

New Mexico State Land Office

Cultural Resources Office (CRO)



In collaboration with the Information Technology Division, the CRO made several enhancements to the cultural properties online portal. These improvements included the addition of a “Consulting Party” user group which was designed for Tribes, Nations, and Pueblos to request consultation on proposed projects on state trust land. Several additions were also implemented to streamline submission of information from the 90+ cultural resource consulting agencies that conduct surveys on state trust land on behalf of lessees and applicants.



The growth of the CRO has aided in the agency’s representation in Federal projects on state trust land. During this fiscal year, the CRO successfully petitioned the relocation of a proposed transmission tower outside of an ancient village cultural property near Deming. Prior to the creation of this Division, the NMSLO’s voice was largely absent from these types of issues which led to the adverse impacts on Cultural Properties. The CRO now has a robust presence in Section 106 consultation and Programmatic Agreement processes for Federal projects that involve state trust land.

The CRO has expanded its Cultural Survey Support Program, which was developed to assist agricultural lessees with surveys. Each CRO staff member is permitted to conduct archaeological fieldwork, and the office undertook several in-house surveys in FY24. These in-house surveys reduce the contractual budgetary need of the agency and increase surveyed space and identified cultural properties. The Baptiste Fence Survey, the Kenney Pipeline Survey, and the Sidwell Ranch Vegetation Treatment Survey were all conducted in-house as part of the Cultural Survey Support Program (CSSP). The CSSP program is designed to provide survey and review services to qualified applicants and ensures that cultural properties on state trust land are identified and protected, regardless of a lessee’s financial circumstances.

New Mexico State Land Office

Cultural Resources Office (CRO)



The Division collaborated with numerous beneficiary institutions including New Mexico Highlands University's Media Arts Department to create print and digital materials illustrating NMSLO's effort to cultivate the Agency's relationships with the Tribes, Nations, and Pueblos that have connections to state trust lands.

The Division also collaborated with New Mexico State University to survey proposed recreational trails in the Las Cruces area. This project provided students with the opportunity to participate in archaeological surveys, document cultural properties, and assess the impacts of potential recreational activities.

A third project involved the University of New Mexico, in which drones were used to collect LiDAR data in order to document and identify cultural properties. In one case near Pecos, NM, the drone data which can "see" through heavy vegetation was used to trace a historic acequia.

DID YOU KNOW?

Commissioner Garcia Richard established the Cultural Resources Office in 2019 and implemented the Cultural Properties Protection Rule on December 1, 2022. This Rule requires any applicants for leases for surface-disturbing projects to have a cultural resources survey conducted and reviewed prior to issuance of the lease. The implementation of the CPP Rule has helped to ensure that cultural properties are not inadvertently impacted by leasing activities.



New Mexico State Land Office

Legal Division



The State Land Office General Counsel, Ari Biernoff, and the Legal Division advise the Commissioner and staff and annually receive and fulfill hundreds of requests from every State Land Office division for legal advice, troubleshooting, and representation.

The Division's attorneys and staff draft and review leases, policy documents, contracts, memoranda of agreement, and other instruments; draft and review proposed State Land Office administrative rules; provide legal analysis, conduct negotiations, and provide guidance on a variety of legal matters. Currently, the Division is handling more than 100 active matters that involve every division in the agency.




State Land Office attorneys also appear in court and in administrative proceedings on behalf of the Commissioner and the State Land Office.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

In the past, the State Land Office had inadequately focused on taking legal action against bad actors. Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard changed that in November 2020 and directed staff to implement the agency first-ever Accountability and Enforcement Program.

The Accountability and Enforcement Program proactively reviews leases to determine if they are in compliance with applicable lease terms and rules.

By the Numbers: Accountability & Enforcement	490 Abandoned Wells Plugged		\$49M Savings for New Mexico Taxpayers	30 Lawsuits filed against bad actors
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To date, the program has filed 30 lawsuits against bad actors that refused to take action. Negotiations and legal action have led to the plugging of at least 490 oil and gas wells, saving New Mexico taxpayers at least \$49 million in cleanup costs. This program takes a different approach than federal plugging efforts as it compels the companies responsible for the mess, rather than hardworking New Mexicans, to pay for the cost of cleanup.

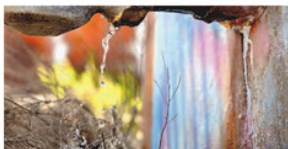
New Mexico State Land Office

Legal Division



Accountability & Enforcement

Pictured Clockwise from Top Right: A contaminated site operated by Texas company Smith & Marrs that is facing legal action by the Accountability & Enforcement program; An Albuquerque Journal cartoon depicting State Land Office efforts to hold violators accountable; Surface Division Deputy Director Will Barnes is pictured in a front page article in the Albuquerque Journal as part of the outlet's series on oil and gas oversight in New Mexico.



Contamination from abandoned or poorly-maintained oil wells is a pervasive problem in New Mexico

BY MEGAN LEASON
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER
Editor's note: This is part one of a four-part series on abandoned oil wells.

The site itself is filled with massive oil tanks and rusty staircases leading to the old infrastructure. Photos by

9/14 Page C081

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OTHER ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS

The State Land Office's Legal Division takes other action on behalf of the trust and the agency to protect natural resources, including an ongoing lawsuit against individuals who caused extensive damage to state trust land and to cultural resources by bulldozing an illegal road in a fragile landscape.

New Mexico State Land Office

Mineral Resources



Assistant Commissioner for Mineral Resources Greg Bloom oversees two divisions at the State Land Office: the Oil, Gas, and Minerals Division (OGM), which includes the agency's Water Bureau, and the Royalty Management Division (RMD). Collectively in FY24, these two divisions brought in over **\$2.4 BILLION** in revenue!



OIL, GAS, & MINERALS DIVISION

The Oil, Gas, and Minerals Division has three bureaus: Minerals, Water, and Oil and Gas. OGM administers the State Land Office monthly oil and gas lease sale and manages all leasing activity involving oil, natural gas, carbon dioxide, industrial aggregates, water, caliche, coal, potash, salt, geothermal energy, and more.

In FY24, OGM oversaw some 5,786 oil and gas leases, 219 mineral leases, and 502 fresh-water and saltwater disposal easements, together involving nearly 1.9 million acres of state trust mineral estate.

MINERALS BUREAU

The Minerals Bureau manages approximately 255 leases comprised of coal, salt, industrial minerals, potash, general mining, geothermal resources, and special-use reclamation agreements covering more than 109,136 acres. The Bureau generated approximately \$9.1 million in rent and royalty income from these resources in FY24 with the three big earners being industrial aggregates, coal (in its last year of production on state trust lands), and potash. The Minerals Bureau also processes special-use agreements, lease renewals, expirations, relinquishments, rejections, cancelations, reconciliations, and bonding and does regular site inspections.

A pozzolan lease issued in FY23 continues toward production and is an important addition to our mineral portfolio, as pozzolan is a more ecologically friendly material that can be used to replace coal-based fly ash in concrete production. Located in Colfax County—and having received the support of the county—the project should create millions of dollars in revenue to support education in New Mexico and help green the state's construction industry.

New Mexico State Land Office

Mineral Resources



MINERALS BUREAU (CONTINUED)

The Minerals Bureau leases sand and gravel resources and has had great success with its Caliche Re-mining and Reclamation Initiative, which incentivizes mining for caliche on previously disturbed state trust lands. In FY24, over 185 acres of previously mined state trust land were reclaimed by industry for a total of some 652 acres over the past four years, which has saved the State Land Office over \$4.3 million in reclamation expenses. The Bureau also conducted 190 audits of mineral leases during FY24, which brought in \$283,500.

By the Numbers: Minerals Bureau	185	\$4.3M	190
	Acres of mined land reclaimed	Saved in reclamation costs	Audits of mineral leases

OIL AND GAS BUREAU

The Oil and Gas Bureau manages all oil and gas leases, lease sales, assignments, oil and gas compliance, the Reduced Royalty Rate Program, and the unit and communitization agreements program. Oil and gas lease sales are required monthly by statute and in FY24 were conducted online through EnergyNet, earning a total bonus (auction) income of nearly \$90,801,479.00 million for 121 leases encompassing 22,705.8 acres.



New Mexico State Land Office

Mineral Resources



OIL AND GAS BUREAU (CONTINUED)

The Bureau regained 68 of these 121 leases through compliance actions and then re-leased them at the appropriate royalty rate; these leases accounted for more than \$77 million of the lease sale bonuses for FY24. Compliance-related actions the Bureau took this year ranged from lease trespass, to non-payment of rentals, to failure to have a requisite bond, to failure to produce in paying quantities, and failure to produce minerals from a lease.

The Bureau reviewed 491 oil and gas lease assignments in FY24 (the Bureau also reviewed well over 100 additional assignments in an effort to work with industry to eliminate errors in submissions) and found that more than 5% of the assignments that had royalty payment issues. The Bureau also conducted environmental reviews of approximately 160,000 acres, identifying approximately 350 spills or other environmental issues that the Bureau required lessees to clean up. This work saved the state an estimated \$250 million in immediate costs and hundreds of millions of dollars in potential long-term costs. Additional cost savings from identifying inactive wells requiring plugging or the resumption of production also proved to be a significant benefit of the environmental reviews.



Also, in FY24, 94 communitizations terminated under the terms of their agreements. Further, the Division reviewed other communitization agreements and deemed them to have been produced in trespass. As a result of these terminations, the State Land Office was able to reacquire two leases for future lease sales.

The Oil and Gas Bureau terminated four units and their corresponding leases for lack of production resulting in the return of 13,547 acres, which can also be released in the future.

New Mexico State Land Office

Mineral Resources



OIL AND GAS BUREAU (CONTINUED)

The Bureau finished a comprehensive audit of all leases to ensure bonding compliance and identified some 800 leases with no bond. The Bureau worked with unbonded lessees to correct the issue and ultimately cancelled a few dozen of the 800 unbonded leases (some at the lessee's request). Thanks to this audit, the State Land Office has much more bond coverage and less financial exposure if a company cannot meet its cleanup obligations. In addition, the Bureau is now undertaking a review of all existing bonds to ensure financial assurances are still valid and is requiring updated financial documents, when applicable, in cases where financial institutions or sureties have merged, and the bonding documents with the Bureau no longer reflect the correct surety and/or account number.

WATER BUREAU

In FY24 the Water Bureau again increased its annual revenue, by \$1.5 million, to \$24.3 million. The Bureau renewed a total of 92 freshwater and saltwater easements, keeping on par with FY23.

The Bureau's work also resulted in the plugging of seven old saltwater disposal wells (SWDs) and the reclamation of those sites. Two new SWD well easements were added to the portfolio. The Water Bureau's compliance efforts increased revenues in FY24 due to audits of two large annual fresh water easements and 390 annual saltwater disposal volume payments.



The Bureau took over administration of gas storage unit easements and are updating the terms of each contract.

The Water Bureau actively supports 10 municipalities with water easements for their well fields including Carlsbad and Eunice, along with a dozen small mutual-domestic water systems around the state.

New Mexico State Land Office

Mineral Resources



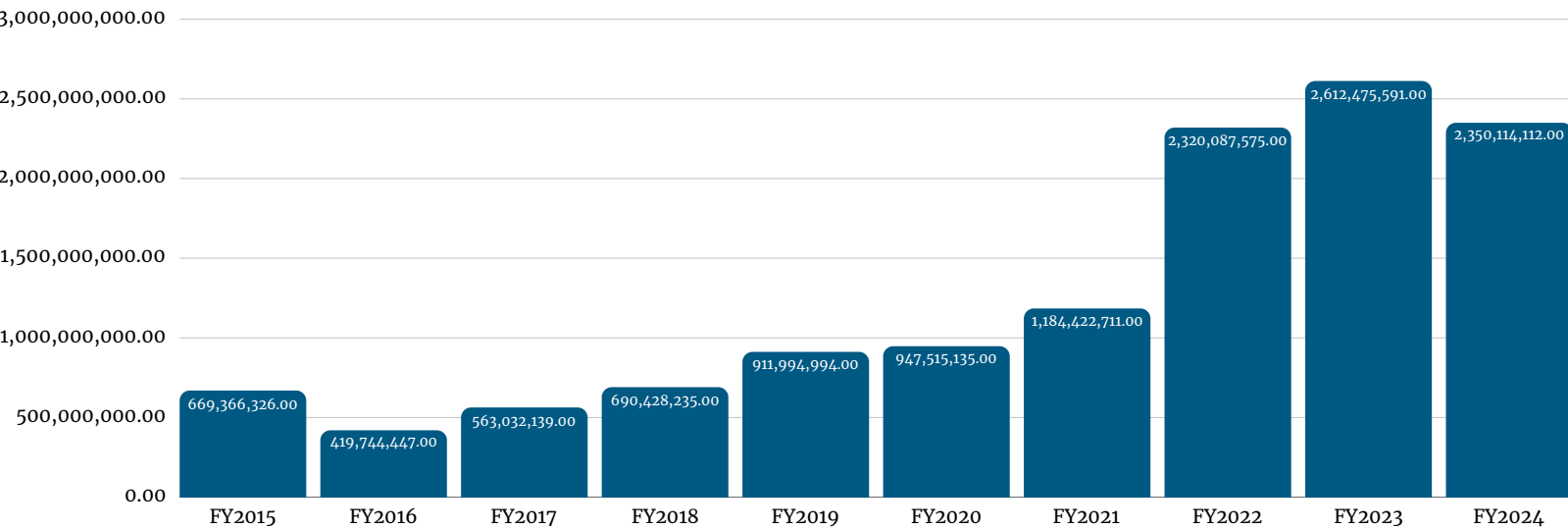
WATER BUREAU (CONTINUED)

In December 2020, Commissioner Garcia Richard stopped issuing and renewing instruments that allowed for the commercial sale of freshwater for oil and gas development. This represented a major shift in agency water policy and helped ensure the long-term stewardship of state trust lands and natural resources by saving millions of gallons of potable water every year. An early estimate of water saved to date is 300 million gallons. Looking back three years we see that the oil and gas industry’s use of freshwater has declined significantly despite production growth, illustrating that the State Land Office was at the forefront in protecting this important resource.

ROYALTY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

The Royalty Management Division is comprised of three bureaus – Revenue Processing, Compliance, and Audit – which are responsible for receiving, processing, and auditing royalties from primarily oil and gas leases. The division brought in and distributed to beneficiaries over \$2.3 billion in FY24. To put this in perspective, 13 years ago the division had yet to break the \$500 million mark.

Royalties Earned (\$), FY2015-FY2024



To ensure that the State Land Office is receiving all the money it is due from its oil and gas lessees, the division performed 27 account reviews and 18 audits.

New Mexico State Land Office

Mineral Resources



The Revenue Processing Bureau reviewed over 531,000 royalty detail lines (revenue receipts) in FY24—up over 100,000 from the previous year. This is more than 44,000 detail lines per month.

The Audit and Compliance Bureaus collected \$9.4 million over the course of the year—more than double the previous year.

The Division hosted a two-day, hybrid (in-person and virtually on Zoom) training conference for some 200 industry attendees (up from 130 in FY23), offering one-on-one counseling and presentations about the division’s three main functions: revenue processing, compliance and audit. The Division plans another conference next year to follow up on the success of the previous three years.



New Mexico State Land Office

Surface Resources Division (SRD)



The Surface Resources Division (SRD) is headed by Assistant Commissioner Dana Vackar Strang and includes the Agricultural Leasing Bureau, Field Operations, Stewardship, and Outdoor Recreation. There are 42 remarkable and highly trained staff in the division with backgrounds in wildlife biology, ecology, forestry, education, environmental science, finance, geology, planning, remediation, business administration, law, and more. They serve collectively to support leasing activity and steward the land for the benefit of trust in perpetuity. While each group has specific, independent functions, the entire staff collaborates daily to achieve our objectives in support of the agency's mission.



AGRICULTURAL LEASING

The Agricultural Leasing Bureau (ALB) supports leasing activity for the continued operations of producers across the state through maintenance of existing contracts, processing transactions for lessees, and review of applications for potential new leases.



The ALB is integrating with the range ecology program to promote stewardship, provide opportunities for peer-to-peer learning, connect lessees with resources and programs through other agencies that could benefit their operations and the state trust land.

New Mexico State Land Office

Surface Resources Division (SRD)



AGRICULTURAL LEASING <i>by the numbers</i>	
Total income from agricultural acres leased	\$15,958,787.28
GT Series renewals processed	844
GM Series renewal packets/contracts mailed	907
Improvement applications	145
Applications for new leases on open acreage	18
Transactions (assignments, collaterals, misc. instruments)	307

FIELD OPERATIONS

The Deputy Director of Field Operations, Steven Ikeda, leads a team of three Assistant Division Directors, and fifteen District Resource Managers located throughout the state. This staff is the primary point of contact with lessees, local agencies, and federal field staff in their geographic regions. They conduct all site inspections and evaluations for leasing activity on state trust lands, assist stewardship staff in planning and oversight of land maintenance projects, and represent the agency within their communities. During FY24, this staff completed 1,481 field report requests.

FIELD REQUESTS <i>by the numbers</i>				
Field Request Type	Agricultural	Commercial	Special Inspection	Minerals
Number Completed	319	163	20	55

New Mexico State Land Office

Surface Resources Division (SRD)



STEWARDSHIP

The Stewardship Program houses the agency's technical expert staff and project management team as well as the Environmental Compliance Office, and is led by Deputy Director Will Barnes. The project management team and technical specialists oversee the land maintenance program and provide expert review of leasing applications when they involve sensitive ecosystems, threatened or endangered animals or plants, or impact a large landscape. The stewardship projects are planned to improve forest and watershed health, reduce risk of fire to communities, rehabilitate negatively impacted lands, protect and restore wildlife habitat, or provide fuelwood to communities throughout the state.



As a relatively small agency with a modest budget, the NMSLO depends upon partnerships to ensure our projects have the greatest impact to the largest landscape. These partners include local fire departments, municipal and county officials, other state agencies, soil and water conservation districts, non-governmental organizations and universities, and our lessees.



The success of our projects and those of our partners depends upon applying the correct treatment at the correct time. No amount of planning can ensure the right conditions will be present when you have all the resources in place. However, working together, we increase our ability to implement beneficial treatments, collect data and observations from past projects, and adapt to changing environments.

New Mexico State Land Office

Surface Resources Division (SRD)



PROJECT TYPE	ACRES	# OF PROJECTS	TOTAL NMSLO EXPENDITURE	TOTAL PARTNER EXPENDITURE
Archaeological Services	2,153.46	5	\$80,312.49	N/A
Consulting	4,373.86	6	\$147,981.33	N/A
Forestry/Mechanical	248.5	3	\$210,125.23	\$120,000.00
Grassland Restoration	553	1	\$127,062.81	N/A
Habitat Enhancement	348.45	6	\$7,800.00	\$195,255.00
Illegal Dumping	5.11	2	\$7,662.20	N/A
Landscape Planning	0	1	\$16,352.52	N/A
Legacy/Remediation	23.8	6	\$706,155.68	N/A
Noxious/Invasive Weeds	4,065.00	2	\$164,000.00	\$12,000
GRAND TOTAL	11,771.18	32	\$1,467,452.26	\$327,255.00

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE OFFICE

The Environmental Compliance Office (ECO) is also housed under the Stewardship Program in the Surface Resources Division. The staff includes three environmental specialists, a part-time program assistant, and a program manager. ECO collaborates closely with staff across SRD as well as with the Office of the General Counsel and the Oil, Gas, and Minerals Division as part of the Commissioner's Accountability and Enforcement Program.

ECO provides both internal and external guidance for all remediation and reclamation projects on state trust lands. The office currently oversees more than 800 active remediation and reclamation projects. Each project requires a different level of engagement from the ECO staff. In some cases, ECO may conduct site inspections and provide reports to leasing divisions or the Office of General Counsel.

New Mexico State Land Office

Surface Resources Division (SRD)



ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE OFFICE (CONT.)

Daily activities include review and approval of spill and release reports, sampling and delineation plans, all remediation and reclamation plans, and all remediation and reclamation closure reports submitted by lessees and their operators. ECO also reviews all waste management plans, spill prevention control and countermeasure plans, all Phase 1 and 2 environmental site assessment reports and all decommissioning plans.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE OFFICE IN FY24

- 816 incidents/projects were identified and tracked
- 112 projects formally completed and closed
- 66 meetings hosted with 42 different lessees, operators and environmental contractors
- Presented at three regional energy conferences including the annual NMOGA conference
- Contributed analysis and support to the Accountability and Enforcement Program, which plugged more than 500 non-producing or abandoned wells

OUTDOOR RECREATION

In FY24, the Outdoor Recreation Program hired a new manager, Maria Lohmann. While getting to know the NMSLO, our programs, and the staff, Maria has been able to create and broaden relationships with agency and community partners, take inventory of areas with recreation opportunities, and begin to shape the development plan for bringing the Commissioner's vision to reality.

New Mexico State Land Office

Surface Resources Division (SRD)



OUTDOOR RECREATION (CONT.)

The program also continued to provide opportunities for the public to engage in recreation on state trust lands through our outdoor recreation permit program and the hunter backpacking and camping programs. The Commissioner expanded designated dispersed camping opportunities in the White Peak hunting area and will continue to look for new opportunities to provide quality recreational experiences across state trust lands.

In FY24, the Outdoor Recreation program issued 378 general recreational access permits and eight Lueara Mountain backpacking permits for licensed New Mexico hunters.

HIGHLIGHTED OUTDOOR RECREATION PROJECTS

Golden Open Space



SOCORRO BOX: The City of Socorro and NMSLO worked together to develop the first Recreation Stewardship Plan for the area known as Socorro Box. Socorro Box is a popular recreation area adjacent to BLM lands. The plan outlined how the City of Socorro would leverage the work of stakeholders to expand recreation opportunities for hikers, climbers and campers by protecting special resource areas including habitat and historic features. The City of Socorro successfully applied for a Trails+ Grant through the NMEDD Outdoor Recreation Division to develop the trails, campground and other amenities for this area.

GOLDEN OPEN SPACE: Obtained a grant from the New Mexico Youth Conservation Corps and piloted a project to explore recreation opportunities near Golden Open Space in Sandoval County.

New Mexico State Land Office

Public Engagement



PUBLIC MEETINGS

Public meetings provide the Commissioner and State Land Office staff with an opportunity to speak with New Mexico residents directly. This engagement is crucial, as it helps inform our staff about the needs and concerns of the public. Gathering this information firsthand allows us to improve our processes and increase our revenue-generating capabilities.

In addition, Commissioner Garcia Richard is committed to transparency and accessibility for all NMSLO public meetings. The Commissioner pushed for the passage of Senate Bill 458 in the 2019 New Mexico legislative session, which mandates that the State Land Office conduct public meetings in the communities of impact on such proposals as: land sales or exchanges, large transmission lines, and other impactful developments.

In the Spring of 2024, Commissioner Garcia Richard held three public meetings in Albuquerque's South Valley on a proposed transfer of 212 acres of state land in the Rio Grande Bosque to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to be added to the Valle De Oro National Wildlife Refuge. Public meetings like these help the Commissioner make key decisions through the invaluable insights New Mexico residents bring to the table.



MEDIA OUTREACH AND MORE

The State Land Office is also committed to providing the general public with as much information as possible. To that end, the State Land Office proactively contacts local media outlets about our numerous projects to keep New Mexico's residents up-to-date with the status of their state lands. When possible, Commissioner Garcia Richard meets with members of the press in-person for interviews to share more about our work.

To stay informed on everything happening at the State Land Office, visit nmstatelands.org.

New Mexico State Land Office

More Photos from FY24



New Mexico State Land Office

State Land Trusts Advisory Board



The State Land Trusts Advisory Board advises the Commissioner of Public Lands in the formulation of policies and programs at the State Land Office. The members are appointed by the Commissioner and confirmed by the New Mexico State Senate to serve six-year terms. By law, the Board must be politically and geographically diverse and represent the Trust's beneficiaries and key constituencies. Two members serve at large, two other members represent the beneficiary institutions and one each represents agriculture, extractive industries, and conservation interests.

CURRENT STATE LAND TRUSTS ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:

Colonel David West (current Chair) served in the United States Army from 1985-1991 as a combat medic, and now serves as Chief of Staff to the President of the New Mexico Military Institute, a NMSLO beneficiary.

Paula Garcia (current Vice Chair) has fought for clean water and water and agricultural rights in her nearly two decades as Executive Director of the New Mexico Acequia Association.

Joanna Prukop has served both as a former Secretary of the New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department and a former Chair of the New Mexico Game Commission.

Mayane Barudin founded Sovereign Energy, a native-led nonprofit organization, to help center Tribal energy sovereignty and Indigenous voices within the renewable energy transition to enable energy reparations and sustainability for Indigenous people.

Dr. Heather Miller is the Special Education Administrator for the New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, a beneficiary of state lands. She is also a small business owner in her spare time, operating a horse hotel near Tularosa.

Beverly Allen is responsible for managing community and stakeholder relations, social investment, and communications for Chevron's operations of Permian assets across New Mexico.

REPORT ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS



Witness an environmental violation or other
incident on state trust lands?

Visit www.nmstatelands.org and click on
“Report Environmental Incident” in the top
right corner.

Help us keep our state lands beautiful!



Since 2019, YOUR State Land Office has earned

\$10+ BILLION for our schools!

New Mexico Commissioner of Public Lands Stephanie Garcia Richard

