SUPPORT SB9: For Our Land, Water, Economy, & Culture


PROBLEM:
Because New Mexico does not have a dedicated state funding stream for land and water conservation, it often has trouble raising the matching funds required to qualify for federal programs that could better protect communities from wildfire, flood and drought, safeguard our water supplies for urban and rural areas, support our agricultural communities, and grow our outdoor recreation economy.

SOLUTION:
The Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund would create the state's first-ever dedicated source of recurring funding for conservation, prioritizing land and water stewardship, forest and watershed health, outdoor recreation and infrastructure, agriculture and working lands, historic preservation, and wildlife species protection.

The Fund would invest in existing state programs, which could unlock hundreds of millions of dollars in federal grants. It would not create new programs, but instead utilize existing statutes, boards, and rulemaking. This is a bipartisan product of five years' negotiations among a broad coalition of non-governmental organizations, legislators and state agencies.

OPPORTUNITY:
The Fund would give legislators a historic opportunity to deliver for New Mexico communities and better protect us from extreme weather conditions like wildfire, flooding and drought.

It would also preserve our cultural heritage and outdoor traditions, leaving a legacy for our children to hunt, fish, farm, ranch, and enjoy the lands and waters the way our ancestors have for generations.

Local entities - including acequias, tribes, and Soil & Water Conservation Districts - are primed to apply for projects they know work for them. If adequately funded, this investment could deliver resources to all 33 counties and tribal communities.

HOW THE FUND WOULD WORK:
Beginning with an initial investment, the Fund would make annual disbursements to programs at six agencies, including EMNRD, NMDA, NMDGF, NMED, EDD and DCA.

A second, permanent trust fund would be established and managed by the State Investment Council, similar to the Early Childhood Education and Care Fund.

Interest earned would be disbursed annually to existing state programs that have a proven track record of success, are popular in communities, or have rarely been funded to their full potential.

2023 LEGISLATIVE ASK:
Increase the LFC recommendation: at least $350 million is necessary to ensure the Fund can meet the needs of our communities and produce enough annual returns to be self-sustaining.

This would provide more than $20 million annually to state agencies, which could unlock hundreds of millions of dollars in federal and private support over time.

Enchantmentfund.org

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<tr>
<th>AGENCY</th>
<th>PROGRAM</th>
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<tr>
<td>Energy, Minerals &amp; Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) - 22.5%</td>
<td>Natural Heritage Conservation Act, Forest and Watershed Restoration Act, Forest and Watershed Restoration Act; Forest Conservation Act and Prescribed Burning Act</td>
<td>Conserve and restore open space, private working lands, cultural sites and wildlife habitat; leverage federal LWCF dollars, Protect community water supplies; help communities restore forest and watershed health to guard against and recover from the effects of wildfire, flood and drought</td>
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<td>Department of Agriculture (NMDA) - 22.5%</td>
<td>Healthy Soils Act, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Noxious Weeds Management Act</td>
<td>Promote farming/ranching practices that improve soil health, including for acequia communities, Improve grassland and rangeland ecosystems, leverage federal Farm Bill dollars; support farmers, ranchers, and working lands; also supports acequia restoration projects, Coordinate weed management best practices among local, state, and federal land managers, as well as private landowners</td>
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<td>Department of Game and Fish (NMDGF) - 22%</td>
<td>Game &amp; Fish Outdoor Recreation Act/ Wildlife Conservation Act</td>
<td>Conserve species of wildlife that are threatened, endangered or in decline and sustainably manage the state’s game species</td>
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<td>Economic Development Department (EDD) - 15%</td>
<td>Outdoor Equity Fund, Outdoor Recreation Trails+ Grant</td>
<td>Get underserved NM youth outside to connect with the land; teach them how to hunt, fish, camp, and overall foster land and water stewardship to help pass down cultural legacies, Fund infrastructure projects to improve NM’s hiking/biking/walking/horseback riding trails, parks/river systems; improve visitor experience to residents &amp; tourists</td>
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<td>Environment Department (NMED) - 10%</td>
<td>River Stewardship Program</td>
<td>Keep NM rivers safe and healthy by improving water quality and restoring riparian habitat</td>
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<td>Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) - 8%</td>
<td>Prehistoric &amp; Historic Sites Preservation Act</td>
<td>Fund public-private partnerships to preserve prehistoric and historic sites in NM communities</td>
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**OUR COALITION**

[Logos of various organizations]