



# State of New Mexico

*Office of the Governor*

**Bill Richardson**  
*Governor*

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## **Governor announces New Mexico Pinon Action Plan**

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson announced today that he will direct \$50,000 in state funding to hire New Mexico youth to remove dead and dying pinons in northern New Mexico. The Governor also directed Energy and Minerals Secretary Joanna Prukop to implement a New Mexico Pinon Action Plan.

The pinon is New Mexico's state tree, but pinons have been dying under the stress of severe drought and bark beetle infestation.

"I am taking action to remove the dead trees that pose the greatest hazard to people and buildings," said Governor Richardson. "Our program will focus on public lands and places where older people can't remove the trees by themselves.

"The pinon is the state tree and all New Mexicans hate to see it dying around us. But we need to take action that will address the dangers of dry timber near communities."

Secretary Prukop said the action plan will include \$140,000 in federal hazardous fuels removal for Santa Fe City and County.

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