



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

For Immediate Release
Jan. 6, 2005

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Governor Bill Richardson applauds purchase of Albuquerque Bosque land

SANTA FE - Governor Bill Richardson today applauded an agreement, aided with \$3.5 million in state funding, to purchase and protect 127 acres of bosque land in Albuquerque.

"I fought for the \$3.5 million in state funding because this land should be protected for public use as open space," Governor Bill Richardson said. "This open space is a perfect fit for the Rio Grande State Park."

The City of Albuquerque reached an agreement on Wednesday with a developer who wanted to build homes on the privately-held land near Montano, west of the Rio Grande.

Governor Richardson fully supported the land purchase, and pledged last February to work with the Legislature to pitch in \$3.5 million in state funding for the land. The city contributed \$5.8 million from the Albuquerque Open Space Trust Fund to complete the purchase of 122 acres. The developer agreed to donate 5 acres of land.

"It was so gratifying to see the Governor's Office, the Legislature and the City of Albuquerque working together to preserve this pristine wilderness area. Generations of New Mexicans will enjoy the fruits of this cooperation forever," said Albuquerque City Councilor Michael Cadigan. "I hope we can continue to cooperate to preserve lands that are important from an environmental and recreational point of view."

The city and state will close the deal on Jan. 14, and the land will be permanently protected as part of the Rio Grande State Park.

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