



State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2026-020

AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY FUNDS FOR THE FORESTRY DIVISION OF THE ENERGY, MINERALS AND NATURAL RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, wildland fires have or are occurring statewide, and conditions for wildland fires are dangerous and expected to increase;

WHEREAS, these wildland fires are of such magnitude as to be beyond local control and require state resources, including incident commanders, firefighters, dispatchers, engines and hand crews, as well as emergency action to protect the peace, health, and safety and to preserve the lives and property of the people of the State of New Mexico;

WHEREAS, the Forestry Division of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department is responsible for prevention and suppression of wildland fires on all non-federal and non-municipal lands in the state, as authorized under the Forest Conservation Act, NMSA 1978, Sections 68-2-1 to -25;

WHEREAS, the Forestry Division is designated as the agent of the State and authorized to enter into contracts and agreements with the Secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture and other state, federal, and private agencies or organizations to prevent and suppress wildfires pursuant to NMSA 1978, Section 68-2-6;

WHEREAS, emergency funds are expended by the Forestry Division for the purposes of pre-positioning resources, continuing the Governor's Public Service Announcement to publicize fire danger conditions and responding to wildland fires, and ensuring that preparation will be adequate to deal with such disasters;

WHEREAS, the Forestry Division has incurred significant expenditures for personnel, firefighters, supplies, and contract services for aircraft and equipment; and

WHEREAS, the Forestry Division requires additional funding at this time to continue its work and ensure that the State is adequately prepared to address ongoing and anticipated wildland fire emergencies.


NOW, THEREFORE, I, Howie Morales, Lieutenant Governor of the State of New Mexico and acting Governor pursuant to Article V, Section 7 of the New Mexico Constitution, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the State of New Mexico, do hereby **DECLARE** an emergency situation exists and **ORDER** and **DIRECT** as follows:

1. The Department of Finance and Administration shall make available emergency financial resources in an amount not to exceed seven hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$750,000.00) to the to the Forestry Division of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department in accordance with NMSA 1978, Sections 12-11-23 to -25. Funds shall be expended for the purpose of wildland fire disaster relief, post-fire rehabilitation, adequate preparation, including pre-positioning to deal with such disasters as a project, or for securing matching funds for emergencies; and shall be expended specifically to avoid and minimize economic or physical harm and to protect the public health, safety, and welfare. Funds shall be paid out upon warrants drawn by the Secretary of Finance and Administration upon vouchers approved by the Governor or an agent or agency designated by her for that purpose.

I FURTHER ORDER and **DIRECT** as follows:

1. This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until all authorized funds are expended or no longer necessary to provide emergency assistance.

ATTEST:


MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
THIS 20TH DAY OF APRIL 2026

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO


HOWIE MORALES
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

