



# New Mexico Climate Action Plan

## Draft Emission Reduction Measures

### Agriculture, Forests, and Wilderness Sector

#### **Goal: Wildfire Reduction**

*Strategy: Undertake landscape-scale wildfire reduction and mitigation in high risk and high priority areas in forests and watersheds throughout New Mexico. Continue to enhance forest resilience against wildfires, pests, and diseases, while promoting carbon sequestration in forest ecosystems.*

- Expand funding for critical range of activities including fuel reduction, controlled burns, pest management, reforestation projects, and biomass utilization.
- Expand fire management planning on state and private lands to reduce future emissions from catastrophic wildfire.

#### **Goal: Restoration and Conservation**

*Strategy: Incorporate landscape-scale restoration that supports native plant communities, carbon storage, and drought mitigation on natural and working lands.*

- Prioritize high-value permanent land protection opportunities and nature-based solutions in the conservation/restoration of forests, prairie and ranchlands.
- Mitigate post-fire erosion to reduce carbon emissions.
- Identify revegetation opportunities on degraded lands (e.g. brownfields, mine reclamation) to enhance carbon sequestration.
- Reforest burned areas at a pace of 5 million seedlings per year starting in 2027 and ramping up by 2032.
- Increase urban canopies by 5% by 2040, to increase carbon sequestration capacity, decrease energy demand, and increase quality of life, while prioritizing lower income and disadvantaged communities.



### **GOAL: Expand Cropland and Soil Management**

**STRATEGY:** Support producer adoption of agricultural practices that mitigate carbon emissions

- Expand the impact of NMDA's Healthy Soil Program on soil health management, reduced or no-till farming, cover cropping, nitrogen management, manure and feed management for livestock, organic soil amendments (biochar, compost, etc.), where appropriate.

### **GOAL: Local Food Systems**

**STRATEGY:** Reduce GHG from food production, processing, packaging, transportation, storage, retail, and food preparation.

- Expand local food production, increase funding for projects that buy local food from disadvantaged and emerging farmers, distribute food to underserved communities and provide financial and technical assistance to local food producers.
- Expand organic waste and food waste prevention programs, composting, and edible food recovery program. Build a new program to holistically prevent food waste, reduce food waste in landfills, and divert edible food for human consumption.
- Enhance in-state meat processing capacity, offset GHG emissions of imported foods.

### **GOAL: Carbon Sequestration**

**STRATEGY:** Identify and implement strategies for the collection and use of carbon sequestration and emissions data from natural and working lands to inform improved land management practice outcomes

- Support the collection, validation, and synthesis of carbon sequestration and emission data on NM lands.
- Create incentives for production and use of biochar to reduce organic waste and sequester carbon in soil.



- Enhance the ability for NM landowners to contribute to the 30x30 E.O. goals and participate in future carbon market opportunities.

### **Current Supporting Policies and Programs**

#### Wildfire Reduction

Executive Order 2021-52; Protecting New Mexico's Lands, Watersheds, Wildlife, and Natural Heritage.

#### Restoration and Conservation

Executive Order 2021-052, Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund, Natural Heritage Conservation Act

Noxious Weed Management Act, NMDA's District Opportunities Grant

#### Cropland and Soil Management

Land of Enchantment Legacy Fund, Healthy Soil Act, Soil & Water Conservation District Program

#### Local Food Systems

Governor's Food Initiative, State meat inspection program

#### Carbon Sequestration

NMDA's Healthy Soil Program, NMSU Carbon Management and Soil Health Initiative