

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

Melanie A. Kenderdine
Cabinet Secretary Designate

Benjamin Shelton
Acting Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Laura McCarthy,
Forestry Division Director



March 3, 2025

Dear Interested Community Members,

I would like to extend this opportunity to invite you to a community meeting that will be held on **Saturday March 29, 2025, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM at the Upper Chama Soil and Water Conservation District conference room located at 17315 U.S. Highway 64/84 in Tierra Amarilla, NM** across from the U.S. Post Office. This meeting will discuss plans to conduct a hazardous fuel removal project along the Right of Way (ROW) of New Mexico State Road 512.

New Mexico Forestry Division in collaboration with the New Mexico Department of Transportation have entered into a state-wide Memorandum of Agreement to conduct Hazardous Fuel Reduction along ROWs that are near high-risk communities. The intent of this project will be to widen or “daylight” the road corridor to create and fortify a fire break using existing features on the landscape. There are many other benefits to “daylighting” these roadways including improving wildlife visibility and increasing the snowmelt effect on the road surfaces in winter.

We have seen the devastating effects of wildfires in communities and neighborhoods with recent fires in California, and here with the 2022 fires in New Mexico. This hazardous fuel reduction project aims to remove trees within the ROW as identified via parcel data gathered from Rio Arriba County. This ROW is quite variable and not a standard distance, ranging from 10 feet to 50 feet from the road centerline. Work will begin during the coming fall and winter to reduce the impact on nesting migratory birds and other wildlife and reduce the potential risk of igniting fires as we enter into an unusually dry spring and summer. Anticipated impact to traffic will be minimal during this time as there is usually reduced volume as summer visitors/residents are no longer around.

For those that want to attend virtually, please download Microsoft Teams and enter Meeting ID: 256 028 519 055; use Passcode: mj6WB3Sf
To dial in by phone: (505) 312-4308; Phone conference ID#: 267 389 28#

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe P. Carrillo".

Joe Carrillo, Chama District Forester