

**NEW MEXICO**  
OUTDOOR RECREATION DIVISION

**Contact:** Michelle Simon  
[Michelle.Simon@edd.nm.gov](mailto:Michelle.Simon@edd.nm.gov)  
(505) 439-2320

Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Cabinet Secretary Rob Black  
Deputy Cabinet Secretary Isaac Romero  
ORD Director Karina Armijo

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## **\$2 million awarded to enhance access to outdoor spaces** *Trails+ Grant applications open for next round of awards*

Santa Fe — The New Mexico Economic Development Department's Outdoor Recreation Division has awarded \$2 million in the latest round of the Outdoor Recreation Trails+ Grants, supporting outdoor access, conservation, and economic vitality across the state.

The division is kicking off the FY26 grant cycle with an informational webinar on August 14.

Seven new projects were selected for funding in this latest round, including flood-damaged trail restoration, creating inclusive gathering spaces, and long-term conservation planning. These investments will increase access to outdoor recreation while supporting community health and local economies.

The \$2 million awarded across six counties will more than double its local impact, bringing in an additional \$2.7 million in matching funds.

"Outdoor infrastructure projects build lasting value in communities across the state while preserving the natural beauty that makes New Mexico so special," said Economic Development Department Cabinet Secretary **Rob Black**. "These projects drive economic development through job creation and tourism, especially in our rural areas."

\$7.2 million is targeted for distribution in the current fiscal year. Since 2020, the program has invested over \$30 million across 30 counties and 11 Tribal communities.

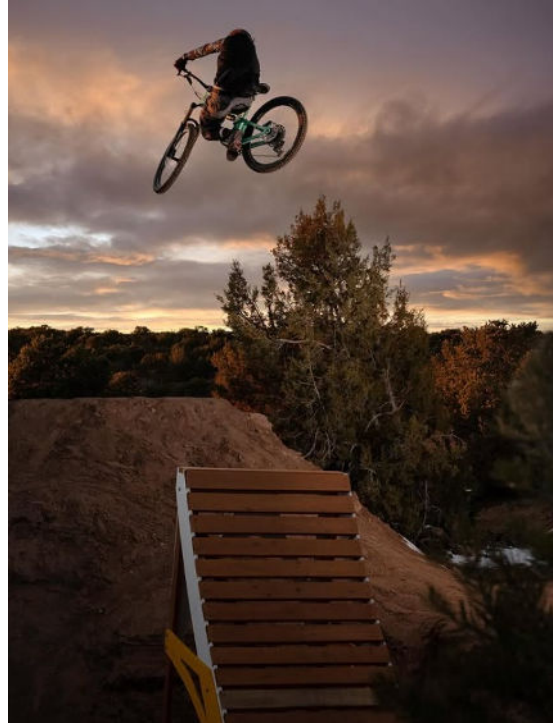
Awarded projects in the latest round of grants include:

- **Backcountry Hunters & Anglers** in Taos County was awarded \$155,000 to improve wildlife habitat connectivity and recreational experiences through volunteer-led fence modification and removal in the Rio Grande del Norte National Monument.
- **City of Farmington** in San Juan County was awarded \$500,000 for the Gateway Park Plaza that will feature river trails, open space, and a multi-use event plaza near the Animas River and the Farmington Museum.
- **Indigenous Futures 4EVER** in San Juan County was awarded \$500,000 for improvements to the Two Grey Hills Skatepark to increase safety and community use.
- **New Mexico Land Conservancy** in Santa Fe County was awarded \$99,500 to support the restoration of a one-mile hiking trail with native plants, erosion control, and educational signage at the Petchesky Conservation Center.
- **Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments** in McKinley County was awarded \$150,000 to create a regional Outdoor Recreation & Conservation Master Plan that will coordinate efforts to strengthen the recreation economy across McKinley and Cibola Counties.
- **Rio Grande School** in Santa Fe County was awarded \$90,000 for an outdoor learning space, hosting nature-based educational and teacher development.
- **Village of Ruidoso** in Lincoln County was awarded \$497,970 to rehabilitate flood-damaged walking trails at Two Rivers Park.

Applications for the first round of FY26 are due by September 30. A second round will open on November 1 and close January 31, 2026. Interested applicants can visit [www.NMOutside.com](http://www.NMOutside.com).



*The City of Farmington is creating an adjustable wave feature in the Animas River at Gateway Park that also improves irrigation diversion and supports fish migration.*



*The Pueblo of Picuris will complete the final phase of their All-Wheel Park.*



*Cavern City Trail Keepers is installing 11 cattleguards and equestrian gates along the La Cueva Ridge Trail to connect the La Cueva Non-Motorized Trails System to the Guadalupe Ridge National Recreation Trail.*

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*EDD's mission is to improve the lives of New Mexico families by increasing economic opportunities and providing a place for businesses to thrive. EDD's programs contribute directly to this mission by funding workforce training and infrastructure that supports business growth, helping every community create a thriving economy.*

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