

Bill Richardson

Governor

Joanna Prukop

Cabinet Secretary

Reese Fullerton

Deputy Cabinet Secretary

Arthur "Butch" Blazer

Division Director

Forestry Division



NEWS RELEASE

April 20, 2009

Contact:

Dan Ware, Public Relations Coordinator

505-476-3336

NM State Forester Announces Forest Re-Leaf Program to Seek Grant Proposals

Annual program can provide up to \$6,000 for tree planting projects

Santa Fe, NM – New Mexico schools, universities, local, state, federal and tribal entities are being encouraged to submit proposals for grant funding to plant trees through the New Mexico State Forestry Division's Forest Re-Leaf Program, according to New Mexico State Forester Arthur "Butch" Blazer.

The New Mexico Forest Re-Leaf program is an environmental education tree planting grant program funded solely by private donations. During the 2008/2009-grant cycle, more than \$31,000 dollars in grant funding was distributed to projects statewide. Since created by the New Mexico Legislature in 1990, more than \$500,000 has been granted to plant approximately 18,000 trees throughout the state.

"This outstanding program helps New Mexico communities grow their urban forest," said Blazer. "It's encouraging to me to see New Mexico's forested urban areas continue to expand. It shows that New Mexicans take natural resource conservation seriously and feel it is important to their quality of life."

Each year, New Mexico State Forestry invites public entities to compete for available grant funds up to \$6,000 with a 20-percent in kind match.

Grant emphasis will be on community tree planting projects including street plantings, windbreaks, park plantings, living snow fences, riparian rehabilitation, energy conservation, and community green belts.

Re-Leaf grants may be used for partial funding of larger projects, but cannot be used to maintain existing projects. Projects must be located on public land and show a substantial public benefit.

Grant guidelines may be found on the Forestry Division's website at www.nmforestry.com, link to Re-Leaf Program.

For more information on the Re-Leaf Program, or to make a donation to support future projects, contact Lance Davisson, NM Forest Re-Leaf Program Manager, State Forestry Division, PO Box 1948, Santa Fe, NM, 87505, telephone: (505) 476-3332; or via e-mail at lance.davisson@state.nm.us. Every dollar donated goes directly to the public to plant trees. **Donations can also be made on your New Mexico State Tax Return form.**

The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.

Forestry Division
1220 South St. Francis Drive ▪ Santa Fe, New Mexico 87505
Phone (505) 476-3325 ▪ Fax (505) 476-3330 ▪ www.emnrd.state.nm.us/FD

