Due to the Co s, State Land Office facilities are closed to the public until further notice. Business
ions remain open and our staff can be reached at (505) 827-5760

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DO YOU NEED SOME HELP?

The quickest way to reach us is to contact us through the contact form on the website.

Address:
310 Old Santa Fe Trail,
Santa Fe NM 87501

Phone:
505-827-5760

Check this page periodically to see any new announcements that the State Land Office wants you to know about!

Jun 25, 2020

Tele-Town Halls for Agricultural Lessees with Commissioner of Public Lands Stephanie Garcia Richard and State Land Office Staff

Commissioner of Public Lands Stephanie Garcia Richard and State Land Office staff will hold two Tele-Town Hall meetings, on July 8 and July 14. State Land Office agricultural lessees and other New Mexico's agricultural community members can participate via telephone conference or through a GoToMeeting online video conference.

The purpose of these events is for Commissioner Garcia Richard to speak with, listen to, and answer questions from the agricultural community. In addition, Land Office staff will explain changes to the GO series agricultural lease and the agricultural lease renewal process for 2020. The renewal packet can be downloaded here.

We are sorry that these events won't be held in-person, as they were last year, but the Land Office is currently minimizing in-person meetings and staff travel as part of our overall effort to reduce the spread of the novel coronavirus.

When

Tele-Town Hall #1:
Wednesday, July 8, 2020 from 10:00 am—11:30 am

Tele-Town Hall #2:
Tuesday, July 14, 2020 from 5:30 pm—7:00 pm

How to Participate

Participate via phone using the following information:
Phone number: 646.749.3122
Enter the meeting ID: 563 908 645

For visual participation, choose one of the following options using your computer, tablet, or smartphone:

- **Via web browser: for best results, use Google Chrome to visit this web address: https://app.gotomeeting.com, then enter the meeting ID: 563 908 645.**

- **If you would like to join using the GoToMeeting app, go to: https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/563908645 You can download the app in advance here: https://support.goto.com/meeting/help/download-now-g2m010002**

If you need assistance, please contact Alysha Shaw at 505.827.5761 or ashaw@slo.state.nm.us

Jun 22, 2020

Jun 15, 2020

Drought Resources Webinar Series

Hosted via Zoom

June 22-25

Schedule

12-1PM and 6-7PM MT on the following dates:

Mon June 22: Lisa Garay (FSA) and introduction to the series

Tues June 23: Kenneth Branch and Steve Kadas (NRCS), and Jen Livsey (PRF Insurance)

Thurs June 25: Roy Roath (Strategic Decision-Making for Drought on the Ranch)

Agricultural producers have a lot to consider in regards to drought. We invite you to participate in the Drought

Resources Webinar Series this June 22-25. The series will include three one-hour webinars focusing on different drought-related topics, including herd management during drought, NRCS drought-resources, FSA drought-resources, and PRF insurance for drought conditions. We will explore the challenges of drought, and the relevancy of these resources to agricultural producers in New Mexico*. Come with your questions! We look forward to seeing you there.**

*These webinars will focus on New Mexico, but the content will also be applicable to agricultural producers in other states in the Southwest. All are welcome to join!

**Each webinar will be offered twice in the same day, so if you can't make one time, we hope you can make the other!

Dates, Times, Details

Each webinar is duplicated; we are offering the SAME webinar twice in a day, once midday, once in the evening. Make sure when registering to select the time slot of your preference.

Drought Resources Series Pt. 1: Series Introduction and FSA Drought Resources

Register for midday 12-1: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIpdOGhpj4uHN3EL1qB1Pus4FIwWt4qTho1

Register for evening 6-7: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtc-2vpj4tGdB_uVth48WkdlVLNCiXUmeL

For this webinar, we will introduce the whole Drought Resources Webinar Series. Then, Lisa Garay, Executive Director of Valencia County FSA, will provide information on drought-related programs available through the Farm Service Agency (FSA) from the USDA. Lisa will focus on the FSA crop insurance program, livestock forage program, emergency livestock assistance program, and livestock indemnity program.

Drought Resources Series Pt. 2: NRCS Resources and PRF Drought Insurance

Register for midday 12-1:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUqcO6gpj8tHtB9QHesmVfHd7fd4NCnXFnF

Register for evening 6-7:
https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZEtc-yuqDMqG9HootLKrDrvGP04kzEPBu1A

Kenneth Branch and Steve Kadas will present on drought-related resources available through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) from the USDA. Kenneth, Assistant State Conservationist for NRCS programs, will focus on financial assistance including local disaster relief and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). Steve, State Resource Conservationist for NRCS, will focus on technical assistance including water infrastructure, grazing plans, crop planning and more.

Jen Livsey, Owner/Agent of EastCo Group, and cattle rancher, will present on pasture, rangeland, and forage insurance (PRF Insurance), which includes financial support during drought. Jen has analyzed data for millions

of acreland has worked to understand the risk tolerance and needs of hundreds of ranchers. She will use three different and unique locations in New Mexico as examples to explain how PRF Insurance works, how rainfall is determined and different PRF-insurance-challenges that people in New Mexico may encounter based on their location.

Drought Resources Series Pt. 3: Strategic Decision-Making for Ranchers During Drought

Register for midday 12-1: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMlc–tpj8qGdfbw4w7xKhxkX_EGpTZjVKf

Register for evening 6-7: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUvde2rpzgjH9NYLoxOJm67a1hA6SsosH_x

Dr. Roy Roath, Professor Emeritus and Rangeland Consultant, will provide information on herd management and grazing during drought for ranchers and other interested individuals. Dr. Roath will discuss livestock, grazing and water management decisions in a drought environment, timing of changes in management, available options and resources, and drought recovery.

Jun 10, 2020

Stephanie Garcia Richard, Commissioner of Public Lands

State of New Mexico

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 10, 2020

Contact:

Angie Poss, Assistant Commissioner of Communications

505.470.2965

aposs@slo.state.nm.us

State Land Office Hearing This Friday, June 12 Regarding Rule Change to Allow Temporary Shut-In of Oil Wells

SANTA FE, NM – In April, the State Land Office finalized emergency rulemaking to allow oil and gas lessees to temporarily stop production of oil wells for at least thirty days. This Friday, June 12, at 1:00 PM, a second virtual hearing will take place to consider longer-term relief through a rule that would be in effect for up to one year.

Shut-ins have been deemed necessary by the State Land Office based on plunging oil prices and storage capacity challenges, including the first-ever negative value of oil

seen in the U.S. Prices began to drop in February as a result of a contentious price war between Russia and Saudi Arabia paired with a sharp reduction in demand. Prices have since risen, hovering around $30 a barrel, but remain unstable as the country continues to confront the COVID-19 crisis.

The State Land Office manages over 13 million mineral acres for the benefit of New Mexico public schools, hospitals, and universities.

“It is in the best interest of the vital public institutions we serve that the State Land Office move forward with longer term relief for well shut-ins to assure we get the best value for our resources. When oil is sold at a low price, our public schools don’t get their fair share,” Commissioner Garcia Richard said. “Within the rule change under consideration, we will also require that lessees who are approved to shut-in wells be bound to comply with future bonding increases.”

In February, the Land Office announced its intention to conduct a statewide review of the environmental risk posed by infrastructure from oil and gas on state trust land. That review, once completed, will inform increases in the amount of bonding companies will be required to have on oil and gas leases held for state trust land operations. Currently, the State Land Office accepts “mega-bonds” of only $25,000. These can be used by a company to cover hundreds of wells, unlimited miles of pipe, and other infrastructure.

“I have not been silent when it comes to New Mexico’s need for adequate bonding to remediate our land when the

boom-as bust," Commissioner Garcia Richard added. "By including this provision in our shut-in rule changes, we are taking a step to protect New Mexico taxpayers and state trust land beneficiaries because they cannot be left holding the bag to clean up our land if companies go out of business if the current price crisis does not ease up."

The virtual hearing regarding consideration of these changes is open to the public and members of the press. It will begin promptly at 1:00 PM, Friday, June 12, 2020. The hearing will be livestreamed on Facebook and YouTube. Members of the public interested in providing virtual testimony are asked to register in advance at the State Land Office website.

Jun 2, 2020

PUBLIC MEETING REGARDING: FirstNet/Gravity Pad Lease between AT&T and the New Mexico State Land Office to be located in Santa Fe County

The proposed telecommunications project is for a 65 ft monopole located behind an existing water tank. This proposed facility would be located on state trust land and will provide the La Cieniga area with desperately needed emergency E911 access as well as broadband service for first responders. Secondarily, this project will provide broadband wireless services with AT&T.

When: Tuesday, June 9th beginning at 5:30 PM

Where: ONLINE GoToMeeting

Please join my meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone.

https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/274426661

You can also dial in using your phone.
United States: +1 (312) 757-3121

Access Code: 274-426-661

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https://global.gotomeeting.com/install/274426661

Members of the public will be given 2 minutes to provide virtual public comment during this meeting.

Public Comment can also be submitted online at https://www.nmstatelands.org/public-comment/

Jun 1, 2020

Stephanie Garcia Richard, Land Commissioner

State of New Mexico

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 4, 2020

Contact:

Angie Poss, Assistant Commissioner of Communications

505.470.0965

aposs@slo.state.nm.us

Commissioner Garcia Richard Approves Western Spirit Wind Development

Project will benefit public schools with over $16 million in revenue over life of project

SANTA FE, NM – Keeping her promise to increase renewable buildout on state trust land, Commissioner of Public Lands, Stephanie Garcia Richard, today executed five leases for the Western Spirit Wind development to parent company Pattern Renewables 2 LP. Pattern was the winning bidder in a February public auction for the right to develop the 16,442 acres located in Torrance County and Lincoln Counties.

Pattern paid the State Land Office a total up-front bonus bid of $395,000 as a requirement of the public auction. They were also required to provide bonding coverage for the eventual decommissioning of the turbines. Based on provisions of the leases, the Land Office estimates the minimum revenue to New Mexico public schools will be over $16 million during the life of the project.

“At the State Land Office, we continue to do our part to diversify the economy by working with renewable energy firms that share our common goal of advancing New Mexico’s renewable energy future,” Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard said. “The recent oil crisis, brought on by a global oil price war and compounded by

COVID-19 has only strengthened my dedication to helping New Mexico move away from our reliance on fossil fuels. For that and many other reasons, the Western Spirit wind project is a win-win-win. Our public schools win, because this project will directly benefit them financially to the tune of over $16 million. Our state wins, because we create high paying construction jobs, as well as long term jobs managing these sites. And last but not least, we win by making a dent in New Mexico's carbon emissions, furthering the state's efforts to be carbon neutral by 2045."

29 or more wind turbines will be built for the project, generating at least 76 MW of wind energy annually, enough to power over 15,000 homes annually. The project will connect to the forthcoming Western Spirit transmission line.

The Western Spirit project represents the eighth wind energy lease signed by Commissioner Garcia Richard since taking office a year and a half ago. When completed, wind farms on state trust land will help New Mexico lead the way in wind energy generation. Combined, the forthcoming Western Spirit, La Joya, Great Divide, and Gladstone wind projects will increase New Mexico's MW capacity by 414, as well as increasing revenue from renewable projects by over $80 million over the life of the projects.

Commissioner Garcia Richard's commitment to renewable energy includes her creation last year of the first ever Office of Renewable Energy at the State Land Office. That office is currently working to process over 40 applications for new solar and wind energy projects on state trust land. When processed, these applications will help the Land

Office exceed goals of tripling the amount of energy generated on state trust land through renewable projects.

Oil, gas, and mineral production, ranching and farming, and commercial development on State Trust Lands support public schools, seven universities, New Mexico Military Institute, New Mexico School for the Deaf, New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired, three hospitals, correctional facilities, water conservation projects, and public building construction and repair. In fiscal year 2019, the State Land Office collected $1 billion from lease

payments, oil and gas lease sale earnings, rights-of-way, permanent interest, fees, and oil, gas and mineral royalties.

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