



New Mexico
Department of Finance
and Administration

Infrastructure Planning
and Development Division

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

Wayne Propst
Cabinet Secretary

Wesley Billingsley
Division Director

Solicitation of Applications for Public Land Project Questions and Responses

August 10, 2026

Please visit <https://www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/infrastructure-planning-and-development-division/solicitation-of-applications-for-public-land-projects/> for full program details. Deadline for applications is August 21, 2026.

This document provides written responses to all questions received by DFA by the August 4th inquiry deadline provided in the Solicitation of Applications. Questions are listed in the order they were received.

Question 1

Are land restoration projects conducted on existing state trust land eligible for funding or is it required for all proposed projects to include acquisition of new land?

Answer:

Restoration on existing public land is generally an eligible project; however, as stated on the program webpage, projects that increase the total acreage of public lands in New Mexico will be prioritized over projects that propose to utilize funds to carry out natural resource restoration activities on existing public lands.

Question 2

If projects on existing state trust land are eligible, what type of restoration activities are allowable?

Answer:

Entities are invited to submit applications for projects that protect or restore natural resources and/or ecosystems. The Solicitation of Applications does not exclude any particular restoration practices or techniques.

Question 3

Does the complete application need to be submitted through both Microsoft Forms and email, or should the Microsoft Form contain the application responses while only the detailed proposal and supporting documents are submitted by email?

Answer:

The complete application needs to be submitted through Microsoft Forms only and the project proposal with supporting documentation needs to be submitted through email. We do not need a PDF version of the application completed.

Question 4

Should documents submitted by email be combined into a single PDF or attached as separate files?

Answer:

Yes, documents submitted by email should be combined into a single PDF document. If the document is too large to upload, then it can be split into multiple files, as necessary.

Question 5

Is there a document or application preview that lists all questions included in the Microsoft Form so prospective applicants can assess the application's length and required information before beginning the form?

Answer:

Yes, a full application preview is available on our website.

<https://www.nmdfa.state.nm.us/infrastructure-planning-and-development-division/solicitation-of-applications-for-public-land-projects/>

Question 6

Could you please clarify whether the application is intended to be completed by the individual seller(s) in collaboration with the government entity, or if it is primarily completed by the government entity in collaboration with the individual seller(s)?

Answer:

DFA prefers for the application to be completed by the buyer (either a non-government partner or a political subdivision of the state) and should be completed by the party with the most information. However, if a private seller of land prefers to submit an application, they should select "Other" for question 5 on the form.

Question 7

Can a municipality acquire a property through a lease or management agreement with a conservation organization or another nonprofit, rather than directly owning or operating the property?

Answer:

Yes, DFA may consider applications involving property operated by a nonprofit under an appropriate agreement with a public entity, provided that all other eligibility requirements are met.

Question 8

Can a nonprofit operate a property under a lease or management agreement and still have the property qualify for the program?

Answer:

Yes, DFA may consider applications involving property operated by a nonprofit under an appropriate lease or management agreement with a public entity, as long as the project meets all other applicable eligibility requirements.

Question 9

Can existing recreational, educational, and visitor facilities located on the property be included as part of an eligible acquisition?

Answer:

Applicants should clearly identify any existing facilities, improvements, or other assets associated with the property. DFA will evaluate whether those components qualify as eligible acquisition costs under the program.

Question 10

Does DFA have guidance for distinguishing eligible land-acquisition costs from business, operational, or other non-eligible assets?

Answer:

Applicants should distinguish land-acquisition costs from business, operational, and other potentially non-eligible costs in their application. Any costs that are not directly associated with the eligible land acquisition should be clearly identified so DFA can evaluate their eligibility.

Question 11

How should applicants address the Public Land Manager and Public Access evaluation criteria when the existing nonprofit owner/operator will continue managing the property through a lease or management agreement with the Town?

Answer:

When completing the application and submitting the project proposal, applicants should provide complete information about ownership, operating arrangements, leases, and management agreements. The proposed ownership and operating structure will be evaluated as part of the project's overall consideration and eligibility. The application should also explain how long-term public access, stewardship, operations, staffing, and other responsibilities will be maintained.