

Recovering Lost Ground: The State of Energy, Environment & Public Lands Budgets in New Mexico



**2nd Report
January 2021**



Topline Analysis

| Agency | FY2011 | FY2011 - Amount in \$2020 (adjusted for inflation) ^ | FY2020 - \$2020 ^ | FY2021 / FY2021SS - \$2020* | FY2022 LFC Recommendation - \$2020 ⁵ | FY2022 Executive Recommendation - \$2020 ⁶ | \$ Difference Between LFC / Executive | % Difference Between LFC / Executive |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------|--|-------------------|-----------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| NMED | \$14,834,200 ¹ | \$17,630,100 | \$12,088,240 | \$13,100,000 | \$13,146,200 | \$16,842,000 | -\$3,695,800 | -21.94% |
| | | % Change Since FY2011 (Amount in \$2020) | -31.43% | -25.70% | -25.43% | -4.47% | | |
| EMNRD | \$22,921,600 ² | \$27,241,080 | \$22,301,970 | \$23,100,000 | \$22,818,900 | \$25,274,000 | -\$2,455,100 | -9.71% |
| | | % Change Since FY2011 (Amount in \$2020) | -18.13% | -15.20% | -16.23% | -7.22% | | |
| OCD | \$4,032,200 ³ | \$4,792,175 | \$5,870,119 | \$6,440,200 | \$6,151,100 | \$6,648,400 | -\$497,300 | -7.48% |
| | | % Change Since FY2011 (Amount in \$2020) | +22.49% | +34.39% | +28.36% | +38.73% | | |
| State Parks Division | \$10,601,000 ⁴ | \$12,599,040 | \$8,034,250 | \$8,643,000 | \$8,485,700 | \$8,485,600 | +\$100 | 0.00% |
| | | % Change Since FY2011 (Amount in \$2020) | -36.23% | -31.40% | -32.65% | -32.65% | | |
| Outdoor Recreation | N/A | N/A | \$300,000 | \$450,000 | \$478,800 | \$451,400 | +\$27,400 | +6.07% |
| | | % Change Since FY2020 (Amount in \$2020) | | +33.33% | +33.33% | +33.54% | | |

¹ [Legislative Finance Committee Post-session Fiscal Review, April 2010, Appendix E/Pg. 51](#)

² [Legislative Finance Committee Post-session Fiscal Review, April 2010, Appendix E/Pg. 50](#)

³ [General Accounting Act of 2010 \(HB2\), p. 106](#)

⁴ [General Accounting Act of 2010 \(HB2\), p. 105](#)

^ Calculated using BLS inflation calculator from July 2010 to July 2020.

* Data from NMED and EMNRD come from the [New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee, 2020 Post Special Session Financial Report Including Executive Action, July 1, 2020, Page 6](#); data for OCD, State Parks and Outdoor Recreation comes from the [General Appropriation Act of 2020, Regular Session \(HB2\), Pages 70, 69 and 50.](#)

⁵ [Legislative Finance Committee, Report to the 55th Legislature, First Session, Volume 2, January 2021 for the 2022 Fiscal Year, Pages 273, 183 and 133.](#)

⁶ [State of New Mexico Executive Budget Recommendation, Fiscal Year 2022, Table 1, Pg. 4-6](#)

New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) is the state's regulatory agency charged with protection of the environment, natural resources, and public health and safety. It has a wide-ranging mandate responsible for monitoring air quality, drinking water and groundwater/surface water, food safety, hemp manufacturing, radiation control, hazardous waste, and the enforcement of various state regulations and federal laws.

Budget cuts and staffing shortages continue to inhibit the agency from carrying out its mission to protect the public from environmental and health risks. Because NMED also shares responsibility for health and safety inspections, including workplace rapid response to COVID-19, the agency has been particularly strained during the pandemic.

Despite its mandates to protect so many New Mexicans statewide, NMED has faced the most drastic cuts of all the agencies and departments covered in this report. It is currently operating with a -17.8% staff vacancy rate.¹ As described in Table 1, these vacancies have left the department with a lopsided number of inspectors per potential contamination source. For example, in 2020, there were only seven air quality inspectors keeping track of emissions from 7,700 sources, which breaks down to 1 inspector per 1,100 sources.²

Traditionally, most of the department's budget has come from federal funding or special budget requests rather than the general fund. In FY2021, NMED constituted only 0.2% of the state's overall budget.³ Still, NMED's general fund budget was cut by -31.69% during the previous administration.⁴

In FY2020, the first year of the Lujan Grisham administration, legislators increased NMED's general fund appropriation by 6% from the previous year.⁵ The following year, the governor attempted to reverse a decade of cuts even further when it recommended a significant increase in the general fund budget to more than \$18,000,000 for FY2021, which would have been a +57.26% increase over FY2020 levels.⁶

Unfortunately, legislators only approved a budget of \$13,100,000 during the first FY2021 Special Session⁷, maintaining a -25.70% cut to NMED's general fund budget compared to FY2011, when adjusted for inflation.

The agency continues to be affected by "legislative sweeping" of approximately \$30 million in special revenue funds, which, according to the department, has resulted in a loss of NMED staff and the agency's ability to implement its mission of protecting public health and the environment.⁸

For the upcoming budget year FY2022, the Legislative Finance Committee has recommended a budget of \$13,146,200 for NMED's general fund.⁹ This recommendation leaves the NMED general fund budget completely unchanged from FY2021, and if funded at this level, would maintain the -25.43% deficit from FY2011, when adjusted for inflation. This would most certainly continue to jeopardize the agency's ability to protect public health and the environment.

¹ [Slide 3, NMED - Presentation to the Legislative Finance Committee, Dec. 3, 2020](#)

² [Slide 9, NMED Budget Presentation to Legislative Finance Committee, FY2021](#)

³ [Slide 3, NMED - Presentation to the Legislative Finance Committee, Dec. 3, 2020](#)

⁴ [Recovering Lost Ground: The State of Energy, Environment & Public Lands Budgets in New Mexico, New Mexico Wild, January 2020, Pg.6](#)

⁵ *Ibid.*, Pg. 6

⁶ *Ibid.*, Pg. 7

⁷ [Legislative Finance Committee, 2020 Post Special Session Financial Report Including Executive Action, July 1, 2020, Pg. 6](#)

⁸ [NMED Press Release, Dec. 3, 2020](#)

⁹ [Legislative Finance Committee, Report to the 55th Legislature, First Session, Volume 2, January 2021 for the 2022 Fiscal Year, Page 273](#)

In comparison, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham has requested a budget of \$16,842,000 for NMED’s general fund, which would be a significant increase over FY2021 levels.¹⁰ If the request is fully funded, this would represent a -4.47% decrease from FY2011 levels - reversing most of the drastic cuts that took place during the previous ten years.

New Mexico Environment Department (NMED)

| FY2011 | FY2011 - Amount in \$2020 (adjusted for inflation) | FY2020 - \$2020 | FY2021 / FY2021SS - \$2020 | FY2022 LFC Recommendation - \$2020 | FY2022 Executive Recommendation - \$2020 | \$ Difference Between LFC / Executive | % Difference Between LFC / Executive |
|--------------|--|-----------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| \$14,834,200 | \$17,630,100 | \$12,088,240 | \$13,100,000 | \$13,146,200 | \$16,842,000 | -\$3,695,800 | -21.94% |
| | % Change Since FY2011 (Amount in \$2020) | -31.43% | -25.70% | -25.43% | -4.47% | | |

Table 5: Regulated Source vs. Compliance Inspector Staff, New Mexico Environment Department¹¹

| Regulated Sources | Known Universe | Compliance Inspection Staff | Sources Per Compliance Inspector |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Air emitting sources | 7,700 | 7 | 1,100 sources/inspector |
| Drinking water sources | 1,076 | 4.5 | 239 source/inspector |
| Food prep/manufacturing | 9,200 | 22 | 418 sources/inspector |
| Groundwater sources | 700 | 2 | 350 sources/inspector |
| Hazardous waste sources | 2,631 | 7 | 376 sources/inspector |
| OSHA | 50,000+ employers | 10 | 5,000+ sources/inspector |
| Petroleum storage tanks | 4,419 | 12 | 369 sources/inspector |
| Radiation control (medical equipment) | 1,500 | 4 | 375 sources/inspector |
| Solid waste sources | 411 | 6 | 69 sources/inspector |
| Surface water sources | 6,261 | 4 | 1,565 sources/inspector |

¹⁰ [State of New Mexico Executive Budget Recommendation, Fiscal Year 2022, Table 1, Pg. 6](#)

¹¹ [Slide 9 – NMED Budget Presentation to Legislative Finance Committee, FY2021](#)

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources (EMNRD)

The New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD) provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies. It is responsible for oversight of the oil and gas industry, energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, and the management of state forests and 35 state parks. The agency operates through a combination of general fund appropriations, federal grants, fees and other revenues.

During the previous administration, EMNRD’s general fund budget was cut by -23.68%.¹²

The most recent funding level for EMNRD’s general fund budget, approved during the first FY2021 Special Session, was \$23,100,000.¹³ This maintains a -15.20% reduction from what it was in FY2011, when adjusted for inflation.

For the upcoming budget year FY2022, the Legislative Finance Committee has recommended a budget of \$22,818,900 for EMNRD’s general fund.¹⁴ If funded at this level, this would represent a -16.23% decrease from FY2011 for EMNRD’s general fund budget, when adjusted for inflation, and retain high vacancy rates at the agency.

In comparison, the governor has requested a budget of \$25,274,000 for EMNRD’s general fund.¹⁵ If the request is fully funded, this would lower the difference to -7.22% compared to FY2011 levels, reversing most of the drastic cuts that took place during the past ten years. It would also would fully staff the Oil and Conservation Division (OCD) and State Forestry Division.

In FY2021, the agency’s program leadership and support division, which is responsible for the general day-to-day operations, had a vacancy rate of -21%, with a goal of reducing it to -5%.¹⁶ The governor’s FY2022 budget request includes a general fund budget of \$3,745,500, which would represent a +27.4% increase this division to help meet the staff vacancy goal.¹⁷ The LFC recommendation is to cut this division by -5.1% to \$2,790,100.¹⁸

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources (EMNRD)

| FY2011 | FY2011 - Amount in \$2020 (adjusted for inflation) | FY2020 - \$2020 | FY2021 / FY2021SS - \$2020 | FY2022 LFC Recommendation - \$2020 | FY2022 Executive Recommendation - \$2020 | \$ Difference Between LFC / Executive | % Difference Between LFC / Executive |
|--------------|--|-----------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| \$22,921,600 | \$27,241,080 | \$22,301,970 | \$23,100,000 | \$22,818,900 | \$25,274,000 | -\$2,455,100 | -9.71% |
| | % Change Since FY2011 (Amount in \$2020) | -18.13% | -15.20% | -16.23% | -7.22% | | |

¹² [Recovering Lost Ground: The State of Energy, Environment & Public Lands Budgets in New Mexico, New Mexico Wild, January 2020](#)

¹³ [Legislative Finance Committee, 2020 Post Special Session Financial Report Including Executive Action, July 1, 2020, Page 6](#)

¹⁴ [Legislative Finance Committee, Report to the 55th Legislature, First Session, Volume 2, January 2021 for the 2022 Fiscal Year, Page 183](#)

¹⁵ [State of New Mexico Executive Budget Recommendation, Fiscal Year 2022, Table 1, Pg. 4](#)

¹⁶ [Slide 3, EMNRD - FY2021 Budget Request Presentation, N.M. Legislative Finance Committee](#)

¹⁷ [State of New Mexico Executive Budget Recommendation, Fiscal Year 2022, Table 1, Pg. 4](#)

¹⁸ [Legislative Finance Committee, Report to the 55th Legislature, First Session, Volume 2, January 2021 for the 2022 Fiscal Year, Page 189](#)

EMNRD - Oil and Gas Conservation Division (OCD)

The Oil Conservation Division (OCD) has the important role of regulating oil and gas activity in New Mexico by gathering data, permitting new wells, enforcing the division's rules and the state's oil and gas statutes, making certain abandoned wells are properly plugged, and ensuring the land is responsibly restored.¹⁹

During the previous administration, the OCD general fund budget was cut by -25.77%, leaving half of all inspector/compliance officer positions vacant at the division.²⁰ These cuts took place during historic levels of increased oil and gas production in New Mexico. The division currently has 11 inspectors compared to previous levels of 20. Department staff recommends at least 40 inspectors, which would be on par with other top-producing states like North Dakota.²¹

The most recent funding level approved for the OCD's general fund budget for FY2021 is \$6,440,200.²² This maintains a +34.39% increase from what it was in FY2011, when adjusted for inflation.

For the upcoming budget year FY2022, the Legislative Finance Committee has recommended a budget of \$6,151,100 for OCD's general fund.²³ If funded at this level, this would represent a +28.36% increase from FY2011 for OCD's general fund budget, when adjusted for inflation, but retain high vacancy rates at the division.

In its budget recommendation, the LFC notes that the OCD's budget reduction is driven by reduced oil production and prices seen in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. It also notes that these reductions affect an OCD program to plug abandoned wells, which, although mandated by the legislature, may not be unable to meet its related performance goal in FY21 and FY22.²⁴

The governor has requested a budget of \$6,648,400 for OCD general fund.²⁵ If the request is fully funded, this would represent an +38.73% increase from FY2011, when adjusted for inflation, reversing the drastic cuts made during the last ten years. It would also fully staff the Oil and Conservation Division (OCD).

| FY2011 - OCD | FY2011 - Amount in \$2020 (adjusted for inflation) | FY2020 - \$2020 | FY2021 / FY2021SS - \$2020 | FY2022 LFC Recommendation - \$2020 | FY2022 Executive Recommendation - \$2020 | \$ Difference Between LFC / Executive | % Difference Between LFC / Executive |
|--------------|--|-----------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| \$4,032,200 | \$4,792,175 | \$5,870,119 | \$6,440,200 | \$6,151,100 | \$6,648,400 | -\$497,300 | -7.48% |
| | % Change Since FY2011 (Amount in \$2020) | +22.49% | +34.39% | +28.36% | +38.73% | | |

¹⁹ [EMNRD/OCD Website.](#)

²⁰ [Recovering Lost Ground: The State of Energy, Environment & Public Lands Budgets in New Mexico, New Mexico Wild, January 2020, Pg. 2-3](#)

²¹ Data provided by the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department.

²² [General Appropriation Act of 2020, Regular Session \(HB2\), Page 70](#)

²³ [Legislative Finance Committee, Report to the 55th Legislature, First Session, Volume 2, January 2021 for the 2022 Fiscal Year, Page 188](#)

²⁴ [Legislative Finance Committee, Report to the 55th Legislature, First Session, Volume 2, January 2021 for the 2022 Fiscal Year, Page 184](#)

²⁵ [State of New Mexico Executive Budget Recommendation, Fiscal Year 2022, Table 1, Pg. 4](#)

EMNRD – State Parks Division

The State Parks Division of EMNRD is responsible for protecting and enhancing natural and cultural resources, providing first-class recreational and education facilities and opportunities, and promoting public safety to benefit and enrich the lives of visitors.²⁶ The division operates through a combination of park fees, general fund appropriations and leveraged federal grant funds.

During the previous administration, the State Parks Division general fund budget was cut by -13.84% and 72 full-time employee positions were eliminated.²⁷ In 2020, the State Parks Division had a vacancy rate of -24%.²⁸

Budget and staffing levels for the State Parks Division affect promotion, visitation and enjoyment of the parks system by New Mexicans. The division is further challenged by environmental-related issues like fire severity and drought conditions, park closures, and low stream, river and lake levels.²⁹ Together, these factors have contributed to a massive decline of nearly one million visitors to New Mexico State Parks since 2016, from 5.46 million visitors in FY2016³⁰ to 4.5 million visitors in FY2019.³¹ During the same period, interpretive programs, which educate visitors about the natural and cultural resources of the state parks, declined by more than half, from 1,312 in FY2016³² to 687 in FY2019.³³ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many state parks were closed throughout the year, causing the number of visitors to drop further to 3.9 million visitors in FY2020.³⁴

The most recent funding level approved for the State Parks Division general fund budget for FY2021 is \$8,643,000.³⁵ This maintains a -31.40% reduction from what it was in FY2011, when adjusted for inflation.

For the upcoming budget year FY2022, the Legislative Finance Committee has recommended a budget of \$8,485,700 for the State Parks Division general fund³⁶, almost identical to the governor’s requested \$8,485,600³⁷. If funded at either of these levels, the State Parks Division’s general fund budget would remain cut by -32.65% from FY2011, when adjusted for inflation.

| FY2011 – State Parks Division | FY2011 - Amount in \$2020 (adjusted for inflation) | FY2020 - \$2020 | FY2021 / FY2021SS - \$2020 | FY2022 LFC Recommendation - \$2020 | FY2022 Executive Recommendation - \$2020 | \$ Difference Between LFC / Executive | % Difference Between LFC / Executive |
|-------------------------------|--|-----------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| \$10,601,000 | \$12,599,040 | \$8,034,250 | \$8,643,000 | \$8,485,700 | \$8,485,600 | +\$100 | 0.00% |
| | % Change Since FY2011 (Amount in \$2020) | -36.23% | -31.40% | -32.65% | -32.65% | | |

²⁶ [New Mexico State Parks Division Website](#)

²⁷ [Recovering Lost Ground: The State of Energy, Environment & Public Lands Budgets in New Mexico, New Mexico Wild, January 2020, Pg. 4](#)

²⁸ [Legislative Finance Committee, Appropriation Recommendations, Report to the Fifty-Fourth Legislature, Second Session, Volume 2, Page 186.](#)

²⁹ [Report of the Legislative Finance Committee to the 54th Legislature, First Session, Volume 1, January 2019, Fiscal Year 2020, Page 146](#)

³⁰ [Legislative Finance Committee, Performance Report Card, First Quarter, Fiscal Year 2018, Pg. 34](#)

³¹ [Legislative Finance Committee, Performance Report Card, Fourth Quarter, Fiscal Year 2019, Page 2](#)

³² [Legislative Finance Committee, Performance Report Card, First Quarter, Fiscal Year 2018, Pg. 34](#)

³³ [Legislative Finance Committee, Performance Report Card, Fourth Quarter, Fiscal Year 2019, Page 2](#)

³⁴ [Legislative Finance Committee, Performance Report Card, First Quarter, Fiscal Year 2021, Pg. 25](#)

³⁵ [General Appropriation Act of 2020, Regular Session, HB2, Page 69](#)

³⁶ [Legislative Finance Committee, Report to the 55th Legislature, First Session, Volume 2, January 2021 for the 2022 Fiscal Year, Page 521](#)

³⁷ [State of New Mexico Executive Budget Recommendation, Fiscal Year 2022, Table 1, Pg. 4](#)

The Office of Outdoor Recreation

On April 2, 2019, Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham signed New Mexico’s Outdoor Recreation Division into law with a goal to expand the outdoor recreation economy to every corner of New Mexico and bring jobs, prosperity, and wellness to all state residents. Written into the law was the first-ever Outdoor Equity Fund, a grant intended to help disadvantaged youth get outside, and the Special Projects and Infrastructure Fund, a grant program to support projects that enhance communities’ outdoor recreation opportunities.³⁸ According to data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, the New Mexico outdoor recreation economy contributes \$2.4 billion to the state GDP and employs over 35,000 people.³⁹

In FY2020, the Division was funded with only \$200,000 in operating funding and \$100,000 “junior bill” money for the Outdoor Equity Fund.⁴⁰ Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham recommended a significant increase to \$1,189,000 in the FY2021 budget, but legislators approved only \$450,000.⁴¹ For the upcoming budget year FY2022, the Legislative Finance Committee has recommended a general fund budget of \$478,800, including \$100,000 for the Outdoor Equity Fund.⁴² The governor has requested a similar general fund budget of \$451,400, which also includes \$100,000 for the Outdoor Equity Fund.⁴³

| Office of Outdoor Recreation | FY2020 - \$2020 | FY2021 - \$2020 | FY2022 LFC Recommendation - \$2020 | FY2022 Executive Recommendation - \$2020 | \$ Difference between LFC / Executive | % Difference between LFC / Executive |
|------------------------------|--|-----------------|------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | \$300,000 | \$450,000 | \$478,800* | \$451,400* | +\$27,400 | +6.07% |
| | % Change Since FY2020 (Amount in \$2020) | 33.33% | 33.33% | 33.54% | | |

* Includes \$100,000 for Outdoor Equity Fund in the General Fund Budget

The Division also made two special appropriations requests to help support shovel-ready outdoor recreation infrastructure projects, which could help create hundreds of jobs in urban and rural communities while boosting small businesses tied to outdoor recreation.

The first is an additional \$1.025 million request for the Outdoor Equity Fund. If fully funded, this would help an estimated 38,000 underserved children experience the outdoors. The LFC does not recommend any additional funding for this program, while the governor recommends \$1 million. In fall of 2020, the Outdoor Equity Fund awarded \$261,000 to 25 applicants with a goal of getting almost 3,000 young New Mexicans outside over the next year. These funds helped leverage over \$7 million in total programming funds.⁴⁴ The Division also funded six Special Projects and Outdoor Infrastructure grants, which is expected to create almost 100 full-time, part-time, and seasonal employment opportunities over the next two years. The projects are expected to generate an additional \$304,353 in matching assistance.⁴⁵ The second special appropriations request is for \$3.22 million to

³⁸ [NM Outdoor Recreation Website](#).

³⁹ Outdoor Recreation Division, 2021 Special Appropriation Requests

⁴⁰ [NMEDD Presentation to the Legislative Finance Committee, November 21, 2019, Slide 8](#)

⁴¹ [General Appropriation Act of 2020, Regular Session, HB2, Page 51](#)

⁴² [Legislative Finance Committee, Report to the 55th Legislature, First Session, Volume 2, January 2021 for the 2022 Fiscal Year, Page 133](#)

⁴³ [State of New Mexico Executive Budget Recommendation, Fiscal Year 2022, Table 2, Pg. 10](#)

⁴⁴ [NMEDD Press Release, Sept. 15, 2020](#)

⁴⁵ [NMEDD Press Release, Oct. 28, 2020](#)

support the Great New Mexico Trails Package. The governor has recommended \$250,000 to support this program⁴⁶, while the LFC recommends a \$500,000 special appropriation⁴⁷.

If these special appropriation requests are not funded, New Mexico could lose out on millions of federal matching dollars through the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), which Congress passed on a bipartisan basis in 2020, and millions more in private matching funds.

| FY2022 | Office of Outdoor Recreation - General Fund Budget | Amount of Outdoor Equity Fund Included - General Fund Budget | Outdoor Equity Fund - Special Appropriation Recommendation | Great New Mexico Trails Package - Special Appropriation Recommendation |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| LFC Recommendation | \$478,000 ⁴⁸ | \$100,000 ⁴⁹ | \$0 | \$500,000 ⁵⁰ |
| Executive Budget Recommendation | \$451,000 ⁵¹ | \$100,000 | \$1,000,000 ⁵² | \$250,000 ⁵³ |

New Mexico State Land Office

The State Land Office manages 9 million acres of surface acres and 13 million mineral acres across 32 counties, collectively known as state trust land. Revenue is raised by oil, gas, and mineral exploration, business and commercial operations such as renewable energy, agriculture, and outdoor recreation. Unlike other agencies, its expenditures are paid through the funds it generates instead of the general fund.⁵⁴ Despite the sharp increase in oil and gas development, renewable energy projects and recreational activities on state trust lands, the office has just 20 field staff to oversee 13 million acres statewide, an average of 650,000 per staff member.⁵⁵ According to data provided by the State Land Office, at the end of the previous administration, the Office had a vacancy rate of 22%.⁵⁶ Under the leadership of Land Commissioner Stephanie Garcia Richard, the Office has cut its overall vacancy rate to -9.14%⁵⁷, while decreasing its vacancy rate from -45% to -15% in the Royalty Audit Division in FY2020.⁵⁸ In the first 18 months of the new administration, the office established its first ever Office of Renewable Energy and has signed a record eight new wind leases totaling \$80 million in lifetime project earnings.⁵⁹ It also expanded the agency’s outdoor recreation program, issuing 484 Recreational Access Permits, which is an increase of 200% over the previous average.⁶⁰

⁴⁶ [State of New Mexico Executive Budget Recommendation, Fiscal Year 2022, Table 4, Pg. 32](#)

⁴⁷ [Legislative Finance Committee, Report to the 55th Legislature, First Session, Volume 1, Table 5, Special, Supplemental, and Deficiency Appropriations - Agency Request and LFC Recommendations, Pg. 192](#)

⁴⁸ [Legislative Finance Committee, Report to the 55th Legislature, First Session, Volume 2, January 2021 for the 2022 Fiscal Year, Page 133](#)

⁴⁹ [Ibid, Page 131.](#)

⁵⁰ [Legislative Finance Committee, Report to the 55th Legislature, First Session, Volume 1, Table 5, Special, Supplemental, and Deficiency Appropriations - Agency Request and LFC Recommendations, Pg. 192](#)

⁵¹ [State of New Mexico Executive Budget Recommendation, Fiscal Year 2022, Table 1, Pg. 3](#)

⁵² [State of New Mexico Executive Budget Recommendation, Fiscal Year 2022, Table 4, Pg. 32](#)

⁵³ [Ibid.](#)

⁵⁴ [New Mexico State Land Office Website](#)

⁵⁵ Data Provided by the State Land Office, 2020.

⁵⁶ [State Land Office FY2022 Budget Request, Legislative Finance Committee, Nov. 18, 2020, Pg.6](#)

⁵⁷ [Ibid, Pg. 10](#)

⁵⁸ [Ibid, Pg. 6](#)

⁵⁹ [Ibid, Pg. 15](#)

⁶⁰ [Ibid, Pg. 5](#)