



State of New Mexico

Michelle Lujan Grisham
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2026-026

DECLARING A DROUGHT AND SEVERE FIRE CONDITIONS THROUGHOUT THE STATE AND URGING MUNICIPAL AND COUNTY GOVERNMENTS TO IMPOSE WATER USE RESTRICTIONS AND FIREWORK BANS

WHEREAS, during the winter of 2025-2026, New Mexico experienced the lowest snowpack, highest temperatures and lowest runoff levels in recorded history;

WHEREAS, according to the United States Drought Monitor, 94% of New Mexico is experiencing various levels of drought conditions;

WHEREAS, current water storage in New Mexico's reservoirs reflect some of the lowest levels on record, and the current conditions mean reduced water supplies for New Mexico's communities, farms, ranchlands, and forests and reduced flows in New Mexico's rivers and streams;

WHEREAS, New Mexico is increasing our drought tracking and response capabilities through the New Mexico Drought Information Portal at www.drought.nm.gov to provide a one-stop-shop for New Mexico communities and residents navigating drought conditions and risks;

WHEREAS, New Mexico's 50-Year Water Action Plan and Implementation Dashboard, available at www.nm.gov/water-security-in-new-mexico, are a direct and tailored response to New Mexico scientists' prediction that we will have up to 25 percent less water in 50 years, steering state resources toward water education, water conservation, development of new water supplies,

and enhanced protection of water quality and watersheds;

WHEREAS, to respond to the current and projected drought conditions, New Mexico's communities should increase local water education resources and implement water conservation measures within their authority to protect the available supplies of water, including, but not limited to, water use restrictions, removal of non-functional turf, and incentives for water-saving landscaping approaches, high water efficiency appliances, and water recycling and reuse;

WHEREAS, New Mexico's recent investments in treated brackish water through the Strategic Water Supply and the aquifer mapping program at New Mexico Tech's Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources reflect the State's commitment to supporting water resilience and economic development in our communities;

WHEREAS, persistent drought conditions cause New Mexico to be susceptible to numerous natural disasters associated with drought, including agricultural loss, severe wildfires, and post-wildfire flooding;

WHEREAS, in recent months, fire danger has increased throughout the State due to warmer temperatures, lower humidity, high winds, and an abundance of dry, fine fuels; and the number of wildfires from January 1 to April 30, 2026, was more than double the average for that time period;

WHEREAS, significant fire danger levels and prevailing drought conditions create the possibility for severe wildfires and other natural disasters, including extreme flooding, and crop production loss;

WHEREAS, in recent years the State has experienced multiple large wildfires, including the South Fork and Salt Fires, Hermits Peak Calf Canyon Fire, McBride Fire, Black Fire, and many

other wildfires that have destroyed homes and other property and degraded water sources;

WHEREAS, on April 6, 2026, the State Forester imposed fire restrictions on non-municipal, non-federal, and non-tribal lands statewide prohibiting smoking, fireworks, campfires, open burning and open fires;

WHEREAS, federal authorities have enacted measures to respond to increased fire danger in the State by issuing Stage I and Stage II fire restrictions on federal lands;

WHEREAS, tribal governments have also imposed fire restrictions on their lands;

WHEREAS, financial resources to respond to drought conditions and fire response efforts exist within state, federal and local entities, including appropriations totaling approximately \$700 million from the New Mexico legislature during the 2025 and 2026 sessions in new, nonrecurring funding relating to water and natural resource issues; and

WHEREAS, extraordinary measures may be necessary to protect public health, ensure public safety and well-being, and provide for the economic stability of New Mexico.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the State of New Mexico, do hereby **DECLARE** drought and severe fire conditions exist throughout New Mexico and **URGE** New Mexico's counties, municipalities, and local governments to consider implementing appropriate firework bans pursuant to the Fireworks Safety and Licensing Act, NMSA 1978, §§ 60-2C-1 to -11, as well as any other appropriate fire prevention measures that they may legally enact.

I FURTHER ORDER and DIRECT as follows:

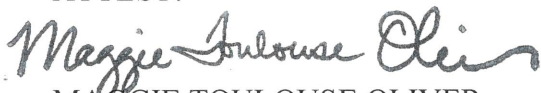
1. The New Mexico Drought Task Force and its member agencies shall take all necessary actions to ensure that New Mexico's communities receive available information and

resources to enable them to prepare for and respond to drought conditions and conserve and protect New Mexico's water supplies.

2. This Order supersedes any previous orders, proclamations, or directives to the extent they are in conflict.

3. This Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until renewed, modified, or rescinded.

ATTEST:


MAGGIE TOULOUSE OLIVER
SECRETARY OF STATE

DONE AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
THIS 20TH DAY OF MAY 2026

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO


MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM
GOVERNOR

