

January 3, 2023

Axie Navas
New Mexico Outdoor Recreation Division
New Mexico Economic Development Department
State of New Mexico

Dear Axie,

On behalf of the outdoor recreation community, we want to share our heartfelt thanks for your service to the outdoor recreation economy and its wide benefits for the people of New Mexico. High-quality outdoor recreation infrastructure and access ensure fulfilling and healthy lives for all Americans, and your work exemplifies this relationship. New Mexico's outdoor recreation economy, which accounts for **\$2.3 billion (2.1%) of the state's GDP and 28,475 jobs**, is in a great position thanks to your leadership.

We want to highlight a few of your accomplishments in particular:

- Created the first-of-its-kind Outdoor Equity Fund to enable all New Mexican youth equitable access to the outdoors. The grant supports programming that provides outdoor experiences that foster stewardship and respect for New Mexico's land, water, and cultural heritage. Since Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham signed the Outdoor Equity Fund into law in April 2019, the program has granted \$2 million to nearly 130 organizations throughout the state.
- Secured technical assistance from the National Park Service's Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program to create a statewide outdoor education and industry strategy. The plan builds a pathway from pre-K through higher education for students interested in working in and for the outdoors, and emphasizes early outdoor access through programs like the Outdoor Equity Fund.
- Sponsored the Outdoor Economics Conference in Taos on October 5-7, 2022. About 375 people attended to hear about successful economic development efforts within and outside of New Mexico that are connected to protected lands.
- Launched the first-ever Outdoor Pitchfest, now the annual Adventure Pitch at the 2022 Outdoor Economics Conference.
- Awarded Outdoor Recreation Trails+ Grants to support 66 projects that enhance communities' outdoor recreation opportunities and contribute to economic development, prosperity, and wellness, including trails, river parks, wildlife viewing areas, and more.
- Led a successful petition to designate 125 miles of rivers in New Mexico as Outstanding National Resource Waters based on their "outstanding" recreational significance to the state.
- Announced the launch of an innovative New Mexico MainStreet (NMMS) and Outdoor Recreation Division (ORD) collaboration to connect communities' downtowns with their natural resources. The "Outdoor Recreation Asset Atlas" will study five counties and the end result will identify up to five trail creation or improvement projects connected to MainStreet districts.
- Acted as chair and vice-chair of the Confluence of States in 2021 and 2022 respectively.

As evidenced by the work above, your impact on outdoor recreation will be appreciated by New Mexico's residents and visitors alike for years to come, and we will miss your leadership in the role. Thank you again for your commitment to promoting outdoor recreation and its benefits, and we wish you the best in your next chapter. Many of the signatures below are from endeavorOR New Mexico, who are particularly grateful for your leadership.

With gratitude,

Outdoor Recreation Roundtable
505 Cycles/endeavorNM
American Sportfishing Association
Arrowhead Center at NMSU
Association of Marina Industries
Atalaya Outfitters
Aztec Adventures

Boat Owners Association of the United States
BrodiMapi LLC
Carl Colonius
Christy Tafoya Consulting, LLC
CHM Government Services
Cibola Communities Economic Development Foundation
Cibola General Hospital Corporation

City of Alamogordo
City of Farmington
City of Santa Fe
Clovis/Curry County Chamber of Commerce
Collins Lake Autism Center
Cory Styron, Los Alamos County
Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions
Desert River Guides
Enchantment Equitreds
endeavOR New Mexico
Explore Hidalgo County Outdoors (EHCO)
Free-to-Roam eBiking
Global Opportunities Unlimited
Gravel Adventure Field Guide
Great Southwest Adventures
Greater Tucumcari EDC
Hiking Trails in Valles Caldera National Preserve
Kim Skinner, Mayor Pro Tem, City of Elephant Butte
Lordsburg - Hidalgo County Chamber of Commerce
Los Alamos Commerce & Development Corporation
Marine Retailers Association of the Americas
Middle Rio Grande Economic Development Association
Motorcycle Industry Council
Mountain Kids!
MST Adventures
National Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds
National Marine Manufacturers Association
National Wild Turkey Federation
New Mexico Interscholastic Cycling League
New Wave Rafting
NICA NM MTB League
NM MEP
NMSLO
NMYCC
NWNMCOG
ONRT
Outdoor Industry Association

Outdoor Writers Association of America
Public Land Solutions
Questa Economic Development Fund / Visit Questa
Rainbow Ryders Hot Air Balloon Co
Recreational Off-Highway Vehicle Association
REI
REI - Santa Fe
RV Industry Association
Santa Fe Community Foundation
Santa Fe Mountain Adventures
Santa Fe Mountain Bike Tours
Ski New Mexico
Ski Santa Fe and Endeavor NM
Society of Outdoor Recreation Professionals
SOH
Specialty Vehicle Institute of America
Sport Systems
Stone Age Climbing Gym
Taos Fly Shop
The BikeSmith, LLC
The Montibon Company
Tour of the Gila
Trinidad Office of Outdoor Recreation
Trout Unlimited
Truth or Consequences Brewing Company
Town of Red River
Western New Mexico University
VF Corporation
Village of Cimarron
Visit Las Cruces
Zia Kayak Outfitters

