

In response to the Tres Lagunas Fire in Pecos, NM in June 2013, New Mexico Public Regulation Commissioner Valerie Espinoza convened a 25-member wildfire task force that includes representatives from state, local and tribal government agencies, firefighters, law enforcement units, citizens, utilities and coops from around the state. The Task Force's mission is to achieve recommendations for best practices in wildfire management in the urban/wildland interface and in forested areas throughout the State of New Mexico. The Task Force has addressed utility easements, fuel clearing and vegetation management plans. At several meetings thus far, the group has provided input and recommendations on existing fire management and watershed protection policies, vegetation removal plans, and utility easement regulations for fire prevention in forested areas.