New Mexico Land Grant-Merced Consejo

The NM Land Grant-Merced Consejo is a grassroots organization that advocates for all land grants in the state of New Mexico.



Recent accomplishments for land grants

- Land Grant-Merced Assistance Fund (guaranteed revenue stream)
 - This year 17 land grants are eligible for a distribution
- Passing HB 268 which listed land grants in statute

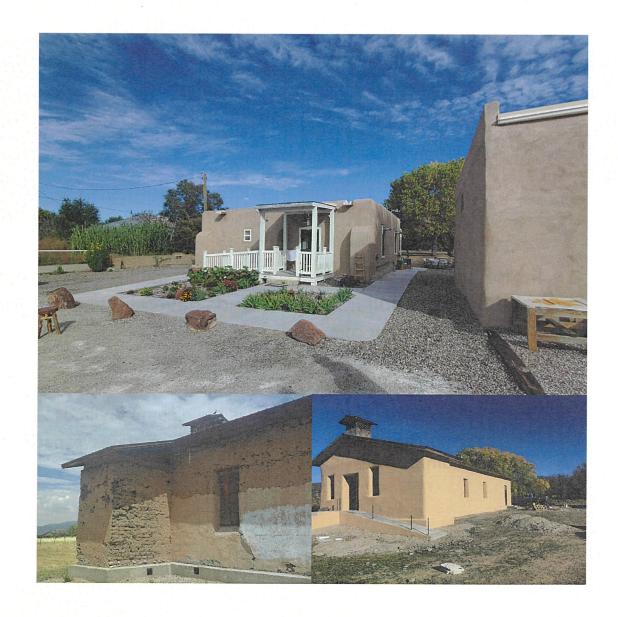


Capital outlay

- In the last two years, land grants have collectively received over \$2 million in capital outlay dollars. These funds have allowed our Mercedes to:
 - · Purchase former common lands
 - Purchase buildings for offices and community centers
 - Upgrade existing buildings
 - Purchase heavy equipment to maintain common lands
 - These purchases have helped increase land grants' capacity and improve their services to their communities

Property purchases made possible with the help of capital outlay funding

- Las Mercedes Unidas have purchased the old Piedra Lumbre Visitor's Center
- Town of Tomé Land Grant has purchased the Casita, a historic jailsite, 7.4 acres of land in production and is in the process of purchasing more
- Town of Tajique has purchased 80 acres with a small building
- La Merced de Manzano has purchased 100 acres
- The Santa Barbára Land Grant acquired the San Acasio Church from the Archdiocese in 2022 and has since been renovating the building



Additional support for land grants

- Last year, the Council received additional funds to better support land grants.
 These funds were used hire an accountant, purchase bonds, purchase
 Quickbooks and more
- This year, more land grants have paid membership dues to the Consejo (a total of 14)
- More individuals are becoming involved with the Consejo

Fuelwood projects

 Las Trampas and Santa Bárbara Land Grants collected and distributed 700 cords of wood to community members in a Forest Service partnership

 The Bearcat fuelwood project provided five of the east mountain land grants to distribute 33 cords each to heirs in a State Land Office partnership

 The Cristobal de la Serna, San Miguel del Bado, and San Joaquin del Río de Chama Land Grants have also recently participated in fuelwood projects





Current and future legislative priorities

- In the upcoming legislative session, the Consejo would like to a support the creation of a revolving loan fund to assist our Mercedes in acquiring land
- In future sessions the Consejo would like to work towards:
 - Tax exemption for land grant properties
 - Acquiring unidentified parcels of land within land grant boundaries by working with state assessors

Future needs

- We would like to work with DFA on:
 - The possibility of receiving loans from the NM Mortgage Finance Authority for land purchases
 - Clarity on which purchases are allowable with capital outlay funds
 - Appraisal issue
- Receiving and using junior money
 - Is it possible for junior money to be used for surveying and/or appraisals?
- Difficulties finding affordable insurance for land grants' assets