

In the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD), the forest and watershed treatment done by the State Forestry Division was forced to wind down earlier than usual due to an early and severe wildfire season. The importance of this work was evident during a recent fire that slowed when it entered a treated forest area. State Park visitation rebounded in the fourth quarter, resulting in an annual total of 5.2 million visitors. The Oil Conservation Division has prioritized high-risk well inspections and severely degraded orphan well sites. OCD exceeded the target for inspections and only fell one well short of its target for the number of orphaned wells properly plugged.

The Legislature made significant investments in forestry work and state parks infrastructure with federal pandemic relief funding and other nonrecurring revenue. Expenditures will continue to be closely monitored in the coming years to ensure the agency is meeting expectations to implement high-impact infrastructure investments, particularly state park repairs and upgrades and natural resource remediation.

### Healthy Forests

The Healthy Forests program, also known as the State Forestry Division (SFD), holds wildland firefighter trainings throughout the state, primarily between October and April. The division saw minimal training activity in the fourth quarter and the final numbers fell short of the FY22 performance goal. Due to the unprecedented early fire season, the division could not host trainings in April and May but expects that nonfederal cooperators will be more interested in wildland training, and numbers will rebound in FY23. SFD plans and implements restoration treatments within the top 500 at-risk watersheds identified in the *New Mexico Forest Action Plan*. SFD was on course to meet its FY22 performance target as of the third quarter, but work slowed due to the limitations of treating forests during wildfire season. Work is expected to proceed at or above normal pace once fire conditions ease and restrictions are fully retracted.

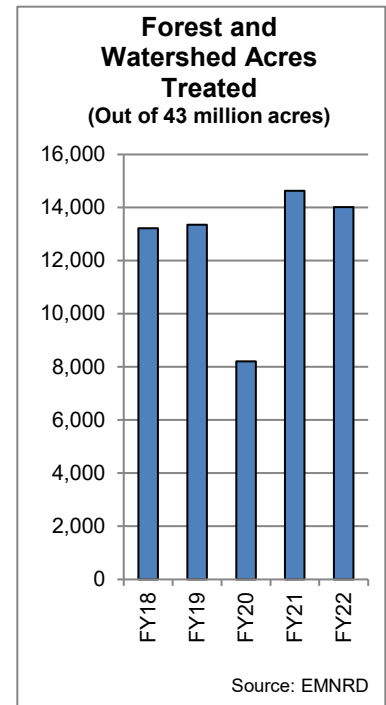
	Budget:	FTE:	FY20 Actual	FY21 Actual	FY22 Target	FY22 Total	Rating
Nonfederal wildland firefighters provided training	\$16,278.7	79	1,229	1,229	1,500	883	<span style="color: red;">R</span>
Acres treated in New Mexico's forests and watersheds			8,213	14,637	14,500	14,020	<span style="color: yellow;">Y</span>
<b>Program Rating</b>			<span style="color: yellow;">Y</span>	<span style="color: yellow;">Y</span>			<span style="color: yellow;">Y</span>

### State Parks

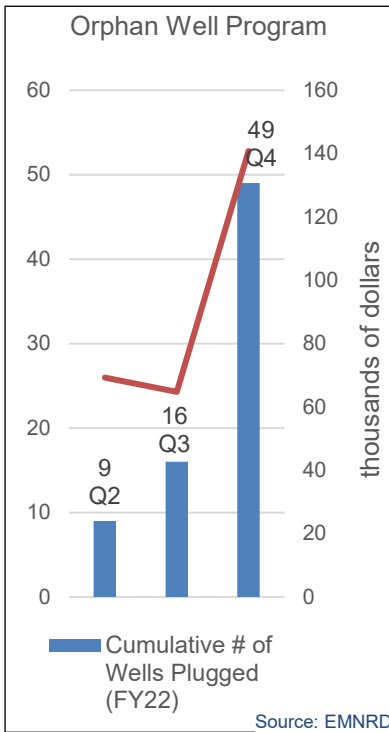
Despite wildfires around the state that had resulted in park closures and restrictions, the State Park Division saw a significant rebound in visitation numbers in the fourth quarter. Revenue per visitor is higher than previous years. The State Parks Division's plan for increasing visitation is to continue normal marketing and outreach programming with a focus on rural markets and leveraging the national reach of the reservation system marketing platform. The division has taken actions to significantly reduce the high FTE vacancy rate and will continue to recruit and retain permanent, temporary employees, and

### ACTION PLAN

Submitted by agency?	Yes
Timeline assigned?	No
Responsibility assigned?	No



An agreement between EMNRD, New Mexico Highlands University, New Mexico State University, and the University of New Mexico establishes a reforestation center to recover areas burned by severe wildfires. More than 300 million seedlings are needed to fill the current backlog of burned areas, and the agreement sets a goal of producing 5 million seedlings per year. The partners will expand the seed collection program, prepare seed storage facilities, and conduct a feasibility study of sites to locate the new nursery, research, and training center. The collaboration will result in production and planting of trees resilient to a warmer and drier climate.



volunteers to ensure that state parks are managed safely and effectively to meet and exceed visitor expectations.

	FY20 Actual	FY21 Actual	FY22 Target	FY22 Total	Rating
<b>Budget:</b> \$24,173.5 <b>FTE:</b> 234.7					
Number of visitors to state parks, in millions*	3.9	4.4	N/A	5.2	G
Self-generated revenue per visitor, in dollars	1.04	\$0.65	\$0.94	\$1.01	G
<b>Program Rating</b>	Y	Y			G

### Mine Reclamation

The Mining Act and the Surface Mining Act require that mines obtain a permit that includes an approved reclamation plan and financial assurance that would allow the state to complete reclamation if the company owning the mine fails to do so. In the fourth quarter of FY22, 65 of the 66 mines managed by the program were in compliance with this requirement.

	FY20 Actual	FY21 Actual	FY22 Target	FY22 Total	Rating
<b>Budget:</b> \$8,120.0 <b>FTE:</b> 32					
Permitted mines with approved reclamation plans and adequate financial assurance posted to cover the cost of reclamation	100%	99%	97.5%	99%	G
<b>Program Rating</b>	G	G			G

### Oil and Gas Conservation

The Oil Conservation Division (OCD) met the annual target for oil and gas wells inspected and in compliance through a significant improvement in fourth quarter inspections performed. OCD recently implemented a tiered method of scheduling inspections to better target higher priority inspections, typically more complex and time-consuming than the average inspection. OCD staff approved 74.4 percent of drilling permits within 10 business days in the fourth quarter of FY22, allowing most operators to conduct business without unnecessary delays.

OCD has recently been focusing its well-plugging efforts on a large oil field containing old, poorly maintained orphan well sites that require additional time and resources to remediate. Since 2015, OCD has plugged 234 wells on state and private land. In FY22 OCD has spent \$1.6 million in recurring funds, and \$1.8 in other state funds on well plugging. OCD secured the services of four rigs and intends to plug more wells using monies from the reclamation fund and a sizeable grant from the federal government. Plugging cost per well have doubled from FY21 to FY22.

OCD has the additional responsibility of overseeing the Carlsbad brine well remediation project, which is not captured in the division’s performance measures. The remediation project was expected to be completed in spring 2022. However, depressurization has taken longer than originally anticipated, which is still underway. Remaining budget has allowed for post-remediation monitoring to occur for the next two years, ensuring site stability.

	FY20 Actual	FY21 Actual	FY22 Target	FY22 Total	Rating
<b>Budget:</b> \$11,221.5 <b>FTE:</b> 72					
Inspections of oil and gas wells and associated facilities showing compliance with permits and regulations	36,852	35,757	31,000	31,154	G

Application to drill permits approved within 10 business days	94.6%	87.6%	95%	88%	Y
Abandoned oil and gas wells properly plugged	36	49	50	49	G
Violations issued*	2,176	3,174	N/A	3,213	
<b>Program Rating</b>	G	Y			Y

\*Measure is classified as explanatory and does not have a target.