



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State and Federal Trustees to Extend Project Proposal Deadline to August 1, 2016 for Restoration of Natural Resources

Albuquerque – The deadline for members of the public to submit restoration project ideas that would benefit groundwater and aquatic resources in the vicinity of Questa NM is now extended to August 1, 2016.

At a public meeting held on April 27 in Questa, members of the New Mexico Office of Natural Resources Trustee explained the process for identifying and selecting restoration projects to offset natural resource injuries incurred from mine operations. The state and federal Trustees are the State of New Mexico, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service and the U.S. Department of the Interior.

During the public meeting, the Trustee representatives encouraged attendees to submit restoration project ideas by June 30, 2016. Upon further input from stakeholders, including the Mayor for the Village of Questa, the Trustee representatives are extending the project proposal deadline to **August 1, 2016**.

Project ideas submitted by the new deadline of August 1 will be evaluated and incorporated into a Draft Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment that will be made available at a future date for public review and comment. Please transmit project proposals to: William Fetner, NM Office of Natural Resources Trustee, 121 Tijeras Avenue NE, Suite 1000, Albuquerque, NM 87102; or via email, william.fetner@state.nm.us. Proposals can be submitted electronically either on CD or via email (preferred methods) or by submitting a hard copy to the address above.

Restoration projects ultimately selected by the Trustees for implementation will be funded from a \$4 million natural resource damage settlement with Chevron Mining Inc. that settled allegations that the company injured groundwater and aquatic resources as a result of discharges of hazardous substances from the mine facility.

For additional information, please contact: Rebecca Neri Zagal, New Mexico Office of Natural Resources Trustee, (505) 222-9572; Greg Miller, Carson National Forest, (575) 758-6251; George Dennis, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, (505) 761-4754 or visit the New Mexico Office of Natural Resources Trustee website at <http://onrt.state.nm.us/>.