



Office of the Governor

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

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Gov. Lujan Grisham spends time in Mora, advocates for those affected by Hermits Peak/Calf Canyon Fire
Governor stays in trailer in solidarity with residents still without permanent place to live

MORA – Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham is spending three nights in Mora this week to meet with residents who continue to struggle to rebuild following the largest wildfire in the state’s history.

The governor is staying in a portable trailer while in Mora to bring attention to the fact that over 600 residents of Mora and San Miguel Counties remain without a permanent place to call home a year after the fire was declared 100% contained. Many still cannot return to their lands, which have often been in their families for generations.

“A year later, many New Mexicans are completely exhausted. They’ve lost their homes, their property and their livelihoods. And being displaced from your home, from a permanent living situation, is incredibly challenging logistically and emotionally,” said Gov. Lujan Grisham. “On top of that, they’ve spent countless hours waiting in lines and filling out paperwork, often with minimal or no result. These federal processes frankly do not work for Americans reeling from the aftermath of natural disasters. The federal government must do better.”

On Tuesday night, the governor joined community members in Mora at a Town Hall following FEMA’s issuance of a final rule for the distribution of \$3.95 billion in federal funding for affected residents.

On Wednesday, she visited with residents at the FEMA Claims Office and with a family who remains in a temporary trailer in Mora and met with Las Vegas Mayor Louie Trujillo.

She returned to the FEMA Claims Office on Thursday morning and will work in Santa Fe during the day before returning to spend the night in Mora.

Gov. Lujan Grisham and Sen. Pete Campos secured \$100 million of state funding in January for local governments to begin repairs and rebuilding public infrastructure in the absence of federal funding. More than half of that funding has already been distributed.

The Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire burned more than 340,000 acres and destroyed more than 900 structures, including several hundred homes.

The governor also on Wednesday sent a letter to New Mexico Attorney General Raúl Torrez urging his office to investigate reports of attorneys and other individuals taking advantage of residents. There are numerous reports of individuals misrepresenting themselves as FEMA claims workers and tricking victims into signing legal documents binding them to legal representation.

“The implications of these reports are deeply troubling, as these bad actors are not only exploiting vulnerable individuals who are already grappling with the aftermath of a catastrophic event but also undermining trust in the programs and institutions put in place to render aid,” the governor wrote in the letter. “It is imperative that we send a strong message that these deceptive practices will not be tolerated within our State.”

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Photos and the letter to the attorney general are attached.







