

Candidate's Name: Dana Vackar-Strang  
Organization: New Mexico State Land Office

Statement of Qualifications & Interest:

Dear Members of the New Mexico Recycling Coalition:

Please accept my letter of interest for the position of board member for the New Mexico Recycling Coalition (NMRC), representing the New Mexico State Land Office. My professional career and experience will provide the knowledge and expertise needed to meet the mission of NMRC to inspire New Mexicans to reduce, reuse and recycle.

My tenure with the New Mexico State Land Office's (NMSLO) Field Operations Division and Audubon New Mexico provides me with the unique skills to promote recycling, implement prevention strategies for illegal dumping, and the leadership skills to engage state, local, and other organizations.

In my current position, illegal dumping is an ongoing problem statewide and one we are challenged to deal with constantly. The NMSLO is responsible for administering 9 million acres of surface and 13 million acres of subsurface estate for the beneficiaries of the state land trust, which includes schools, universities, hospitals and other public institutions. In the past year the Field Operations Division remediated 7 illegal dumping projects, removing 471 tons of trash.

Throughout my career at NMSLO, I have managed natural resource projects ranging from watershed health, site reclamation, forest health and illegal dumping remediation projects. This experience has been as both a project coordinator and manager in the NMSLO's Field Operations Division.

The Field Operations Division is comprised of several programs and one administrative bureau that all promote trust sustainability while optimizing revenue for the trust beneficiaries. The division manages complex and dynamic programs that focus on watershed health, site remediation, illegal dumping, biological and cultural resources and investigations/compliance. The Field Operations Division also houses the Agricultural Leasing Bureau that is responsible for the management of over 3,500 active agricultural leases. The staff is comprised of a total of 31 positions with a project budget of more than \$1.7 million.

Further, my professional experience includes education outreach. Both at the State Land Office and later as the Director of Education for Audubon New Mexico and the Randall Davey Audubon Center I have developed and implemented outdoor education programs that connect students of all ages to nature and our natural resources. These education initiatives included classroom activities, outdoor science field studies statewide, and the Randall Davey Audubon Center's summer day camps. Through my outdoor education experience I have been fortunate

to train in many of the national outdoor education curriculums, and have developed my own programs for children and adults.

Finally, I have contributed to several organizations as a board member, working with partners to advance the mission of these groups. I am the former president and board member of the Environmental Education Association of New Mexico, former Chair of the Youth Conservation Corps Commission, and former statewide coordinator, facilitator and teacher trainer for the national curriculum, Leopold Education Project (LEP).

I look forward to working with the New Mexico Recycling Coalition to advance the team's efforts to build sustainable and efficient recycling systems.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide you an overview of my experience and I am happy to answer any additional questions you may have.

Sincerely,

**Dana Vackar Strang**

*Director*

*Field Operations Division*

505.827.5723

New Mexico State Land Office

310 Old Santa Fe Trail

P.O. Box 1148

Santa Fe, NM 87504-1148

[dvstrang@slo.state.nm.us](mailto:dvstrang@slo.state.nm.us)





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September 7, 2017

New Mexico Recycling Coalition  
PO Box 24364  
Santa Fe, NM 87502

RE: Nomination to the NMRC Board of Directors

Dear New Mexico Recycling Coalition,

It is with great pleasure that I recommend the nomination from Dana Vackar-Strang to the New Mexico Recycling Coalition Board of Directors. Dana is currently the Director of Field Operations Division at the New Mexico State Land Office, where she oversees the Field Operations Division. Dana manages complex and dynamic programs that focus on watershed health, site remediation, illegal dumping, biological and cultural resources.

Dana was previously the Director of Education for Audubon New Mexico and the Randall Davey Audubon Center for six years where she oversaw Audubon's education department, as well as Audubon's statewide education programs. Prior to Audubon, Dana worked at the New Mexico State Land Office where she worked her way up to an Assistant Director in the Field Operations Division after holding several other positions at the Agency. As Assistant Division Director, Dana gained experience as a manager and educator, developing and implementing statewide programs emphasizing natural resource conservation and sustainability.

Dana is the former President and board member of the Environmental Education Association of New Mexico, the former Chair of the Youth Conservation Corps Commission, and is the Statewide coordinator, facilitator and teacher trainer for the national curriculum, Leopold Education Project (LEP).

Dana has a B.A. in Political Science with an emphasis in Environmental Issues from Colorado College and an M.A. from the University of New Mexico, in Parks and Recreation and Environmental Education with an emphasis on Administration.

Dana has over a decade of experience managing staff in a variety of natural resource and educational experiences both at the State Land Office, including Audubon New Mexico. Dana is an amazing and committed leader, who's efforts are tireless. Dana's dedication, knowledge and respect for the environment will make her a great asset to the New Mexico Recycling Coalition Board of Directors.

Sincerely,

  
Gino Romero  
NCSWA Manager

