**Natural Resources and Mining**

Niches: Mining Support Products and Services, Mining Research and Development, Forestry, Farming/Ranching,

Strategies:

* Continue to have access and protection of National Forests for all residents and tourist enjoyment.
* Use known research to develop biomass product from forest and agricultural waste.
* Facilitate environmental education such as illegal dumping, waste, and fire to the residents of the region.
* Support efforts of local school districts and Western New Mexico University to educate students about careers in the mining, forestry, and other environmental based industries.
* Work with Freeport McMoRan, U.S. Forest Service, and other natural resource industry employers to educate school-aged children about the types of jobs that are a part of this industry.
* Work with Freeport McMoRan, U.S. Forest Services, and other natural resource industry employers to help educate communities throughout the region about land reclamation.
* Conduct a local government land bank inventory to help forecast water demand throughout the region.
* Upgrade water infrastructure throughout the region to improve water conservation measures.
* Enhance the geothermal economic development opportunities throughout the region.
* Maintain the region’s Dark Skies as development continues.
* Development of geological assets through education and explorations.
* Create a regional mining, geological, environmental museum to help educate residents and tourists.
* Increase the mining research and development efforts in the region.

Key Partners

* US Forest Service
* National Parks Service
* Soil and Water Conservation Districts
* Freeport McMoRan
* School Districts
* Western New Mexico University
* Natural Resource Conservation District
* Local Governments
* Laney Logging Company
* Kellar Logging Company
* Farmers/Ranchers
* Farm and Livestock Bureau
* New Mexico Office of the State Engineer
* Interstate Stream Commission
* New Mexico Acequia Association
* Grant County Water Commission

Vulnerabilities

* Water Rights
* Water Supply, Contaminants, and Quality
* Inability to irrigate due to drought
* Untrained Workforce
* Improper use of pesticides