



American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)

Green Office Building

Category: Construction

BLM
New Mexico

The BLM's Farmington District Office Goes Green with New Building



Artist's rendering of new office building. It will serve BLM employees and customers while conserving some of the very natural resources the BLM manages. every day.

The BLM office that manages the federal resources of one of the nation's largest natural gas fields will operate out of a highly energy efficient, LEED-certified green office building when construction is completed on the new Farmington District Office.

The BLM awarded an \$11.4-million contract for construction of the 30,000-square-foot building in March 2010. Groundbreaking for the project is planned for late spring with an estimated completion date of fall 2011.

The new office will be located on public land in the BLM's Glade Run Recreation Area. The BLM's goal is to receive a Gold certification from LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) criteria developed by the U.S. Green Building Council. This requires that the building pass a rigorous review of energy savings, water efficiency, CO₂ emissions reduction, indoor air quality and best management of natural resources. The new building will have an array of solar panels installed on its roof to achieve additional energy savings.

The ARRA-funded contract will provide jobs in construction and allow the BLM to incorporate many energy and water efficiency features into the office; the building will house 103 BLM employees who manage 1.4 million acres of public lands in north-west New Mexico and an additional 3 million acres of federally owned subsurface minerals. The building also will host 27 additional employees from other Interior Department agencies.

The Farmington office, designated as an Energy Pilot Office, oversees environmentally responsible production on public lands from over 20,000 gas wells and 1,500 oil wells. The office also restores and enhances fish and wildlife habitat, protects threatened and endangered species habitat, and oversees a variety of cultural sites including Navajo pueblitos and Chacoan 'outliers' dating to the 11th century. The field office also manages the Bisti/De-Na-Zin Wilderness, 12 recreation areas, plus a variety of Specially Designated Areas and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern.

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U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

