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Press Release

NMDOT Adopt-A-Highway Volunteers to Schedule Final Fall Litter Pickup

Nov. 4, 2016 (Albuquerque, NM)– Volunteers participating in the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) District Three Adopt-A-Highway program are encouraged to schedule their last fall litter pickup event before winter.

“Our Adopt-A-Highway volunteers provide our District with invaluable help in keeping our roadways clear of debris,” said Olga Barron, District Three Adopt-a-Highway Coordinator for the Albuquerque area. Adopt-a-Highway volunteers collected 70.8 tons of litter in 2015 to benefit our community. District three which includes Bernalillo, Valencia and parts of Sandoval County has 78 active volunteer groups that have adopted 130 lane miles of highway. The program saves NMDOT thousands of dollars, promotes civic responsibility, and removes trash from state highways. Prior to cleaning their adopted area, volunteers are provided with safety vests and garbage bags to collect trash along the right-of-way. NMDOT maintenance crews then haul away the trash bags. Current volunteers include members of various civic groups, churches, businesses and families.

Sections of highway are still available for adoption. Interested groups should contact the NMDOT District Three Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator Olga Barron at (505) 798-6600. Groups are asked to sign an agreement with the NMDOT to adopt a mile of highway, schedule clean-ups two times annually and report cleanup results to the Adopt-A-Highway Coordinator. There is no fee to participate in the program. NMDOT posts Adopt-A-Highway signs bearing the volunteer group name along the stretch of adopted highway.

Litter pickup events can take place any time during the spring, summer, and fall, or in coordination with any Keep New Mexico Clean and Beautiful event.

Safety tips for Volunteers:

- Volunteers must wear the safety vests provided by NMDOT at all times during cleanup;
- Volunteers must wear gloves to protect hands from sharp objects, closed-toe shoes, a hat and long sleeves to avoid sunburn.
- Volunteers should always work facing traffic. Remain in the right-of-way area and keep a five foot distance from the pavement edge.

About Adopt-a-Highway

The first Adopt-a-Highway sign was installed along Highway 69 in Tyler, Texas, on March 9, 1985. Today the program is offered in 49 states and more than 1.3 million volunteers participate in Adopt-a-Highway programs nationwide, saving taxpayer's money and keeping our rights-of-way clean. New Mexico has participated for more than a decade.

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