



Background on Heinrich's Leadership on Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire Response and Recovery

Heinrich remains focused on delivering the resources New Mexico needs to effectively respond to wildfires and prevent future devastating blazes by restoring the health and resilience of our forests and watersheds.

Heinrich is [keeping up the effort to do right by the New Mexico families whose lives were upended by the 2022 Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire. As communities continue to rebuild, Heinrich will keep working to deliver for every person impacted by that fire and the floods that followed.](#)

Heinrich, U.S. Senator Ben Ray Luján (D-N.M.), and U.S. Representative Teresa Leger Fernández (D-N.M.) [successfully secured an additional \\$1.5 billion to help New Mexicans recover from the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire](#) within the Continuing Resolution that Congress passed in December 2024.

The 2024 Continuing Resolution also extended the period that victims may file claims with the Hermit's Peak Claims Office to March 14, 2025. The Heinrich, Luján, and Leger Fernández are continuing to call for the passage of their [Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Claims Extension Act](#), legislation they introduced to extend the period a victim can file a claim with the Hermit's Peak Claims Office through the end of 2027.

The New Mexico Congressional Delegation has now secured a total of \$5.45 billion in federal resources to help New Mexicans recover and rebuild since the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire.

In November 2024, Heinrich, Luján, and Leger Fernández [announced that President Biden's disaster supplemental request included transfer authority for \\$1.5 billion to help New Mexicans recover from the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire.](#) That same month, Heinrich, Luján, and Leger Fernández also [sent a letter urging the FEMA Director of the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Claims Office and the FEMA Director of the New Mexico Joint Recovery Office to address concerns from New Mexicans about the process for](#)

[receiving compensation](#) from the Claims Office and help families get the relief and compensation needed to recover.

In September 2024, Heinrich, Luján, and Leger Fernández secured an [extension to the period that victims may file claims with the Hermit's Peak Claims Office](#) to December 20, 2024.

In June 2024, [Heinrich met with local leaders](#) in Las Vegas, N.M. to discuss the continuing impacts to the City of Las Vegas's water treatment plant and water system due to recent floods and the ongoing fallout from the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire. He also sat down with local families and small business owners in Mora, N.M. to discuss their experiences with the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Claims Office.

On the two-year anniversary of the official start of the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire, Heinrich [wrote a column in the Las Vegas Optic](#) about his ongoing work to help New Mexico families, communities, and businesses recover from the fire and the floods that have followed.

In April 2024, Heinrich, Luján, Leger Fernández, and U.S. Representatives Melanie Stansbury (D-N.M.) and Gabe Vasquez (D-N.M.) [welcomed the expansion of the FEMA Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Claims Office in Mora](#). This announcement came after a January letter from the Delegation calling on FEMA to expedite the claims process for those impacted by the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire and immediately address the backlog of claims. The new facility with expanded operations opened to the public Monday, April 1. The new space consists of two accessible buildings and a parking lot, all located behind the Mora County Courthouse, 1 Courthouse Dr., Mora, N.M.

In March 2024, the N.M. Congressional Delegation [welcomed nearly \\$2 million](#) from FEMA to fund the development of a comprehensive Watershed Restoration Plan for the areas directly impacted by the 2022 Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon fire. The investment is funded through the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire Assistance Act, secured by the New Mexico Congressional Delegation.

In October 2023, Heinrich, Luján, and Leger Fernández [introduced the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Claims Extension Act](#) to extend the period a victim can file a claim with the Hermit's Peak Claims Office. Under the new bill, the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Claims Office would remain open until the end of 2027.

In August 2023, Heinrich, Luján, and Leger Fernández [welcomed over \\$6.5 million in federal funding](#) to San Miguel County for reimbursement for county road repairs as a result of the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire. That same month, Heinrich [welcomed final regulations for the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire Assistance Act](#) to speed the relief process.

In May 2023, Heinrich, Luján, and Leger Fernández [sent a letter to then-DHS Secretary Mayorkas and FEMA Administrator Criswell](#) expressing concern over the prolonged delay in finalizing the regulations for the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Fire Claims Office.

In December 2022, Heinrich, a member of the Senate Appropriations Committee and a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, [secured funding in the Omnibus Appropriations Agreement for Fiscal Year 2023 \(FY23\)](#) to support critical U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) emergency disaster programs. Heinrich and Luján also garnered additional support from then-U.S. Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Director Shalanda Young, who included these programs in OMB's disaster supplemental request.

In November 2022, Heinrich and Luján [called on then Senate Appropriations Chair Patrick Leahy and Ranking Member Richard Shelby](#) to prioritize supplemental funding for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program and the Emergency Forest Restoration Program at levels that meet USDA estimates. N.M. Congressional Democrats successfully increased funding for these important programs.

While the fire was still ongoing, N.M. Congressional Democrats [secured 100 percent coverage of the Emergency Watershed Protection \(EWP\) program](#). Heinrich [requested that then-USDA Secretary Tom Vilsack take this action](#) during a key Senate Appropriations Committee hearing in May 2022 and Leger Fernandez spoke to President Biden about it on his trip to New Mexico and reiterated her [request in a letter](#).