



USDA Rural Development

Photo Chosen for NM RD's Photo Contest

USDA Rural Development New Mexico held its first photo contest asking staff to submit a photo that represents the state's beauty.

The winning photo was submitted by Andres Corral who works in RD's Las Cruces office as a Community Programs loan assistant. This photo shows a colorful sunrise over the Organ Mountains with the City of Las Cruces in the foreground.

Andres remembers vividly when he took the photo. He took it early on the morning of April 20, 2019. He said he took it just prior to taking a hike in the Shalem Colony Trail area located on the west mesa just northwest of Las Cruces.

Andres loves this area because this is where he and his dad would go for their hikes and enjoy the scenery —and each other's company. He said, the location has become especially important to him since his father passed away in 2007.

On this particular day his dad was heavy on Andres' mind. He said when he got out his truck he was greeted by this fantastic sunrise. He immediately began taking pictures and in a few minutes, the brilliance of the sunrise had gone away.

None-the-less, Andres believes on that early spring morning his dad was saying good morning to him.

The photo contest is being held every three months encouraging staff to submit photos showing the beauty of the state. The winning photo chosen by staff is placed on the state's website located at: www.rd.usda.gov/nm and in the Twitter account page that can be found at [@RD_NewMexico](https://twitter.com/ARD_NewMexico). Ultimately, the photo will be entered into a year-end contest with three other photos where the winning entry will be displayed in the state office's main conference room in Albuquerque.

To see a larger version of Andres' winning photo, click [here](#).



This photo entitled, "Las Cruces—Shalem Colony Sunrise" was chosen by USDA RD staff in New Mexico as the first photo contest winner.

Name of Photographer:	Andres Corral
Date taken:	April 20, 2019
Name of Photo :	Las Cruces—Shalem Colony Sunrise
Photo Contest:	To choose a photo for RD NM's State website located at: www.rd.usda.gov/nm and on Twitter at: @RD_NewMexico
Outreach	Contest was held to choose a photo representative of New Mexico's beauty
Impact:	To encourage the public to visit RD New Mexico's Website and Twitter accounts