

Overview of USDA Rural Development New Mexico's internal photo contest

During each quarter of the federal fiscal year USDA Rural Development in New Mexico asks staff to submit a photo that represents the state's beauty or a photo that represents the work that we do.

The photo is posted here on the state's website and on Twitter at:
www.twitter.com/@RD_NewMexico

Every quarter the staff will vote on four of the photos that have been submitted. Once the votes are tallied the winner is announced.

Ultimately, the winning photos will compete in the photo of the year contest. That winning photo will be printed and hung in the State Office in Albuquerque.

3rd Quarter Winner

Title: "Horses in the Pasture" [Click Here](#) to see larger version of the photo

Photographer: Eric Vigil

Description about the photograph and day he took this photo

It was a mild winter day in February of 2019, I found myself rounding up cattle on the range about 10 miles from the Rio Grande Gorge west of Taos, New Mexico. More particularly, the area is known as Carson, New Mexico.

While scouting for some of my wayward cows on my ATV, I found myself riding along the former historic railroad trail known as, "The Chile Line Express". This was a 125-mile-long narrow-gauge railway. It extended from Antonito, Colorado, to Santa Fe, New Mexico from 1866 to 1941¹.

As I was riding along about three miles in front of me, I noticed movement on what appeared to be cattle. As I got closer, I noticed they were rather large for cattle, perhaps they were elk? So, with that, my curiosity got the best of me and I continued my journey towards them to investigate.

At a short distance, I realized what I was seeing. It was a group of horses!

With the Town of Taos and the Rocky Mountains in the background, I thought this would be a great photo opportunity. Using my cell phone, I shot a couple of photos.

Once completed, I sat back on my ATV and took a minute to absorb the countryside and think about how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful state.

Right after that, I went back to work and continued to search for my wayward cows.

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¹ Wikipedia