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## **Governor Bill Richardson Announces Cabinet Secretary Joanna Prukop to Retire From State Government**

**Prukop to join new national conservation organization; Governor Appoints Jon Goldstein as Secretary**

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson today announced that Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department Secretary Joanna Prukop will retire from state government effective December 31. The Governor also congratulated her on her new position as the Director of Business for Wildlife with a new national conservation organization called Freedom to Roam.

“Joanna Prukop helped lead New Mexico’s efforts in strengthening environmental protection, conserving natural lands and protecting critical wildlife habitats while supporting energy development,” Governor Richardson said. “She will be missed, but I wish her well in her new position where she will continue these same efforts on a larger scale.”

A consortium of prominent organizations and corporations such as Microsoft, National Geographic Society, Western Governor’s Association and others lead by Patagonia launched Freedom to Roam in 2009. Their goal is to bring together people, organizations and businesses to enhance and protect wildlife corridors across North America in the face of energy development and climate change.

Prukop has a bachelor's and master's degree in wildlife biology and spent 26 years working for the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish. Governor Richardson appointed her as Cabinet Secretary for the Department of Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources in January 2003. Her key initiatives have included promoting a clean energy economy, environmentally compatible electrical transmission development, green building measures, and energy efficiency.

Governor Bill Richardson is appointing Jon Goldstein to replace Prukop as the Secretary of the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department. Goldstein will be nominated to the State Senate for confirmation during the January 2010 Legislature. Governor Richardson appointed Goldstein as Deputy Secretary for the Environment Department in December of 2007.

“Jon has done a great job at the Environment Department,” Governor Richardson said. “His enthusiasm and passion for protecting New Mexico’s natural resources and the environment make him a great fit to guide the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department.”

Goldstein began his career in state government in 2003 with the Environment Department. Since then he has served as the Deputy Communications Director for the Office of the Governor and Director of Water and Waste Management for the Environment Department. Goldstein's prior experience includes two years covering business, politics and breaking news for the Baltimore Sun's Web site and two years as a technology reporter with Time Magazine in New York.

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