Mora Fire

The recent legal action, filed Wednesday (Sept 24) in U.S. District Court, was brought by Mora County, which disputes the legality of a rule related to the compensation process.

The county's lawsuit, which names FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell as a defendant along with the agency, centers on an administrative rule that requires some claims be submitted to FEMA's Public Assistance Program before they will be considered by the Hermit's Peak/Calf Canyon Claims Office.

(Nov 24) Now, the County of Mora, local electric utility, and Las Vegas school district are taking the feds to court for starting the fire.

In a new lawsuit against the United States of America, Mora County said the U.S. Forest Service was negligent starting a prescribed burn against guidelines and in known fire conditions. According to the lawsuit, Mora County said its losses and damages totals over one billion dollars.

Pleading: In April, 2022, a wildfire scorched over 340,000 acres of land in northeastern New Mexico, destroying over 900 structures, and forcing the evacuation of over 15,000 households throughout Mora, San Miguel and Taos Counties. It is the largest wildfire in New Mexico State history.

Dolan, et al. v. FEMA, et al.; No. CIV 23-00869 JB/JFR (U.S. Dist. NM) – damages claim;
Vigil, et. al. v. FEMA, et al.; No. CIV 23-0941 JB/JFR (U.S. Dist. NM) – TRO;

Gallegos, et al. v. FEMA; No. CIV 24-0170 JB/JFR; *consolidated with*: No. CIV 24-0426 JB/JFR; No. CIV 24-0580 JB/JFR; No. CIV 24-0681 JB/JFR; No. CIV 24-0779 JB/JFR; No. CIV 24-0875 JB/JFR; No. CIV 24-0979 JB/JFR; No. CIV 24-1137 JB/JFR; No. CIV 24-1221 JB/JFR; No. CIV 24-1311 JB/JFR and No. CIV 25-0109 JB/JFR