



For Immediate Release  
March 25, 2009

For More Information Contact:  
Margaret McDaniel, President, New Mexico Rural Alliance, 505-566-3720

## **Rural Economic Development Forum Cancelled**

The New Mexico Rural Alliance regretfully announced today that the 2009 Rural Economic Development Forum, scheduled for April 29 through May 1<sup>st</sup> in Farmington, has been cancelled. The purpose of the Forum is to assist New Mexico's smallest communities in accessing resources to achieve their community development and economic growth goals. This year very few rural towns and villages had the travel funds to attend.

The Rural Alliance will replace the 2009 Forum with a workshop this summer. Utilizing the NMEDD Regional Reps the focus of the workshop will be developed from feedback and ideas from the rural communities. Additional information will soon be posted on the Rural Alliance website at [www.nmrural.org](http://www.nmrural.org).

Rural Alliance President Margaret McDaniel stated. "It would not be a fiscally responsible use of anyone's limited travel budget to proceed when our target audience wasn't being reached. I am grateful for the efforts of the people involved and appreciate everyone's understanding of our decision. It was the right thing to do".

New Mexico Economic Development Department Cabinet Secretary Fred Mondragón said, "This is sad news, but a prudent decision on the part of the Alliance. This is a critical time to use our limited resources to maximize their effectiveness. We stand ready to assist our communities in any way we can and look forward to participating in future events."

#####30#####

The New Mexico Rural Alliance is a statewide non-profit organization whose mission is to provide training and education to community leaders in order to improve rural economic viability. This mission is accomplished through sponsoring and developing educational events such as the Rural Forum. For more information about the Rural Alliance please visit the website at [www.nmrural.org](http://www.nmrural.org)