

## Watershed Protection



*The forests of the Rio Trampas Watershed have become overly dense due to a history of wildfire suppression, overgrazing, and logging. Once implemented, this project will restore the health of the watershed by reducing the risk of large high intensity wildfires and improving soil and hydrological conditions, through treatments that thin the forest to within its range of historical variation.*

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### In Collaboration With:



Carson Forest Watch  
Chimayo Conservation Corps, Hammerstone Archaeological Services, Rocky Mountain Ecology Inc., Ecotone, Prajna Mountain Forest Refuge, Camino Real Ranger District, Taos Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management, State Land Office, Picuris Pueblo, Trampas Land Grant, Truchas Land Grant, Northern Pueblos Agency, State Forestry Chama/ Cimarron Districts.

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Check out the project webpage:

[www.forestguild.org/RioTrampasWatershed](http://www.forestguild.org/RioTrampasWatershed)

(Flyer Edition 3, November 2014)

## Rio Trampas Forest & Watershed Restoration Planning Project

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Funded by the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP), Region 3 of the USDA Forest Service



Forest Restoration Planning ... for now and the future!



## Thank you for Participating!

This is the first in a series of information pamphlets to inform you about the Rio Trampas Forest and Watershed Restoration Planning project. We are grateful for those who participated in meetings in the past year. Your input will help us all develop a meaningful plan for the future of the land and communities in the area.

For the Planning Team,

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## Project Website is up!

If you want to follow the planning process on the web, please stay tuned by visiting: <http://www.forestguild.org/RioTrampasWatershed.html>. The website also includes information about forest restoration, ponderosa pine forest ecology, the project proposal, maps, meeting notes, participant lists, etc.

## Future Public Input

Forest Guild hired Jan-Willem Jansens (DBA Ecotone) to organize community meetings. Upcoming meetings will include:

- **Sa. Nov 15, 9:30 am:** Show-Me Trip for forest and watershed restoration in Canoncito (Dixon), CR69 to Ojo Sarco
- **Th. Nov 20, 5:15 pm** Public Information Meeting at the Dixon Community Center
- **Fr. Nov 21, 5:00 pm** Public Information Meeting at the Peñasco Community Center

## The Goal of the Project

The goal of the Rio Trampas Watershed Multi-jurisdictional Forest Restoration Planning project is to set the stage for a forest restoration-based economy in the Rio Trampas watershed. The project will produce a series of planning documents for forest restoration across the highest priority 10,000 acres of forest lands in the Rio Trampas watershed. The project works across lands managed by the US Forest Service, BLM, State Land Office, Picuris Pueblo and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Rio Trampas project will:

1. Identify the highest priority 10,000 acres for forest restoration within the watershed
2. Survey archaeological resources, complete biological assessments, and collect vegetation data in the priority area
3. Protect old/large trees and incorporate the best forest restoration science in the plan
4. Coordinate with other groups to include watershed restoration planning processes
5. Build adaptive management into the planning process and collaborate with all agencies to achieve a decision document.

## Steps (+ where we are)

- Identification of issues: Oct 2011-July 2012
- Identify alternatives: Aug-Dec 2012
- Analyze alternatives: Jan-Oct 2013
- Select an alternative: Oct 2013
- **Distribute Draft Plan for Public Review: Comment Deadline Nov 14, 2014**
- Publish Final Plan: Jan-Apr 2015
- Publish decision document: Apr 2015
- Final Watershed Planning and Partner Meetings: November 2014 – April 2015

## Why do we need a Plan for the Las Trampas Forest Area?

Insufficient acres exist that are in compliance with NEPA and NHPA (“NEPA-ready”) to meet forest restoration needs within the Rio Trampas watershed. The Carson National Forest estimates less than 300 NEPA ready acres of restoration thinning are available across the area. The primary ecological problems of the 70,000-acre Rio Trampas analysis area are that (1) ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forests are overstocked; (2) piñon-juniper woodlands are degraded and show high rates of erosion; and (3) watershed conditions are degraded. Furthermore, federal, tribal, and state agencies have limited capacity to plan or implement ecological restoration at the scale needed; local wood utilization and harvesting businesses are without a consistent supply with which to stabilize and grow businesses; and forested communities, in-holdings, farms and ranches, and acequia groups are at risk from the impacts of catastrophic wild fire events.



## The Vision

Between 2011 and 2015, Forest Guild will coordinate a comprehensive planning effort to produce a prioritized plan for forest restoration across 10,000 acres of the Rio de las Trampas watershed. The Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP) of the US Forest Service is uniquely suited to support such an effort.