



NEWS RELEASE

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Prescribed Fire Training Exchange Planned in October on Bureau of Land Management and State Trust Lands near Peñasco NM, Weather Permitting

Peñasco, NM – [Taos BLM](#), the [New Mexico State Land Office](#), [The Nature Conservancy's Fire Learning Network](#), and the [Forest Stewards Guild](#) are organizing a prescribed fire training exchange (TRES) to safely return fire to approximately 500 acres of ponderosa pine and piñon-juniper forests state trust and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands west of Peñasco, NM. This burn is training new firefighters who will be working alongside highly qualified and experienced firefighters. The TRES also offers advanced training opportunities in a learning environment. Broadcast burning promotes ecological health in frequent fire forests, reduces hazardous fuels thereby protecting nearby communities, and reduces the intensity and size of future wildfires.

Weather permitting, ignitions will begin in early October. The team will assemble beginning October 15. When burning is occurring, smoke may settle in the evenings but should disperse the following day. More information on smoke and human health can be accessed here, https://nmtracking.org/enviro_n Exposure/fire-and-smoke/.

“This burn is a culmination of work that began over ten years ago in collaboration with the State Land Office and the BLM to improve forest health, protect nearby communities from wildfire, and to protect the Rio Trampas Watershed.” notes Forest Stewards Guild Southwest Director Eytan Krasilovsky. “We have excellent collaborative restoration partners that are once again coming together to learn and burn together.”

Landowners interested in learning more about Fire Adapted Communities can visit www.fireadaptednm.org. Media and landowners interested in observing the burn are encouraged to contact Eytan Krasilovsky as soon as possible to coordinate.

Stay up-to-date on these efforts by visiting www.forestguild.org/ControlledBurning. For more information call/text 505-470-0185.

These burns are supported by the *Collaborative Forest Restoration Program* of the USDA Forest Service and the *Promoting Ecosystem Resilience and Fire Adapted Communities Together*, a cooperative agreement between The Nature Conservancy, USDA Forest Service and agencies of the Department of the Interior.

The Forest Stewards Guild is an equal opportunity provider.

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