



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: September 15, 2016

Contact: Eytan Krasilovsky, 505-470-0185, eytan@forestguild.org

Controlled Burn Planned for September 16 and 17 at Cottonwood Gulch in Thoreau NM

Santa Fe, NM –The Forest Stewards Guild will be coordinating a controlled training burn in collaboration with The Nature Conservancy’s Spanish Language Prescribed Fire Training Exchange, Cottonwood Gulch Foundation, Bluewater Acres Fire Department, Prometheus Fire Consulting, the City of Santa Fe Wildland Division, and others. This training burn, taking place September 16 and 17 at Cottonwood Gulch’s Base Camp south of Thoreau New Mexico, will train firefighters from Spanish speaking countries alongside qualified firefighters from New Mexico. 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.

Firefighter and community safety is the top priority. The Forest Stewards Guild is bringing together qualified and experienced wildland firefighters to lead the training burn. The burn will operate under a reviewed and approved burn plan, a burn permit, comply with New Mexico Air Quality Bureau smoke management guidelines, and have wildland firefighting equipment on-site. The burn team is in communication with local fire departments, New Mexico State Forestry, the Bureau of Land Management, and the local US Forest Service. These burns will produce light smoke that may settle in the evenings and will disperse the following day.

“This training burn is a unique opportunity to train and learn from ecologically-minded land managers from Spanish speaking countries.” 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, a website designed by the Forest Stewards Guild and Fire Service Support LLC for the New Mexico hub of the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network.

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

These burns are supported by *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.

An equal opportunity provider.

###