



NEWS RELEASE

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Controlled Burn Successfully Treated 12 Acres and Trained Firefighters Today: Additional Burning Planned for September 17 at Cottonwood Gulch in Thoreau NM

Santa Fe, NM –Bluewater Acres Fire Department, [Prometheus Fire Consulting](#), the [City of Santa Fe](#), the [Santa Fe National Forest](#), the Forest Stewards Guild, and [The Nature Conservancy's Spanish Language Prescribed Fire Training Exchange](#) successfully and safely returned fire to 12 acres of ponderosa pine forest at [Cottonwood Gulch Foundation's](#) property south of Thoreau NM. This training burn is training firefighters from Spanish speaking countries alongside qualified firefighters from New Mexico. An additional 8-10 acres are planned for tomorrow, Saturday September 17. 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 continues to be a top priority. The burn is operating under a reviewed and approved burn plan, a burn permit, complies with New Mexico Air Quality Bureau smoke management guidelines, and has 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. Smoke may settle in the evenings but 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/text 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.

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