

Media Release

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Collaborative Landscape Restoration Workshop, a First for New Mexico!

Taos, New Mexico – The Forest Guild, a 10 year old community forestry organization based in northern New Mexico, announces that the North-Central New Mexico Landscape Assessment Workshop held in Taos from October 17 – 19 was a success.

The North-Central New Mexico Landscape Assessment is a collaborative effort of the Bureau of Land Management, the Forest Ecosystem Restoration Analysis (ForestERA) team from Northern Arizona University, and the Forest Guild which was funded by a Joint Fire Sciences Program grant. The goal of this endeavor is to foster cross-jurisdictional collaborative forest planning, centered on the issue of wildfire, at the landscape scale.

A diverse group of stakeholders from northern New Mexico comprised of professionals and individuals engaged in forest and fire management issues have worked with the project team over the past two years to develop state of the art computer-based GIS (geographic information system) maps, models, and tools to collaboratively plan forest restoration for the 3.4 million acre study area. Examples of the continuous coverage maps and models developed for this project include but are not limited to forest structure, wildfire risk and hazard, watershed erosion and sedimentation, and wildlife habitat.

Over 50 participants attended the workshop and worked concurrently using the ForestERA maps in 4 groups. Each group was tasked to identify landscape values and risks, make a priority map for the landscape, and make forest management recommendations that could then be modeled in the GIS environment. The landscape exercises conducted at the workshop are a first step in using the ForestERA maps and models in collaborative forest restoration efforts in northern New Mexico.

More information about the North-Central New Mexico Landscape Assessment is available on the web at www.forestera.nau.edu. Those interested in the project may also contact the NM collaborator liaison Eytan Krasilovsky, at 983-8992 ext. 16, or by e-mail at eytan@forestguild.org.