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Cottonwood Gulch – Pratt Prescribed Burn Scheduled for October 27 - 28

Thoreau, NM—The Nature Conservancy, Cottonwood Gulch Foundation, the Pratt Ranch, and the Forest Stewards Guild are convening a prescribed broadcast burn on private land south of Thoreau New Mexico from October 27 to 28.

This work is part of The Nature Conservancy's Fire Learning Network (<http://goo.gl/cJwjBh>) and the Fire Adapted Community Learning Network (www.facnetwork.org) and is designed to promote fire adapted communities and reduce wildfire risk across 150 acres of private lands. Broadcast burning is often part of reducing hazardous fuels and is needed to reduce the heat, intensity, and spread of a future potential wildfire. Additionally, it will improve forest health, enhance wildlife habitat, and make the forest more resilient to drought and insects.

Firefighter and community safety is the top priority for the burn. The burn will use experienced and qualified firefighters. The team will operate under an approved burn plan, comply with New Mexico Air Quality Bureau smoke management guidelines, operate under a McKinley County burn permit, and have wildland firefighting equipment on-site. Smoke will be visible from the surrounding area. Smoke may settle into surrounding areas at night but should disperse the following day. The team will work to minimize smoke impacts to communities by visually monitoring smoke.

This project uses hand ignition. Roads and other natural barriers are used to contain the fire within a well-defined area. Prescribed fires are one of the most effective tools available to resource managers for restoring fire-adapted ecosystems. These fires mimic natural fires by reducing forest fuels, recycling nutrients and increasing habitat diversity.

"These landowners have beautiful forests on their land and I want to help them be healthy and resilient to wildfire." noted Forest Stewards Guild Southwest Region Director Eytan Krasilovsky. "We are working here because it is strategically important for the landowners, the community, and the adjacent Cibola National Forest to safely and effectively reduce these hazardous fuels."

Landowners interested in learning more about Fire Adapted Communities can visit www.fireadaptednewmexico.org, a website designed by the Forest Guild and Fire Service Support LLC for the New Mexico Hub of the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network.

During the burn period, information regarding the project can be obtained by calling **505-470-0185** or visiting <http://www.forestguild.org/ControlledBurning>.

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