

MEDIA RELEASE

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Staff Changes in Southwest Office

Santa Fe, NM – The Forest Stewards Guild’s Southwest Program, based in Santa Fe New Mexico, is growing! Due to our collaborative efforts with our partners in the region, the Guild is excited to announce promotions for Matt Piccarello and Esme Cadiente and the addition of Leonora Pepper and Sam Berry to the team.

Matt Piccarello promoted to Assistant Southwest Director. Since 2014 Matt Piccarello has been the Community Forestry Coordinator and has been working hard on our collaborative forest restoration projects, fire adapted community efforts, and improving and expanding the Forest Stewards Youth Corps program. In recognition of Matt’s hard work and his leadership, Matt now has responsibilities that include guiding and expanding the Southwest Program.

Esme Cadiente promoted to Collaborative Forestry Project Manager. Esme joined the Guild in August 2016 as the Program Assistant and quickly became an important member of the team. Esme brought her photography, design, and ecology skills and has also worked diligently on outreach and education efforts, collaboration, and has become passionate about prescribed fire. In her new role as a project manager Esme will now develop and implement projects from start to finish.

The Forest Stewards Guild is excited to introduce two new additions to the Santa Fe office who will add to our already exceptional team and contribute to Southwest and Research Program projects.

Leonora Pepper hired as Project Coordinator. Leonora recently completed her Master of Forestry degree at the Yale University where she focused on management planning for protected areas, silviculture, and forest and stand dynamics. Leonora also has international experience as a Fulbright Scholar in Brazil working on floodplain forestry with Amazonian river communities.

Sam Berry hired as Project Coordinator. Sam Berry brings a many seasons of wildfire and prescribed fire experience with the several US Forest Service National Forests, the Salmon River Restoration Council, and The Nature Conservancy. In addition to his fire experience, Sam has experience with community wildfire protection plans, oral histories, and noxious weeds.

Please contact Southwest Director Eytan Krasilovsky to learn more about the Forest Stewards Guild, 505-470-0185 or eytan@forestguild.org.

About the Forest Stewards Guild

The **Forest Stewards Guild** is a national organization of foresters, natural resource professionals, and supporters that practice and promote ecologically, economically, and socially responsible forestry as a means of sustaining the integrity of forest ecosystems and the human communities dependent upon them. www.forestguild.org

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