



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** March 1, 2022

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### **Forest Stewards Guild, The Ember Alliance, and collaborative partners to implement a broadcast burn at Cottonwood Gulch Basecamp as soon as March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022**

Santa Fe, NM – Forest Stewards Guild (the Guild) is partnering with The Ember Alliance, Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions, and a diverse group of collaborators to implement a broadcast burn lasting two or more days on up to 120 acres of private land in McKinley County beginning as soon as Thursday, March 10, 2022. Partners make up a fully fire-qualified burn team prepared to lead prescribed burns or support others in burning across a variety of land jurisdictions.

Cottonwood Gulch Expeditions is an outdoor education non-profit offering youth expeditions and adult treks rooted in the culture and landscape of the American Southwest. They have been an active land management partner in the Zuni Mountains for more than 15 years. Cottonwood Gulch has collaborated with the Guild to successfully implement cooperative prescribed burns on their land twice in the past, in 2015 and 2016.

Prescribed broadcast burns are part of a long-term process to make forests and watersheds more resilient to disturbances. Burning during the cool shoulder seasons of spring and fall allows land managers to reduce build-up of flammable litter and branches (hazardous fuels) from forest ecosystems before the fire season and protect communities from hazardous wildfires. These forests are adapted to fire and require recurrent low-intensity burns to remain healthy. Prescribed burning promotes forest health, safeguards water sources, improves habitat for wildlife, and protects nearby communities by mitigating the potential for future catastrophic wildfires.

The team will actively use emissions reduction techniques to minimize smoke impacts. They will do this in close coordination with local fire departments and air quality regulators. Potentially affected communities include Thoreau, Bluewater Acres, Bluewater Village, Grants, Prewitt, Milan, San Rafael, Coolidge, and Continental Divide.

Media, elected officials, and landowners interested in observing the burn are encouraged to contact Sam Berry as soon as possible to coordinate.

To find out more and stay up to date, visit <https://facnm.org/events>. More information on smoke, human health, and a HEPA Filter Loan Program can be accessed by visiting <https://facnm.org/smoke>. Learn more about Fire Adapted Communities New Mexico at [www.facnm.org](http://www.facnm.org).

**For more information call/text 541-816-6371**

The burn is supported by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Partners Program.

The Forest Stewards Guild is an equal opportunity provider.

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