

Connecting for Conservation



C4C Santa Fe

C4C Santa Fe Newsletter - Fall Issue

November 7, 2025

C4C SF Member,

As we move through this Fall season, we're excited to share updates on the network's upcoming events, projects, and resources to support collaboration and conservation efforts across the greater Santa Fe area. In the Fall edition, learn about the latest fire technology, explore new resources, and stay connected with the amazing work happening across our network.

Please enjoy the Fall edition of the C4C Santa Fe newsletter!

A message from C4C's coordinator, Berit Robnett:

I want to first thank you all for welcoming me into this network as the new coordinator for C4C Santa Fe, I'm looking forward to working along side this community! I'm thrilled to already be putting names to faces, receiving feedback, planning to meet you all one on one, and continuing to learn about New Mexico's rich environment. I'm here to provide resources, build community cohesion, and support this network in any way I can so please reach out if there is something you or your group might need in the future.

Introducing Group Highlights!

As we work to get C4C running in full swing again, I'm striving to create a network that gets to know one another on a deeper level. As the new coordinator, I'm looking forward to meeting everyone over the course of the next couple of

months. I want to add a personal element for this group and the opportunity to participate in a 1 on 1 interview with me to share with the network. This would be a great opportunity to let others in the network know who you are on a personal level, how you got involved with collaboration, where your group is today, and how we can work together. Not only would this build up our community, it would be an opportunity to reflect on your efforts in years to come! If this is of interest to you, or someone in your group, email me at berit.robnett@nmhu.edu.

Local, statewide, and regional news!

"New Mexico's Final Collaborative Forest Restoration Project Comes to an End"

October 15 2025, Rachel Bean, Forest Stewards Guild

What this means:

Over the past two decades, the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP) in New Mexico has worked to bring together communities, agencies, and organizations to restore forest health, reduce wildfire risk, and support local economies. This collaborative and community-based effort officially concluded after its last active award wrapped up in September 2025. In it's final major project, local leñero (wood-cutters) thinned forest stands in the Rio de Las Trampas Watershed focusing on training, supplying wood, engaging youth, and setting the stage for a new local initiative to take over.

Why this exists:

This effort primarily existed to address overgrown, fire-prone forest within local communities. The creation of this act of Congress in 2000 was set into motion to address these concerns through collaboration, community building, economic restoration, and overall restoring forest health. This project shows the importance of community effort and how working together can help to protect our changing environment!

[Learn more here](#)

Pictured below: Members of the Forest Stewards Youth Corps and RiverSource Youth Corps as they work to build erosion control structures. Image from The Forest Stewards Guild.



"Planned Interior layoffs could cripple limited New Mexico wildfire research"

October 30, 2025, Bryce Dix, KUNM Reporter

As this network is well aware, there are several key changes in our approach to forest restoration due to government implementation. The Department of the Interior has planned to lay off a plethora of employees nation wide, "the proposed layoffs will impact many different sectors under the Interior – including a sizable 57% reduction of staff at the U.S. Geological Survey's Fort Collins Science Center, which does scientific research for a slew of natural resource agencies." This article by Bryce Dix with KUNM highlights how these impacts have been effecting the southwest and where New Mexico stands in this process.

[Read the full article here](#)



"Flamin' bot: Los Alamos County debuts remote-controlled wildfire mitigation technology"

October 9, 2025, Alaina Mencinger, Santa Fe New Mexican Reporter

The Los Alamos County Fire Department has begun implementing a new technology to reduce hazardous vegetation across hard-to-access terrain. This is a remote-controlled fuel mitigation machine that allows for clearing and thinning of vegetation among crews to create defensible space and reduce wildfire risks for community members.

[Learn more here!](#)

Pictured above: Neil Gary working on fuel mitigation in Los Alamos. Photo sourced from Santa Fe New Mexican, taken by Michael G. Seamans.

Upcoming events and trainings...

Foundations of Water Education Teacher Workshop

The Santa Fe Watershed Association

The Santa Fe Watershed Association is hosting a foundations of water education teachers workshop **November 15, from 9am - 12pm in Santa Fe**. This workshop focuses on building a guide for teachers and educators involving water literacy. This includes exploring the water cycle through watershed based activities and community engagement.

To learn more and register, please visit: <https://www.santafewatershed.org>

Hands-On for the Land

Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance

Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance is hosting a volunteer day **November 15, from 9am - 4pm at Fort Union Ranch**. This opportunity allows for hands-on action to assist in the building of rock dams in Wolf Creek. Make sure to bring the right supplies to keep comfortable in the wet environment!

For more details and to contact information visit [Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance website](#).



HANDS-ON FOR THE LAND

FORT UNION RANCH VOLUNTEER DAY

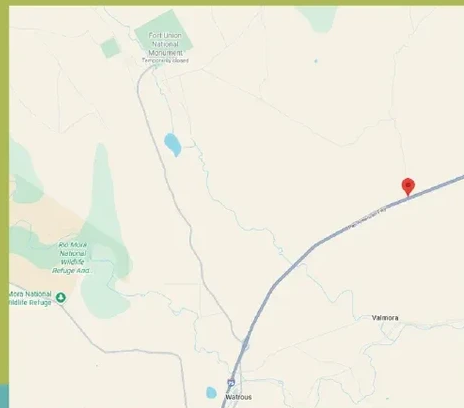
DATE: Saturday, November 15, 2025

TIME: 9:00am - 4pm

WHERE TO MEET: Fort Union Ranch Entrance (look for green balloons and HPWA Project sign)

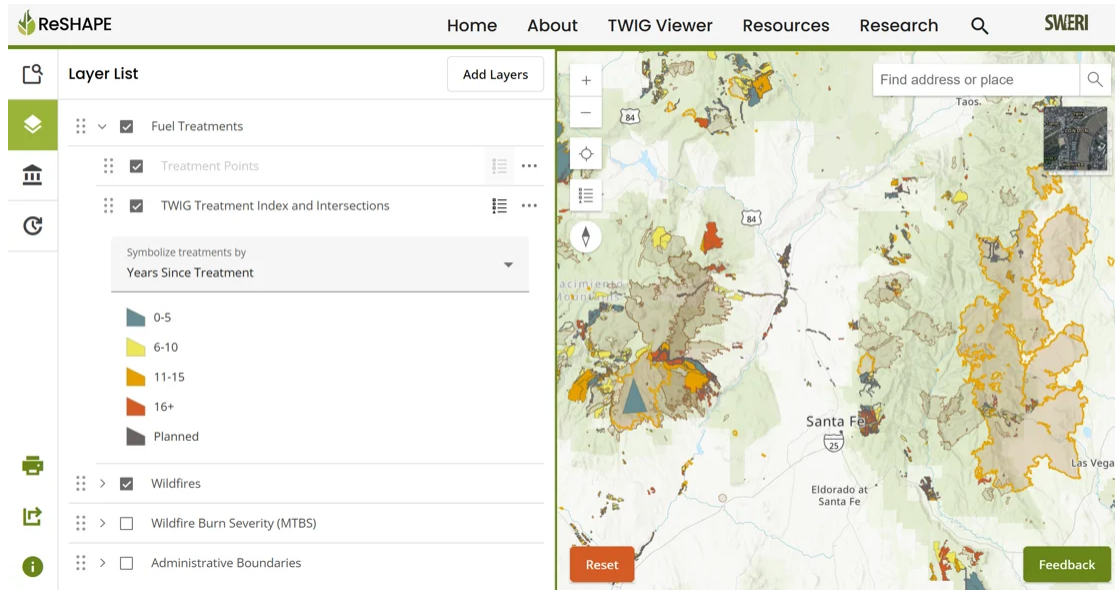
WHAT TO BRING: a hat, water bottle, lunch/snack, boots, and work gloves. We will provide the tools.

We are building one rock dams in Wolf Creek. You will be getting wet, so be prepared for that.



For more information, contact Renee Hernandez at 505-310-2612 or rhernandez@hermitspeakwatersheds.org

Highlighted resources...



Official launch of the Treatment and Wildfire Interagency Geodatabase

Southwest Ecological Restoration Institutes

The SWERI launched the Treatment and Wildfire Interagency Geodatabase (TWIG) viewer earlier last week, built by folks across the southwest including those at NMFWR. This geodatabase is a tool for data-driven evaluation and decision making. Accessibly is important in collaborative work, TWIG allows for a cross-boundary approach to information sharing with detail to user experience and an easy-to-navigate system.

"The Treatment and Wildfire Interagency Geodatabase (TWIG) is geodatabase of land management activities related to wildland fire and fuels management. TWIG primarily includes records of management activities intended to affect fuels and modify wildfire outcomes (treatments) but also includes records of management activities that were not intentional fuel treatments but may have affected fuels anyway (e.g., logging). TWIG aims to be the most comprehensive and easily accessible source of fuel-related land management activities in the United States."

Visit reshapewildfire.org to explore the site!

To learn more, [click here!](#)



Keep up to date with prescribed burns!

New Mexico Fire Information

With prescribed burn season in full swing, check out nmfireinfo.com to keep up with burn information and news across the state. Here are several key updates:

- At the end of October, the Forest Stewards Guild, TNC, local fire department members, and other partners completed ignitions of a broadcast prescribed fire in Black Lake.
- As of early November crews completed 209 acres of the 878 acre prescribed burn in the Holiday Mesa region. After these burn are complete, crews will monitor the area and complete the burn within the following several days.
- November 8th will start the process of a prescribed burn in the Mountainair Ranger District pending all required approvals. This burn spans across 2,012 acres within the Monzano Mountains, approximately 8 miles west of Mountainair.

Watch Duty App

Another great source for keeping up to date with burn information is on the Watch Duty app, downloadable off of the app store. This app allows for accessibility without a laptop or computer! This app is powered by real people giving real-time information and updates vetted by trained professionals.



Check out the website [here!](#)

Funding Opportunities...

Watershed Assistance Program

- NM Environment Department
- Deadline: November 15, 2025
- Up to \$75,000
- For projects improving: surface water quality, riparian or aquatic habitat
- Project term: 6–12 months

To learn more, [click here!](#)

Highlighted Job Posting...

Join the NMFWRI

New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute

Digital Content and Outreach Specialist

Click [here](#) to learn more and apply!



WE ARE HIRING!



Digital Content and Outreach Specialist

The New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute (NMFWR) at New Mexico Highlands University is hiring a Digital Content and Outreach Specialist to support web, media, and community outreach for forest and watershed conservation and our GIS projects. This role helps manage websites and digital content (WordPress, ArcGIS Hub, Adobe, Canva), creates accessible outreach materials, runs social media and newsletters, and engages with partners and communities through workshops, webinars, and events. We're seeking a strong communicator with skills in web design, digital media, and outreach.

Minimum qualifications: bachelor's degree in communications, digital media, natural resources, or related field, plus one year of experience.

Preferred qualifications: master's degree and three or more years of experience. Spanish proficiency is a plus.

This is a two-year, grant-funded position with hybrid work options. Candidates must live in New Mexico and be able to travel in-state and nationally. Benefits include health and retirement plans, tuition waivers, and extended holiday breaks. To apply, submit a resume, cover letter, unofficial transcripts, and examples of websites or web applications you have developed or supported.

Salary: \$55,000 – \$69,000 depending on experience



Our application system has changed!
Scan the new QR code to apply.



If you would like any events/resources/etc. to be featured in the next issue, please email us passing along the information or submit the details using this link: [C4C Information Request Form](#)

Thank you,
Berit Robnett and the NMFWR Collaboration Team

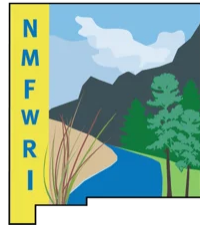
Know anyone that might benefit from joining the C4C Santa Fe?

Join our newsletter here:

<https://share.hsforms.com/1-ZnbEkuDQPe195ep48UUYggfubg>

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To remove yourself from this mailing list, please email fwricollaboration@nmhu.edu or interact with the "unsubscribe" button at the bottom of the page.



**New Mexico
Forest and Watershed
Restoration Institute**

New Mexico Highlands University

New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute (NMFWR I), New Mexico
Highlands University, Las Vegas, New Mexico

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