

Connecting for Conservation



C4C Santa Fe

C4C Santa Fe Newsletter - Spring Issue

April 28, 2026

C4C SF Member,

Spring has sprung, and so have my allergies! I hope everyone is surviving the wind and heat from the start of Spring, I know I'm hoping for some cooler, wetter days. We are excited to share updates on the network's upcoming events, projects, and resources to support collaboration and conservation efforts across the greater Santa Fe region. In this edition, please enjoy our very first group highlight, upcoming events, and some local and regional news!

As always, email me at berit.robnett@nmhu.edu with any comments, questions, or submissions!

Get to know Mori Hensley with the Santa Fe Watershed Association!

And mark your calendars for Love Your Watershed Day:

Saturday, May 2nd

11:00am-2:00pm

De Vargas Park, Santa Fe

I'm honored to present our first group highlight, Mori Hensley with the Santa Fe Watershed Association! Over the past several months serving as an AmeriCorps VISTA, I've been working to build relationships and connect with partners across the state. I got the opportunity to talk with Mori this past week, we dove into some personal background, what collaboration means, how we can continue these efforts,

and to highlight the Associations upcoming event on May 2nd, **Love Your Watershed Day**.

Please enjoy!

What would you like people to know about you?

Mori describes herself as a collaborator and partner who cares deeply about this land and community with a primary focus on building resilience for us all through stewardship.

As a third generation New Mexican, how has that influenced you as an individual and the work you've done?

Hensley has deep roots in New Mexico, "both sides of my family settled in New Mexico from the Santa Fe trail." She emphasized the history of her family, escaping from Europe, and with that, "came pain and complexity of violence but rootedness and hope through it all." Hensley brings a nuanced approach and understanding to the land, "the land and water are a guide and a teacher for healing and reconciling." Through the years of care and familial history, it's clear Mori holds New Mexico and it's land, community, water, and everything in between, close to heart.

Can you tell me about your experience in India, what drew you to focus on human-wildlife conflicts and studying conservation?

"I've always been in love with the Earth, I loved being outside growing up."

Mori reminisced with me about her introduction to the environment, "I didn't travel much growing up besides books and the Discovery Channel." She noted that travel was an important journey she had yet to take, and having close connection to the Tibetan community, made her way to India to continue her college experience.

"I did a lot of studying abroad and field courses. I always knew I wanted to study the environment. The programs and professors steered me in the direction of conservation and ecology—it's a very holistic way of understanding the world around us which appealed to me."

Studying abroad in India brought on a new adventure for Mori, allowing her to experience a "very different and foreign place but also familiar because of those relationships that were already there, it gave me a stepping stone to that landscape."

Mori described this experience with fondness and appreciation, "it was super meaningful but I was struck with the similarities with New Mexico. The longer I spent there I felt committed to going back to the place that raised me. I was able to apply those complexities from India to New Mexico. It felt important to come back to my home town."

How or why did you get involved in so many collaboration efforts? What does collaboration mean to you?

Hensley reflected on their time with the Santa Fe Watershed Association, "well I think it just kind of happened, that's how it's felt to me. Community and collaboration has been a foundation for Mori along with SFWA, "the legacy of the Association is rooted in collaboration and it has been a core identity of its existence so I stepped into that as I joined."

Through lived experiences, Hensley mentioned the concept of interdependence as a central part of her. One of the first projects Mori approached, the Stakeholder Assessment, she found her focus on community resilience after working with the Utah State University. From this study, Mori expanded on their findings about the watershed community, "the watershed community is very siloed and these silos aren't interacting much which is impacting the resilience of community... the amount of interaction stakeholders and parties are having, this was kind of part of my mission with the idea, being a collaboration catalyst. Not just the bland emails, letters of support, CC's, but what does deep collaboration mean over time, how can that be rooted in trust and a shared vision even with tension and disagreements. How do we move forward and work together as one with the land."

Mori closed out her response with the idea of working within systems we have come to be familiar with, "I really see collaboration as radical resistance, the systems that we have to operate in are built to keep us apart, they are built to silo us and sever us from each other and the land. That is how the power is maintained. Something

as simple and obvious as collaboration can be so radical. That is what helps keep us motivated. This is the work that really matters."

What has that process looked like going from a program coordinator in 2019 to the director since 2022?

As Mori collected their thoughts, she began her response with pride and warmth, keying into the culture of the SFWA, "it's funny, a lot of long and convoluted stories but also very sweet and ones I'm proud of." Starting her position prior to covid, Mori initially believed her time with the Association would only hold her over to the next thing, "I started a few months before covid, I ended up not looking for other jobs but felt so lucky to have this perfect balance to survive covid with a job that was pretty chill with a good and supportive team. I ended up not leaving and that gave me the time to start getting to know the organization and legacy."

Mori continued to reflect on her time as Executive Director, highlighting the togetherness and intimacy of the group, "I stepped into the role due to the team, everyone was taking on new roles and a shared leadership structure. I wouldn't have wanted to become executive director in a different way. This is and continues to be a team and collaborative process. We try to be intentional about how we exist in a non-profit space. It's been interesting and surprising for me to see myself fulfill roles I never thought I would."

"I'm pretty proud of what we do together," concluded Mori's reflection of her journey with the Association.

The Santa Fe Watershed Association has a very special, annual event coming up on May 2nd, Love Your Watershed Day. Would you tell me about the event?

The SFWA is hosting it's fourth annual celebration of the Santa Fe watershed. Mori began with her appreciation for the incredible watershed system, "it's what sustains us, and our community, making it evermore welcoming and inspiring... we all depend on the watershed, the watershed depends on us."

This year, the SFWA has partnered not only with the city but the city Fire Department to bring this together, "the theme is collaboration." Normally, the first Saturday in May hosts a national event, Wildfire Preparedness Day, in which the

Santa Fe City Fire Department has organized years prior. This year, the two events have been conjoined to bring together an exciting, multidimensional occurrence full of education, family-friendly events, and community. Mori shared her excitement to join forces with City Fires to "cross promote the interconnectiveness of fire and water."

"I'm hoping that people of the community can come together and hang out, learn something new, and connect. We have a lot of community tables and educational activities. There will be something to learn, to do, and appreciate no matter your age. It's a welcome party and family reunion. We know that we need celebration to stay motivated and organized."

The SFWA is hosting a river clean up to encourage hands on activities as well, from 10am to 12pm.

Mori also stressed multi-cultural aspects, the celebration of Patron Saint of Agriculture, "there is a blessing of the water and acequias in mid May... we wanted to symbolically contribute to the blessing in a way we could through cleanup in preparation for this traditional day."

What has been the process to organize and successfully carry out an event like this? Do you have any success stories or lessons learned you would want to share?

Mori shared her experience post-covid, "so much about how to engage with the community had changed." She expressed how past events, such as Love Your River, had been successful but the Association struggled to keep the momentum after covid. However, this was not an end to the efforts but rather a new challenge to overcome by the Association, "we wanted to brainstorm how to reconfigure this event... we decided to change the name and move the event to a warmer month, we wanted to educate people about watershed. We are in a watershed and everything we are doing impacts that shed and the rivers of course. It physically connects us, we are all connected to it and there is something for everyone." Mori highlighted the importance of interconnectedness with the community and the land, "there is a part of the land special to everyone so we are deepening the stewardship."

Not only is this event made possible by the community, but also through the amazing partnerships across the region. Mori expressed gratitude for those that come together to make it happen, “we work very collaboratively together, they are such a core piece... we make a great team and that’s what makes the event great.” She notes that the event is still a work in progress but they couldn’t be more grateful for the partnerships.

What does Love Your Watershed mean to you?

"I think it's a reminder to love the world around us and that love is a very important ingredient with stewardship and collaboration. In order to find those pieces you love and what motivated us is important. It's very exciting to see what other people love in the watershed which gives comfort and inspiration. There are a lot of people who deeply love the Santa Fe watershed. It's so special and energizing to have a day where we can celebrate the love we have for our watershed."

Is there anything else you want people to know about you or the Love Your Watershed Day event?

Mori emphasized the Watershed Associations continual work, “this is just one event that we have... we are always looking to build new connections and continue being stewards.” Hensley welcomes anyone and everyone to get involved!

Please visit <https://www.santafewatershed.org/> to learn more about the Santa Fe Watershed Association and connect with Mori!

Want to be our next group highlight?

Email me at berit.robnett@nmhu.edu or fill out this short [form](#).

Local, statewide, and regional news!

"Santa Fe National Forest Enters Stage 1 Fire Restrictions "

April 1, 2026, Claudia Brookshire, Santa Fe Forest Service

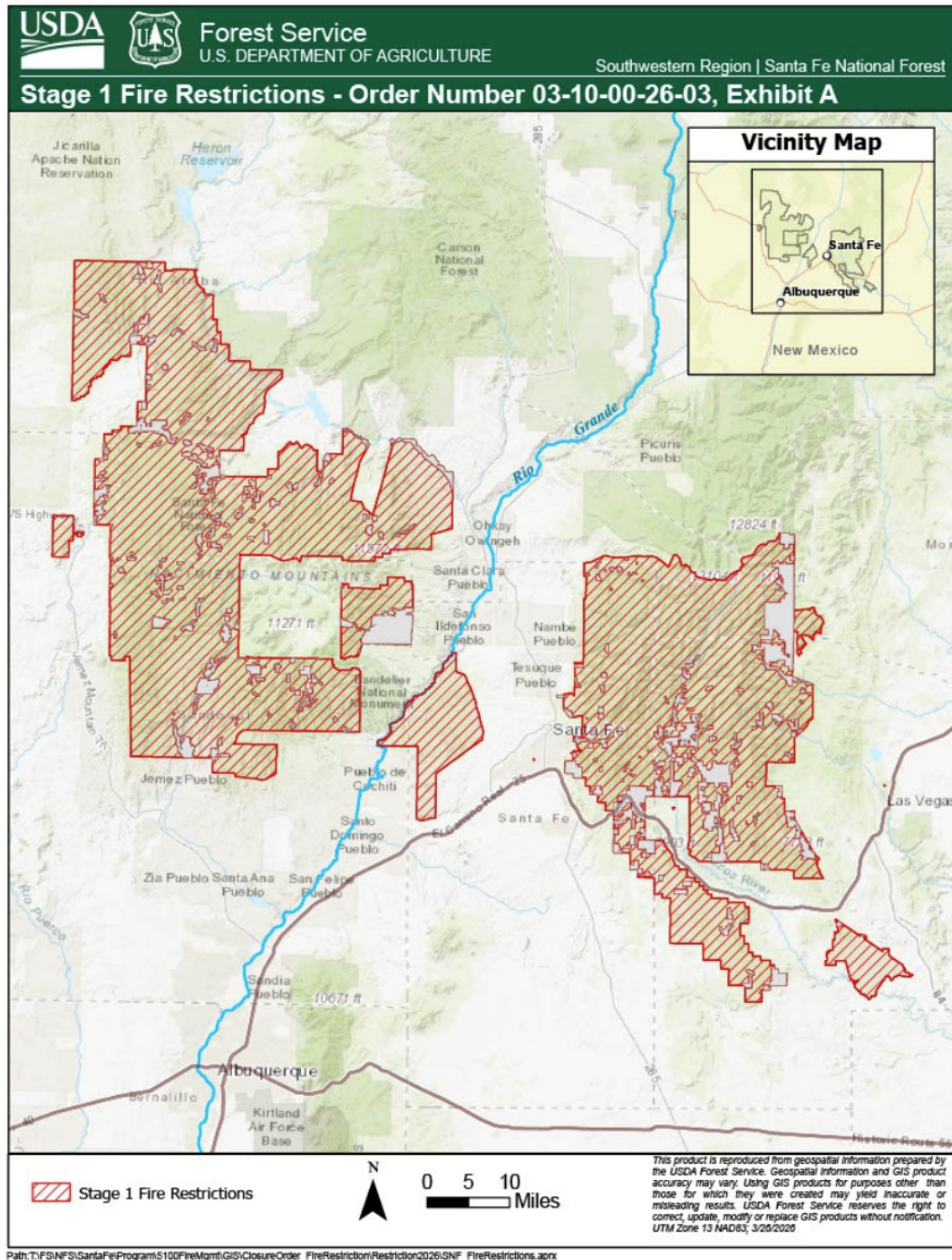
Stage 1 Fire Restrictions are to take place from April 2nd 2026, through September 30,2026. These restrictions are based on various factors, including capacity, weather conditions, moisture levels, and time of year. The goal is to protect our forests and public safety through preventing human-caused wildfires.

Prohibitions of Stage 1 Fire Restrictions:

- Building, maintaining, or using fire *outside* of a designated fire ring or grill provided by the Forest Service in designated recreation areas.
- Smoking *outside* of enclosed vehicles or buildings and developed recreation sites.

These restrictions will help us to protect our forests and communities in the days to come. For more information, visit the [USDA website](#).

Fire Restrictions map pictured below: Sourced from USDA Forest Service.



"Tusas Fire grows to estimated 150 acres in northern New Mexico"

April 23, 2026, Jonathan Fjeld, KOB News

In San Miguel County, Tuscas Fire has grown to an estimated 150 acres after being discovered on Wednesday evening. At the time of reporting, the fire is 0% contained and grew from 50-75 acres in size with no word on what has caused the fire.

"A New Mexico Forestry Division Type-3 ad-hoc team took over the fire at around 6 p.m. They worked overnight on the initial attack and to protect threatened structures. Crews will work Thursday to establish containment lines as state, local and federal resources are fighting with full suppression tactics to ensure threatened structures don't burn."

A shelter is available for those in need at the Abe Montoya Rec Center, at 1751 N. Grand Ave., in Las Vegas, New Mexico.

I'm hoping for everyone's safety and well being, as always feel free to reach out to me.

[Read the full article here.](#)

Update: Containment is up to 79%, as of Sunday, April 26.

"Santa Fe County and Edgewood strike new fire and EMS deal"

April 21, 2026, Nakayla McClelland, Albuquerque Journal

The Edgewood community has reached an agreement with the Santa Fe County to continue fire and emergency medical services to the town. This process began "after Edgewood commissioners announced they would terminate a longstanding contract... In late March, Edgewood commissioners announced the town would stop receiving EMS and fire services from SFCFD come June 30 following a legal battle over purported delinquent payments that caused commissioners to question if the agreement was fair."

Community members have spoken of frustration and feeling left out of the loop. The agreement is still in the process as "Santa Fe County and Edgewood will have to vote on the agreement to put it in place and both parties agreed that they would not vote until the agreement had been available for the public to review for one week."

The community is actively working for a resolution, including begin the discussion of establishing its own volunteer fire department over the next decade.

Read more [here!](#)

Upcoming events and trainings...

Love Your Watershed Day & National Wildfire Preparedness Day: Ready, Set, Go!

*Santa Fe Watershed Association partnering with the
City of Santa Fe's Fire Department*

When: Saturday, **May 2** from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM

Where: De Vargas Park, 302 W De Vargas St, Santa Fe, NM 87501

Join the Santa Fe Watershed Association for their fourth annual Love Your Watershed Day! This event is about connecting with community partners, sharing family-friendly educational activities, and sharing your experience with the land and watershed. There will be 36 tabling partners this year, the Watershed Association's largest yet. Some partners include: Albuquerque Wildlife Federation, Bike Santa Fe, League of Women Voters, NM Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute, and many many more!

Along with the tabling activities and educational events, there will be a **hands on river clean up** from 10:00 AM through 12:00 PM. Following the park activities and river cleanup, continue the conversation at **Christ Church** (1213 Don Gaspar Avenue) for a **panel discussion** focused on wildfire preparedness and community resilience from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM.

To learn more, please visit the [Santa Fe Watershed Association's](#) website.



MAY 2

YOUR WATERSHED DAY

**11am-2pm | De Vargas Park
302 W De Vargas St.**

- ♥ LIVE MUSIC by Partizani Brass Band
- ♥ FREE BIKE VALET provided by Bike Santa Fe
- ♥ 10am-12pm: De Vargas Park RIVER CLEANUP led by Trash Pandas & the Rotary Club of Santa Fe
- ♥ FUN EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES hosted by community partners
- ♥ Pupuseria Chalateca's FOOD TRUCK

WILDFIRE COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS DAY READY SET GO!

**3-6pm | Christ Church
1213 Don Gaspar Ave. (Enter on Cordova)**

- ♥ 3-5pm: WORKSHOP SESSIONS
 - Wildfire Prepared Home Program: learn how to certify your home as wildfire prepared
 - Make your own starter kit: Go-Kit giveaway to the first 50 attendees
 - SimTable: run a wildfire simulation in your neighborhood!
- ♥ 5-6pm: PANEL DISCUSSION on prescribed fires in Santa Fe: updates & rules for controlled burning. Learn the who, what, when, where & why

JOIN US FOR A DAY ALL ABOUT WATER & FIRE

Make a day of it at DeVargas Park from 11am-2pm for this free, family-friendly community event featuring interactive booths, hands-on activities, and wildfire preparedness resources. You can also take part in a river cleanup from 10am-noon. Then, join us for a workshop on wildfire preparedness and community resilience at Christ Church starting at 3pm.

Don't miss the Go-Kit giveaway to the first 50 attendees! For more info scan QR codes or visit:



santafewatershed.org/lywd-2026



ready.santafenm.gov/pages/prepare



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SPONSORS
Santa Fe Fireshed Coalition, Christ Church Santa Fe, Forest Stewards Guild, Office of the Superintendent of Insurance, SimTable, US Forest Service. With support from the National Fire Protection Association and State Farm.

Watershed Social | Make Watershed Connections

Hermits Peak Watershed Alliance

When: Thursday **April, 30** from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Where: Sapello Fire Station, 423 NM-94, Sapello, NM 87745

Join Hermits Peak Watershed Alliance this Thursday for their monthly watershed social! At this event, speak with the people restoring our forests and rivers, including

discussions on post-wildfire watershed restoration in Northern New Mexico, why watershed health matters, and learn about opportunities to support your community and watershed.

For more details, please visit: <https://hermitspeakwatersheds.org/>



WATERSHED SOCIAL & MAKE WATERSHED CONNECTIONS

Meet People Restoring our Forests and Rivers

LOCATION: SAPELLO FIRE STATION
DATE: APRIL 30, 2026
TIME: 5:00 - 7:00PM

- **REBUILD THE LAND**
Post-Fire Watershed Restoration in Northern New Mexico
- **PROTECT WHAT FLOWS DOWNSTREAM**
Why Watershed Health Matters
- **JOIN THE WORK**
Summer Jobs • Internships • Volunteer Opportunities
- **LEARN ABOUT SUMMER JOBS**
Get your boots dirty. Build your career.

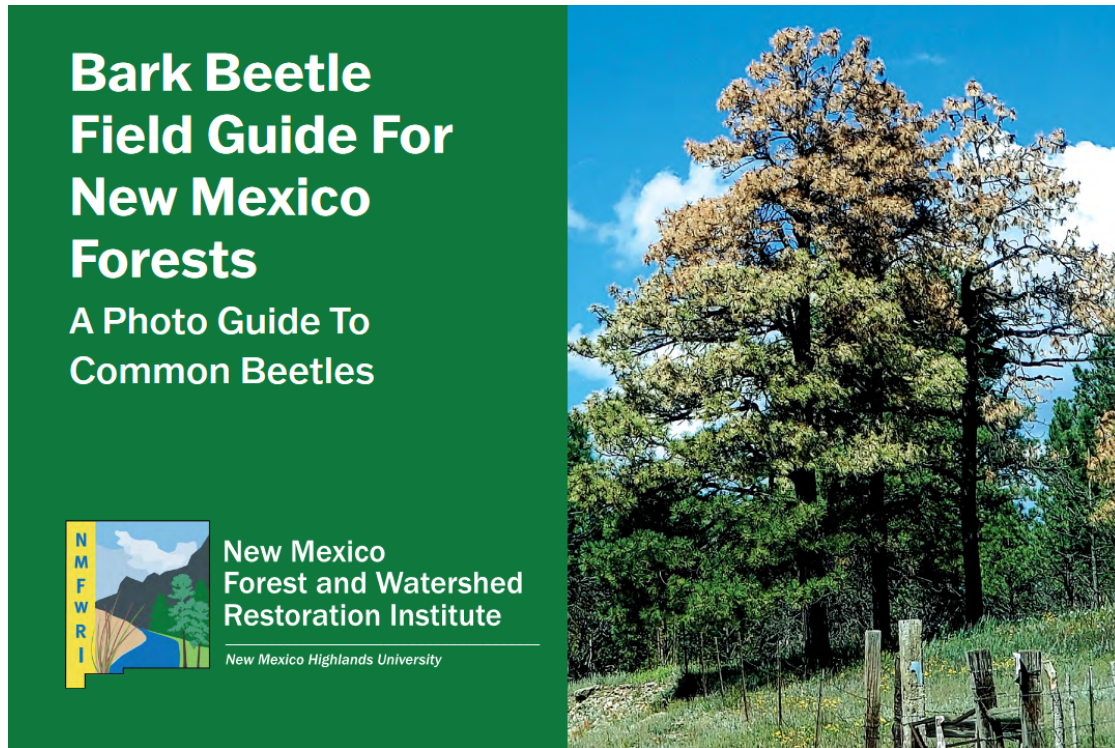


Enjoy some refreshments and visit

The Hermit's Peak Watershed Alliance (HPWA) works to protect and restore the ecological and cultural heritage of watersheds in the Hermit's Peak region through ecological restoration, environmental education and community action.

WWW.HERMITSPEAKWATERSHEDS.ORG FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT JACOB ERICKSON: 1-505-718-8403

Highlighted Resources...



Bark Beetle Field Guide

New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institutes

The NMFWR I has published an updated bark beetle field guide for New Mexico. This guide highlights common bark beetles among Juniper, Pines, Douglas-Fir, White Fir, Corkbark Fir, and Spruces. This book is filled with photographs to help with identification and showcases how these beetle interact within our forests.

Click here to view the [Bark Beetle Field Guide](#).

The Institute has resources on the signs and symptoms of bark beetles as well. This guide varies from the field guide, highlighting the signs and symptoms identification.

Click here to view the [Bark Beetle Signs and Symptoms Guide](#).



Keep up to date with prescribed burns!

New Mexico Fire Information

Check out nmfireinfo.com to keep up with burn information and news across the state. Here are several key updates:

- April 27, 2026 - [Gila National Forest Hummingbird Fire Update](#)
- April 26, 2026 - [Tusas Fire Final Update](#)
- April 9, 2026- [Prescribed Burn Today - Wild Horse Community Slash Pit](#)

Highlighted Job Posting...

District Forester

EMNRD (#5336)

The District Forester is responsible for coordinating and directing the implementation of forest and watershed management and protection activities on New Mexico's non-federal, non-municipal and non-tribal lands in the counties of Socorro, Hidalgo, Luna, Dona Ana, Sierra, Catron, Grant in New Mexico. This is a Socorro based position.

Qualifications:

Bachelor's degree from an accredited college or university in any field and four (4) years of relevant experience in this occupation. Any combination of education from an accredited college or university and/or related experience in this occupation totaling eight (8) years may substitute for the required education and experience.

Deadline to apply is May 5.

Take a look [here!](#)

Join our team at NMFWRI!

New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute

Join us at the NMFWRI! Here are several openings:

[Digital Content and Outreach Specialist](#)

Minimum requirement: Bachelor's degree in Communications, Digital Media, Natural Resources, Geography/GIS, or related field.

Experience: 1 years' professional experience in outreach, graphic or website design, or related discipline.

Hybrid work. Travel required. Must live in New Mexico.

Salary range: \$55,000-\$69,000 DOE

[Ecological Monitoring Crew Lead](#)

Minimum requirement: BS in a natural resources field or equivalent experience and familiarity with ecological monitoring

Experience: At least 2 field seasons' experience on a field crew.

Travel required.

Salary range: \$50,523.20 – \$59,000.00 DOE

[Monitoring Technician](#) (Seasonal)

Requires BS in Natural Resources or equivalent experience; and familiarity with ecological monitoring.

Pay: \$18.76/hr+ DOE

[Monitoring Technician Aide](#)

Must be **currently enrolled** at NMHU as sophomore, junior or senior

Pay: \$14.50-\$16.50/hr DOE

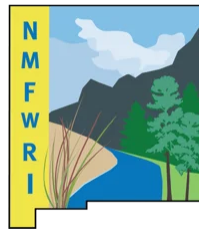
If you would like any events/resources/etc. to be featured in the next issue, please email us passing along the information or submit the details using this link: [C4C Information Request Form](#)

Thank you,
Berit Robnett and the NMFWR I Collaboration Team

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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.



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