

**Rio de las Trampas Watershed Restoration Phase I: State Trust Lands “Trampas-NMSLO CFRP”  
Implementation of Savanna and Woodland Restoration on State Trust Land in Cañoncito**

**INVITATION TO POTENTIAL CONTRACTORS AND WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS TO THE  
2015 Rio Trampas Watershed Restoration Competition**

**Ecotone**

Conservation Planning  
for Landscapes in Transition



**forest GUILD**

## What is this about?

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Forest Guild, the New Mexico State Land Office (NMSLO), and a diverse array of collaborators will implement forest and watershed restoration treatments across approximately 450 acres in the Rio de las Trampas (Rio Trampas) watershed in north-central New Mexico from 2014 – 2017 with funding from the Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP). This will occur in piñon-juniper shrubland, woodland, and ponderosa pine cover types. One component of the project is the ecological restoration of two small watersheds with piñon-juniper woodland across approximately 50 acres of State Trust Lands east of Dixon, NM. In this area, soil and water conservation techniques will be combined with lop and scatter woodland thinning to enhance the ecological health of two drainages, alluvial bottomlands, and drier uplands. This work will complement arroyo stabilization and woodland thinning already accomplished in 2013.

During the week of April 27-May 1, 2015, Forest Guild, in collaboration with Ecotone and NMSLO will organize the **2015 Rio Trampas Watershed Restoration Competition**. This proposed workshop & competition aims to combine several objectives: training of young professionals, offering educational outreach to residents, establishing land restoration demo projects, selecting a contractor, and completing the restoration work. During the workshop & competition week, we will select a contractor and train local people who would like to learn in-depth watershed restoration techniques. The workshop & competition week will also serve to offer educational outreach to local farmers and residents about planned land restoration in the area. The workshop is free of charge, but certain selection criteria apply for interested participants and contestants. **The winner of the workshop will qualify to enter into a final contract award selection process for the completion of restoration work across the entire 50-acre State Trust Land parcel.**

## Workshop & Competition Details

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Established watershed and forest restoration contractors and persons interested in learning about watershed and forest restoration (apprentices) are invited to team up in pairs to enter into the workshop & competition. Only up to seven teams will be selected to participate in the workshop & competition based on selection criteria described below.

The workshop will offer the following **benefits**:

- ❖ Thorough training, free of charge, in watershed and woodland restoration techniques according to daily exercises and daily feedback by a jury of regional expert professionals
- ❖ Opportunities to get to know colleagues (experienced professionals and apprentices) in the field of watershed, forest and woodland restoration, and to prepare for future collaborative work
- ❖ Opportunities to show quality of work and gain specific experience in a real work setting
- ❖ The chance to win the competition and get selected for the final implementation contract

**Up to seven teams** of interested workshop & competition participants will be selected based on which teams best meet the following **requirements**:

- ❖ Participants have experience with watershed and forest restoration work, including operating a chain saw (e.g. S-212 or Forest Worker Safety Certification class completion)
- ❖ Participants need to be available for the entire week (no exceptions)
- ❖ Participants need to bring their own tools, equipment, and personal protective equipment
- ❖ Participants work in pairs, consisting of one contractor and one apprentice, or two apprentice-level participants
- ❖ Participants participate on their own risk and need to have a valid car insurance policy
- ❖ Participants adhere to good workmanship and sportsmanship regarding the competitive nature of the work, and follow common rules of careful and respectful conduct
- ❖ Participants agree that jury feedback and decisions are final and non-contestable
- ❖ Participants agree to be filmed, photographed, or to be interviewed, and that the products from such activities could be used for publication, publicity and educational purposes
- ❖ Participants agree that any and all of their work is going to be made available in the public domain; no claims of intellectual property of creative work produced during the workshop will be accepted.

The selected winners will be offered the opportunity to negotiate a contract for the completion of the restoration work. **The contract amount is not to exceed \$15,000.** The Scope of Work for watershed restoration completion is described in a separate document and aims at offering the best quality of work across the landscape for a set fee rather than the lowest fee for a set scope.

## Contract Requirements

To be considered for a contract, the winning contestants must:

- ❖ Have a general business liability insurance, Workers Compensation insurance, and valid car insurance.
- ❖ Be a registered business in the State of New Mexico
- ❖ Be willing, if deemed necessary by Forest Guild, to complete, refine, and upscale their restoration work plan produced in the workshop & competition week to create a final scope of work that shows how the plan applies across the entire 50 acres, and enter into negotiations with Forest Guild to reach agreement on the final scope of work
- ❖ Adhere to Forest Guild's contracting specifications (sample contracts available upon request).

## The Workshop & Competition Program

- Workshop & competition teams will each be given a plot of approx. 1.5 acres, which includes patches of at least three terrain types: woodland, grassy patch, and eroded area.
- Each day, teams will get a set of three exercises with a specific theme or combination of themes, including:
  - A conceptual-planning exercise (about 2 hours)
  - A technical-structural exercise (1-2 hours)
  - A comprehensive restoration challenge (3 hours)
- Each exercise has a time limit and a specific set of instructions, and will be evaluated based on evaluation criteria (see below), including meeting specifications within the set time limits.
- Jury members and other project officials may tour the area at any time to check on work performed, ask questions, and give feedback.
- Jury members will review and score work at the end of each exercise.
- At the end of each day, jury members will offer feedback in a gathering of all participants and announce a Star Watershed Restorationist (winner) of the day.
- At the end of the week, during a festive public outreach event, jury members will critique the work of each team and select the Overall Watershed Restorationist (winner) of the week.
- A written overview of the exercises will be handed out and verbally clarified in advance of each work day.
- Daily, the public is invited to tour the site in the afternoon and learn about the restoration work and listen to the evaluations of the day.
- The workshop & competition emulates land restoration and stewardship planning conditions with a scarcity of resources as is common in many rural conditions. The workshop results are therefore relevant for replication by private landowners who need to work under limited budget conditions or by land management agencies that work across large landscapes with budget limitations per acre.

- Participants need to use local supplies. There will be no supplies brought in, except a cubic yard (approx. 1.3 ton) of rock for each plot.
- NMSLO and other partners may mobilize photographers and videographers to document the entire workshop week or parts of it, including details of work done by each team and the jury evaluation sessions. Videos and photographs will be posted on websites (and other social media) and may be used in project presentations and for targeted educational outreach.
- Participants are invited to prepare before the workshop in any manner that they feel is necessary and appropriate for their participation.
- The emphasis of the workshop is on sharing innovative, creative solutions, educating each other and the public, and making watershed restoration fun!

### **Allowed and Appropriate Techniques**

Workshop & competition participants will be allowed to use only a limited set of appropriate bio-technical erosion control techniques. The use of prescribed fire, motorized vehicles, heavy equipment or horses will not be allowed. Allowed techniques include cutting or trimming of vegetation (all cut material needs to stay on site, and all felling needs to leave stumps of 5 inches or less; all pruning needs to leave short stumps), lop & scatter, mulching, transplanting, rock work (e.g., one-rock-dams, Zuni bowls, rock rundowns, contour rock lines, and revetments), posts, pickets, earth works, root wads, and logs.

### **A Typical Workshop Day Program**

8:30	Kick off of the day with brief instructions for the conceptual/planning exercise
10:00	Time-limited technical exercise
11:30	Evaluation of morning session and lunch
1:00 or 1:30	Kick off of comprehensive restoration challenge
4:00 or 4:30	End of day evaluation gathering/tour of plots
5:00 or 5:30	Instructions for the next day and adjourn

## Workshop & Competition Evaluation

Daily, jury members will evaluate participants' work based on the following criteria and based on observations (visual cues) and touch (feeling how stable structures are by stepping on them touching them, etc.):

1. Did participants accomplish the objectives of the exercise and deliver a complete project within the set time limits?
2. Is the work technically sound and does it exhibit good workmanship? (e.g., is it stable, well-built, well-executed, effectively retaining soil and slowing water, etc.)

3. Is the choice of techniques and materials at that site ecologically appropriate? (e.g., enhancing ecological diversity and resilience of the site)
4. How innovative and creative are the technical solutions and the work delivered? (creative details and/or new ideas for application of techniques and materials)
5. How artistically and beautifully accomplished? (blended in, groomed, visually attractive in the natural context)
6. Replicable and practical? (could this easily be done by others, local people, with local materials, or scaled up for a larger area)

Jury members will include Jan-Willem Jansens of Ecotone and one or two additional professionals on a daily rotating basis. Additional jury members will probably include staff of the NMSLO and Forest Guild, or an independent expert professional.

## Where to get More Information or Apply to Participate?

Forest Guild is collaborating with Ecotone of Santa Fe to implement the **2015 Rio Trampas Watershed Restoration Competition**. For more information, please contact Jan-Willem Jansens of Ecotone at [jwjansens@gmail.com](mailto:jwjansens@gmail.com) or 505-470-2531.

Applications are due on Friday March 27 at 5:00 pm. To apply, please fill out the application form that is available at: <http://www.forestguild.org/RioTrampasWatershed>. Selected participants will be notified by Friday April 3.

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# APPLICATION FORM

## 2015 Rio Trampas Watershed Restoration Competition

**Ecotone**

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### Personal Information

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Each team member needs to apply individually.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTRACTOR: \_\_\_\_\_ APPRENTICE: \_\_\_\_\_ (Tick the characterization that best fits you)

CONTRACTOR LICENSE # (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

PHYSICAL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TOWN, STATE, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

I PLAN TO TEAM UP WITH: \_\_\_\_\_

## Motivation

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I am interested in applying to participate in the **2015 Rio Trampas Watershed Restoration Competition** because:

## Certifications

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Fill out the blanks in the following questions and tick off each item to certify that you agree with the following requirements for being considered in the application process:

- I have \_\_\_\_\_ years of experience with watershed and forest restoration work.
- I have \_\_\_\_\_ years of experience operating a chain saw.
- I have - have not (cross out what does not apply) successfully completed a S-212 or Forest Worker Safety Certification class, on (date) \_\_\_\_\_.
- I certify that I will be available for the entire workshop week.
- I will bring my own tools, equipment, and personal protective equipment.
- I acknowledge that I will participate on my own risk.
- I certify that I have a valid New Mexico car insurance policy.
- I promise that I will adhere to good workmanship and sportsmanship regarding the competitive nature of the work, and follow common rules of careful and respectful conduct.
- I agree that jury feedback and decisions are final and non-contestable.
- I agree with being filmed, photographed, or interviewed, and that the products from such activities could be used for publication, publicity and educational purposes.
- I agree that any and all of my work is going to be made available in the public domain and that I shall not make any claims of intellectual property of creative work produced by me during the workshop.