



For Immediate Release
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Southwestern Region Forest Service/University of New Mexico/Bosque School Receive National Honors

Albuquerque, NM – November 2, 2012 – The Southwestern Region of the Forest Service is pleased to announce that a Forest Service partnership with the University of New Mexico and Bosque School have been selected as one of the recipients of the 2012 Forest Service Chief's Awards.

Alicia San Gil, Biological Scientist, Cooperative & International Forestry in the Forest Service Regional Office, Kim Eichhorst, Associate Research Professor, University of New Mexico and Dan Shaw, Bosque School Co-Director of the Ecological Monitoring Program, are the recipients of the 2012 Chief's Award for Engaging Urban America.

These individuals were recognized for their outstanding success in educating and enlightening citizens of their role in helping to sustain ecosystems. The Bosque Ecosystem Monitoring Program (BEMP) is a joint effort coordinated by the University of New Mexico's (UNM) Long Term Ecological Research (LTER) network and Bosque School. Through this project, citizen and student groups accept responsibility for gathering long-term data related to the overall condition of the forest ecosystem (known locally by its Spanish name "bosque") located along New Mexico's most prominent river, the Rio Grande. BEMP has been a critical partner on several Collaborative Forest Restoration Projects funded by the Forest Service.

Annually, over 5000 K-12 students and their teachers from 40 different schools, as well as citizen volunteers, collect data relevant to the long-term management of Bosque functioning. Participating students have won local, state, and national science fairs and competitions.