



## EROSION CONTROL PILOT PROJECT IN THE PLACITAS OPEN SPACE

An innovative project is getting underway in the Placitas Open Space, a 560-acre natural area managed by the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division. Located in the lower Las Huertas watershed, the area is popular with hikers, birders and wildflower enthusiasts and part of a crucial wildlife corridor between the Sandia and Jemez Mountains.

**What.** Through a grant from the NM Soil and Water Commission, the Coronado Soil and Water Conservation District will begin a one-year restoration project in the Placitas Open Space in Fall 2015. Our project partners include the City of Albuquerque Open Space Division, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, and local permaculture experts.

**Why.** Years of drought and overgrazing have degraded the soils and native vegetation in the Placitas Open Space. Subsequent erosion has damaged semi-riparian areas along Las Huertas Creek, caused flooding of nearby subdivisions, and degraded the area's natural ecology.

**How.** A small group of volunteers will be trained to apply simple, hands-on permaculture methods to a two-acre demonstration site. To ensure minimal ecological impact, only hand tools will be used. Berms, straw-filled "sponge pockets" and reseeding with native grasses will be used to stabilize slopes, slow run-off, and enhance moisture retention.

The site will be monitored to document and gauge the success of these innovative permaculture methods in stabilizing the soil and restoring native vegetation.



Students at a workshop on the Placitas Open Space creating a berm along a contour.

**Volunteer!** Adult and youth volunteers will be needed to participate in trainings, work parties, and site monitoring. A call for volunteers will go out in August via newspaper and radio announcements. If interested in being a project volunteer, please contact Carolyn Kennedy, Coronado SWCD District Manager, at 505.867.2853 or [info@coronadoswcd.org](mailto:info@coronadoswcd.org).

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