



Joseph M. Stehling Jr.

Chairman,
NM Tree Farm Committee

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January 2011



Greetings;

Happy New Year!

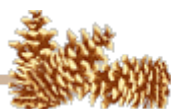
I hope you will take a minute to fill out the enclosed short survey and send it back to our new Chairman, Joe Stehling, in the self addressed stamped envelope provided. As mentioned in a previous bulletin, Joe is trying to contact as many Tree Farmers as possible to get their thoughts on the program and how to make it more relevant for members.

The American Tree Farm System (ATFS) is celebrating its 70th Anniversary in 2011. The world has changed a lot in the last 70 years and the ATFS has changed as well. The overall goal of encouraging forest land owners to manage their forest has not changed. What also hasn't changed is the critical need for forest management. What has changed are the reasons that people have for managing their forests. When the ATFS began 70 years ago there was a critical need for wood products from private forest land. This need still exists but now-a-days the forests are recognized as having additional benefits to society such as clean water, wildlife habitat, and as open space in our increasingly crowded and developed world.

Here in New Mexico forest management can be a hard sell. Our wood products industries have pretty much evaporated so it's difficult for forest owners to find markets for products from their forest. Money is always a strong motivator and a source of income from their forests allows forest owners income that can then be re-invested into their forests. Forest management in New Mexico can also be a hard sell due to the slow growth of the forests in our dry climate. It takes years sometimes for a land owner to be able to see the benefits from a forest practice.

As members of the ATFS you have made a decision to actively manage your forests. If you have some specific examples in ways in which your forests have been improved by management please let Joe know so we can pass this on to other forest owners. The Tree Farm system has always been about recognizing good forest practices so we want to know what you have done.

Harry A. Morrison, Vice Chairman, NM Tree Farm Committee





The 2011 National Tree Farmer Convention will be held August 9-11 in New Mexico, at the Hyatt Tamaya Resort & Spa, situated between Santa Fe and Albuquerque. The resort is at the base of the Sandia Mountains and reflects the rich history of the Tamayame people. Located on several thousand acres of native land, this property features amazing mountain views, the Rio Grande River, and an expansive cottonwood forest. We are

planning programming for Tree Farmers of all ages, so bring the young Tree Farmers in your family. With room rates at just \$89/night negotiated especially for our convention goers, this is one you can't miss! Look for registration information in the March/April edition of Tree Farmer Magazine. Be sure to check www.treefarmssystem.org for the most up to date information. We hope you and your family can join us!



(Hyatt Tamaya Resort & Spa)



CAPACITY BUILDING GRANT SURVEY

The New Mexico Tree Farm Committee has received a Capacity Building Grant from the American Forest Foundation to improve our communication with New Mexico Tree Farmers. Our approach is to hold small regional meetings (mini field days) at a tree farm or a district forester's office. The purpose of the meetings is to discuss the New Mexico Tree Farm Program's advantages and disadvantages, to hear about your individual tree farms, and hear your concerns and recommendations. To further this effort I would like your thoughts on several issues:

◦ Would you be willing to attend a meeting in your forestry district? YES _____ NO _____

◦ Would you be willing to host a meeting? YES _____ NO _____

◦ What are your major concerns/issues with the NM Tree Farm Program (please list)?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

(If additional space is required to address your concerns/issues, please write on the back of this survey form)

◦ What is your preference for attending or hosting a meeting? Mon. – Fri. _____ Sat. _____

◦ Name _____ Address _____

◦ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

◦ Phone # _____ E-Mail Address _____

Please return your survey in the enclosed self addressed stamped envelope

Or

Contact me and I will e-mail a copy that you can complete in MS Word and e-mail back to me:

joestehling@earthlink.net

If you are not inclined to mail or e-mail, feel free to call me to discuss your thoughts:

Joseph M. Stehling Jr., Chairman, NM Tree Farm Committee

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