



Joseph M. Stehling Jr.
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TREE FARM BULLETIN

Greetings;

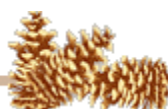
This dry start to the year is a reminder to Tree Farmers and Foresters of the need to thin our over-stocked forests. As if we need to be reminded. Many Tree Farmers have thinned or are in the process of thinning their forests. This is a continuous process. Tree Farmers who thinned their forest a number of years ago may be noticing that nature has grown a new crop of trees and it's time to thin again. In forestry, the job is never done.

In many thinning projects removing cut trees may be a necessity. The forest can be so dense that leaving all of the cut material out in the woods may not be an option. It can be a fire hazard, can inhibit growth of plants, and can be unsightly. Removal options can be limited. Thinned trees can be removed for firewood but this option may be limited. The market for firewood is not limitless and at some point the contractor or Tree Farmer may not be able to find a market for the wood. With the dry conditions, leaving a lot of cut material out in the woods can lead to problems with bark beetles.

Unfortunately, New Mexico no longer has a sawmill industry. For decade's loggers' working for sawmills removed millions of board feet of timber. From the late 1940's through the early 1990's New Mexico forests produced upwards of 250 million board feet of timber a year. This translates roughly to about 62,000 log truck loads per year. At twenty tons per load this meant that over a million tons of wood were being removed from our forests every year. If looked at strictly from a fuel reduction standpoint this was a significant reduction in fuel.

No one is proposing that we go back to logging the way we did but if a sawmill industry were to exist again in New Mexico it would do much to solve the problem of what to do with thinned material. The sawmill industry has evolved like the rest of the world and with computerization and new equipment can handle a lot of the smaller material that is being thinned from our forests.

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



Untrammelled by Man Celebrating 50 Years of the Wilderness Act

This is the Spring Section Meeting for the Southwest Section of the Society of American Foresters which includes members from Arizona and New Mexico. This year being the 50th anniversary of the Wilderness Act our meeting's theme is centered on wilderness. Truth or Consequences NM is at the doorstep of the first designated wilderness in the Nation the Gila Wilderness and is also very close to the Aldo Leopold Wilderness. Aldo Leopold is sometimes referred to as the father of wilderness. The logo sports Aldo Leopold on his horse and has the signature wolf with green eyes made famous by his essay "Think like a Mountain." Topics that will be discussed are all related to the wilderness act including speakers from Federal agencies, private wilderness organizations, authors, and Philmont National Boy Scout High Adventure Base. There will be a Pack Horse Demonstration and a Dutch oven meal served on the conference field trip. **This is open to both members as well as non-members.**



Where: Elephant Butte Inn and Spa
402 NM 195
Elephant Butte, NM

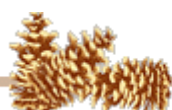
When: Thursday, March 13, 2014 - Saturday, March 15, 2014
6:00PM - 3:00PM

Contact: (505) 867-2334 | 101
Todd.Haines@state.nm.us

Visit Website: SWSAF.org

Cost: \$125

How to Register: SWSAF.org and look for the registration form. If there are problems email me for a copy.



FROM THE CHAIRMAN: Put Wednesday, 12 March, on your calendar for our next Tree Farm Committee and Forest Stewardship Committee meetings. The Forest Stewardship meeting will start at 1000 in the Department of Agriculture building on Jefferson Street in Albuquerque. The Tree Farm Committee meeting will begin at 1330 in the same location. Our agenda for the Tree Farm Committee will include a presentation by David Old on his application for Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP) funding and a discussion of county assessors being instructed by the state to assess agricultural properties and to exclude tree farms from an agriculture exemption/special rate. We will also select the 2013 Tree Farmer of the Year for New Mexico.

Next week (Feb 17-20th) Doug Boykin, Arnie Friedt and I will be attending the American Tree Farm System Annual National Leadership Conference held in Savannah, Georgia this year. A primary discussion topic will be the Opt-in, Opt-out Certification (recognition pathway or certification pathway) choice and process. All this revolves around the “green” certification of forest products, a subject which we have been talking about for many years. If you have not done so please let us know your thoughts. Do we need/want certification? Why or why not?

I am still looking for Tree Farm write ups for our monthly bulletin. I would like to feature a Tree Farm every couple of months so our colleagues know what you are doing to implement your management plan including failures, successes, and lessons learned. We visited some outstanding Tree Farms on the third party audit last year. I would like to see some write ups on those farms. The narrative need not be perfectly presented. As long as I have the basic facts, I, or one of the staff, can put it into Hemmingway prose.

Finally, we are still in need of a committee secretary. Please consider taking on this job, which is not terribly onerous or time consuming.

