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TREE FARM BULLETIN

This year's American Tree Farm System (ATFS) National Leadership Conference (NLC) was held in St. Louis, Missouri on February 2-5, 2015. A total of forty-one states were represented by 167 participants including Jose Carrillo, Forester/Tree Farm Inspector, Chama District and me. The overwhelming topic at this year's NLC was the roll out of the new Standards & Guidance 2015-2020. The American Forest Foundation's (AFF) 2015-2020 Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification (Standards) promote the health and sustainability of America's family forests. These Standards are designed as a tool to help woodland owners be effective stewards of the land as they adaptively manage renewable resources; promote environmental, economic and social benefits; and work to increase public understanding of sustainable forestry. The Standards are based on international sustainability metrics and North American guidelines for sustainable forest management and serve as the basis for the ATFS certification program. The ATFS certification program is internationally endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) (Standards & Guidance 2015-2020, Standards Prologue). The new Standards & Guidance 2015-2020 were enacted on January 1, 2015. If you would like to take a look at the new Standards & Guidance 2015-2020 visit the following website: <https://www.treefarmssystem.org/standards-preview>. In addition, Sarah Crow, Senior Director of ATFS Certification will be hosting a one hour ATFS Webinar – Standards 101 on Feb 25, 2015 at 2:00 PM EST, to register go to <https://www.treefarmssystem.org/content21642>.

With new Standards & Guidance all Tree Farm Inspectors will be trained online or go through ATFS Inspector Training Workshop depending on when they last took the training. The main training event was the Facilitator's Training Workshop presented by Mike Burns, Certification Manager for ATFS. Both Jose and I are now facilitators for current/new Tree Farm Inspectors.

Several hours were dedicated to looking into the next 75 years and what we can do to better position our organization for the future. Additional training was provided by professional speakers from around the country. Concurrent sessions featured five different tracks: 1) State's Voice, State's Choice; 2) Innovation In Landowner Outreach; 3) Leadership Development; 4) Certification; and 5) Learning Lab.



I was asked to sit on the Regional Breakout Panel discussion for State's Voice, State's Choice for the Western Region. The main difference between the states that opted for certification versus states that opted for recognition is the presence of large timber industry with competition versus small timber industry and the lack of competition. The additional expense incurred by tree farmers and states through the certification pathway outweighs any current benefits.

The New Mexico Tree Farm Committee is fortunate to have a Demonstration Forest on Philmont Scout Ranch which is visited by thousands of boy scouts every summer. In addition, the Demonstration Forest provides a unique opportunity for professional foresters, the Visiting Forester Program. I provided a presentation to the NLC participants promoting the Visiting Forester Program for foresters from throughout the country to volunteer one week at Philmont to provide forestry educate/outreach to interested boy scouts, leaders and staff.

And finally, in 2016, the American Tree Farm System will be celebrating their 75th year in operation and with that in mind a new logo was unveiled at the NLC. This logo does not replace the Tree Farm/Family Forest logo we are all familiar with; it will only be used throughout the anniversary year on various publications.



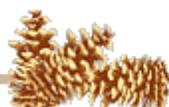
Arnie Friedt, Forester/Tree Farm Inspector, NM State Forestry Division, Cimarron District

This year's NLC was jam-packed with informative sessions ranging from how to electronically interact with your landowners, to planning committee efforts, to managing the database, and my favorite -the learning lab- where they offered webpage training. It was a great experience to see and compare how each state handles their operations differently. It also seemed that many people wanted to pull us aside to talk and reminisce about their time in New Mexico during the 2011 National Convention. A lot of administrators were also curious to discuss our choice for remaining in the Recognition Track during our regional breakout. Arnie did a great job representing the New Mexico Tree Farm Committee position and answering questions raised by the audience.

A new energy was discovered under the Gateway Arch where we discussed facilitating training for our inspectors, and discussed some of the new changes with the updated standards. Get ready and get updated by March 15th by taking the online training inspector training or if you haven't done an inspection in a while, let us know.

Standards highlights include new Standards Prologue and Use which outlines the eight standards and provides guidance for inspectors on the performance measures and examples of Tree Farmer's actions. Changes include some standardized language, emphasis on objectives and activities and the expansion of Best Management Practices (BMP's) relating to air, water, soil, and site quality. Other changes have provided clarification on the obligations we have for the protection of threatened and endangered species, promoting a better understanding of forest health, and rearranging language from High Conservation Value Forests to Forests of Recognized Importance (FORI).

Of course this visit included some great networking opportunities with the Tree Farm staff and guest speakers; not to mention the food. If anyone knows me, they know how I enjoy



a good dish of anything. Who could resist eating at BB King's Jazz, Blues, and Soup's; great music to boot! Don't get me started on the ribs.

Big take home for me as an inspector and field forester is what we are tasked with:

- Advocates for our landowners, and through AFF, advocates for policies that benefit our landowners and their land
- Boots on the ground, ensuring that what we do and advise makes sense ecologically, and economically
- Planners, who look ahead towards the future, in both the forest and the people.

The other message I bring, not only for our program administrators, but ourselves as forest landowners: as we learn from each other we teach, as we seek guidance we motivate, as professionals we are a resource for each other and those needing help. I guess Arnie and I are now Tree Farm Inspector Facilitators. I'm not sure what we have gotten ourselves into, but be sure that we are here not only for our inspectors, but most importantly, our New Mexico Tree Farmers.

As Arnie mentioned, next year will be the 75th year for ATFS. The 2016 National Leadership Conference will be held in the Pacific Northwest; Seattle, Washington on February 10th through 12th. Stay up to date by visiting the ATFS website at www.treefarmssystem.org.

Jose Carrillo, Forester/Tree Farm Inspector, NM State Forestry Division, Chama District

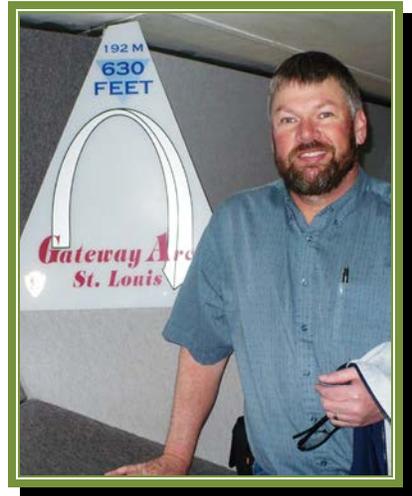
No Trip to St. Louis would be complete without a visit to The Gateway Arch.



(Jose and Mary Jo Carrillo)



(Jose Carrillo and Arnie Friedt)



(Arnie Friedt)

TRIP COMPLETE!

FROM THE CHAIRMAN: Hope everyone is thinking about 'Taking a Walk in Your Woods' to evaluate what you need to do this year, when the snow melts, if you have any snow. I have 17.0 inches on the ground (as of 13 February). About six inches of new snow fell on 11 Feb, the first new snow in about 10 days. Put 11 March on your calendar for our first Tree Farm Committee meeting of the year at the NRCS office on Jefferson in Albuquerque. The state Forest Stewardship meeting is in the morning with the Committee meeting starting at 1330. Hope to see you there. I would like to have some tree farmer reports at the meeting other than mine.

