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TREE FARM BULLETIN, March 2007

Greetings,

Spring is here and after a fairly wet winter ground moisture is plentiful and signs of new growth are abundant. It's a nice time of the year. I'm sure those of you who have projects planned on your Tree Farms are ready to get back to the woods.

As we all know our New Mexico woods can dry out in a hurry as we start to have more warm, dry, and windy days. This of course brings us into our fire season which normally lasts from April until the onset of the summer monsoons.

I am sure that most of you have some knowledge of what to do to protect your Tree Farm from wildfire dangers. If you live on your property or have structures you want to protect on your Tree Farm, now is a good time to review defensible space measures that can be taken to help ensure your assets can survive a wildfire. Your woods can also be protected from wildfire by thinning overcrowded trees, reducing fuel ladders, and taking steps to retain moisture and build soils. A more productive forest is less likely to burn.

For more information on protecting your property you can contact the nearest New Mexico State Forestry office (see numbers listed below). They can offer a wealth of information on your specific forest. We have Tree Farmers with many different types of forests. Treatments that work in pinyon-juniper, for instance, may not be what you want to do in a spruce-fir forest.

Enjoy the spring. With any luck we'll have some spring moisture that will get us through to the monsoons without much of a fire season. If not, be prepared.

Chama District505Socorro District505Capitan District505

505-588-7831 505-835-9359 505-354-2231

Cimarron District 505-376-2204 Las Vegas District 505-425-7472 Bernalillo District 505-867-2334

For additional forestry/fire related information visit <u>www.nmforestry.com</u>.

