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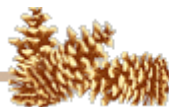
Greetings,

I thought I would give everyone a follow-up on my last bulletin concerning HB 520 which was before the New Mexico Legislature. To review, the bill would have required landowners that use cost-share dollars from the state or who have a commercial harvest permit from the state to do an environmental assessment and /or an environmental impact statement before the work could begin.

I am happy to report that the bill was tabled by the House Energy and Natural Resource Committee so it was never brought to a vote. This is good news for private landowners that are doing forest improvement work.

I would like to thank our Tree Farm members who took the time to write or call in their concerns to the legislature. I'm sure that most of you are like me and would rather concentrate on doing the good work in the forest that we are doing and not have to write or call legislators with our concerns. The fact is that in today's world there are many interest groups out there that want to have a say on how our forests are managed so we no longer have the luxury of staying out in the woods. If we do, these other interest groups, although many times well-intentioned, may have an adverse impact on private lands forest management.

The New Mexico Tree Farm Committee will keep you informed of issues that impact private forest lands. Our parent organization, The American Forest Foundation, has started a Grassroots Action Network, to allow Tree Farmers to stay on top of public policy issues that impact private forest land and that can provide training, tools and tips on effective advocacy. If you would like to join this group you can do so by going to the American Tree Farm System website at www.treefarmssystem.org/grassrootsnetwork/ and entering your contact information. If you don't have internet access let me know and we will get you signed up.



HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT TREES?

How long have trees like those in the woods of eastern states been growing on earth? Some hundred million years ago (in what geologists call the Upper Cretaceous period) a forest was growing on the west coast of Greenland with many trees like those of New England today.

What forest lands other than National Forests are administered by the Federal Government?

Eight other types of forest are under government control:

Revested Lands	2,500,000 acres	Western Oregon
The Tennessee Valley Authority	340,000 acres	Tennessee
Land Utilization Projects	100's of 1,000's acres	nineteen states
Military Reservations	495,000 acres	particularly in the SE
Federal Wildlife Refuges	797,000 acres	throughout the USA
American Indian Lands	16,000,000 acres	twenty-six states
Unreserved Public Domain	293,000,000 acres	throughout the USA
National Parks and Monuments	7,000,000 acres	throughout the USA

What home trees are characteristic of the Northwest? Bigleaf maple, Pacific dogwood, red alder, cottonwood, madrone, Oregon white oak, western red cedar, Sitka spruce, cascara, Oregon myrtle.

Why are sledges drawn by teams of oxen the traditional way to collect maple sap from the buckets? These animals are strong enough to pull a sledge with a giant wooden tub through rough woods, up and down hills, across thawing brooks, close to each tree where the buckets are suspended. Today farm tractors are supplanting oxen, except where a few northwoods families still have a team and gather the sap in the way they always have. However, the ability of oxen to go through deep snow still makes them valuable today.

Do plants other than fungi injure trees? Yes. Parasites such as the mistletoe are common on shade trees of the South and West. They develop witches-brooms which divert food from the growing top of trees, thus reducing vigor and causing premature death. Dodders or climbing vines become so tightly wound around trunks and branches that they strangle trees.

Boomerapes or root parasites are found under beach trees. They make contact with the fibrous root of the host tree, form a nodule of tissue which fuses with the tissues of the host, until the entire root system is intertwined.

In southern Florida the strangling fig climbs large trees, encases them, and cuts off light from the tree's leaves by projecting higher. At length the victim tree is destroyed and a fig tree with a hollow trunk is growing in its place.

How can hollow apple trees produce blooms and apples? In a mature tree the whole central region is dead. As the trunk expands, this heartwood region expands and the sapwood becomes narrower around the outside; and all the food transporting part of the tree is just under the bark; thus, the center is useful only as a mechanical support. The life of the tree can flourish as long as the tree can stand.

Platt, Rutherford 1992. 1001 Questions Answered About Trees. Dover Books. 318pp.

