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TREE FARM BULLETIN

I am really excited about and looking forward to our first tree farm field day this year. Put 04 May on your calendar. We have invited Newton Landon, Colfax County Commissioner, and Ben Ray Lujan to attend. I do not know at this time if they will be able to attend but please plan on attending and make your reservations as soon as possible so I can advise our invited guests on what to expect. Details are below.

The following is taken from the Tree Farmer Magazine Nov/Dec 2011.

Your woods are constantly changing. Seasons come and go, trees grow and die, weather and timber markets vary, and natural disasters or invasive species can take their toll. And just as your Tree Farm changes, you and your family do too. A major life event, such as a birth, death, or illness, can alter your relationship with your woods.

So as spring continues into summer take time to reflect on what happened since last year - how your woods were affected, and what you may choose to do differently in the future. This review of your plans and goals does not have to be daunting or difficult. It can mean adding just a few handwritten notes to your plan, and it can start with a simple walk in your woods.

As you survey your property, look for signs of stress, such as unnaturally yellowing or browning leaves, as well as damage from winter storms. Check the condition of all your Tree Farm's resources - not just the trees themselves, but the soil, vegetation, water sources, and drainages, and wildlife as well. Anyone of these elements can tip you off to underlying problems.

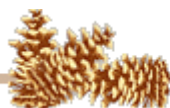
Other Questions to consider on your walk:

Is my Tree Farm progressing the way I want it to? Think about whether you met your forest management goals this year. What were some of your achievements and setbacks? As you look around your woods, are they as healthy, productive, and well-managed as you would like them to be?

How many trees have I harvested this year? How many have I planted? Keeping track of your Tree Farm's production and the maturity of your trees will help you plan for future harvests.

Have I properly planned for and protected wildlife habitat? This is a particularly important consideration if threatened or endangered species make their home in your woods.

How have I handled threats to my Tree Farm? If you have battled pests or invasive plants this year, revisit treated areas to take stock of their recovery. Try to make note of pruning, herbicide applications, and other vegetation control methods you've used and how your woods have responded, so you know what has and has not worked for you.



Are my roads adequate and in good condition? Road access is critical for harvesting, maintenance, and fighting fires. If building or repairing roads needs a place on your list of activities planned for next year, it is better to know sooner rather than later.

Are my property boundaries clearly marked? Are there signs of trespass? Keeping fences or other boundaries in good shape can be time-consuming on larger properties. But it is important for protecting your resources and keeping out unwanted visitors, and worth adding to your plan if it has fallen by the wayside. If you have acquired or parted with property this year and your Tree Farm's boundaries changed, you may also want to update your management plan's map and inventory information to reflect that change.

Am I up to speed on permit requirements and regulations? These can change year to year, so make sure you know what you're required to have on file and what rules you need to follow. Once back at home, gather up receipts, copies of permits, and other documentation and keep them.

Recovering from a natural disaster will take some financial planning as well, so make sure to add a visit with a knowledgeable and trusted consultant to your plan. There are federal assistance programs available to aid your recovery, as well as income tax implications to consider, and these should be part of your management plan update.

The Rewards of Review:

This may all sound like a lot to think about, but it does not have to be. It can be enjoyable - a time to slow down and reflect on your Tree Farm's progress and your plans and hopes for the year to come. And while it does take a bit of discipline, this review can reward you in real, tangible ways.

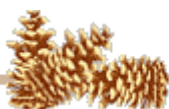
For one thing, reviewing your management plan - whether that means revisions or a handful of notes scribbled in the margins - leaves you better prepared to seize new opportunities, such as an uptick in the timber market. If your inventory of what's mature and ready for harvest is up to date, you can take advantage of a brief opening in the market and reap economic benefits that a less-prepared woodland owner might miss.

Another economic benefit will come at tax time. Your plan will reflect your commitment to careful long term management which reinforces the idea that your Tree Farm is a business. The IRS will appreciate the proof, particularly if your Tree Farm has incurred expenses or loss during the past year.

Reviewing your plan offers personal rewards as well. It is a time to share with the next generation the work that goes into forest management. Your heirs learn from your dedication, and if they contribute to the review process, will feel a closer connection with the Tree Farm and its progress. Regularly updating your plan will also ease the passing on of your legacy. When the next generation takes the reins, your detailed account of the property's history and condition will enable them to make more informed decisions about its future.

And remember, if you find you would like help with your review, there is a world of experts willing to lend you a hand. Your forester, local Extension office, and the American Tree Farm System online resources and network of 83,000 woodland owners and 3,200 resource professionals can all help connect you to the information you need.

With the New Year comes new opportunities, and reviewing your management plan gives you the best chance at success when you seize those opportunities, take the time now - your confidence and peace of mind in the future will make it worth the while.





NEW MEXICO TREE FARM PROGRAM SPRING FIELD DAY



Carl Struck & Johanne Riddick would like to invite all New Mexico Tree Farmers to their Tree Farm.

May 4th, 2013
10:00 am to 2:00 pm

The 40 acre ranch is located on Llano De La Llegua. It is on the North mesa, three miles southeast of Peñasco, New Mexico in the County of Taos. This land is on the western slopes of the Sangre de Cristo Mountain range in north central New Mexico.

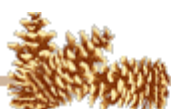
Topics: "Camp Colin" (a documentary), Mycoforestry, Wildlife Pond Planning and Construction, Timber Markets in New Mexico, Chainsaw Use and Safety, Invasive Insects and Property Tour.

(See attached map for directions)

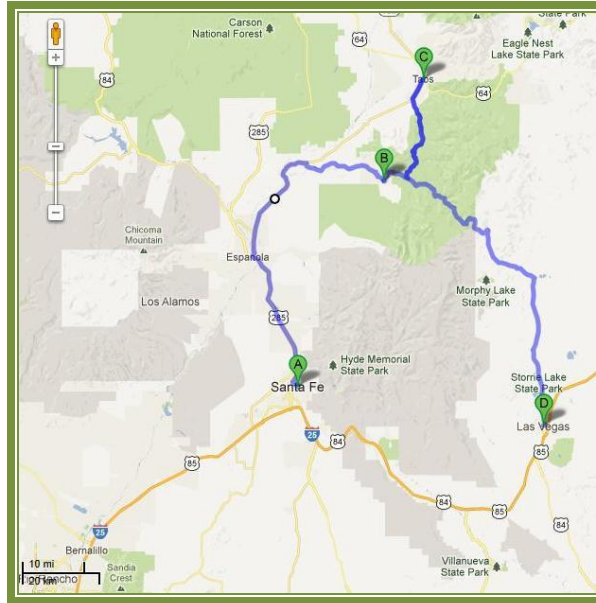
Lunch will be provided

Please RSVP by April 26, 2013

Call Joseph M. Stehling Jr., Chairman, NM Tree Farm Committee
(575) 377-0546 or by e-mail joestehling@earthlink.net



Directions to Struck Tree Farm



(A) Santa Fe to (B) Peñasco: approximately 65 miles, 1 hour & 20 minutes

(C) Taos to (B) Peñasco: approximately 25 miles, 40 minutes

(D) Las Vegas to (B) Peñasco: approximately 65 miles, 1 hour & 35 minutes

Peñasco to Struck Tree Farm: approximately 4.5 miles, 10 minutes



(Tree Farm signs will be posted at major turns from Peñasco to Struck Tree Farm)

