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TREE FARM BULLETIN

A TALE OF TWO...TREE FARMS

by Todd Haines, NM Tree Farm Program Advisor

It was the Best of Pines It was the Worst of Pines...

When Tree Farmers perform forest treatments, they routinely remove the poorer quality trees and leave the better ones for seedstock for the next rotation. Keeping the Best of “pines” and using their worst of “Pines” as a forest product. This is the recent story of two Tree Farm properties separated by 88 Miles as the crow flies but 200 miles by road, both in near proximity to the Navajo Nation where the forest product most in demand is firewood (Fuelwood) that is a critical resource for heating and cooking. With the recent Pandemic this resource has become even more in demand and these two certified Tree Farm properties, along with other outstanding efforts by others who really stepped up to help fill the need.



The first Tree Farm property is the Chaparral Girl Scout Camp located in the Jemez Mountains in Sandoval County New Mexico. This is a 1600-acre camp who has been actively managed for forest resources and products since at least 1971 and likely to some extent before that. In 2018, volunteer groups from various churches in Kansas (led by the Disciples Volunteering in MacPherson Kansas), have been making their way to the Lybrook church in Northern New Mexico to assist with efforts to provide communities from three chapters on the Navajo Reservation with firewood. Successes from their 2018 efforts generated 76 loads of wood from the local Tree Farm Property and Girl Scout camp removing the wood cleared from a powerline.



Photo 1: One of the work groups from Kansas preparing firewood for delivery. Two days of snow did not dampen their spirits.

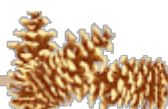




Photo 2: One of the work groups standing next to a 2-cord pile of wood. This was the result of about 3/4 of a day's work for this crew. Much more was accomplished over the next few days.

This year, March of 2021, the group returned with 26 volunteers to cut on the Girl scout camp in an area the camp had slated to be thinned and split wood. With the COVID protocols still in place the group was able to “isolate” on the mountain and focus on cutting and splitting the wood. This helped to achieve more acres thinned and more forest products delivered. Floyd Pearson with the Kansas church-based organization called Disciples Volunteering, sees this as an excellent project worthy of their efforts and a very popular mission for the churches in his area.

The volunteers stepped up in big numbers and they want to come again, asking if they could come back in the fall the day BEFORE they

began the work. The New Mexico Chapter of the Nature Conservancy provided funding for forest contractors to load and deliver the wood to three-chapter houses and the Lybrook church. This ended up being an outstanding effort with multiple cords of ready wood available for distribution to an area with an overwhelming need.

The second Tree Farm Property is located south of I-40 in the Zuni Mountains at another camp called Cottonwood Gulch. They have a 540-acre camp property and have an active management plan and have also been working on keeping their forest healthy. They opened the camp to an organization called “Chizh for Cheii.” This is in Navajo and translated to “Firewood for Grandpa.” This is a grassroots group on the reservation staffed mostly by volunteers who are providing elderly Navajo households



with the fuelwood needed for use year-round. In many cases the fuelwood is also used for cooking. Jordon Stone with the Cottonwood Gulch Foundation cites this effort as a win – win with mutual benefits creating a healthy forest while helping their neighbors with a source of wood is something the Tree Farm program strives for. Chizh for Cheii organizer, Loren Anthony, said that volunteer efforts with this organization have delivered over 732 loads of wood over the past 4 years, with more each day. He is glad to have

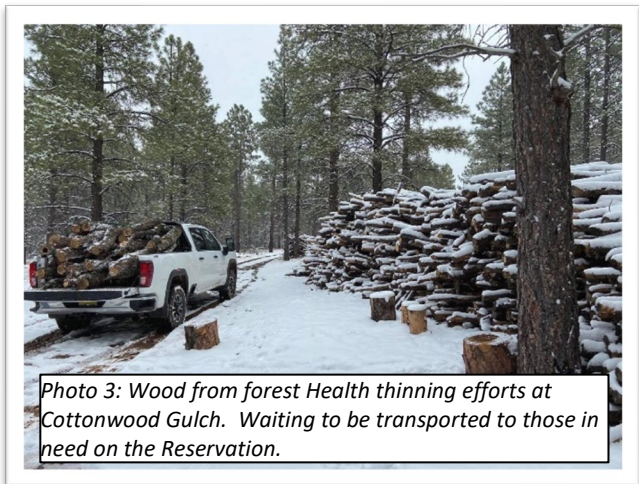
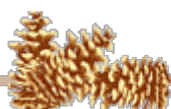


Photo 3: Wood from forest Health thinning efforts at Cottonwood Gulch. Waiting to be transported to those in need on the Reservation.



another source for the wood from this nearby Tree Farm property. Chizh for Cheii has an active Go Fund Me page <https://www.gofundme.com/f/chizh-for-cheii> (and we noticed there are some New Mexico Tree Farmers who have donated).

For additional information about Jon Kinsel, watch this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5HnkxinjRD0>

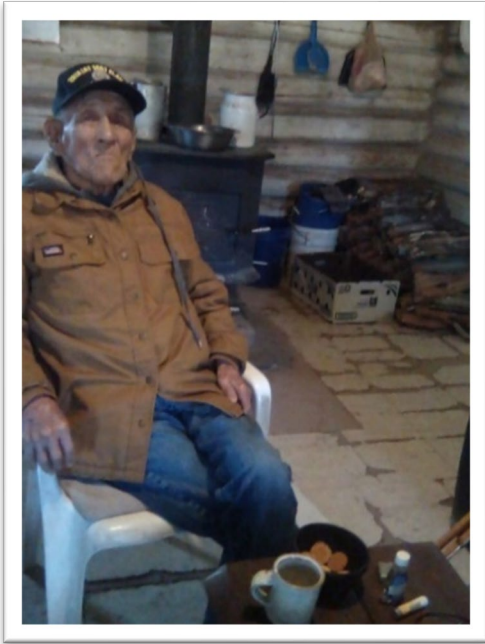
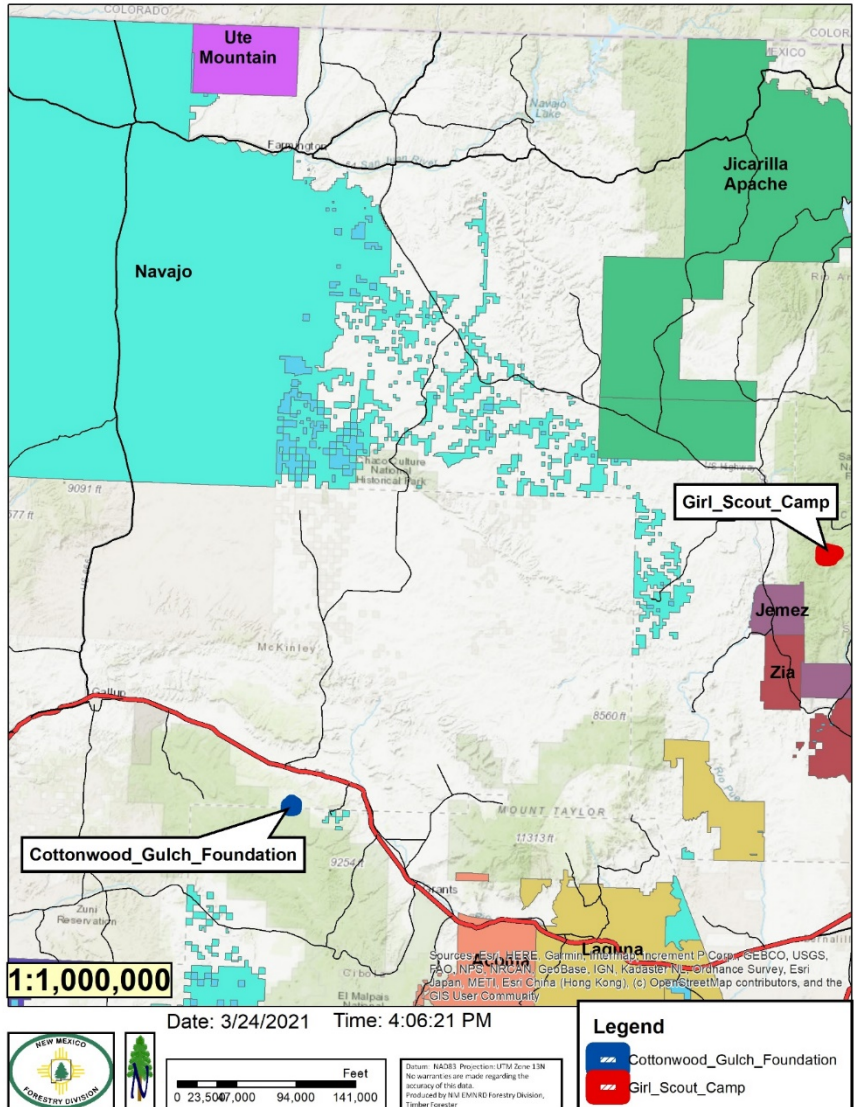
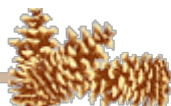


Photo 4: 100-Year-old Jon Kinsel. One of the last Navajo Code Talkers still alive. Chizh For Cheii brought him some wood from Cottonwood Gulch. It was a 4-hour drive in the snow, and they had other challenges on the way. He asked for his photo to be taken as he enjoys his coffee and much needed firewood. He said to show everyone who helped. Jon says, Thank You.



1) SPRING 2021 FIELD DAY

The 2019 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year event is scheduled for May 15, 2021 at the Spirit Hill Certified Family Forest owned by Carl Struck and Johanne Riddick. Lunch will be provided; however, no drinks will be provided, please bring your own drinks. We will be following Covid-19 health guidelines (facemasks and social distancing). Please leave your pets at home, Carl and Johanne have chickens, two dogs, three cats and wildlife.



Carl Struck & Johanne Riddick would like to invite all New Mexico Tree Farmers to their Family Forest:

May 15th, 2021
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 (see attached map for directions).

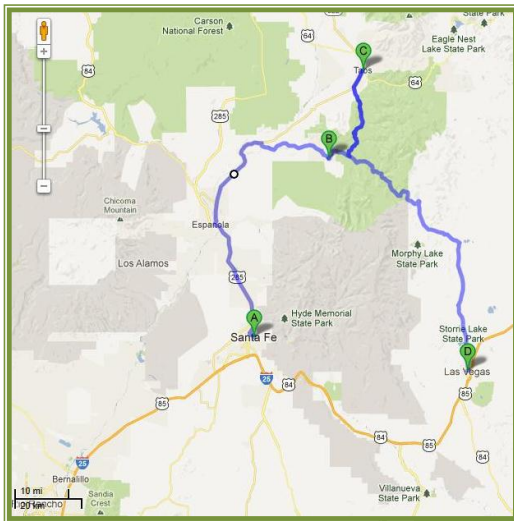
Topics: Wildlife Pond Planning and Construction, Forest Soil Health and Property Tour.

Please RSVP by May 7, 2021

Call Doug Boykin, Chairman, NM Tree Farm Committee

575-838-3027 or by e-mail Diboykin61@gmail.com

Directions to Spirit Hill Certified Family Forest

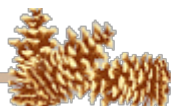
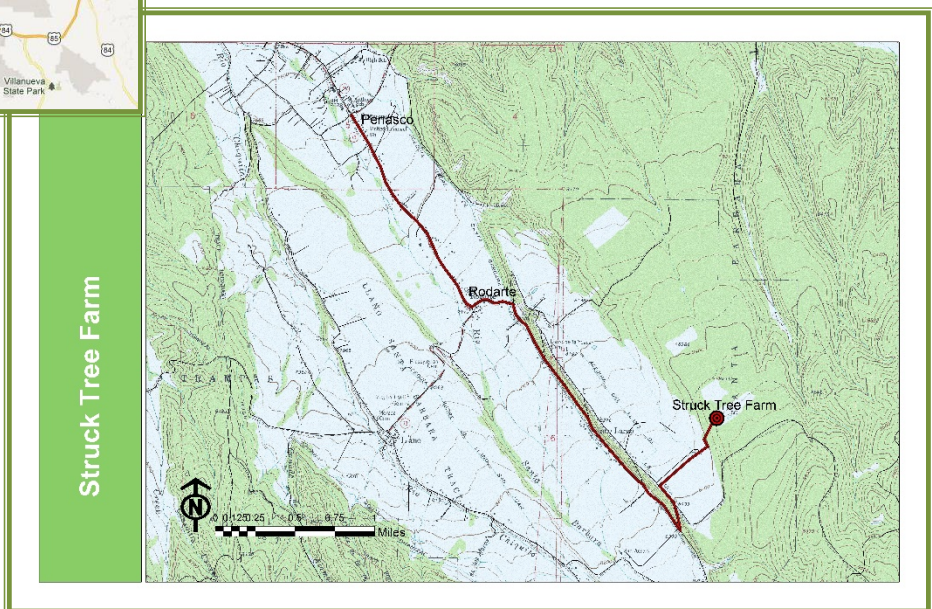


(A) Santa Fe to (B) Peñasco: approximately 65 miles, 1 hour & 20 minutes

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

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

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



HOW TO FIND OUR HOME IN THE MOUNTAINS

Johanne Riddick/Carl Struck: 54 Camino Tree Frog, Vadito, NM 87579; 575-587-1066

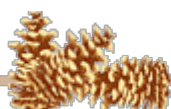
E-mails for Carl: forestreefrog@gmail.com ; Johanne: spirithillforest@yahoo.com

From Santa Fe: Take route 285/84 from Santa Fe to Espanola [**OR** take the High Road from Nambe through Chimayo, Truchas to Penasco which is faster and more picturesque – check your New Mexico map! Just watch signs at all potential turns] the road “T-s” just before Penasco so turn right toward Penasco there.

On the ‘low-road’ through Espanola, routes 285/84 split off the ‘main drag’ – but you continue straight through town which is Route 68 towards Taos. Follow 68 north approximately 15 miles through the Rio Grande ‘narrows’ (Rio on the left of the road). As the road opens out of the canyon and the river departs from the road, look for a sign to Dixon/Penasco/Picuris Pueblo [this community is Embudo]. The road goes right only and crosses a bridge over the Embudo River immediately after the turn. Follow this road, route 75, *through the town of Dixon*, to the town of Penasco, ≈ 14 miles (this road winds gaining altitude and passes through several small communities as you get close to Penasco).

Both above routes continue through Penasco, passing post office on the left, and stores on both sides of the road. Just beyond the Western Auto/Sahd’s store, the road will split with signs indicating Taos on the main road which curves to the left and Llano to the right fork (looks straight). ***Follow the *road towards Llano*, route 73, for 1.4 miles. A forest service sign [on the right side of the road] announces Santa Barbara campground and Hodges campground. This road is called Santa Barbara Road and there SHOULD be a green road sign on that road [if it has not been taken!]. It is also forest route 116/County road 021; on the LEFT (landmark: defunct Bar/Store/gas station on the left just before turn). Turn left on Santa Barbara road. This road goes to the Campground eventually. Above this road on the left side is a parallel road called Llano de la Llegua Road; it is marked as such on the first switchback. There are 5 of these switchbacks that ALL lead to the same upper road. But for a first-time visit, it is easiest to follow the Santa Barbara Road ≈ 1.3 miles (road winds and turns past a morada and graveyard along base of ridge on the left) and go up the 5th and last switchback; it has a sign that says ramp #4! Follow that switchback up the steep hill and continue as if going back in the direction you just came until you see the **‘Camino Tree Frog’** (just a few hundred yards). Follow this road across the pastures on each side until it forks, one road continues straight up the hill and the other goes left just as the road begins to go uphill after a “burro” barn. Turn left and follow to the next split (≈ 100 feet) at the “Tree Farm of American” sign and #54. Take that right – our personal driveway – straight up the hill [there is a closed gate to for a residence on the straight road]. Our home is at the top. Unless there is a terrible snowstorm, there is no problem navigating the front wheel drive.

From Taos: Head south from town, passing the Sagebrush Inn on the right. Just before reaching Rancho de Taos, there is a **left turn & stop light toward** Talpa/Picuris Pueblo/Las Vegas/Sipapu on State Road 518. Follow this road through Talpa, past Fort Burgwin, over U.S. Hill. After winding down the pass, the first road to the right is *State Road 75* (well-marked on maps too) toward Vadito/Penasco/Picuris. Follow it to the outskirts of Penasco where a sign on the right-hand side of the road indicates *State Road 73* to the left to Llano/Rodarte/Santa Barbara Campground (75 continues as the main road through Penasco). Follow the directions above from the ***. If you get lost, there are telephones at Sahd’s store in Penasco (the quonset metal building or Western Auto. Usually, one of them is working. Erratic cell phone services in this valley.



2) NMTFC 2021 RAFFLE

NEW MEXICO TREE FARM COMMITTEE 2021 RAFFLE

FIRST PRIZE: Guided Private Ranch Cow Elk Hunt Landowner Tag

SECOND PRIZE: Large Custom-Made Metal Art Piece

THIRD PRIZE: \$100 Cabela's Gift Card

Drawing to be held at the August 2021 NMTFC Meeting

Cow Elk Landowner Tag donated by private ranch north of Las Vegas, NM (Unit 45)

Winner may hunt during any five legal hunt days between 09/01 and 12/31/2021

(Winner will be responsible for NMDGF license and tag and scheduling the hunt with the ranch)

\$10.00 Each

To purchase your 2021 Raffle ticket(s) send a letter and check (payable to NMTFC) to:

Doug Boykin

1118 Hope Farms Road

Socorro, NM 87801

Doug will in turn send you your numbered 2021 Raffle ticket stub(s).

3) COMMITTEE MEETING

All Tree Farmers are invited and encouraged to take part in our 2nd New Mexico Tree Farm Committee Meeting of the year (three held annually). Please join us on Wednesday, August 11th, 2021. This meeting will be VIRTUAL utilizing "ZOOM", an invite will be sent to you via your e-mail address prior to August 11th. Join us and hear what other tree farmers have been up to and share your tree farm accomplishments with the group. We look forward to visiting with you. If you have any questions, please contact Arnie Friedt at arnie.friedt@state.nm.us

4) ISAAC ASIMOV'S SUPER QUIZ

ANSWERS to the March 2021 ISAAC ASIMOV'S SUPER QUIZ: 1. Yew wood. 2. The Tree of Life or Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. 3. Christmas tree. 4. Birnam wood. 5. (The spreading) chestnut tree. 6. "I think that I shall never see a poem lovely as a tree." 7. "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn." 8. "As You Like It." 9. Anton Chekov. **Super Quiz is a registered trademark of K. Fisher Enterprises Ltd. © Ken Fisher North America Syndicate Inc.**

