

May 2011



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Greetings;

Saturday, May 7th, about twenty people showed up for our walk in the woods on the Philmont Scout Ranch. Mark Anderson, program director for the Philmont, led the group to the 45 acre demonstration forest where sack lunches were served and everyone had the opportunity to take the one-mile self-guided trail that winds its way through the woods. Fierce winds this spring blew down some of the signs along the trail that explain the different forest practices carried out in the demo forest. Two Philmont conservation crew members were along on the tour and are to work on getting the signs back up. In three weeks the Philmont begins their camping season and the demo forest will be busy. By the end of August over 5,000 scouts and visitors will have hiked through it.

It was then on to an active harvest area on the ranch located below "Tooth of Time" ridge. The harvest is the first time the Philmont has tried a small diameter sale. The mesa top area had become a "dog hair" thicket of Ponderosa pine and is being treated to provide a fuel break for near-by camp sites and also to improve conditions for seedling establishment.

The logger was there to demonstrate his timber processor and log forwarder operation. This mechanized operation has two guys in t-shirts in air-conditioned cabs cutting, processing and loading several acres of material a day. After a short demonstration of the operation the group drove through the harvest area to see how the slash which has been lopped and scattered looks six months after harvest.

I'd like to thank Mark Anderson and the conservation crew from the Philmont for helping out and the Tree Farmers and others who came out. The weather cooperated and it was a nice day in the woods.

Harry A. Morrison, Vice Chairman, NM Tree Farm Committee





(Left: Mark Anderson leads the Demo Forest presentation; Right: Tree Farmers viewing the active harvest area)

FROM THE CHAIRMAN: Trees. Throughout the history of mankind the tree has been an object of admiration, inspiration and even worship. When primitive man realized the trees which surrounded him had stood even so during the time of his father and his grandfather, and remained even after he passed into oblivion, it is of little wonder that man found them an object of awe – a representation of eternal life. *Kathleen Keithly in Kit Carson Enchantment, May 1971.* I would like to thank Tree Farmers Bennions, Akroyds, and Harlings, and the members of the Colfax County Coalition of Firewise Communities for attending the Field Day at Philmont Scout Ranch as reported by Harry. It was a wonderful day. I would like to encourage more Tree Farmers to attend our functions to include the quarterly meetings in Albuquerque the second Wednesday of the last month of each quarter – March, June, September, and December. I will continue to send a plea for someone to volunteer to act as the Tree Farm committee secretary. The Tree Farm program is YOUR program. We need more tree farmer involvement to wrest control from the foresters. We need the foresters but they are not tree farmers. Remember to sign up for the Tree Farm Convention 9-11 August. Early registration closes on 15 May.

Don't forget to put the Tree Farm National Convention on your calendar, 09-11 August 2011 (www.treefarmsystem.org).

