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TREE FARM BULLETIN

I look forward to seeing many of you at the Harling Family Tree Farm - Herbert (Gene) and Agnes Harling - on Saturday, 09 June. The program will start at 10:00 AM. Please plan on arriving no later than 09:45. The road up from the parking area is moderately steep and quite rocky and rough. It is not accessible by low clearance vehicles. We will ferry folks who do not want to walk up the hill to the top of the hill where we will start the tour with Gene telling his story. He has done a lot of thinning and planting of seedlings and is not done yet.

Besides the narrative tour where Gene can show off his hard work, we have an exciting program. Once reaching the area where we eat lunch, we will discuss the Tree Farm program and how we can make it more interesting to the 170 some tree farmers in New Mexico. José J. Varela López of Forest Products will talk about the Forest Industry in New Mexico. Depending on the time, we may then eat lunch and have classes on chainsaw operation, maintenance, and safety and on invasive insects affecting our forests. After the classes we will walk the rest of the property to a dam and anyone wanting to depart can do so. Water will be available, but in 5-gallon can so please bring your own water bottles.

Please RSVP to me not later than 04 June so we can order the chow.

The Harling Family Tree Farm consists of 40 acres of pinon, juniper and ponderosa pine intermixed with scrub oak plus a meadow largely of grama grass.

The Harlings have owned the property since 1966. In 2007 a forest management plan was prepared by Joe Price, a consulting forester. This plan called for approximately four acres to be thinned each year using a contractor approved for a landowner cost share program. It concentrated on removing juniper and leaving pinon and ponderosa pine trees that were in good health.

The Harlings are in their sixth year with good results. The remaining trees appear to be in good health with more grass and wild flowers on the forest floor.

In addition the Harlings have planted trees obtained from the New Mexico State Forestry Conservation seedling program with the intent of determining which trees can be successfully grown at the altitude of approximately 7500 feet and with limited natural moisture. To date results indicate that ponderosa pine is the most likely to survive, followed by Scotch pine.



DIRECTIONS TO HARLING TREE FARM, JUAN TOMAS NEW MEXICO

From the Big I, the intersection of highways I-25 and I-40 in Albuquerque go east on highway 40 for 21.4 miles to Sedillo exit 181. Where the Sedillo exit road dead-ends on Old Route 66, go left (east) 1.8 miles to Route 217. Turn right (south) on 217 for 4.3 miles to Juan Tomas road (Forest road 242). Turn right (west) on Juan Tomas road go 2.0 miles to the point where the road makes a sharp turn to the south at the bottom of the hill. Go 0.1 miles to the point where the paved road curves right (west). Take the dirt road south past the two address numbers 430 and 432 at lower right. Continue 0.1 miles to a green farm gate on your left. Go through the gate and park on your immediate left.



BEFORE THINNING



AFTER THINNING

