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TREE FARM BULLETIN, July 2008

Greetings,

One of the goals of the Tree Farm System has been to educate the public on good forest management practices. In 1941, when the Tree Farm System began, the nation was more rural and closer to the land. It may have been easier for the public to understand forest management when more of them were closely tied to the land or only recently moved to the cities. Nowadays large segments of the public have little or no contact with the land or forests and have little or no understanding of what managing a forest entails. This at a time when there is much interest in utilizing our renewable resources. The need for educating the public on forest management has never been greater.

The New Mexico Tree Farm Committee (NMTFC) has recognized this need over the past several years and has used grant money from the American Forest Foundation to establish five demonstration forests throughout the state. A demonstration forest is a small scale version of a working forest where visitors can see the results of different forest management techniques on the ground. This is an excellent way to educate the public about forest management.

The NMTFC would like to increase the number of visitors to our demonstration forests. Another program of the American Forest Foundation which is directly involved in education is called Project Learning Tree (PLT). PLT works with teachers to develop curricula to teach school children about the natural world, including forests. The Tree Farm Committee would like to partner with PLT in developing curricula that would use our demonstration forests as teaching tools. There are also other areas where the NMTFC and PLT can cooperate on educating youth about the natural world and how we manage our resources. Working together will mean being able to reach a larger audience and have a greater impact on the way people view a working forest.

To receive additional information on a demonstration forest located near you contact your local New Mexico State Forestry Division District Office:

Chama	575-588-7831
Cimarron	575-376-2204
Socorro	575-835-9359
Las Vegas	505-425-7472
Bernalillo	505-867-2334

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT TREES?

When did trees like some on earth today first appear? Some 60 million years after the *Eospermatopteris*, forests of the Coal Age were luxurious and worldwide, and contained a number of different kinds of trees, with similarities to trees in our world. That was 240 million years ago.

Where are the National Forests? Scattered through thirty-nine states, and in Puerto Rico. The largest percentage is in Alaska. There, 20,840,000 acres are designated as National Forest. These lie entirely in the well timbered south-coast region.

What is the value of a large street elm in a New England town? Arthur D. Little Co., Cambridge, Mass., estimates the value of a single large street elm at \$700.

What do we derive from the canopy of a tree besides shade and beauty? People who have orchards think the canopy is the most generous part of the tree. This is the source of nuts and fruits, as well as oils, extracts and decorations from the foliage.

What is a vector? Insects or other organisms transporting germs or other agents of disease are called vectors. Eliminating vectors is one good way to save our trees from the common diseases spread by them.

What are the chief causes of the death of trees? Violent destruction by man, insects, fire, erosion, wind, lightning, flooding. Slow destruction by parasite attack, especially that of fungus decay, and starvation through years of bad weather or change of environment (for example, real estate development) which weakens resistance to disease.

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

