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TREE FARM BULLETIN, August 2008

**NEW MEXICO TREE FARM PROGRAM
FALL FIELD DAY
October 4th, 2008 (10:00 AM to 3:00 PM)**

Greetings,

Every year the New Mexico Tree Farm Committee has a contest to select a Tree Farm that best exemplifies the goals of the Tree Farm System to promote good forest management and to reach out and educate the general public about what good forestry is all about. A Tree Farmer of the Year award is given to this Tree Farm in recognition of their accomplishments on the ground and within the outreach and education realm.

I'm pleased to announce that Joe and Carol Stehling have been selected this year as Tree Farmers of the Year for New Mexico. The Stehling's have been actively managing their 20 acres of high elevation forest located 13 miles southeast of Angel Fire. They have conducted a series of forest thinnings to reduce fuels around their home, improve wildlife habitat and to make the forest more productive. It's a "hands on" type of management with Joe doing a large part of the work. Anyone familiar with our Spruce-fir forests in New Mexico has a healthy respect for the amount of physical labor involved in working in this type of habitat.

What really clinched the award for the Stehlings was what they have done to promote good forestry practices on private lands. They have been active in recruiting like-minded landowners to manage their lands and be Tree Farm members. Joe is president and driving force of the Colfax County Coalition of Firewise Communities, which, as the name implies, is a group of Colfax County communities working to reduce the risk of wildfire. Recently they have received their 501C3 status which bodes well for their future success.

The Tree Farm Committee will have an awards ceremony for the Stehlings on their Tree Farm on October 4, 2008. Anyone receiving this letter is cordially invited to come up and tour the Stehling Tree Farm and enjoy a day in the woods. Lunch will be provided. So we know how many are coming for lunch please RSVP by September 26, 2008. Please try to attend. I guarantee it will be an interesting and educational day.

Please RSVP Harry A. Morrison by 09/26/08

Directions to Stehling Tree Farm:

- From Taos or Eagle Nest (Hwy 64) take Hwy 434 to Angel Fire (set your trip meter @ 64/434 junction).
- Travel 10.7 miles to Hwy 120 South (Hwy 434 turns right towards Mora).
- Continue on Hwy 120 South (road turns to gravel after 2.8 miles at cattle crossing).
- Continue on Hwy 120 South for 1.5 miles.
- Turn right on road to Hidden Lake (Tree Farm signs will be posted from this point on).
- Turn right after 1.3 miles (Shield Avenue).
- Turn left after 0.1 miles (Pleasant Meadow Drive).
- Turn left after 0.8 miles (Haus Lane).

