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TREE FARM BULLETIN, August 2009

NEW MEXICO TREE FARM PROGRAM FALL FIELD DAY October 17th, 2009 (10:00 AM to 3:00 PM)

Greetings;

The Rancho Del Chaparral Girl Scout Camp has been named the 2008 New Mexico Tree Farmer of the Year by the New Mexico Tree Farm Committee. This yearly award is given to the New Mexico Tree Farm that best exemplifies the American Forest Foundations standards of sustainability. It is given to recognize their accomplishments and continued efforts in forest management.

The Rancho Del Chaparral is a 1,034 acre camp managed by the Rancho Del Chaparral Council of the Girl Scouts of America. The camp is in the Jemez Mountains and is located in thick Ponderosa pine and mixed conifer forest. It has hosted summer campers for the past forty-six years.

Early on the Council recognized that to operate a facility in such heavy forest cover they would need to actively manage the forest in order to keep it productive for future generations. They embarked on a program of forest thinnings to improve things and continue with this effort. Where possible they have sold saw logs and firewood to help pay for this work. They are a good example of how commercial products can be removed from the forest but be compatible with recreation.

Rancho Del Chaparral has been active in promoting good forestry. They have hosted the New Mexico Forestry Camp since 1990. This worthwhile effort brings forestry professionals together with students to increase awareness of forestry and what it means to manage a forest.

The New Mexico Tree Farm Committee invites you to attend an open house at the Rancho Del Chaparral Girl Scout Camp on October 17th from 10:00 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. We will take a short walking tour of some of the recent thinning areas followed by an awards ceremony and will have plenty of food for lunch. I hope you can make it.

If you can make it please RSVP (information listed above) by October 9, 2009 so we know how many to expect for lunch. The camp is at 7,800 feet in elevation so come prepared.

Please RSVP Harry A. Morrison by 10/09/09

Directions to Rancho Del Chaparral Girl Scout Camp:

From Cuba, turn east on Highway 126 just north of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. The road splits one-half mile out of town; take a right. Stay on this main road (SR 126), keeping to the right at any fork in the road. Just past the 17-mile marker, turn right on Forest Road 20. This heads south and approximately 3 miles further you will be crossing a bridge. After you cross the bridge, turn left, follow along the river and then climb a steep hill. The gate to camp is just over the rise. The camp is approximately one mile from the gate.

