



Joseph M. Stehling Jr.
Chairman,
NM Tree Farm Committee

HC 70 Box 109
Ocate, NM 87734

(575)-377-0546

joestehling@earthlink.net

www.nmtreefarmers.org

August 2014



TREE FARM BULLETIN

VISITING FORESTERS AT THE PHILMONT DEMONSTRATION FOREST

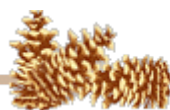
There are many reasons for a scout to tarry under the green and white Tree Farm sign which hangs on the pavilion of the Demonstration Forest. It might be the refuge from an afternoon downpour found under the canopy constructed from locally grown Douglas-fir and ponderosa pine. It could be the alluring aroma of coffee brewing on the two-burner Coleman stove. More likely though it is the captivating story being spun about forests and fire by a professional forester.

I am sure the New Mexico Tree Farm Committee suspected that the Philmont Demonstration Forest would probably be the most visited of the seven Demonstration Forests established statewide in the early 2000s. With over 20,000 backcountry visitors, the forests' organizers could count on at least 5,000 hikers passing through the 45 acres of forest treatments and interpretative signs. If one in ten hikers watched the signs instead of their feet, an impressive amount of education on forestry would occur.

In 2010, Philmont introduced a new aspect to the Demonstration Forest that has blown these expectations way out of the water. In addition to the self-guided tour of the Forest, scouts now have the opportunity to visit with a professional forester, who may hail from anywhere within the United States. The scout ranch has an annual goal of recruiting 20 foresters nationwide to spend a week delivering programs at the forest, which allows for two foresters each week for a ten week summer session. Passing crews spend anywhere from five minutes to two hours learning about forestry, Philmont's forests, and forest issues in their home regions. Last summer foresters talked with 7,000 Philmont participants.

Established in 2002, Philmont's Demonstration Forest showcases seven treatment areas: a patch cut, a seed-tree cut, a selection cut, a sanitation cut, a thinning project, a meadow restoration area, and a riparian buffer. Currently a 35-acre project is being added to the forest which will highlight upland forest and riparian restoration to historic conditions.

At the pavilion, teaching tools include a full set of saws, hard hats, safety goggles, and other equipment to allow crews to help thin forests. There is a cross section of a dated, fire-scarred tree, along with laminated pictures foresters can use to explain the legacy of fire exclusion. Two newly cut pine poles are lashed to pavilion supports for crews to practice using the increment borer without causing undo damage to living trees around the pavilion. A box of books and references can be used for program or as reading material when foresters are waiting between crews. Scouts can also learn to use forest



inventory equipment and each crew that spends more than twenty minutes leaves with a plastic card that serves as an angle gauge for determining stand density and a tool for estimating diameters and heights of trees.

This card also references a new website being built to provide participants additional information on forestry, careers, and links to deeper knowledge.

Throughout the summer, scouts learn that the New Mexico Tree Farm Committee established the Philmont Demonstration Forest. The programs and interactions with crews are regularly cited as a highlight of a troop's twelve-day visit to Philmont. In addition, many young men and women are exposed to the profession of forestry. The ranch also benefits from multiple input of various foresters to help further the management of this much-loved and hiked upon private ranch.

Mary Stuever, Visiting Forester Coordination Team Co-Chair

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE NEW MEXICO OUTDOOR EXPO

The New Mexico Outdoor EXPO is fun for the whole family. Children and adults will enjoy the catfish pond, firearm and archery target shooting, casting, fly tying, fabulous free exhibits, a climbing wall, Kayak demonstrations and much more... Learn from the experts how to improve your fishing and shooting skills at the Albuquerque Shooting Range, August 16 and 17, 2014. **DON'T MISS IT!!**

The EXPO is free to the public. All ranges will be overseen by Certified Hunter Education Instructors, using Department of Game and Fish firearms and bows. Safety will have top priority.

ABOUT THE SHOOTING RANGE PARK

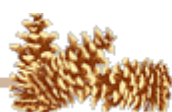
The Shooting Range Park provides a safe convenient location for citizens to enjoy shooting sports and learn the skills of using firearms for personal protection and hunting. The City of Albuquerque Open Space Division provides and manages this publicly operated shooting range to promote the safe use of firearms in our community and through the state. The Shooting Range Park provides an alternative to illegal firearm practice on our mesas, open spaces, and vacant areas.

The Shooting Range Park is a premiere shooting facility located conveniently west of Albuquerque, New Mexico. The Park provides a safe environment for shooters of all ages to practice and learn the skills of using a firearm. Highly trained range staff will be on-hand at all times to insure the safety of patrons and to provide expert instruction on the use of firearms and provide hunter safety classes. A parent or guardian must accompany youth under the age of 16. All range staff are qualified National Rifle Association instructors.

RANGES & FACILITIES

Shooting Range Park offers the following facilities and challenging ranges in a scenic setting:

- Rifle, pistol and muzzleloading
- 10, 25, 50, 100, and 200 yard targets
- 3 skeet ranges
- 2 trap ranges



- Silhouette range (competition only)
- 2 public club houses (air conditioned)
- Classrooms
- Refreshment areas



Free Event
Aug. 16-17, 2014

City of ABQ Shooting Range Park



New Mexico Outdoor Expo August 16, 9am-5pm and August 17, 10am-4pm.



Fun for the Entire Family
 Free events include catfish pond, firearm and archery target shooting, casting and fly tying, climbing wall, kayak instruction, exhibits and much more. Learn from experts how to improve your fishing, shooting and outdoor skills. For more information visit:
www.wildlife.state.nm.us

Directions
 From I-25 and I-40: 1 Take I-40 westbound, toward Gallup; 2 Exit at the Atrisco Vista off-ramp (Exit 149); 3 Turn right onto Atrisco Vista Blvd.; 4 Continue north 4.2 miles; 5 Turn left onto Shooting Range Road; 6 Continue west 2.6 miles to the park entrance.



New Mexico Department of Game and Fish www.wildlife.state.nm.us
 Hunters and Anglers Pay for Conservation. Support New Mexico's Wildlife.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN: Our next Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 12 August in the Department of Agriculture building on Jefferson Street in Albuquerque. Please plan on attending. Also plan on attending our Tree Farmer of the Year celebration currently set for 10/18/2014.

