



Harry A. Morrison
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TREE FARM BULLETIN, September 2007

NEW MEXICO TREE FARM PROGRAM FALL FIELD DAY October 13th, 2007 (10:00 AM to 3:00 PM)

The American Tree Farm System has always been a “sign” of landowners who have the vision and commitment to practice the high ideals of stewardship of the land. I applaud all landowners everywhere, who conduct the management activities on their property as caretaker of our forested land of the future.

Once a year, the New Mexico Tree Farm Program Committee recognizes the accomplishments of a superior Tree Farmer of the Year, based on the nomination by the inspecting forester. That Tree Farmer then has a chance to be nominated for Western Regional Tree Farmer of the Year, and has a chance at the National Outstanding Tree Farm of the Year. You may have seen articles about those select few in the Tree Farmer magazine.

For 2006, John & Karen Ruddock were chosen as the NM Tree Farmer of the Year! As the forester that nominated John and Karen, I would like to explain why they stand out. First, even before any funding was available to do thinning, John was cutting on his own, following the advice in his Forest Stewardship Plan. Soon, he realized that “there are more trees than I can cut. And, what will we do with all the wood?” As a remedy Mr. Ruddock contacted John Chavez, a local wood cutter from Quemado, who could use some of those trees as Vigas and Latillas. After some work, it soon became apparent that “these woods had potential” if enough product was available. Mr. Ruddock saw where he wanted to get with his land and pursued opportunities to get funding from NM State Forestry to accomplish it. He is currently working on his third thinning project, thinning close to 100 acres over the last 5 years. When it became apparent that burning the slash from the thinned was too difficult, John purchased a chipper so that the work could continue.

It is this commitment to doing the work that is needed and finding the ways to do it that deserves the recognition and applause. Sure, there have been speed bumps along the way, but as long as John and Karen are willing to see it through, I will be glad to lend a helping hand.

Nick Smokovich
TMO Socorro District

Please RSVP Harry A. Morrison by 10/01/07

Directions:

Take NM Hwy 32 south to the Quemado Lake Road (NM Hwy 103). Follow NM 103 (FS Road 13) +/- 14 miles to the intersection with FS Road 93, turn right, go west +/- 4 miles to FS Road 132, turn right and follow the signs

Don't want to get lost?
Meet at the NM State Forestry, Socorro District Office at 8:00 AM, we can caravan out.
(Hwy 60 West, Socorro, NM)

