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September 2020



## TREE FARM BULLETIN

### TREE FARM FENCES

*By: Matthew Silva, Past NM Tree Farm Committee Chair*

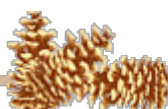
*“Good fences make good neighbors”  
Robert Frost, Mending Wall, 1914*

I do not claim to possess the literary expertise to explain Robert Frost’s classic work of poetry. But I have come to believe that good tree farmers build and maintain good fences. Our land management plan lists five landowner objectives. One objective is to “improve wildlife habitat and increase grass forage for livestock.” Another is to “reduce fuel loading on the property to reduce fire potential.” Meeting these objectives inherently requires building and maintaining fences designed to meet those objectives.

The Silva Tree Farm is approximately 3,270 acres in size. It is located in the Zuni Mountains at an approximate elevation of 8,000 feet above sea level. The property has been in the family since 1928. The property was purchased for grazing livestock with subsequent periods of harvesting of timber and other wood products. Barb wire fences have been used to contain livestock in this area of checkerboard ownership. Most recently, attention has been given to building fences to promote the uninhibited movement of wildlife.

In 2006, we began using a fence design recommended by the biologist for the Mount Taylor Ranger District of the US Forest Service. The design was simple. Fence poles would be spaced 16 feet apart. The middle two wires would be barbed to contain cattle in the appropriate pastures. The top and bottom wire would be smooth (barbless) to allow the unhindered movement of larger animals such as deer and elk. The bottom wire is placed 12 inches from the ground with a vertical separation of 10 inches for the remaining wires resulting in a top wire at a height of 42 inches. One or two stays are placed between each set of posts.

One of our goals was to thin, overgrown forest areas and leave fuel breaks along shared boundaries. A fence on the surveyed property boundary prevents inadvertent encroachment on a neighboring property, whether federal land or that of another private landowner. An essential step in replacing an old fence, or constructing a new fence, is to get a property boundary survey complete with a posting at



several points along the property boundary. This ensures that the fence is placed correctly with respect to ownership (Figure 1).

The wildlife fence shown in Figure 2 was built on a surveyed line posted between the Silva Tree Farm and neighboring private land. The old fence encroached by as much as forty feet onto our property. The neighbor agreed to share the cost of a survey and allow us to put the fence on the property boundary. We agreed to provide the fence. In consultation with New Mexico State Forestry and with EQIP funding from the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resource Conservation Service, we later put a fuel break on our side of the fence.



Figure 1. Wildlife fence between Silva Tree Farm and US Forest Service

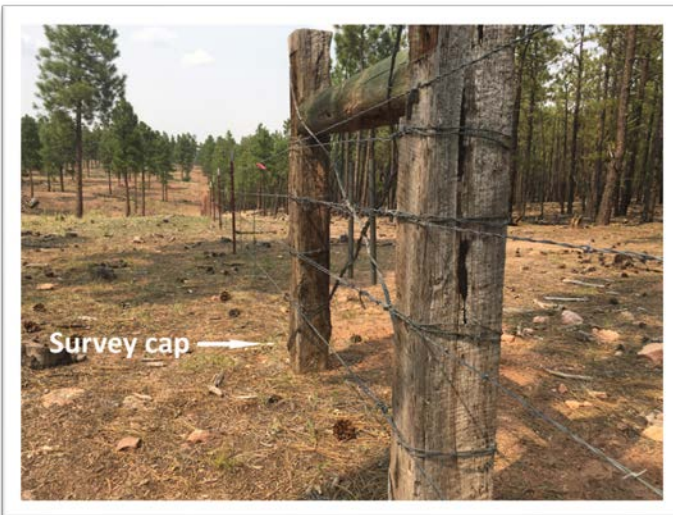
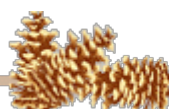
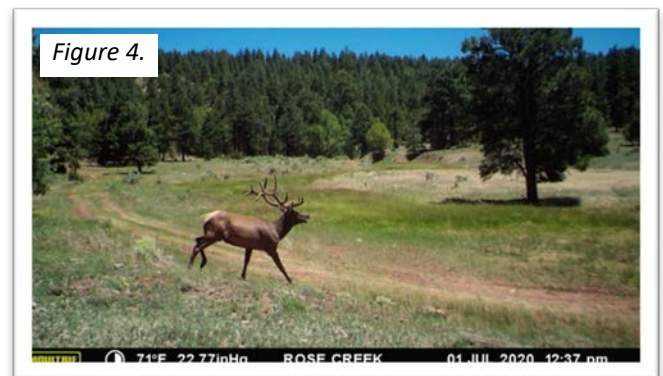
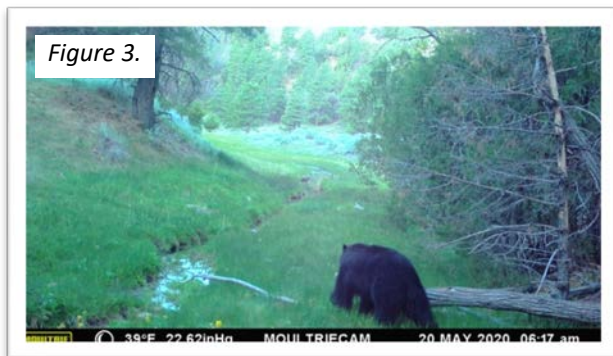


Figure 2. Wildlife and grazing fence between Silva Tree Farm and neighboring private land.

Recent pictures from various pastures on our tree farm entirely contained by these fences, confirm that the fences are working, and roaming wildlife continue to easily frequent the area (Figures 3 & 4).



# HEALTHY SOIL WEBINARS

***#1: Defining and Measuring Healthy Upland Soil***

Wednesday August 12, 11:30 am - 1:00 pm

***#2: Restoring Soil Health in Degraded Uplands***

Wednesday August 26, 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm

***#3: Restoring Soil Health in Fields Affected by Sediment***

Wednesday September 9, 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm

***#4: Maintaining Soil Health in Fields with Native Soil***

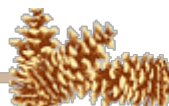
Wednesday September 23, 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm

**All Webinars Are Free of Charge**

**Registration Required:**

**<https://quiviracoalition.org/embudowebinars/>**

**Presented by Jan-Willem Jansens of Ecotone Landscape Planning, with support from Embudo Valley Library & Community Center, New Mexico Department of Agriculture's Soil Health Program, and Quivira Coalition**



## 1) NMTFC 2020 RAFFLE

### NEW MEXICO TREE FARM COMMITTEE 2020 RAFFLE WINNERS

First Prize: Cow Elk Hunt; Winner: Jen Vanetti (West Mountains)

Second Prize: Metal Art by Carl & Lisa Bartley; Winner: Marcos Montoya (Edgewood)

Third Prize: Metal Art by Carl & Lisa Bartley; Winner: Tim Kirkpatrick (East Mountains)

Fourth Prize: \$100 Cash; Winner: Lynn Adair (Espanola)

***CONGRATULATIONS to all of the winners and to all who supported this year's NMTFC 2020 Raffle, THANK YOU!***

## 2) COMMITTEE MEETING

All Tree Farmers are invited and encouraged to take part in our 3<sup>rd</sup> New Mexico Tree Farm Committee Meeting of the year (three held annually). Please join us at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Location to be determined. Come out and hear what other tree farmers have been up to and share your tree farm accomplishments with the group. We look forward to visiting with you. If you have any questions, please contact Arnie Friedt at [arnie.friedt@state.nm.us](mailto:arnie.friedt@state.nm.us)

## 3) BUY, SELL OR TRADE

Are you looking for forestry related equipment to buy (i.e. chipper, splitter, chainsaw, etc.)? Or do you own forestry related equipment you would like to sell or trade? Forestry related equipment only, please, no homes or land. We would like to help you make the connection with other New Mexico Tree Farmers. Provide us with a description of the equipment, price, photo and contact information and we will post it in the New Mexico Tree Farm Bulletin. If you would like us to help you make the connection, please provide information to Arnie Friedt at [arnie.friedt@state.nm.us](mailto:arnie.friedt@state.nm.us)

## 4) E-MAIL INSTEAD OF SNAIL MAIL

Would you prefer to receive your Tree Farm Bulletin by e-mail instead of snail mail? If so, contact Arnie Friedt at [arnie.friedt@state.nm.us](mailto:arnie.friedt@state.nm.us) and provide him with your contact information. By receiving your Tree Farm Bulletin by e-mail our operating costs are reduced. Thank you for considering this option.

