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TREE FARM BULLETIN, October, 2007

Greetings,

Our Fall Field Day was held on October 13th, 2007. Tree Farmers and foresters enjoyed the hospitality of John and Karen Ruddock on their 160 acre Tree Farm as they were honored as Tree Farmers of the Year for 2006. The Ruddocks have been actively managing their property since having a stewardship plan completed by New Mexico State Forestry. The group toured areas that have been thinned to reduce crowding, reduce fuel, and control mistletoe. Nick Smokovich of State Forestry, who has worked with the Ruddocks, gave an interesting presentation on mistletoe control. Mistletoe is a huge problem in Southwestern forests and Nick's presentation highlighted some of the challenges involved. The thinned areas looked very good. A look at some before and after photos showed how much work had been involved and how the thinning had really opened up areas so that trees could grow.

After our walk in the woods a picnic lunch was served and the Ruddocks were presented with a Tree Farmer of the Year plaque. They will be receiving a new Stihl chainsaw as part of their reward which I'm sure will be put to good use.

At the end of the day the Ruddocks were talking about their plans for continuing with the forest management of their property. In forestry the job is never done but can bring great satisfaction in knowing that you have left the land in better shape than you found it.



Harry Morrison, Karen & John Ruddock