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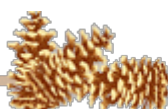


TREE FARM BULLETIN

Bob Gosney is not only our 2014 Tree Farmer of the Year (TFOY) but, in my opinion, also the Firewise leader of the year. On a rainy Friday, 16 October, eight tree farmers from Angel Fire, the Jemez Mountains, Cloudcroft, and Silver City joined New Mexico Foresters and friends of Bob Gosney to honor him and his wife, Barbara, as Tree Farmer of the Year. The Gosney's house was built on their 117 acre forest in 1994. Realizing the wildfire potential, in 1996, they received a Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) grant to thin 17 acres around their house. In 1997 they completed their Forest Management plan and continued work in improving their property. Roads and ATV trails were completed with the dual purpose of providing access to the entire property for firefighting and also to provide several firebreaks. Bob's defensible space extends out to approximately 300 feet exceeding the Firewise standard of 30 - 100 feet. Bob had told the Tree Farm committee advisor, Doug Boykin who is a Type III wildfire incident commander, that he can use his house as a staging area for fires because it is so defensible. There have been numerous fires in the area but none has affected their property. Thus far around 40 acres have been thinned and cleaned up.



Although it rained early during the initial talks and meeting, the rain let up and we were able to tour the tree farm. Bob is a gadgetry guy. He has an immaculate workshop and garage with every tool imaginable and every tool in its place (I hate those kind of people). Bob is a member of the local volunteer fire department and has outfitted his Kubota tractor with a firehose on a roll attached to a pump on his tractor's power take off. When he needs water, either for a fire or to standby when

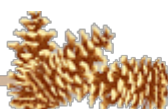


making use of his 10 foot deep burn pit, he mounts two 55 gallon drums in the tractor bucket and heads out. He also has crafted a box on the hood of his tractor to hold firefighting equipment and his chainsaw.



Because the property had not been occupied prior to their purchasing it, there were erosion problems. Bob used the timbers from his land to construct several check dams in the deep ditches and arroyos that have drastically slowed the erosion. One of the local visitors described how he controls erosion by using filled sandbags in the ditches. He fills the sandbags about $\frac{3}{4}$ full, stacks them and protects them with a layer of sand and rocks. The water has not overtopped his dams; the water slowly seeps through the bags.

As do many of our tree farmers Bob has problems with keeping gray oak under control as well as cat claw bushes and thistles. Beetle kill also has been a problem causing the removal of around 100 trees last year.



Since there is little market for timber in the area, Bob gives his firewood to cutters who come to the property. Bob's gadgetierinism, (I know these are not real words, but seem appropriate) came into

play again as he has constructed an elaborate slash hauling contraption for the bucket of his tractor. He can haul almost ½ ton of slash at one time.



Following the tree farm tour a delicious catered bar-be-cue lunch was enjoyed by all. In conclusion, the Gosney's were presented with a beautiful laser cut plaque and a \$250.00 gift certificate from the NM Tree Farm Committee for recognition as 2014 Outstanding Free Farmers of the Year. Our congratulations and job well done to the Gosney's.



(Bob and Barbara Gosney)



(Bob Gosney, Joe Stehling and Tonya Vowles)

FROM THE CHAIRMAN: At the TFOY event all tree farmers present gave a brief description of their farms and how they were implementing their management plans. One item they didn't seem to know was the existence of cost sharing grants through the NRCS. If you need assistance with thinning, erosion control, cattle control around watercourses and several other items check out the NRCS website and look for the EQIP or CSP program.

Do not forget to put 09 December on your calendar for our next Tree Farm and Forest Stewardship meetings. We will be electing a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer. Please consider putting your name into the hat for one of these positions.

