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TREE FARM BULLETIN, November 2006

Greetings;

A group of about forty people, Tree Farmers, foresters, and neighbors, enjoyed the hospitality of the Bartley family on their 4,000 acre Gascon Ranch on October 14th. The event was to recognize the Bartley's as Tree Farmers of the year for 2005. The weather cooperated and, after a short tour of the demonstration forest, lunch was served. The demonstration forest looked great. It is a real testament to the Bartley family's thoughtful stewardship of their land and an example of the Tree Farm program's promise to "get more good forestry on more acres and keep it there." A recent windstorm demonstrated some of nature's management of the forest with a few trees blown down and an impressive lightening strike. A good time was had by all.



On another note, news was received from the Tree Farm program office in Washington DC that under terms of the Canadian Softwood Lumber Agreement signed by the United States and Canada on September 12th, \$450 million was set aside to "undertake activities that support low income housing, promote the practice of sustainable forestry, and assist timber-reliant communities." The American Forest Foundation, parent foundation of the Tree Farm program, is to receive \$150 million to "promote sustainable forestry practices and work with initiatives involving timber- reliant communities." It is always welcome news to hear of money, resources, going to forestry programs. When, or if, the money trickles down to New Mexico the New Mexico Tree Farm program will be better able to meet that goal of "getting more good forestry on more acres and keeping it there."

