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November 2013



Chairman,
NM Tree Farm Committee

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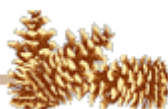
TREE FARM BULLETIN

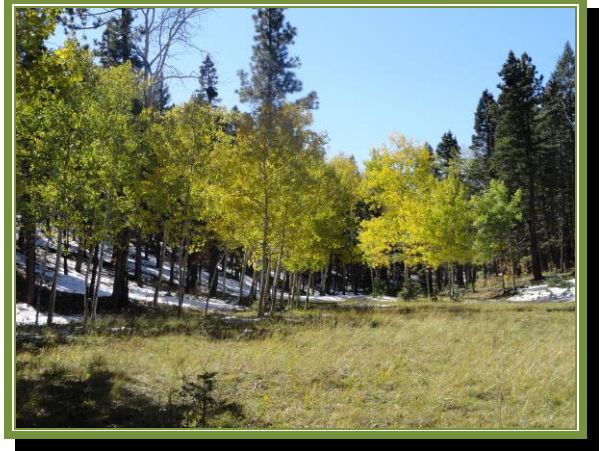
On spectacularly beautiful fall day, five tree farmers and a large number of foresters and friends visited the Vigil tree farm to honor Terri and Toni Vigil as the New Mexico Tree Farmer of the year. Their tree farm is located within the Sangre de Cristo mountains at elevations from 8,600 to 8,900 feet in the Gascon area in Mora county and is comprised of Douglas fir, white fir, and ponderosa pine, with a smattering of limber pine, quaking aspen, Engelmann spruce, and Gambel oak. The property hosts an intermittent stream and a couple of natural ponds.

Following a brief welcome and introductions of attendees, Terri took the entourage on tour of his 263 acre property stopping several times to show the group various prescriptions and techniques he has implemented in thinning his property for forest health and to withstand a wildfire. Terri purchased a Fecon masticator which he enjoys operating. He employs one sawyer who fells the larger trees for mastication. Terri told the group that operational costs of the masticator are about \$2,900 per acre without including anything but machine cost-fuel and maintenance. He uses \$200 worth of fuel in 6-1/2 hours of work and spends about 1-1/2 hours each day performing maintenance following operation. He and his son have modified the machine to overcome what seem to be design deficiencies that became apparent during operation. The Vigils are basically a one-family operation who has leveraged their efforts with various grants described in the September Tree Farm Bulletin. The bulletin also describes in some detail the work the Vigils have done on their property so I won't reiterate that in the bulletin.



All-in-all it was a wonderful day. I would have liked to have seen a few more tree farmers attend to honor this hard working family.





FROM THE CHAIRMAN: Our next Tree Farm committee meeting will be on 11 December in the Department of Agriculture building, 6200 Jefferson NE, Albuquerque, in the first floor conference room. Starting at 1000 is the NM State Forest Stewardship Committee meeting. At 1330 our committee meeting will start. Please put on your calendar as we would like for as many of you to attend as possible. One topic of discussion will be whether New Mexico will continue to participate in the certification process for timber. Thus far we have received only two comments on opt-in or opt-out of the certification process. Watch for an e-mail in early December with the agenda.

