



# NEW MEXICO TREE FARM NEWS

Published by the New Mexico Tree Farm Committee

<https://www.treefarmssystem.org/new-mexico>

Please send suggestions or articles for future newsletters to:

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### Rose Pena Tree Farm

Rose Pena first approached the Las Vegas District in late 2011 for assistance with managing her 4,023 acre property just north of Las Vegas, New Mexico. The Pena Ranch borders the eastern boundary of the Santa Fe National Forest and also happens to be within and adjacent to the Gallinas Watershed, which provides the municipal water supply for the City of Las Vegas. This watershed is at a high risk for catastrophic wild-fire and is considered a top priority for forest managers in the community. Up to this point Ms. Pena had conducted some thinning but she was interested in a management plan and more comprehensive recommendations from professional foresters.

Ms. Pena received cost-share funding through the Forest Health Improvement Program for a forest stewardship plan which was completed by Harry Morrison in 2012. The Pena Ranch was a perfect candidate for the American Tree Farm Program so the property became a Certified Tree Farm in December 2012.

In 2013 Tierra y Montes Soil and Water Conservation District received a grant for Hazardous Fuel Treatments on Non-Federal Lands (NFL Program) to treat 255 acres on the Pena property. Mrs. Pena hired Patrick Griego to complete this project. Patrick had already done previous thinning work on the property and had a great working relationship with Mrs. Pena

The treatment prescription included a fuelbreak along an .8 mile power line. This power line, like many others in the re-

gion, presented a significant fire risk because the adjacent stands were so dense and vegetation within right-of-way has not been maintained over the years. Ms. Pena wanted the treatment to eliminate the possibility of a tree falling on the line at all. Our treatment prescription included a 150 ft –wide, .8 mile long 100% fuelbreak. It is also worth noting that this type of power line thinning is identified as a high priority critical infrastructure treatment within the San Miguel County CWPP which was completed in 2008.

There have been several notable fires in New Mexico in recent years that have been caused by downed power lines, including the Las Conchas Fire in 2011 that burned over 150,000 acres, the Thompson Ridge fire in 2013 that burned ~23,000 acres and the Tres Lagunas fire in 2013 that burned ~10,219 acres. These fires tend to be particularly destructive because they ignite during windy conditions making initial attack difficult. The top priority for fire managers is to make sure citizens and crews are safe.

The Las Vegas District was excited about the opportunity to implement an aggressive fuelbreak treatment along the power line and also within a larger thinning treatment area. This type of treatment fits well with the landowner’s management objectives, puts protection in place along the line and may be a useful strategic fuelbreak should there be a wildfire in the area at some point in the future.





The NFL treatment area on the Pena Ranch is very accessible and slope is not a limiting factor. Thinning treatment was meticulous and logs were removed from the thinning areas. The goals of the thinning outside of the fuelbreak were to restore the forest to an open and clumpy stand and to also re-establish the meadow areas that had been encroached in order to bring diversity back into the ecosystem. The forest stands on this property had become a closed canopy and the understory species including grasses and forbs were suppressed so there was a noticeable lack of wildlife in the area. During the stand inventory little to no mammals were encountered and there was a notable lack of sign.

Consulting forester Harry Morrison wrote the management plan for the property and he was utilized as a contractor to help mark the timber. This continuation of knowledge and experience on the property helped to ensure that the prescriptions were meticulously followed and implemented through this thinning project. The wood removed from the project was mostly utilized as firewood, logs for a local wood-shaving pet-bedding company, and a small number of sawlogs were hauled to a mill in Taos. This project has been featured as a success story in presentations by the Forest Guild to help promote their "Fire Adapted Communities" program.



Fuelbreak along power line through Pena property



(view north to south from property gate)



Typical pre-treatment stand conditions on the Pena property



Fuelbreak along power line (view from south to north, standing in treatment unit)  
Example stand conditions (before treatment on right, after treatment on left)





After thinning: clumpy and open residual ponderosa pine stand.



November 2014: open and clumpy ponderosa pine stands



Logs decks being hauled off site by the thinning contractor for utilization of local wood



Before Treatment



After Treatment



## New Mexico Becomes Seventeenth Tree Farm State

New Mexico became the seventeenth state in the nation and the sixth Western Pine state to join the nationwide tree farm movement, when 80,000 acres of the Philmont Scout Ranch near Cimarron, New Mexico, was certified as a tree farm by the Western Pine Association on August 22.

This Western Pine Tree Farm No. 117 is a part of a 200-square-mile ranch property owned and operated by the Boy Scouts of America as a national camp. Through its certification, the Boy Scouts have entered the American tree growing movement in a major way. Under the forest management program now shaping up, the tree farm promises to become not only a model American forest, but an area where the Scouts can learn more about trees, their protection, management and utilization.

Under Camp Director Bullock, Ranch Manager Bill Hack and Foreman Ira Stevens, the

outlines of a basic forestry training program are being shaped to dovetail into other camp activities. They also are at work mapping a protection program for the forest designed to stand the test of time. Soil Conservation Service, Forest Service and Western Pine Association foresters are working with the ranch people in drawing up the timber management plan. The cartographic division of the Soil Conservation Service at Albuquerque is making an aerial photographic mosaic map of the entire forested area at a scale of a half mile to the inch. This is to be used as the base for making detailed maps of the forest and in developing the plan of management.

For the present the Scouts plan to produce in the forest the wood products required to maintain the ranch properties. Its annual yield on a sustained basis can be substantially more than the volume required for home consumption, but there are no plans for further utilization. The immediate purpose is to build up the forest growth to the full productive capacity of the land.

### BARK HAS VALUABLE PLASTICIZING MATERIAL

A wax-like material from the bark of pine trees, which promises to become one of the most important substances in plastics manufacture has been reported by Prof. H. Von Euler of Sweden. At the recent International Chemical Congress in London he stated that this bark product called phlobaphene, is a new and cheap softening agent or plasticizer.

Manufacture of phlobaphene from the bark which cannot now be used by the lumber and pulpwood industries would not only solve a major waste problem, but also give the plastics industry a new material. The plasticizers from bark are suitable for replacing plasticizers from castor oil and alkyd products, as well as the phthalic acid derivatives, made from coal. Up to 30% of synthetic resins produced consists of the plasticizers. Thus the volume of the bark materials needed will be large.





## Tree Farm for Sale near Albuquerque

For Sale by Owner - land with water and access  
180 Camino de las Palas, Torreon, NM  
(Manzano Mountains)



Beautiful **33 acres** - an hour from Albuquerque - in the pinon/juniper to ponderosa transition zone, an astounding variety of flora and fauna, altitude 6,900 ft, 5-10 degree slope to the east for a view of the rising sun and Estancia - **fenced** - well was producing water when brake failed and the wind mill blew apart (oops) i.e. **well & water** but no pump - 1.5 miles from Torreon **on county road** - old growth and new growth, this area didn't burn in the fires - **40 ft box trailer** made in Albuquerque in 1959 - great for family get-a-way, home site or investment property

contact: **Laura White**

505-321-3797 [laura@unm.edu](mailto:laura@unm.edu)

## Tree Farm for Sale near Cloudfcroft

Sandra has owned and managed a tree farm in the Sacramento Mountains for 16 years. She has 150 acres ,totally surrounded by national forest with my nearest neighbor a mile down the road. I have 6 springs with new springs flowing every year. I have applied for water rights with the state. I'd like to sell to someone that is a good steward of the land and would appreciate the beautiful place I have created.



Contact: **Sandra Hunt**

505-687-2827 [spiritranch@pvt.net](mailto:spiritranch@pvt.net)





If Prescribed Burning is a part of your land management process, you need to protect yourself, your family and your business with Prescribed Burn Liability Insurance.

Prescribed Burning is an effective land management tool. It provides multiple benefits for both land and wildlife. But without liability protection, a prescribed burn could be very costly for the landowner conducting the burn.

The Bramlett Agency, through Midlands Management, offers Prescribed Burning Liability Insurance for the protection of landowners and lessees who have a burn plan prepared. This coverage, which is not usually provided in a homeowners or farm and ranch policy, allows landowners and lessees the ability to conduct a burn on their property.

**Coverage for Prescribed Burns**

Limits:	\$1 Million / \$2 Million
Premium:	\$250 Per Burn
Policy M&D*:	\$500
E&S Tax:	6% (applicable in OK, Surplus Lines, Taxes in other states may vary.)

Security Rating: A XIV\*\*

\*Minimum Deposit Premium

\*\*Property and Casualty Liability program with Essex Insurance Company who holds a security rating A = Excellent, XIV (14) is a numeric rating depicting the size of company (15 being the largest).



**DID YOU KNOW SHOPPING AT AMAZONSMILE CAN HELP SUPPORT NEW MEXICO TREE FARM COMMITTEE?**

**WHAT IS AMAZONSMILE?**

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon that lets customers enjoy the same wide selection of products, low prices, and convenient shopping features as on Amazon.com. The difference is that when customers shop on AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organizations selected by customers.

**HOW DOES AMAZONSMILE WORK?**

When first visiting AmazonSmile, customers are prompted to select a charitable organization from almost one million eligible organizations. In order to browse or shop AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization.

**IS THERE ANY COST TO CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS OR TO THE CUSTOMERS?**

No. There is no cost to charitable organizations or to AmazonSmile customers. The shopping experience is identical to Amazon.com with the added benefit that the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate to the charitable organizations selected by customers.

**DOES THE AMAZONSMILE FOUNDATION TAKE ANY PORTION OF DONATIONS TO FUND ITS OPERATIONS?**

No. Amazon funds the operations of the AmazonSmile Foundation.

Visit: [http://smile.amazon.com/about/ref=smi\\_ge\\_ul\\_lm\\_raas](http://smile.amazon.com/about/ref=smi_ge_ul_lm_raas) for additional information.

Visit: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/85-0392161> to start shopping today.

**YOU SHOP. AMAZON GIVES.**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT, NEW MEXICO TREE FARM COMMITTEE**



Application can be found on <http://www.bramlettagency.com>





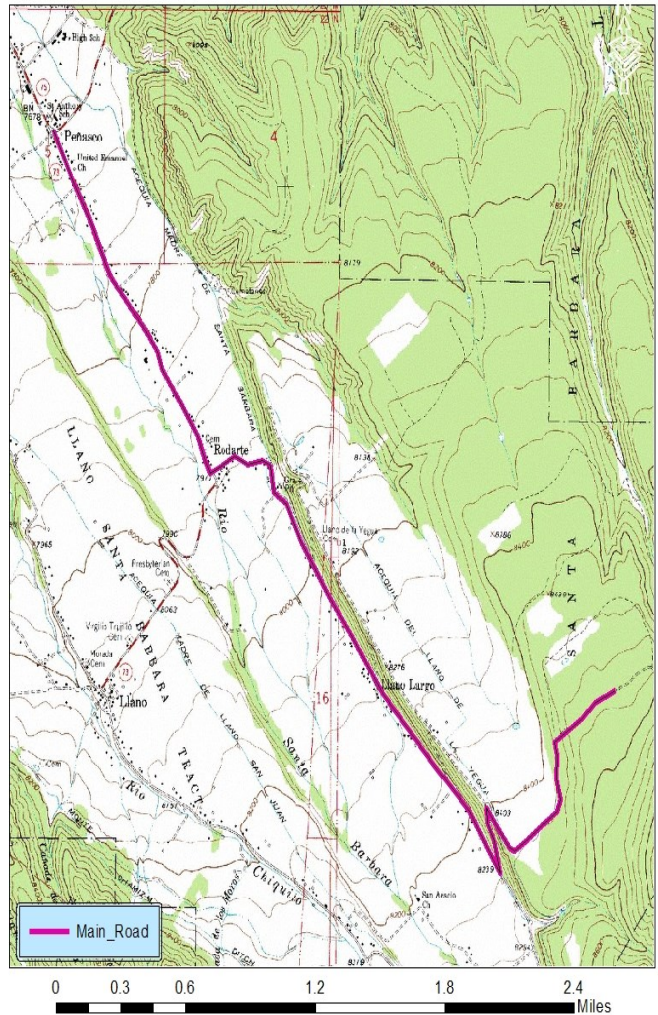
# 2015 OUTSTANDING TREE FARMER OF THE YEAR

The New Mexico Tree Farm Committee has selected the 2015 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year. The Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year best exemplifies the goals of the American Tree Farm System, to promote good forest management and to reach out and educate the general public about what good forestry is all about.

We are pleased to announce that Hart and Utilia Alex, who's tree farm is near Penasco, ( southwest of Taos) have been selected as the 2015 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year for New Mexico. The Alex's have been actively managing their property since 1977. They have been active in recruiting like-minded landowners to manage their lands and be Tree Farm members. The Tree Farm Committee will have an awards ceremony on October 15th to tour the Alex's property. Please RSVP to Arnie Friedt ( 575-376-2204) or Doug Boykin( 575-835-9359) so we will have a idea on how many will be there ( by the way, Lunch is served which is as standard for with all Fall Field day events).



2015 Outstanding Tree Farmers  
Hart & Utilia Alex



Be looking for more information about this event in the September Tree Farm Bulletin.





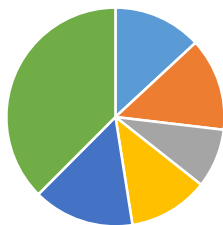
# NM Tree Farm Statistics

## 2016

160 Pioneer and Certified Tree Farmers

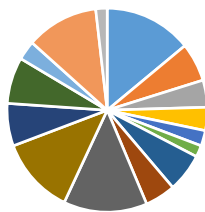
Total of 143,291 Acres

Tree Farms By State Forestry District



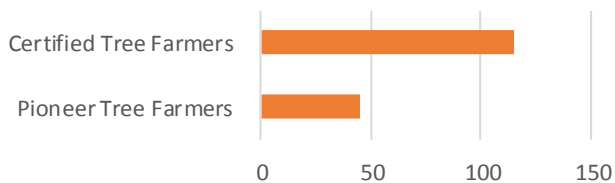
■ Chama ■ Cimarron ■ Socorro ■ Las Vegas ■ Capitan ■ Bernalillo

Tree Farms by County



■ Bernalillo ■ Catron ■ Cibola ■ Colfax ■ Grant  
 ■ Lincoln ■ McKinley ■ Mora ■ Otero ■ Rio Arriba  
 ■ San Miguel ■ Sandoval ■ Santa Fe ■ Taos ■ Torrance

Certified Vs Pioneer Tree Farmers



# Documents Every Tree Farmer Needs

What should you keep? Although each Tree Farm has its own unique paper trail, here are eight documents every Tree Farmer should hold on to:

**Deeds:** A property deed doesn't just record your ownership of your land—it also records the land's exact location and boundaries. This can be critical information, says forester Michael J. Burns, program resource manager for the Family Forest program at the American Forest Foundation. "In my experience, most people don't know where their property boundaries are," he says. "They say good fences make good neighbors, but if you don't know where your boundaries are, you won't know where to put the fence."

**Management plan:** A complete and up-to-date management plan offers many advantages: it serves as an inventory of what's on your property, a work plan for its future and proof that your Tree Farm is a business if you're claiming a profit or loss at tax time. If you don't already have a plan, a consulting forester can help you craft one. [MyLandPlan.org](http://MyLandPlan.org) offers help in finding a qualified forester and useful planning advice.

**Property map:** This map shows not just boundary lines, but everything you value about your woods. Special sites, historic structures and stone walls, and changes in vegetation—for example, an area where pines give way to hardwoods—should all be recorded on your map. Hiring a professional surveyor to map your woods can prove especially valuable, says Jordan. [MyLandPlan.org](http://MyLandPlan.org) offers a mapping tool to assist woodland owners in identifying important features on their land.

**Permits:** Keep permits for any activities that require them—whether it's harvesting or planting trees, building roads or stream crossings, using pesticides or conducting controlled burns. They provide you with a reference for the next time you need to file for a permit, and they can protect you if the agency that granted you the permit loses it or claims you weren't issued one. "Permitting agencies tend to have short memories and long reaches," Burns says, "so you want to keep permits forever."

**Contracts:** Make sure to keep all your contracts, along with proof of insurance and other contract requirements, for any contractors you hire. Spoken agreements won't cut it; get any agreement to do work on your woods written down, and hold on to it.

**Landowner liability insurance policies:** "You've worked hard to acquire your property and improve it," says Burns, "so you want to protect it." And protecting it means keeping records of any insurance you have for yourself, your property and any structures on it, and for anyone working on your land.

**A copy of your state Best Management Practices (BMPs):** Copies of your state BMPs are usually available for free, and they offer you useful guidelines for working on your property. They can also help highlight parts of your land or facets of your management activities that could be improved.

**Receipts, warranties and instruction manuals:** If you purchase supplies or tools for use on your Tree Farm, keep all the documentation that comes with them. These records can come in handy for replacing or repairing your purchases, logging your expenses for tax-deduction purposes, and ensuring that other family members can correctly use your Tree Farm equipment.

A little common sense goes a long, long way, particularly when it comes to record-keeping. So when in doubt about a document, file it away. After all, each piece of paper chronicles life on your Tree Farm—recording, for your own satisfaction and for future generations, everything you've accomplished in your woods.

