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TREE FARM BULLETIN

Greetings;

On June 9th the Harling family, Gene, Aggie, and sons Chris and Curtis hosted the Tree Farm Spring field day on their 50 acre Tree Farm in the Juan Tomas area of the East Mountains. About thirty Tree Farmers and backyard Tree Farmers along with their families turned out to tour the Tree Farm. The Harlings purchased 10 acres of their property in 1959. The Forest Service owned the other 40 acres at the time which the Harlings acquired in 1966 after a land exchange.

The property is primarily pinon/juniper with some scattered Ponderosa pine. Shortly after purchasing the 10 acres the Harlings planted Ponderosa pine. Some of those trees are now close to 25 feet tall.

The property probably at one time had much more Ponderosa pine but some early sawmills in the Juan Tomas area cut most of it which converted the area to a pinon/juniper forest. These early sawmills operated in an era before forest management for a sustained yield was practiced.

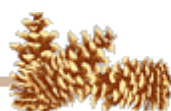
Over the years the Harlings noticed how thick their forest was becoming. Trees were crowded, mortality was increasing, and the property was beginning to be at risk from destruction from fire and susceptible to insects and disease. They decided to have a management plan done and embarked on a series of forest thinnings.

Since 2005 a total of five acres a year has been thinned. The results are truly dramatic. A tour of the thinned areas showed that fire danger has been greatly reduced and you can now look through the forest which has a feeling of openness. Trees are healthier. A couple of neighbors were so impressed that they have thinned their properties nearby. The thinning has been done by Forest Fitness a local operation. All the slash has been chipped. Any firewood was removed by the contractor. The Harlings keep a cord or two of firewood for their own use.

The Harlings have also continued to plant trees. A native plum has done particularly well. Ponderosa pine, Scots pine and Douglas fir are some of the species they have planted.

Our thanks to the Harlings for hosting the Spring field day. It was very informative and indicative of the challenges present in managing our forests.

Harry A. Morrison, Vice Chairman, NM Tree Farm Committee



Message from the Chairman: Many thanks to the Harlings for all their hard work preparing for our Field day, and to all those who attended the Tree Farm field day on 09 June. We couldn't have had a better day, presentations, tour, attendance, and fantastic food. We may have even gotten a couple of potential Tree Farmers or Backyard Tree Farmers as a result of the day. I was asked to provide the names and contact information of the presenters. Jose Lopez who gave an informative presentation on Forest Products in New Mexico is Director of Forest Industries Association (ijvlchimex@aol.com). George Duda who gave a well received chain saw safety and forest health presentation is a retired forester from NM State Forestry (dzipityg@q.com). My thanks to both for their participation. Our next event is the annual Tree Farmer of the Year Field day sometime this fall. Keep an eye out for the notice and plan to attend. A couple of reminders: The AFTS web site is www.treefarmssystem.org. The site has lots of good information on managing your tree farm. You can subscribe to the Tree Farm magazine from the site. The magazine also has good information on tree farm management. For grants that are available from USDA go to www.nrcs.usda.gov. Look for EQIP, WHIP, and CSP.

