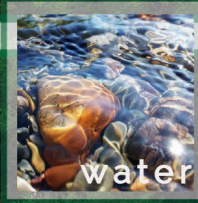


# NEW MEXICO TREE FARM

## BULLETIN



## NM 2022 TREE FARM OF THE YEAR

Written by: Todd Haines, NM Tree Farm Program, Inspector Coordinator

## 2<sup>ND</sup> QUARTER 2023



The Tree Farm of the Year is an award given by the New Mexico Tree Farm System to recognize an individual or family that manages their Tree Farm in a way that best exemplifies the values of good forest management.

## OUR MISSION

*To promote the growing of renewable forest resources on private lands while protecting environmental benefits and increasing public understanding of all benefits of productive forestry.*

*The American Tree Farm System (ATFS), a program of the American Forest Foundation, is committed to sustaining forests, watershed and healthy habitats through the power of private stewardship.*

Congratulations to Dave and Kim Roland for being chosen the New Mexico Tree Farm of the Year. A celebration will take place on September 23, 2023 on their property.

It always feels great to own a piece of forested property. However, as many of you know, you not only own a small piece of the forest to live or vacation on, but you also have an ongoing project –taking care of the forest. Dave and Kim Roland, from Lockhart TX, fell in love with this piece of property located in one of NM's best kept secret locations. They purchased the property in May of 2011 and have been working to improve it ever since. Soon after they had a forest management plan developed and began the

improvements to the forest that they soon realized may never end. In 2013, their 80-acre property became a certified Tree Farm. They have been working on portions of the property, to improve the forest conditions, as their time has allowed. Currently, they both are thinning a 7-acre portion of the property to add to the several acres already completed. One long-term helper not only cuts on the property but removed some of the firewood and pole material to use and sometimes sell.

A few years ago, they developed a "Container Cabin" in TX and transported and set it up on the property.

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They also purchased a small portable sawmill and used material from the property to build a horse corral and some other items. They sold that mill and purchased another one to continue the work. We are hoping for a short sawmill demonstration the day of the event and possibly some skidding demonstrations. One with a 4-wheeler and one, maybe, with a

horse harness if the horse is feeling up to it.

On a recent visit to the property, they told me that “Marriam” would be visiting soon. Sure enough, that is the name (and species) of a local turkey that visited the cabin right on time. They have a theory that she likes to visit the horses.

Kim is a retired structure firefighter for the City of Austin, TX and Dave handed me his business card which read “Fiddle Player” & “Equine Pedicurist.” Maybe we can get Dave to play something during their celebration?

### **SPEAKING OF CELEBRATING...YOU ARE INVITED!**

Please join us September 23, 2023, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Lunch will be provided by the New Mexico Tree Farm committee. Please RSVP to Todd Haines at [Todd\\_Haines@hotmail.com](mailto:Todd_Haines@hotmail.com) (There is an underscore in the email). Or text/call 505-934-1033.

The Tree Farm is a little tough to get to, but most Tree Farmers and Foresters are used to rough dirt roads so hopefully we will have a decent turn out. See directions in the sidebar to the right.

## **SENDING OUR CONDOLENCES**

The New Mexico Tree Farm Family would like to send heart-felt condolences to the family of Bob and Shirley Sallach of the Starfire Tree Farm located in the Tijeras area. Both Bob and Shirley recently passed away and the Tree Farm was in the care of their children. The 155-acre Tree Farm hosted a field day for the 2011 Tree Farm National convention (when they still had them) and was also one of the sites for a Tree Farm Demonstration Forests. They will be missed!



**Date:** September 23, 2023

**Time:** 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

**Lunch:** Provided by New Mexico Tree Farm Committee

**RSVP:** [Todd\\_Haines@hotmail.com](mailto:Todd_Haines@hotmail.com)  
Text/Call: 505-934-1033

### **Directions:**

Zuni Mountains. From I-40, take the Ft. Wingate Exit (Rd 400), proceed approx. 11 miles south to McGaffey Lake. Remain on FR-50 (approx. 7 miles) until you reach a 4 way stop. From there proceed straight along FR-157 for approx. 5 miles. There will be signs from there. For those who are GPS Savvy use the following in Decimal Degrees (DD.DDDDDD) - 35.268933° -108.481403°.





## CARING FOR YOUR LAND WITH A MANAGEMENT PLAN

*Written by: Nick Smokovich, Capitan District Forester*

In an article written by Cassidy Walter, Iowa State University Extension forestry specialist Billy Beck uses the following analogy:

*“A truck on blocks isn’t going any-where, even if the engine is running...That is exactly what an unmanaged forest is like. There’s a ton of potential, but [few private forestland owners] are familiar enough with how it operates to maximize it. When properly managed [following a Forest Stewardship Plan, your land] can provide financial, ecological, and recreational benefits. Foresters can help landowners think through what they want their timberland to look like in several decades and the uses they intend for it, such as hunting and wildlife habitat or [just pass along a piece of property better than you found it as a long-term investment for family].”*

However, each summer that same running truck can be knocked off it blocks by a wildfire. All that stored potential becomes energy to fuel the wildfire. Through thoughtful thinning that energy can be redistributed into the remaining trees to power their growth. Think of it as tuning an engine so the fuel is not turned into exhaust pollution. If you agree with this analogy and want to learn more about how to care for your piece of the forest and have a management plan developed, contact a forester in one of the six district offices the Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department Forestry Division operates. <https://www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/contact-us/find-a-district-office/>. A management plan will address your objectives, fish and wildlife, threatened and endangered species, soil, water, wetlands, recreation, aesthetics, cultural resources, and timber resources for your property.

To assist the forester with developing a management plan (see [sample outline](#)), landowners should:

- Have a copy of the plat map for your property.
- Find and mark property boundary markers. Foresters are not licensed land surveyors, and our maps are for reference only, not legal documents.

Before the forester starts gathering data about your forest, they need to understand your goals and objectives for your property. Their recommendations will be tailored toward your vision if possible. Forest health and sustainability will always be the top consideration. Once you have an active management plan, and start to implement recommendations, consult with the forester if you have questions or concerns that outcomes are differing than predicted. They can assist you in adjusting the recommended prescription based on unforeseen weather or other events. This is to say that a management plan is a living document that records the history of the property and informs future decisions.





## SAF FIELD TRIP TO THE VERMEJO PARK RANCH

In early May, the Society of American Foresters (SAF) hosted a field trip to [Vermejo Park Ranch](#) to tour and learn about their thinning project and discuss dry-mixed conifer, Ponderosa Pine, and Pinon-Juniper management. The field trip was well attended by SAF members, state Tree Farmers, and many interested in forestry. Vermejo Park Ranch has been treating Ponderosa Forest habitat for over 25 years with the goal of restoring the natural ecological process and improving the resiliency of the forests. Roughly 1200 acres are treated per year, producing 24,000 tons sent to local sawmills, Western Wood Products, Raton, NM, and Silver Dollar Shaving, Maxwell, NM. With the treatments spanning over 25 years, the Ranch has recreated a significant landscape mosaic of heterogeneous seral stages that may already be aiding in reducing the risk of lightning caused larger wildland fires. The Ranch is working on a plan with NM State Forestry to utilize low intensity managed fire as an ecosystem management tool and plans to continue Ponderosa Pine treatments. They also worked with the U.S. Forest Service and the Forest Inventory Analysis program, a long running forest assessment program across the country that tracks trends in forests including species health, growth, and mortality. **A big thank you to Ryan Simonson, Vermejo Park Ranch Forester, for being an excellent tour guide.**

## HELPFUL RESOURCES

- [New Mexico Tree Farm Program website](#)
- [New Mexico Tree Farm Committee Members](#)
- [National Association of State Foresters | NM website](#)
- [Guide to Resources for Private Forest Landowners in NM](#)
- [NM Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department \(EMNRD\)](#)
- [American Tree Farm System | National website](#)
- [American Forest Foundation website](#)

