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TREE FARM BULLETIN

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.

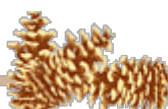
We are pleased to announce that Hart and Utilia Alex have been selected as the 2015 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year for New Mexico. The Alex's have been actively managing their property since 1977. They have been active in recruiting like-minded landowners to manage their lands and be Tree Farm members. The Tree Farm Committee will have an awards ceremony in October (additional fall field day information forthcoming).

THE ALLEX FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM

By Hart Alex



In the beginning, when we bought our first 70 acres in 1977, we just wanted to walk through our forest. It was an impossible dog hair thicket of undergrown Ponderosa. The only walking space was the survey line/boundary and an old overgrown logging road. This area (part of the Santa Barbara Land Grant) was logged heavily during the early 1900s and again in the 50s. The regeneration was out of control, and the overgrazing and fire suppression finished the job.



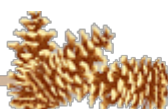
1988-My boys and I started thinning a ten acre piece. We produced a nightmare of downed, spindly trees-now called latillas. The Feds subsidized this effort at \$57 an acre.

2000-when we retired from teaching Eskimos in Alaska, I burned all the slash and started cutting again. And again, and again. After crossing the 45 acres at least three times (my thinning standard continued evolving) and burning uncounted piles of slash, and watching over 1000 truckloads of wood go out? We can walk through the resulting park. That effort culminated six years ago. I also helped a neighbor (another Tree Farmer) thin his 25 acres.



Along the way, I realized what a forest transformation I was causing with all the work. I wanted to do more. I had to do more. This is what I do. So how to do it? Buy more land and continue this quest. Four years ago we started, again, with 54 acres a half mile east of our house. This time I hired a crew to help. Now we (10 to 12 sawyers and pilers) work three days a week. We have added four more properties since then, for around 250 acres total including pastures. We thinned 50 acres last summer.

In 2004, we hosted our New Mexico Tree Farmer of the Year (2003) award. Last year, the Taos County Soil and Water District gave me a Land Stewardship Award. Now we are the Tree Farmers of the Year for New Mexico again. This job is no longer work, now it is my passion. God gave me a hell of a task,



and I love doing it. If you use Google Earth and locate Peñasco then scroll to the east end of the valley you will see the patches in the forest where we work. It can be seen from space! Hope to show it off for you in October.

1) BUY, SELL OR TRADE

Are you looking for forestry related equipment to buy (i.e. chipper, splitter, chainsaw, etc.)? Or, do you own forestry related equipment you would like to sell or trade? We would like to help you make the connection with other New Mexico Tree Farmers. Provide us with a description of the equipment, price, photo and contact information and we will post it in the New Mexico Tree Farm Bulletin. If you would like us to help you make the connection please provide information to Arnie Friedt at arnie.friedt@state.nm.us

2) COMMUNITY CORNER

If your community is having a forestry related public event let us know the details and we would be delighted to promote your event in the New Mexico Tree Farm Bulletin. Give us the event details, Who, What, Where and When with contact information and we will include in our monthly bulletin. If you would like us to help you promote your event, please provide information to Arnie Friedt at arnie.friedt@state.nm.us

3) NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS

The New Mexico Tree Farm Program is in the process of switching website addresses. Our current website is at <http://www.nmfamilyforests.org/> and will be discontinued at the close of this year (2016). Our new website is at <https://www.treefarmssystem.org/new-mexico> and is already active. Current feature include: contact information, resources, newsletters, bulletins and our calendar of events. Take a few minutes and check out our new website (provided to us by the American Tree Farm System).

