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TREE FARM BULLETIN

American Tree Farm System 2016 National Leadership Conference Seattle, WA

Summary by Matthew Silva, Chair Elect.

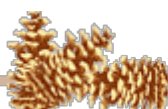
The American Tree Farm Leadership Conference promoted the exchange of information in the form of presentations, panel discussions, and publications. It brought together folks from around this nation and from different walks of life to share their experience and concerns. The concerns can best be

summarized in three words – wood, wildlife, and water. The solution starts with one word – Partnerships!

Concerns: For privately owned forest lands, each region of the country has its primary concern. For example, many Southern states are economically dependent on forest based industries. The availability of commercial wood is a priority. Some folks in the Northeastern states would consider the preservation of habitat for wildlife as a stewardship priority. For the West, it is water, water, water.



Joe Stehling, Secretary; Matthew Silva, Chair Elect; Arnie Friedt, Inspector



Western concerns were elegantly identified in the recent technical report from the American Forest Foundation (AFF, 2016, p. 6).

In fact, concern over water quality and quantity is now viewed by Western voters as an extremely or very serious problem, even more so than unemployment (Colorado College Report and Conservation in the West Annual Survey, Colorado College, 2015).

How serious?

At least 64 million Westerners depend on surface water for their clean water supply that comes from or is filtered by forested watersheds. (AFF, 2016, p. 10).

Why is this important to the American Tree Farm System?

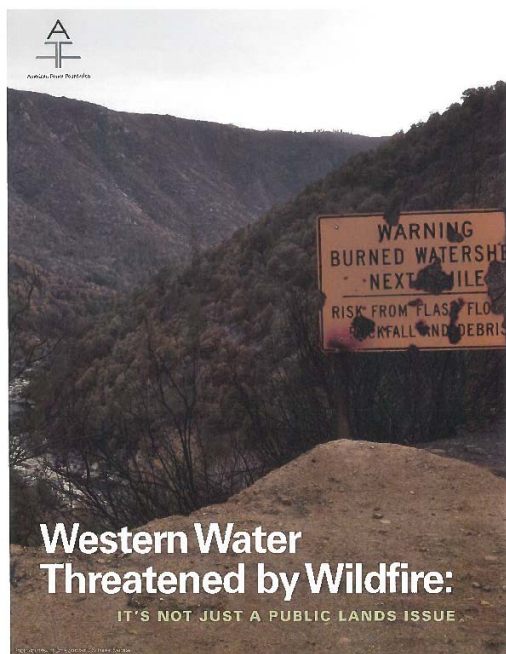
Across 11 Western states more than a third of the high wildfire risk falls on private and family-owned land, not public land. (AFF, 2016, p. 6).

As noted in the report, the ownership of high fire risk land varies by state:

In fact, over half of the overall footprint of high fire risk on private and family land occurs in just three states – California, Montana, and New Mexico.

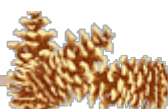
The full report can be found at:

https://www.forestfoundation.org/stuff/contentmgr/files/1/3d98bbe1b03a0bdf4c726534d438b0ab/misc/final_fire_report.pdf



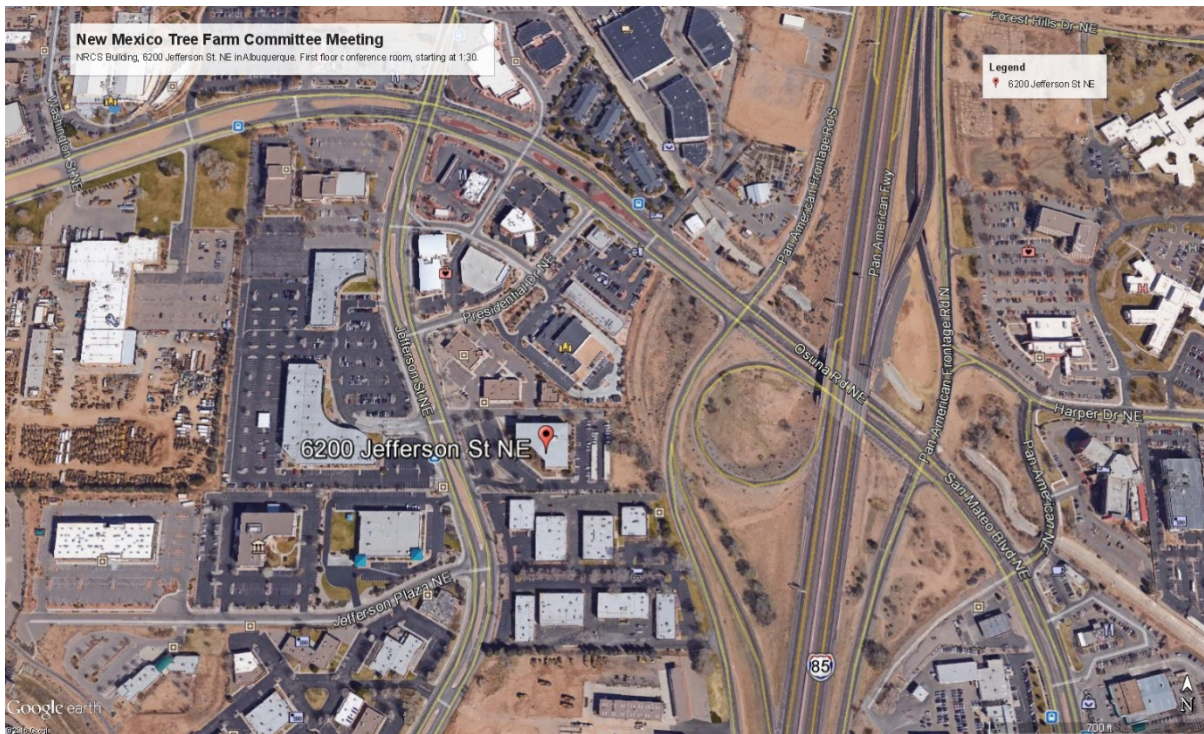
The discussions throughout the conference underscored the importance of partnerships to address these issues. For New Mexico what is the good news? Some private lands in New Mexico are in relatively good shape thanks to the ongoing partnerships of the landowners, State Forestry, funding agencies, the wood industry, and participation in the American Tree Farm System. New Mexico is also fortunate to have available the additional resource of the Watershed and Forest Restoration Institute.

The challenge for our Chapter of the American Tree Farm System is to reach out and serve as a conduit for other land owners to access these resources. How can we accomplish this objective? That is the discussion I look forward to continuing within our state chapter.



1) New Mexico Tree Farm Committee Meeting (Albuquerque, March 9th)

Come and join us at the first New Mexico Tree Farm Committee meeting of the year at the NRCS Building, 6200 Jefferson St. NE in Albuquerque (see map below). First floor conference room, starting at 1:30. Hope to see you there.



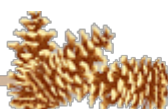
2) AMERICAN TREE FARM SYSTEM – 75 YEARS!

Proudly serving the nation's need for wood, water, wildlife, and recreation resources! 2016 marks the American Tree Farm System 75th year in operation. This logo does not replace the Tree Farm/Family Forest logo we are all familiar with; it will only be used throughout the anniversary year on various publications.



3) NEW MEXICO 2016 WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE SUMMIT (Silver City, March 31-April 2)

The Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Summit www.nmfireinfo.com is a statewide traveling conference that is organized by representatives from state and federal agencies and local non-profits. The WUI Summit focuses on topics that teach local leaders, emergency responders, businesses, and citizens the science behind forest fires and what each player's role is in mitigating risk of forest fires in the wildland urban interface.





The 2016 WUI Summit returns to Silver City, New Mexico for a second year and will be held at the Besse-Forward Global Resource Center on the Western New Mexico University Campus

www.wnmu.edu/quickfacts/wnmu_map.pdf. This year, each day of the conference targets specific audiences, beginning with local leadership on the first day, moving to agency and responder responsibility, and ending with community involvement for a half day on Saturday. Attendees are encouraged to participate in the full conference to gain a comprehensive outlook on exactly what it takes to re-energize community fire response.

Please be advised that online registration is open until March 23, 2016. After this date, all new registrations must be done onsite. The online registration fee is \$65 for attendees and \$315 for exhibitors. Onsite registration fees are \$85 for attendees and \$350 for exhibitors.

4) SACRAMENTO WOOD INDUSTRY SUMMIT (Ruidoso, March 30-31)

Enhancing the Forest Industry; New Products & Trends; Emerging Markets; Success Stories in Wood Product Businesses; Information on Networking for Contractors; Expert Panel Discussions on Funding Sources, Grants, SBA, etc.; Bidding Processes & Lists; Biomass Usage; Demonstrations and much more.

The summit is free and open to the public. For more information call ENMU-Ruidoso: 575-257-3012; coda.omness@enmu.edu; or mail to: 709 Mechem Drive, Ruidoso, NM 88345.



5) HELP! Reduce costs while conserving resources. And get your Tree Farm Bulletin hot off the internet. E-mail instead of snail mail.

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