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TREE FARM BULLETIN

Harnessing Fire Equipment – Renting the NM Rx Fire Burn Trailer

By Doug Cram, NMSU Asst. Professor/Extension Forestry & Fire Specialist

In last month's Tree Farm Bulletin, we discussed harnessing fire. Specifically, a training exercise hosted by the New Mexico Prescribed Fire Council and New Mexico State University Cooperative Extension Service that was designed to provide landowners an opportunity to hone their burning skills. The need for such a training exercise stems from the lost art of applying fire to the landscape to achieve natural resource objectives.



Fire is a useful management tool. Here are some common goals and objectives that prescribed fire can achieve: reduce fuel loads/hazardous fuels, suppress the influence of woody plants, manage wildlife habitat, improve forage quality, manage insects and disease, improve utilization by livestock of otherwise unpalatable plants, improve vigor of herbaceous species, and prepare sites for seeding or planting.

There are numerous challenges to returning fire to the ground for NM private landowners. In a national survey, the highest-ranking impediments limiting prescribed fire use in the western U.S. included capacity, weather, air quality/smoke management, and resources (see Figure 1 for additional impediments). Capacity was defined as the lack of trained prescribed fire managers, training opportunities, private contractors, and partnerships.

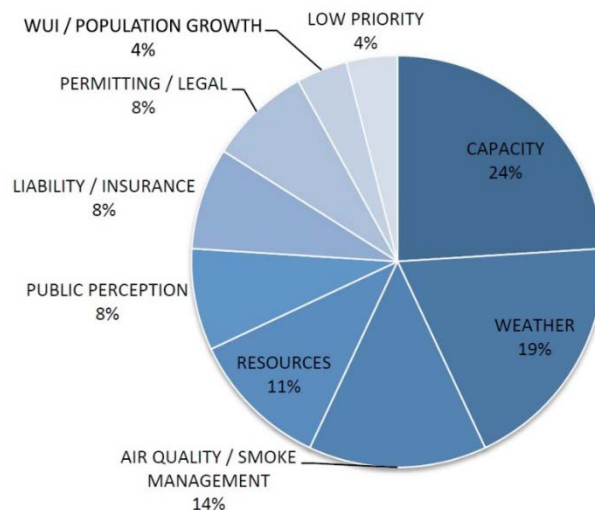
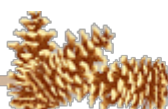


Figure 1. Results from a nationwide survey indicating impediments limiting prescribed fire use. The survey conducted in 2012 by the National Association of State Foresters and the Coalition of Prescribed Fire Councils.



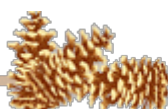
As noted above, the hands-on training exercise hosted at the NMSU Corona Ranch in April 2017 was designed to address the shortage in capacity. To address the fourth ranking impediment, lack of resources, the Council was one of many beneficiaries from a successful Collaborative Forest Restoration Program (CFRP) grant written by Mike Caggiano and partners including the South-Central Mountain Resource Conservation and Development Council.

The CFRP grant provided funds to purchase a prescribed fire trainer as well as most of the necessary equipment needed to conduct a burn. Examples of equipment found in the trainer that one would probably not find in the barn include drip torches, flappers, Pulaskis, backpack pumps, fire clothing



(e.g., Nomex®) and sling psychrometers – an instrument used to measure relative humidity. To get a complete listing of all the equipment in the burn trailer visit the NM Prescribed Fire Council [webpage](#). In addition to the equipment list, the webpage contains the protocol to rent the trailer as well as the liability release. The trailer is available to NM stakeholders interested in conducting prescribed burns.

Contact the NM Prescribed Fire Council (see webpage for contacts) to learn more about renting the burn trailer. Don Kearney-Chair (575)405-2387 E-mail jerseynewt@yahoo.com; Rick Merrick-Co-Chair (575)446-3973 E-mail RMerrick@scmrtd.org; Doug Boykin-Secretary (575)835-9359 E-mail doug.boykin@state.nm.us; Doug Cram-Board Member & Webmaster E-mail dcram@nmsu.edu



1) WHEN WAS YOUR LAST TREE FARM INSPECTION?

When was the last time your property was inspected by a Tree Farm Inspector? If it has been longer than five years you are overdue. A Tree Farm inspection should be conducted every five years. If it has been longer than five years, you are no longer a "Certified" Tree Farmer and you need to be inspected. As we work towards getting our tree farmers some form of agricultural or "Tree Farm" tax status, it is imperative that we make sure the inspections and management plans for our certified tree farmers are current, concise and correct, with addendums where needed. If you have not had your tree farm inspected in the last 5 years, please call your inspector and set up a date and a time for an inspection. All you need to do is call your Tree Farm Inspector at one of the numbers below and have the coffee pot on when your inspector gets there.

Chama District 575-588-7831
Socorro District 575-835-9359
Capitan District 575-354-2231

Cimarron District 575-376-2204
Las Vegas District 505-425-7472
Bernalillo District 505-867-2334

2) 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? Forestry related equipment only, please, no homes or land. 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

3) 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

4) E-MAIL INSTEAD OF SNAIL MAIL

Would you prefer to receive your Tree Farm Bulletin by e-mail instead of snail mail? If so, contact Doug Boykin at doug.boykin@state.nm.us and provide him with your contact information. By receiving your Tree Farm Bulletin by e-mail our operating costs are reduced. Thank you for considering this option.

5) COMMITTEE MEETING

All Tree Farmers are invited and encouraged to attend our 2nd New Mexico Tree Farm Committee Meeting of the year (three held annually). Please join us at 1:30 pm on Wednesday, August 9, 2017 (location to be announced). Come out and hear what other tree farmers have been up to and share your tree farm accomplishments with the group. We look forward to visiting with you. If you have any questions, please contact Arnie Friedt at arnie.friedt@state.nm.us

