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TREE FARM BULLETIN

Harnessing Fire – NMSU Cooperative Extension and NM Rx Fire Council Train Next Generation Fire Practitioners

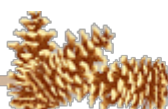
By Doug Cram, NMSU Asst. Professor/Extension Forestry & Fire Specialist

Well before the emergence of humans on the planet, fire played a role in shaping vegetation. Evidence suggests fire may have been burning plants as early as 440 million years ago. The question of how long humans have been using fire, for cooking, is hotly debated. So where do these two stories converge? How long have humans been using fire to manipulate vegetation? At least in North America, Native Americans were the first fire managers. However, that skill has largely been lost among today's landowners for a variety of reasons. Fire is a useful management tool, but understanding when, where and how to use it takes practice. Unlike other management tools such as an axe for tree cutting or a sprayer for brush control, burning cannot simply be turned off once the match has been struck. This increases the complexity of using fire.

To address this challenge, NMSU Cooperative Extension and the NM Rx Fire Council collaborated to create an opportunity for landowners to practice using fire without the immediate concern of personal liability on their ranch. The training was conducted in April on the NMSU Corona Range and Livestock Research Center under the direction of Shad Cox, superintendent, and Richard

Dunlap, senior research

assistant. Participants included Rian Nials, Jim Racher, Colton Racher, and Conner Cox. Burn instructors included Brent Racher, Tim Kirkpatrick, and Doug Cram. The training was successful as first time burners got an opportunity to run a drip torch as well as patrol fire lines. The fire behavior was mild owing to fuel and weather conditions, but this did not detract from the primary objective of gaining hands-on experience. To facilitate training, the NM Prescribed Fire Council provided their recently acquired [Burn Trailer](#) that citizens can borrow that contains all the tools landowners would need to burn. Equipment that you would not find in



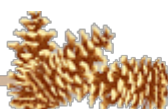
the barn can be found in the trailer, such as drip torches, flappers, Pulaskis and sling psychrometers – an instrument used to measure relative humidity.



Speaking of weather, burning in the Corona country is one part fire experience and nine parts understanding weather. Indeed, being able to interpret weather forecasts for the day of the burn, as well the following days is critical to successful burning. What will be the wind speed and direction, relative humidity, ventilation rate, fuel moisture? These are all variables that must be considered and taken into consideration. In addition, smoke must be accounted for in order to avoid impacting downwind neighbors, communities and highways.



This unique training opportunity is set to be repeated annually as well as this summer to highlight growing season conditions, a historically non-traditional season of burning that may offer equal efficacy but with reduced fire behavior conditions such as reduced flame lengths and rates of spread. Contact Doug Cram dcram@nmsu.edu or the [NM Prescribed Fire Council](#) to learn more about this hands-on training.



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

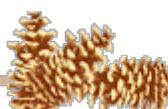
2) BUY, SELL OR TRADE

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

SOLD

VERMEER MODEL 935C GASOLINE CHIPPER

- 4 cylinder Wisconsin engine model W41770
- Accepts up to 9 to 10-inch diameter logs
- Only has 206 total hours on meter
- Automatic feed with an automatic pause feature if the machine starts to bog down



- This is a great chipper for a home owner or small business with a small crew. It can easily keep up with two people feeding it all day
- Was \$15,000 new, now asking \$6,000
- Serial #: 1VRD10153S1001486
- Manual Control #: EN-OM-0058-AP92



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

