

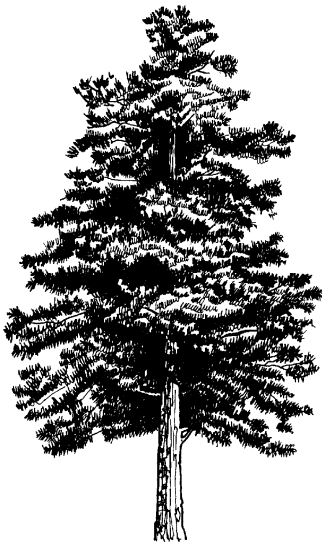


San Juan Tree Farmer



A Colorado State Forest Service—Durango District Newsletter for Forest Landowners.

July 9, 2010



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Thoughts from a Forester,

TIME and MONEY - Two things we often wish we had more of. This issue of San Juan Tree Farmer will focus on potential sources of funding for forest landowners, as well as announce some up-coming opportunities where I hope we can share some time. Since programs and associated funding for forestry projects are constantly changing, it is best to stay in touch with local offices such as CSFS and NRCS to determine what is currently available. Also in this issue, you will find new sources of information that may be helpful as you plan your time and implement your forestry and other resource management activities.

The Levine Family has been selected as the 2009 “Colorado Forest Stewards of the Year” for their ranch management of 550 acres adjacent to the Town of Pagosa Springs. The selection is determined annually by the Colorado Forest Stewardship Coordinating Committee and the State Forester. The purpose of this award is to recognize an individual(s) with an exemplary commitment to a forest stewardship land ethic, and has demonstrated such a commitment through active stewardship management and promotion of forest stewardship in their community. Please consider joining us for a field tour of the Levine property and the award presentation on July 29th. Additional details are enclosed. Dan Wand—CSFS Forester

Upcoming Events in 2010:

1 Friday, July 23rd: (1 p.m.—4 p.m.) Meeting of Colorado State Tree Farm Committee at CSFS district office in Fort Collins.

2

3 Saturday, July 24th: (9 a.m.—2:30 p.m) Colorado Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year award and field day at the Donna & Randy Moore property near Fort Collins.

4 Thursday, July 29th: (9 a.m.—Noon) Colorado Forest Steward of the Year, Recognition and Award presentation to Levine Family for their Fairway Land Trust property near downtown Pagosa Springs. Includes Field Tour.

5 Tuesday, September 14th: (9 a.m.-Noon) Information Session “GPS For Forest Landowners” at Archuleta County Fairgrounds in Pagosa Springs followed by practice and field tour hosted at Ron & Windsor Chacey Tree Farm near Pagosa.

6 **Other:** Archuleta County Tree Farmers are in the process of organizing a potluck meeting to discuss topics of interest to forest landowners. Date and location to be determined. If interested contact Ron Chacey @ 264-6275 or rchacey@centurytel.net

LEVINE FAMILY TO BE RECOGNIZED AS “COLORADO FOREST STEWARDS OF THE YEAR”

Stanley and Elaine Levine purchased 240 acres adjacent to the Town of Pagosa Springs in 1999 and added 309 acres in 2008. Located on “reservoir hill” just south of the famous hot-springs, the property includes a blend of forestland, rangeland, dry and irrigated pasture/hay land. The San Juan River delineates the property on the west side and Mill Creek flows through the south portion of the property. Together they form nearly 2 miles of water and riparian corridors. Since acquiring the property, their son Ken assumed the position of ranch manager. With degrees in Ornamental Horticulture and Plant Pathology, and a minor in landscape architecture from the University of Florida, Ken has become a student of natural resource management and has applied this knowledge to the land. Ken says “my father has always said from the beginning that he wanted to be a good steward of the land and I couldn’t agree more. I am always trying to make it better, whether it is concentrating on the forest and grass health, fixing irrigation ditches, fencing, spraying weeds or whatever else is needed. We want to be proud of the place”!

Ken enlisted assistance from the Colorado State Forest Service and Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) early on as well as consultants and others to develop plans, and to sort out various programs and potential sources of funding. The Levine’s realize the importance of planning and operate under a “Master Plan” that contemplates and addresses past, current, and future uses of the property while being compatible with environmental issues. Their planning documents include a Forest Stewardship Plan, a Conservation Plan, and various levels of planning that involve the Town of Pagosa Springs and Archuleta County.

While the current land-use is forestry and ranching, the property is also highly valued for its contributions to wildlife habitat, watershed protection, aesthetics, and recreational values. In addition to an active forest thinning program, the property is grazed by cattle and horses while the more productive soils are irrigated and hay is baled. The property contains 230 acres of forestland dominated by second-growth ponderosa pine where the majority has received an initial thinning treatment. Approximately 400 cords of firewood product has resulted from this effort in the last 10 years. The Levine’s participate in Colorado’s Forest Agriculture program and the American Tree Farm System. They also participate in NRCS/San Juan Conservation District programs that have involved tree thinning and mastication, irrigation, fencing, range improvement, and stream restoration.

Perhaps most unique about the Levine’s is their community involvement in working with various agencies, partners, contractors, the Town of Pagosa Springs, and Archuleta County. There is cooperation to utilize the property for recreational events including cross-country running, winter cross-country and skate skiing. There are also plans for a bike path that will utilize the San Juan River and Mill Creek corridors while tying in to the existing bike path in town.

The Levine’s will host a field tour to discuss the management of their property on Thursday, July 29th. Colorado State Forester and director of the Colorado State Forest Service, Jeff Jahnke plans to attend and present the “2009 Forest Steward of the Year” award. This will be a great opportunity to meet and visit with Mr. Jahnke as well as others regarding forestry issues in Colorado. The session will be from 9 a.m. – Noon. Plan to meet at the ranch house located along the San Juan River @ 1301 County Road 119 (Light Plant Road). This is approximately 1.2 miles south of the Pagosa hot springs. Please accept this invitation and if planning to attend please RSVP to the CSFS district office at 247-5250 by Thursday July 23rd. Thank You.



“GPS Session for Forest Landowners” Tuesday - Sept. 14, 2010 (9 a.m.—Noon)

Forest landowners are invited to attend a training session on the use of “global positioning system” (GPS) receivers and related geographic information system (GIS) application. This session will teach you the basics in the use of recreational grade GPS receivers and how you can collect spatial data in the form of points, lines, and polygons. It will also help you to determine how to use this data to aid in planning and implementation of your forestry activities. There will also be examples of incorporating basic computer software to manage , utilize, and share the data.

The session will start at 9 a.m. at the Archuleta County Extension building located at the fairgrounds off Hwy 84. After an approximate 1 hour classroom session, participants will car-pool to the Ron & Windsor Chacey Tree Farm to practice with their GPS receivers. The Chacey’s were recognized last year as the San Juan Outstanding Tree Farmers and will provide a field tour and discussion of their forestry activities as well.

The primary instructor for this course will be Christina Ferner, GIS specialist with the Colorado State Forest Service. A minimum number of participants will be required to offer this session. For further information or if you plan to attend, please RSVP to the CSFS district office at 970-247-5250 by Friday, September 3rd.

Order Seedlings for Fall Planting



Landowners wishing to order potted conifer seedlings for fall planting should do so by contacting Dan Wand @ 247-5250 by August 1st. Expected delivery of the seedlings to Durango is during the week of September 13th.

NEW Publication Available

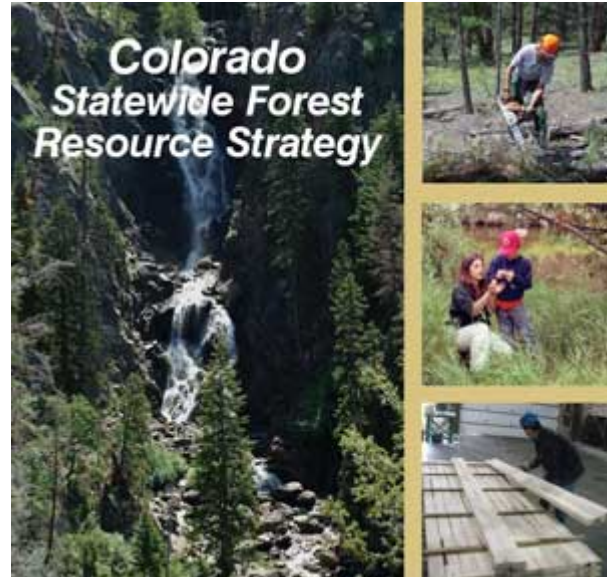
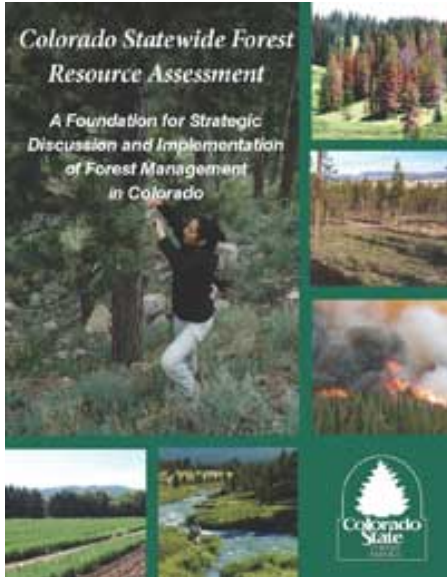
“Forestry Best Management Practices to Protect Water Quality in Colorado 2010”

This publication is hot off the press and dedicated to protecting the various resource values we enjoy – especially clean water. The suggested Best Management Practices (BMP’s) can apply to all forest management activities where there are concerns for natural resources. While the BMP’s are voluntary, they can be used to develop timber sale and forest treatment service contracts to make their application more binding. To obtain your copy of this 32 page “pocket-sized” publication please contact the CSFS district office. An electronic .pdf version can also be e-mailed and will soon be available for downloading from the CSFS website.

Small Acreage Management

An excellent source of information related to small acreage management is the Colorado State University Extension website www.ext.colostate.edu/sam/. Log on to the site and you will find useful tips that will help you understand and care for your land. The website offers numerous on-line publications, videos, webinars, and newsletters. After reviewing the newsletters you may choose to subscribe. While there is a focus on small acreage parcels on the Front Range, much of the information is pertinent to larger acreages as well as the west slope of Colorado. Of particular interest to forest landowners is the recent webinar titled “Effective Forest Management” conducted on June 10th by NRCS State Forester Jonas Feinstein. Jonas was recently hired to fill the forester position in Lakewood with NRCS that had been vacant for quite some time. Local NRCS offices and the landowners they work with will be sure to benefit from the assistance provided by Mr. Feinstein. During the approximately 40 minute webinar, Jonas shares a statewide perspective and provides a sense of what is effective forest management. He also discusses challenges and opportunities in Colorado and suggests other available resources. Check it out.

Colorado Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy:



Recently CSFS led a collaborative process involving many stakeholders throughout the state in developing a **Colorado Statewide Forest Resource Assessment and Strategy**. This was initiated in response to a mandate from the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) and contained in the Forestry Title of the 2008 Farm Bill (P.L. 110-234), asking each state to develop a statewide assessment and related strategy. The statewide assessment identifies important information about Colorado's forest types and ownership, a brief history of forest uses in Colorado and identifies 10 major threats to Colorado's forest landscapes. The strategy identifies the methods to address these important landscapes. Together, these two documents provide a landscape-level scale approach to distributing limited funding and resources where they will achieve the greatest benefit. These are considered dynamic documents and will be reviewed and revised at least once every 5 years. For more information about the statewide forest resource assessment and strategy, visit the CSFS website at www.csfs.colostate.edu. [Quick Links – Statewide Forest Resource Assessment](#).

Emergency Supplemental Fund Program:

Earlier this year CSFS received funding from the USDA Forest Service that is offering grants for forest and fuels management projects on non-federal lands. The Emergency Supplemental Fund Program offers funds for the purpose of accomplishing on-the-ground projects that result in acres treated. The program offers funding levels not to exceed \$470 per acre of forest treatment focusing on fuels reduction and wildfire hazard mitigation. Grant applications are being processed on a first come/first served basis. To date the CSFS Durango District has submitted 5 project applications requesting \$328,953 to treat 700 acres. Funding has been allocated to three of the projects thus far.

Subscribing to this newsletter:

In an effort to reduce expenses and expedite distribution of this newsletter, please consider receiving it electronically as a .pdf document. Not only will it save printing and postage costs, you will receive it quicker, it will be in color, and you can easily share it with others that may have an interest. To subscribe to an electronic copy or if you no longer wish to receive the newsletter and would like to unsubscribe please e-mail danwand@lamar.colostate.edu

San Juan Watershed – Applications Requesting EQIP Funds

The Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) working with local Conservation Districts administers several programs that can provide funding to implement conservation practices. The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is gaining popularity with forest landowners. Funding is typically obligated annually based on six resource concerns. Following is a summary of EQIP applications and associated funding levels during the past couple of years: For more information please contact your local NRCS office.

FY-2010			
Resource Concern	Applications Received	Applications Approved	Amount of Funding Approved
Wildlife	3	3	\$16,777.00
Soil Management	6	6	\$80,485.00
Water Quantity/ Quality	26	24	\$454,494.00
Forestry	6	6	\$137,810.00
Grazing Lands	11	10	\$131,747.00
Riparian	5	4	\$393,620.00
FY-2009			
Resource Concern			
Wildlife	0	0	0
Soil Management	1	1	\$1,650.00
Water Quantity/ Quality	29	29	\$702,825.79
Forestry	8	8	\$227,547.00
Grazing Lands	10	10	\$89,804.28
Riparian	3	3	\$177,793.00



BEFORE



AFTER

Example of ponderosa pine forest restoration treatment involving tree thinning to reduce density and mastication of understory.

2011 Colorado Wildland Urban Interface Grant Program

This grant is designed to provide funding based on a 50/50 Cost-share match to assist communities with Colorado's Wildland/Urban interface while targeting the following criteria.

1. Reduce hazardous fuels/restore fire adapted ecosystems.
2. Improve prevention /education in the interface.
3. Planning w/emphasis on the development of "Community Wildfire Protection Plans".

Grant applications are currently available from CSFS district offices and must be received by Monday, August 9th, 2010.

**COLORADO STATE
FOREST SERVICE
FLC 7233
DURANGO, CO 81301**

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Fax: 970-247-5252
Email: csfsdugo@lamar.colostate.edu



Knowledge To Go Places

Websites:

CSFS = www.csfs@colostate.edu
National Tree Farm = www.treefarmssystem.org
State Tree Farm = www.treefarmer.com
Colorado Wood Utilization & Marketing =
www.colostate.edu/programs/cowood/

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Earlier this year the **Colorado State Forest Service** received \$10.7 million in stimulus funds to solicit proposals that will create and retain forestry-related jobs in Colorado. Through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, CSFS received a \$6.25 million grant that will be distributed on a competitive basis to organizations that want to create or retain jobs to help implement high-priority forest restoration and fuels mitigation projects. A second grant for \$4.465 million will help fund jobs affiliated with developing and implementing community wildfire protection plans. A portion of the funds also will create and retain jobs in Colorado's wood products industries.

Ten projects were funded under the category of "High Priority Forest Restoration & Fuels Mitigation Grant" and 5 projects were funded under "Community Wildfire Protection Plan Development and Implementation Grant". Among the successful grant applications affecting southwest Colorado include:

Colorado Division of Wildlife received \$393,000 to create 8 jobs for the duration of the grant period and will reduce fuels on 1,339 acres in the Perins Peak State Wildlife Area located in the urban interface west of Durango. In addition, they will plant 30,000 ponderosa pine seedlings to reforest 100 acres damaged by wildfire. The work in the wildlife area will compliment projects currently being implemented on adjacent federal lands.

Colorado Youth Corps Association received \$647,000 to create 12 16-week jobs for young adults and retain six 2-year jobs. The 271 acre project involves forest restoration, damaging insect, and fire mitigation work on forestlands including some work on Lone Mesa State Park in Dolores County.

The following forest industry groups that have an impact on southwest Colorado also received funding: Rocky Mountain Timber Products (Rio Grande County), Intermountain Resources (Montrose County), and Delta Timber (Delta County). For more information about the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, visit the CSFS website at www.csfs.colostate.edu. Quick Links – CSFS Recovery Act Information.