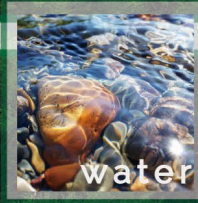


NEW MEXICO TREE FARM

BULLETIN



PROTECTING YOUR FOREST: MANAGING BEETLE KILL ON PRIVATE LAND

2ND & 3RD
QUARTERS 2024



Aerial image of ponderosa pine mortality along the western slope of the Sacramento Mountains of the Lincoln National Forest from [Forest Service, Southwest Region website](#)

OUR MISSION

To promote the growing of renewable forest resources on private lands while protecting environmental benefits and increasing public understanding of all benefits of productive forestry.

The American Tree Farm System (ATFS), a program of the American Forest Foundation, is committed to sustaining forests, watershed and healthy habitats through the power of private stewardship.

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As the summer months roll on and the forests around us flourish, one silent threat lurks in the trees—the **beetle kill**. Forests are not only vital ecosystems but also cherished parts of many private properties. However, beetle infestations have become increasingly problematic. These pests can decimate large areas of forest, leading to a host of ecological and economic issues. For private landowners, understanding and mitigating the risks associated with beetle kill is crucial.



What is Beetle Kill?

Beetle kill occurs when beetles infest and eventually kill trees, typically by boring into the bark and disrupting the flow of nutrients. While some beetles are native and part of the natural forest cycle, their populations can explode under certain conditions, such as drought or overcrowded forests. The result is often a landscape marked by dead or dying trees, which can increase the risk of wildfires and impact wildlife habitat.



HOW CAN PRIVATE LANDOWNERS HELP?

1. MONITOR AND ASSESS YOUR FOREST

Regular inspections of your property are essential. Look for signs of beetle infestations, such as:

- **Discoloration:** Needles may turn red or yellow.
- **Woodpecker Activity:** Increased pecking at trees can indicate beetles beneath the bark.
- **Exit Holes:** Small holes in the bark where adult beetles have emerged.



If you suspect an infestation, consult with a forestry expert to accurately identify the problem and assess the extent of the damage.

2. IMPLEMENT PREVENTATIVE MEASURES

- **Maintain Tree Health:** Healthy trees are more resistant to beetle infestations. Ensure your forest is well-managed by thinning overcrowded stands.
- **Remove Infested Trees:** Promptly remove and properly dispose of trees that show signs of beetle damage. This can prevent the spread of beetles to healthy trees.
- **Use Beetle-Resistant Species:** If replanting is necessary, consider using tree species that are less susceptible to the beetles affecting your area.



3. CREATE DEFENSIBLE SPACE

- **Clear Vegetation:** Maintain a defensible space around your home by removing dead or dying trees and reducing dense vegetation. This not only protects your home from beetle spread but also reduces wildfire risk.
- **Maintain a Buffer Zone:** Create a buffer zone between your home and forested areas by thinning trees and managing underbrush.

4. UTILIZE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

- **Consult Foresters:** Professional foresters and land management experts can provide tailored advice and management plans for your property. They can also assist with large-scale removal and treatment efforts.
- **Engage with Local Programs:** Many regions offer programs to help landowners manage beetle infestations. Check with local forestry departments or conservation organizations for support and resources.

5. EDUCATE AND ADVOCATE

- **Stay Informed:** Keep up with the [latest research](#) and trends related to beetle infestations. Knowledge about beetle behaviors and management strategies can be invaluable.
- **Advocate for Community Action:** Collaborate with neighboring landowners to address beetle infestations on a larger scale. Coordinated efforts can be more effective than individual actions.



Beetle kill is a serious issue that requires proactive management and vigilant care. By monitoring your forest, implementing preventative measures, and seeking professional guidance, you can protect your property and contribute to the overall health of the local ecosystem. Remember, the health of your forest is closely tied to the health of your home and community. Together, we can safeguard our green spaces from the threat of beetle infestations and ensure they continue to thrive for generations to come.

For more information on managing beetle kill and resources available in your area, contact your state forestry office or visit their [website](#). Let's work together to keep our forests vibrant and resilient!





NEW MEXICO GAME & FISH EPLUS PROGRAM

CONSERVING NEW MEXICO'S WILDLIFE FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

The Department of Game and Fish acknowledges the vital role played by landowners in elk management in New Mexico. In recognition of their contributions, eligible private landowners receive a portion of the state's elk hunting opportunities through the [EPLUS program](#).

Through EPLUS, the distribution of private-land elk authorizations is determined based on the elk management zone where the property is located. To participate in EPLUS, landowners must complete the appropriate application and meet application deadlines.

Properties qualifying for the EPLUS program and receiving private-land elk authorizations have the option to utilize, sell, barter, or trade these authorizations to hunters. Subsequently, hunters can use the elk authorization to purchase a private-land elk license.

THINKING OF RUIDOSO

We are profoundly saddened by the recent fires and flooding impacting the Ruidoso area. Our thoughts are with all those affected by this disaster. The strength and resilience shown by the Ruidoso community are truly inspiring. Please know you are in our thoughts during this challenging time.



N M TREE FARM
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THE EVOLUTION OF THE AMERICAN TREE FARM SYSTEM

The nation's inaugural tree farm was dedicated on June 12, 1941, close to Montesano, Washington. Spanning 120,000 acres, the Clemons Tree Farm, owned by the Weyerhaeuser Timber Company, marked the inception of a nationwide initiative. The tree farm movement began as an endeavor led by industrial firms like Weyerhaeuser, overseeing vast forestlands to showcase self-regulation and sustainability. Since its inception, the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) has evolved to encompass smaller private landowners, with the system now covering approximately 24 million certified forested acres managed by over 90,000 tree farmers, across all 50 states.



New Mexico marked a significant milestone in forestry conservation on August 22, 1947, by certifying its inaugural Tree Farm. This first certification encompassed an impressive 80,000 acres of land* within the renowned Philmont Scout Ranch, managed by the Boy Scouts of America. This certification not only demonstrated a commitment to sustainable forestry practices but also highlighted the importance of environmental stewardship and the conservation efforts undertaken by organizations like the Boy Scouts of America. Through initiatives like the Tree Farm program, New Mexico set a precedent for responsible land management, ensuring the preservation and sustainability of its forests for generations to come.



New Mexico was the seventeenth state in the nation to join the Tree Farm program when the Philmont Scout Ranch was certified in 1947 (see side bar). Today, New Mexico proudly counts approximately 144 certified Tree Farms among its forestry assets, showcasing a commitment to sustainable land management and conservation efforts.



To delve deeper into the history of the American Tree Farm System, check out Richard Lewis's article titled "Tree Farming: A Voluntary Conservation Program," featured in the July 1981 edition of the *Journal of Forest History* or Brigitte W. Johnson's article titled *The American Tree Farm System: Growing Stewardship from the Roots*.

Also see the [timeline](#) of the development and expansion of the American Tree Farm System.

*Today Tree Farms max out at 10K acres

HELPFUL RESOURCES

[New Mexico Tree Farm Program website](#)

[New Mexico Tree Farm Committee Members](#)

[National Association of State Foresters | NM website](#)

[Guide to Resources for Private Forest Landowners in NM](#)

[NM Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department \(EMNRD\)](#)

[American Tree Farm System | National website](#)

[American Forest Foundation website](#)

[National Woodland Owners Association \(NWOA\)](#)

[U.S. Forest Service](#)



FOREST MANAGEMENT MAP VIEWER AND DATA DASHBOARD

The [Forest Management map viewer](#) provides a comprehensive platform to access maps and data regarding achievement activities, special initiatives, and overall boundary details of National Forest lands, all in one convenient location. This comprehensive tool can empower private landowners with crucial information to enhance their understanding of the surrounding ecosystem and collaborate effectively with forest management authorities for sustainable land stewardship.

