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NEWS

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Archuleta County Landowner Receives Tree Farmer of the Year Award

PAGOSA SPRINGS, Colo. – The Colorado State Tree Farm Committee has recognized Archuleta County tree farmer Peter Prina as the 2015 Colorado Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year. Prina is receiving the award for an exceptional job of forest management on his forested property south of Pagosa Springs, and for promoting productive forestry practices.

Local landowners interested in learning more about tree farming and the management of private forests are invited to RSVP to attend a recognition ceremony the morning of Saturday, Aug. 22, and to tour Prina's forested properties south of Pagosa Springs.

"I have watched Mr. Prina's forestry program blossom during the past several years, and have been impressed with the amount of work that he has personally dedicated to improving his property," said Dan Wand, assistant district forester for the Colorado State Forest Service Durango District. "He is not afraid to put in a lot of effort and is successful at finding markets for his forest products."

The primary land management goals on the property are enhanced forest health and reducing risks associated with wildfire and insect and disease issues. Approximately 60 percent of the forestry work is accomplished by Prina himself, including administration and much of the tree cutting, marketing wood products, erosion control and tree planting. Practices requiring specialized forestry equipment, such as tree skidding and hauling logs, are performed by a qualified forestry contractor.

"I wanted to engage in something that was both enjoyable and inspiring to me, and which was also beneficial to others, now and far into the future," Prina said. "I feel I'm doing my small part to preserve, protect and improve beautiful natural resources."

Prina retired from a career as an attorney in New Mexico and now focuses on his forestry and cattle operations on his properties in Archuleta County.

A tree farm is any tract of privately owned land voluntarily dedicated to growing renewable resources, while protecting environmental benefits and increasing public understanding of sustainable forestry. The state's Tree Farm Committee initiated an award system in 1980 to annually recognize forest landowners certified in the American Tree Farm System® who have done an exceptional job of forest management.

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To RSVP for the recognition ceremony or for more information about the Tree Farm Program, contact the CSFS Durango District at 970-247-5250 or csfs_durango@mail.colostate.edu, or visit www.treefarmssystem.org.

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