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NEWS RELEASE

State Forestry Announces Community Forest Survey Results

Santa Fe – A recent statewide survey has discovered strong support for continued development and expansion of healthy trees within New Mexico community landscapes. The “Trees and People” survey, created by the New Mexico Community Forest Planning Group, was conducted on-line for the purpose of gauging New Mexicans’ knowledge and awareness of urban and community forests.

More than 430 people from approximately 70 New Mexico communities participated in the survey. Invitations were distributed electronically and by word of mouth to the general public, elected officials, educators, landscape and forest professionals, government agencies, non-government organizations and the media.

“This survey shows that people from all walks of life recognize the value that trees provide to the health of our environment and beautification of our communities,” said New Mexico State Forester Arthur “Butch” Blazer. “I strongly encourage New Mexico’s communities to create or continue developing their community forestry programs.”

Overall, the survey found community forests are important to the citizens of New Mexico. Four central themes were expressed throughout the survey:

- Community Forests provide immense benefits including beautification and enhancing quality of life
- Water is an important issue and challenge to our communities
- The challenges posed by wildland fire are important issues within our forested landscapes and in our plains communities
- More public education and awareness is needed to promote the value that trees provide for our communities

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The information gathered from this survey will be used to develop and disseminate a Community Forest Resource Guide.

“This resource guide will become an asset for communities to realize the value that trees provide, leading to a healthier environment and revitalized communities throughout our state,” explains Lance Davisson, State Urban and Community Forestry Program Manager. “New Mexico State Forestry is very thankful to the dedicated professionals of the Community Forest Planning Group for their commitment of time and energy to this project and to those citizens who participated in the “Trees and People” survey.”

For further information about urban and community forestry, contact Lance Davisson at 505-476-3332 or e-mail lance.davisson@state.nm.us .

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The Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department provides resource protection and renewable energy resource development services to the public and other state agencies.

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