

State of New Mexico
Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department

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New Mexico State Forestry Announces 2014 State Forester's Award Recipients

Santa Fe, NM – New Mexico State Forester Tony Delfin recognized two State Forestry Division staff members for their outstanding work in the fields of wildfire suppression, resource protection and management and forest and watershed health restoration this week at the Division's meeting in Taos, NM.

This year's honorees were Silver City Office Forester Tonya Vowles and Inmate Work Camp Forester Brian Filip.

"Tonya's work with our interagency partners and landowners in Grant County this year has been outstanding this year," said Delfin. "She is constantly in the field working with landowners, teaching them how to care for their land and be prepared for wildfire through the creation of management plans and our fire prevention programs."

Brian Filip began work with State Forestry in 2013 as a part of the Veterans Firefighter Pilot Program (now known as the Returning Heroes Program) and this year became a part of the Inmate Work Camp Program. He also was a member of the Returning Heroes Wildland Fire Crew and was assigned to fires in Arizona and Washington.

"Brian's ability to utilize his military training and leadership skills has served the Division well over the last two years and has proved to be an invaluable asset when it comes to our IWC and Veteran's programs," said Delfin. "We're honored to work with him and all of our staff members who have served our country. Their commitment to protecting communities and natural resources is a model for other states looking to create similar programs."

The annual State Forester's Award honors Division staff members whose exemplary work has gone "above and beyond" to protect New Mexico communities and vital natural resources.

At the Division meeting, the New Mexico Tree Farm Program also recognized State Forestry's Las Vegas District Special Projects Forester Shannon Atencio, Chama District Timber Management Officer Joe Carrillo and Bernalillo District Forester Todd Haines for their work inspecting privately owned forests.

Chama District Forester Mary Stuever and Joe Carrillo were also given a special award for their work with the New Mexico Game and Fish Department on land management projects in northwest New Mexico.



State Forester's Award: (L-R) Brian Filip, Tonya Vowles, State Forester Tony Delfin



NM Tree Farm Inspectors of the Year: (L-R) Todd Haines, Joe Carrillo, Shannon Atencio



NM Game and Fish Department Special Recognition Award for the State Forestry's Chama District: (L-R) State Forestry Deputy Director Eddie Tudor, Joe Carrillo, Mary Stuever, State Forestry Tony Delfin.

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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.

