New Mexico, 2023

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POST-FIRE REFORESTATION

Replant Smart

- Discuss a reforestation plan with your local forestry division district office
- Prioritize soil stabilization first - you can plant native grasses/shrubs before tree seedlings
- Use caution with outside companies, lean on your district forester for regionally appropriate reforestation planning

Match Seed Source to Planting Site

- Seed source is critical to the survival of seedlings used for reforestation purposes. Seed source influences the ability of seedlings and the surrounding forest to withstand future stressors such as insects, disease, drought, and warmer climates.
- It is important to use native species from local seed sources. Example: Douglas-fir from Oregon is not good to plant here.

Not Enough Seedlings This Year

- There is a shortage of suitable reforestation seedling providers in the Southwest. Start planning early with your district forester and get your orders into the Conservation Seedling Program www.emnrd.nm.gov/sfd/seedlings/
- The New Mexico Reforestation Center will scale up seedling production in the coming years
- It is OK to wait 2-3 years before planting trees after a fire
- **Stay tuned for reforestation workshops this summer**

Rachael Foe, NM Forestry Division
Reforestation Coordinator
505-490-0824
rachael.foe@emnrd.nm.gov

Hermits Peak Calf Canyon Fire Preliminary Species List

Ponderosa pine (6,000 - 9,500 ft.)
Douglas-fir (6,500 - 9,500 ft.)
White fir (8,000 - 12,000 ft.)
Limber pine (7,500 - 12,000 ft.)
Bristlecone pine (9,500 - 12,500 ft.)
Quaking aspen (6,500 - 10,000 ft.)
**Gambel oak (5,000 - 8,500 ft.) ***A deciduous shrub or a small tree, it regenerates vigorously post-fire in the lower and middle elevations of the fire. In some areas that were dominated by ponderosa pine before the fire, Gambel oak will likely become the dominant species for a long time.

Woodland, shrubland/grassland, and woodland/forest transitions species:

Piñon (5,000 - 8,000 ft.)
Rocky Mountain juniper (5,000 - 9,000 ft.)
Oneseed juniper (3,000 - 7,000 ft.)
Oak shrubs *Gambel oak, gray oak, and various ancient hybrids referred to as wavyleaf oak occur in dense shrub thickets or in the forest understory on dry sites.

Forest and woodland understory shrub species
Mountain mahogany (3,500 - 8,000 ft.)
Skunkbush sumac (4,500 - 8,000 ft.)

Riparian species
These species are commonly found near water.
Coyote willow, Narrowleaf cottonwood , Fremont cottonwood , Rio Grande cottonwood

Planting Tips for Success

- Find the best soil. If the planting shovel goes in easy, then the trees have a greater chance of survival and growth.
- Don't pull soil out and fill it back in. Create a deep slit and slide the tree in. Close the slit up by placing shovel into soil next to the planting hole and pry it shut. *Gently* tap in with your foot.

If possible, do the following for the first three years after planting your seedlings:

- Protect the trees from animal browse via shelters, tubes, fencing.
- Trap for rodents such as pocket gophers.
- Control competing vegetation 3 ft. around each tree. Best to do it mechanically. Weed mats usually have plastic and are expensive to maintain.
- If you can water, do so when there is no rain.

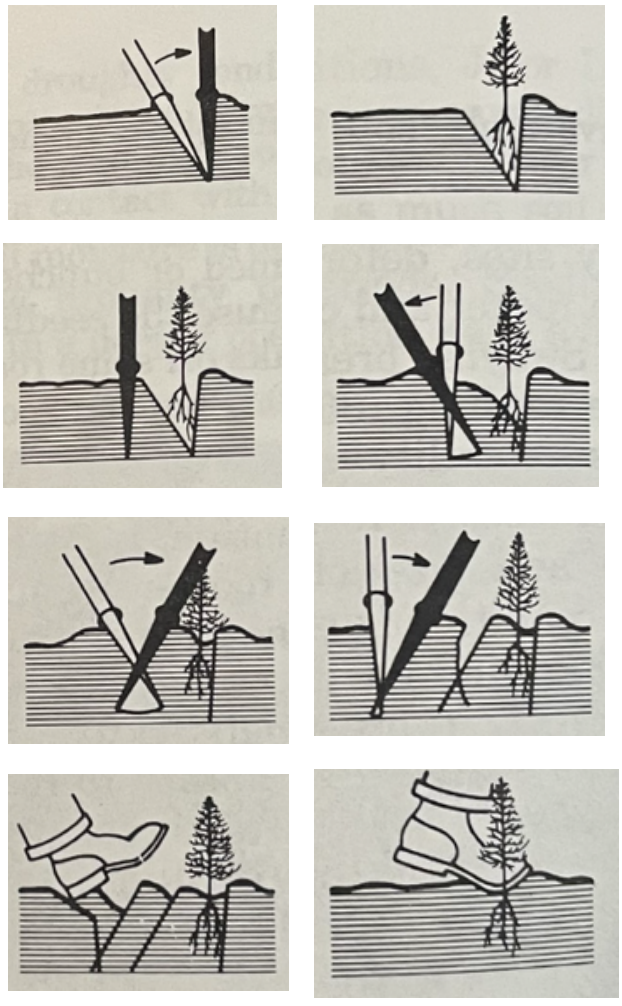

Image credit: Cleary, B., Greaves, R. J., & Hermann, R. C. (1978). Regenerating Oregon's Forests: a guide for the regeneration forester. *Oregon State University Extension Service.*