

It is my pleasure today to recognize Wayne and Peggy Coleman as recipients of the Maine 2015 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year.

We know that considerable forestland in Maine is under very sporadic management and many folks including the MFS have attempted to find ways to increase timely and appropriate management on a very significant part of Maine.

As you look at the actions that the Colemans have taken on their lands you can see these folks obviously take great pride and enjoyment being involved with “hands on” forest management.

You can also see their work isn't for the faint of heart! For some, I'm sure the enjoyment of harvesting fir pulpwood and firewood will forever be a mystery. Why would anyone get a kick out of working so hard? I will leave the analysis of this pleasure to others but.....

The fact is thousands of landowners are hands-on owners and get a great deal of pleasure from doing it. How do we transfer the ethics and hard work performed by the Colemans to forest land owners reluctant to manage their ownership?

I believe one of the best ways is to showcase what the Colemans have accomplished to as many folks as possible. To this end, the MFS is putting the Colemans' forest management story in as prominent place on our web page as possible and refer to it as a shining example of the benefits of owning forest land. In the future we will do the same for other Maine Outstanding Tree Farmer winners.

For someone reluctant to manage their lands, what better example can we use than the Colemans to instill the desire and confidence to manage their forest lands?

In conclusion, I want to thank Wayne and Peggy Coleman for the great example they are providing to reluctant forest land owners. I wish them well as they continue to enjoy the benefits of hands-on management.

Doug Denico, Director
Maine Forest Service