

April 2011



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New Mexico Tree Farm Spring Field Day May 7th, 2011

Philmont Demonstration Forest

Greetings;

Every year the New Mexico Tree Farm Committee hosts a Spring Field Day, where we invite Tree Farmers, foresters, and friends for a walk in the woods. This year we are pleased to announce that our Spring Field Day will be held at the Philmont Demonstration Forest on the renowned Philmont Scout Ranch. The 137,000 acre Philmont is operated by the Boy Scouts of America. Every year more than 25,000 scouts and visitors hike through the Philmont on the extensive trail system that runs through the ranch. These twelve day treks through the spectacular scenery of “the back country” are a once in a lifetime experience for many of these visitors, both young and old.

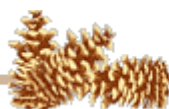
In 1994 the Philmont instituted a forest management program to harvest products and conduct forest thinnings with the goal of preserving the wild nature of the back country. Forest management practices have been certified by SFI™ (Sustainable Forest Initiative) as meeting all standards of sustainable forest management. These are the same standards used in our Tree Farm certification program.

The Philmont Demonstration Forest is 45 acres with a one mile loop trail that winds its way through the forest which is being managed to demonstrate different management practices. Signs along the way explain the different practices. The trail is gently sloping and easily accessible from the visitor’s pavilion where we will have a picnic lunch and plenty of tables and chairs to sit.

If time and weather permit, we will also be able to visit a nearby commercial harvest operation to see some on-the-ground sustainable management in action.

I hope you will be able to join us for this walk in the woods. It will be a unique opportunity to see a well-managed private forest, talk trees, and enjoy a day in the woods on May 7th from 11:00 am through 3:00 pm (lunch will be provided). So we know how many visitors to expect for lunch, please RSVP by April 29th at the contact information provided above. I look forward to seeing you.

Harry A. Morrison, Vice Chairman, NM Tree Farm Committee





(Cimarroncito Reservoir, view from the Demonstration Forest visitors pavilion)

Directions to Philmont Scout Ranch, Martin Welcome Center:

Directions from Raton: Take Highway 64 south towards Cimarron. As you go through Cimarron look for Highway 21 also known as Collison Avenue on the left hand side of Highway 64, travel four miles to the Philmont Scout Ranch (located on Highway 21) continue past the Training Center, Villa Philmonte, Philmont Museum, and turn right on to Camping HQ Road. Once on Camping HQ Road the Martin Welcome Center will be on your left.

Directions from Springer: Take Highway 21 west towards Cimarron. Travel 30 miles to Philmont Scout Ranch (located on Highway 21). Look for Camping HQ Road on the left hand side of Highway 21. Once on Camping HQ Road the Martin Welcome Center will be on your left.

Directions from Taos: Take Highway 64 east towards Cimarron. As you go through Cimarron look for Highway 21 also known as Collison Avenue on the right hand side of Highway 64, travel four miles to the Philmont Scout Ranch (located on Highway 21) continue past the Training Center, Villa Philmonte, Philmont Museum, and turn right on to Camping HQ Road. Once on Camping HQ Road the Martin Welcome Center will be on your left.

DO NOT TAKE HIGHWAY 58 FROM SPRINGER TO CIMARRON, IT IS CLOSED FOR REPAIRS.

From the Chairman: So far this year almost 150,000 acres of woodland and grassland has burned in New Mexico. Forest officials are anticipating a severe fire season with the drought conditions, low snow pack, and winds drying everything out early this year. I urge all tree farmers to inspect their properties to clean up debris – pine needles, leaves, tree branches - at least thirty feet out from all structures; prune tree limbs six to ten feet from the ground, and remove any ladder fuel that could cause a ground fire to progress into the tree crowns. For information on thinning guidelines and creating defensible space go to www.firewise.org.

Don't forget to put the Tree Farm National Convention on your calendar, 09-11 August 2011 (www.treefarmssystem.org).

