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Harry A. Morrison  
Chairman NM Tree Farm  
Committee

51 Ravens Ridge Rd., Santa  
Fe, NM 87505

(505) 983-2064

[forester4life@aol.com](mailto:forester4life@aol.com)

[www.nmtreefarmers.org](http://www.nmtreefarmers.org)



Greetings;

A nice mix of foresters and Tree Farmers enjoyed an early spring day at the New Mexico State University Mora Research Center. The group was welcomed to the center by Dr. John Harrington, a long-time supporter of the New Mexico Tree Farm program. He gave an overview of the center's history. It originally began as a research station for Christmas tree production. The Mora valley has always been a center for harvest of wild Christmas trees (primarily White fir and Douglas fir). The center has evolved into a broader research role of studying a wide range of species that can be used in our southwestern climate for reforestation and land reclamation. After the introduction, Tree Farm Chair, Harry Morrison, gave a brief overview of the current sustainability standards of the Tree Farm program and the importance of each Tree Farmer being able to meet the standards. He also announced to the group that we have been selected to host the national Tree farm convention in 2011, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Tree Farm program. There will be much more about the convention in future bulletins. Carol Bada, in charge of the New Mexico State Forestry tree seedling program, then gave an update on the seedling program. This program provides tree seedlings to landowners at a low cost. Many of the seedlings are grown at the research center and Carol works closely with Dr. Harrington and his staff on searching out new seed sources. It was then off for a short tour of the facilities followed by a picnic lunch. After lunch, Doug Boykin, Tree Farm advisor, and Mary Stuever, of New Mexico State Forestry, led a discussion on plan writing and the elements needed in a plan to meet Tree Farm standards. There was a lot of back and forth discussion on plans. One thing that possibly did not get explained adequately was the benefits of being a Tree Farmer. Two big ones are advocacy and our third party certification. On a local and national level Tree Farm is tracking legislative issues that impact forest landowners and advocates for policies that are beneficial to landowners. Tree Farm is there to insure your concerns are heard. Third party certification means that by being a Tree Farmer your land is recognized as being managed sustainably on a local, national, and international level. With the current difficulty of selling forest products from Tree Farm lands in New Mexico this may not give you an immediate edge in marketing products but it will increase the value of your property simply by having that recognition. As the winds began to pick-up in the afternoon the group concluded their day. Thanks go out to Dr. Harrington and his staff for all their hard work.



Tour of Mora's Cold Frame Facility



Group tour of Mora's Research Field Plantations



Tour of Mora's Greenhouse Facility where this year's Seedling crop is growing