



John T. Harrington Forestry Research Center at Mora

Our mission is to conduct research and outreach focused on improving the understanding of forest biology, forest management, mine reclamation, native plant production, and forest nursery systems throughout New Mexico and beyond.



NMSU photo by Geraint Smith

Accomplishments

- Over 30 graduate students, including five PhDs, have come through the center and are now leaders throughout the world in nursery production, forestry, and academia.
- Produced over 200 publications, ranging from seed physiology to carbon sequestration in piñon-juniper woodlands.
- Grew over three million conservation seedlings for New Mexico residents and businesses.
- Introduced Afghan pine as a Christmas tree, allowing producers in the arid southern parts of New Mexico to produce quality Christmas trees in three years.
- Improved reforestation success in New Mexico from 20% to consistently over 80%.

Current and Future Projects

- Evaluation of ponderosa pine response to projected climate changes through provenance tests and drought studies.
- Development of improved target attributes for reforestation stock in New Mexico.
- Establishing well-defined seed transfer guidelines for New Mexico.
- Examining alternative nursery practices for containerized nurseries in developing countries.
- Creation of seed orchards to enhance tree improvement efforts for ponderosa pine, Engelmann spruce, white fir, and Douglas-fir.

Partners

- New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department—Forestry Division
- USDA Forest Service
- USDA-NRCS Los Lunas Plant Materials Center
- Private industries in New Mexico and elsewhere
- Private landowners in New Mexico
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts throughout the state

New Mexico State University – Agricultural Experiment Station System

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