

Presentation Notes for the Water and Natural Resources Interim Committee

10 July 2023

**Dr. Joshua Sloan, Associate VP of Academic Affairs: Forestry and the Reforestation Center
New Mexico Highlands University**

1. Overview: New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) works in support of forest and watershed health and restoration
 - a) Academics: B.S. in Forestry (concentrations in Forest Management and Wildland Fire, both accredited by the Society of American Foresters), B.A. in Conservation Management, and M.S. in Natural Sciences with a concentration in Environmental Science and Management
 - b) Research: National Science Foundation Center of Research Excellence in Science and Technology (NSF CREST) focused on developing the science needed to restore NM's forests
 - c) Service, Outreach, and Operations:
 - i) Founding partner of the New Mexico Reforestation Center (NMRC), along with NMSU, UNM, and EMNRD's Division of Forestry
 - ii) New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute (NMFWRI)
2. Highlighted current activities:
 - a) Leading the expansion of the NMRC's tree seed collection and banking efforts to meet New Mexico's reforestation needs (Target: ~20-year supply in storage for all major tree species, ~10,000+ lbs. of tree seed); the NMRC has been issued a first-of-its-kind region-wide seed collection permit by the US Forest Service
 - b) Developing and offering tree seed collection, reforestation planning, and tree planting training and workforce development programs for partners and the public in collaboration with EMNRD's Division of Forestry and others
 - c) Working with NMRC partners to develop the physical facilities of the New Mexico Reforestation Center (i.e., new state nursery with a 5-million seedling per year production capacity, along with seed bank and other ancillary facilities)