

In your own words, tell why you feel this is an Outstanding Tree Farmer (how he or she is different from the average Tree Farmer)

This recognition has been long overdue for Ray Herrmann. He and Emilie own a property in Northwest Larimer County, near Bull Mtn. It is over an hour-and-a-half drive from their permanent home in Fort Collins and is inaccessible in the winter. The amount of work they have done over the last decade is not indicative of the limited amount of time they spend on the tree farm each year. They have faced mistletoe, beetle, density, and drought issues and have done a great job treating those forest stresses. Over the last three years, Ray has contracted with Summit Forestry to put in a shaded fuelbreak along the access road to their forest retreat.

It is always a challenge for the Herrmann's to find outlets for their forest products, but Ray is always talking to Forks Lumber (Amy Moon), Morgan Timber Products (Mark Morgan), and Renewable Fiber (Carl Spaulding) about the use of material he could bring to them.

In 2009 and 2013, Ray helped complete two successful state tree farm program audits as part of the certification requirement. This past year, he offered his place as one of the tree farm visits as part of the assessment.

What, if anything, has this Tree Farmer done to promote Tree Farming? (Examples: used Tree Farm as a demonstration area, participated as a member in state forestry association, promoted Tree Farming to youth groups, influenced other landowners to plant or manage their forest)

Ray and Emilie began attending Larimer County Tree Farm Association meetings right after they bought their property in 2000. Soon after that Ray started getting involved in many landowner activities. They each dedicated 24 hours in classroom and field work to become Master Tree Farmers. In 2007, Ray became vice-chair of the Colorado State Tree Farm Committee and two years later, he accepted the chair position. He has served in that role, since. Ray 'is going above and beyond the call of duty.' Most committee chairs have served a two or three year tenure. He continues to serve, working hard and not complaining.

While on the state tree farm committee, Ray has remained very active. Every year, for the last four years, Ray has applied for at least one of the two ATFS Grants – Education or Capacity Building. He has attended numerous National Conventions and Leadership Workshops across the country. Ray has also been a key advocate for tree farming (sustainable forest management) in Colorado. He has participated in four 'Fly-Ins' to Washington, D.C. to speak to legislators and their representatives.

In 2012, Ray took on the daunting task of developing a leadership handbook for the Colorado State Tree Farm Committee. It was laborious pulling together and sifting through all the information that could go in to such a document. Getting everyone to agree on the final content was not easy task, either. Nonetheless, Ray won the Baasch Service award for his efforts.



Nominating Forester's Signature: _____

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