

# American Tree Farm System

## AFF Standards of Sustainability



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# 2010 – 2015 AFF Standards

- Standards Prologue
- 8 Standards
- Glossary
- Guidance Document



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# Who uses these Standards?



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**Standard: overarching guiding principle**

## Standard 1: Commitment to Practicing Sustainable Forestry

**Bold type: Defined in the glossary**

Forest owner demonstrates commitment to forest vitality by developing and implementing a sustainable forest management plan.

**Performance Measure: Conformance shown through Tree Farmer's actions.**

### Performance Measure 1.1

Forest owner must have and implement a written forest management plan consistent with the size of the forest and the scale and intensity of the forest activities.

**Underlined "must": required element**

**Indicator: Example of Tree Farmer's action.**

### *Indicator 1.1.1*

Management plan must be active, adaptive, and embody the landowner's current objectives, remain appropriate for the land certified, and reflect the current state of knowledge about forestry and natural resource management.



# Size Scale Intensity



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# Standard 1

- Active and adaptive written forest management plan
- ATFS offers tools for foresters and landowners:
  - Template (NRCS, Forest Stewardship, ATFS)
  - Management Plan Addendum



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# Required Plan Elements

- Forest health
- Soil
- Water
- Wood and fiber production
- Threatened and endangered species
- Special sites
- Invasive species
- Integrated pest management
- High conservation value forests



# Optional Plan Elements

- Prescribed fire
- Wetlands
- Recreation
- Aesthetic quality measures
- Biomass
- Carbon



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# Keeping the plan and all plan elements relevant

- Monitoring
- Notes
- Updates
- New plans
- Management Plan Addendum



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# Standard 2

- Compliance with Laws
  - Must comply with relevant laws and BMPs
  - Must correct conditions that led to adverse regulatory actions



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# Standard 3

- Reforestation and Afforestation
  - Must ensure adequate stocking levels
  - Within 5 years or in compliance with law (whichever comes first)
  - Use of desired species



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# Standard 4: Air, Water & Soil Protection

- Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
- Prescribed Fire



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# Standard 5: Fish, Wildlife & Biodiversity

- Threatened and endangered species
- Landowner's desired species
- Invasive species
- High conservation value forests



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# Standard 5

- Threatened and Endangered (T&E) species
- Levels of requirements
  - Research
  - Protection of known occurrences
  - Documentation



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# Standard 5

Tree Farmer's  
desired species

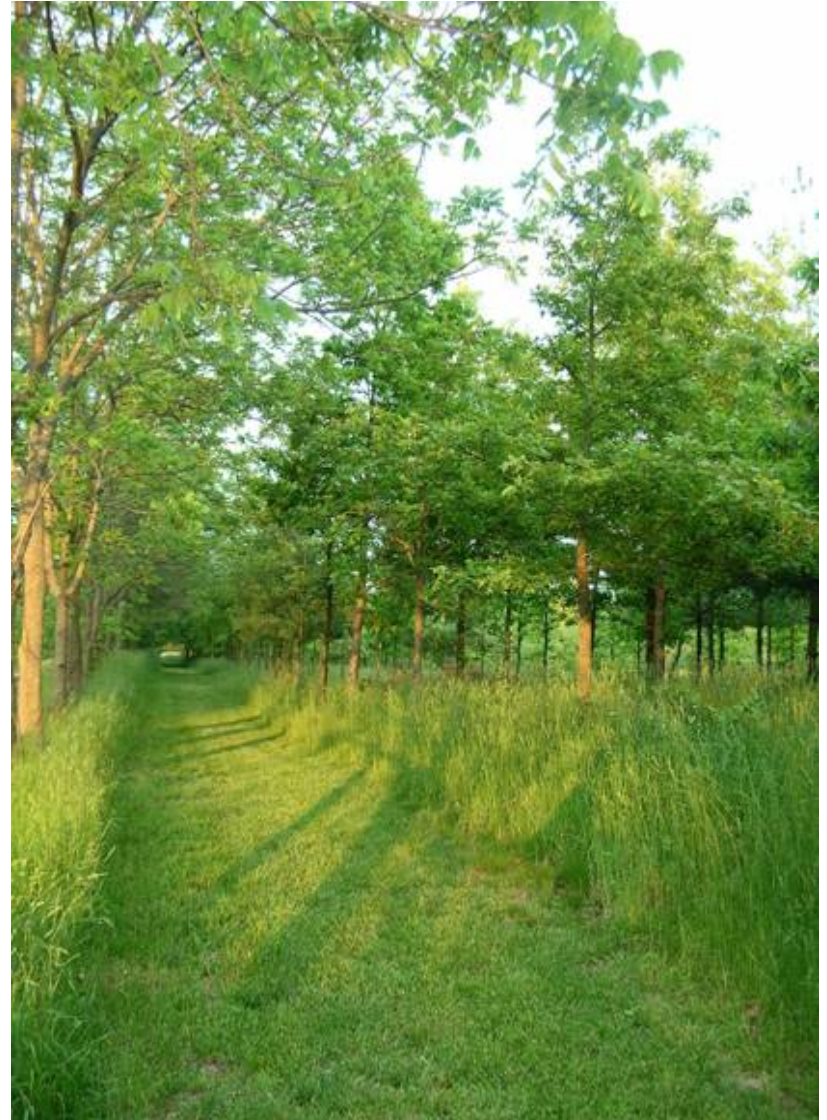


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# Standard 5

- Should prevent, eradicate or control invasive species
- Document: Date and Source.



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# Standard 5

- Rare species
- High conservation value forests (HCVF)



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# Standard 6

## Forest Aesthetics

- Should apply visual quality measures
- Compatibility with appropriate silvicultural practices



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# Standard 7

- Protect Special Sites
- 2 levels of requirements
  - Research, locate and identify
    - Be sure special site is indicated on tract map!
  - Maintenance of sites
    - Ex: fencing around cemeteries



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# Standard 8

- Forest Product Harvest and Other Activities
  - Using qualified professionals and contractors
  - Using contracts for harvests and other activities
  - Liability and Workers' Comp insurance



GRO



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



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