

ATTACHMENT D

BOARD DOCUMENT

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: Sarah Crow, ATFS Certification Manager

DATE: November 13, 2013

RE: Convening of Independent Standards Review Panel

Introduction

The Board of Trustees of the American Forest Foundation is the recognized body responsible for setting, modifying and reviewing the Standards of Sustainability, the sustainable forest management standards for certification under the American Tree Farm System (ATFS). The ATFS certification program is designed specifically for family forest owners in the United States. Every five years or as so deemed necessary by the Board, an independent panel is convened to review the Standards and make recommendations for their improvement or modification to the Board of Trustees. This panel is referred to as the Independent Standards Review Panel (ISRP) and is comprised of a representative cross-section of forestry community leaders with a stake in the ATFS Certification Program or a sincere interest in forest sustainability on small private forest ownerships in the US. The attached list of candidates is our preferred list but some may be unable to serve. The work of the ISRP is guided by AFF's Standard Setting Procedures (attached) and the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) requirements for standard setting.

Requested Action

The AFF Board calls for the convening of the ISRP, initiating the standard setting process, and approve the slate of candidates for the ISRP. In the event that one of the proposed panelists is unable to serve or there is a need to bring an additional stakeholder perspective to the ISRP, AFF staff is authorized to extend an invitation to participate on the panel on behalf of the AFF Board of Trustees. In accordance with the guidelines established by the Board (attached), the ISRP will present its recommendations to the Board of Trustees at its final scheduled meeting in 2014.

Background Materials

ISRP Representative Identification Process Overview
Proposed ISRP Slate
AFF Standard Setting Procedures

ISRP Stakeholder Identification Process

In accordance with AFF's Standard Setting Procedures, AFF seeks to engage a representative cross-section of forestry community leaders with a stake in AFF's Tree Farm Program, or a sincere interest in forest sustainability on small private forest ownerships in the US. The following stakeholder groups have been identified through review and analysis of the existing ATFS network and state committee composition, AFF and ATFS publication and newsletter subscription lists, partnering organizations, results of the National Woodland Owner Survey and consultation with the AFF Certification Committee.

Identified Key Stakeholder Groups

1. Conservation organizations
2. Forest workers
3. Foresters
4. Forest science and academia
5. Forest owners
6. Government agencies
7. Forest Industry
8. Buyers

In addition to these stakeholder groups, the slate of proposed candidates was also selected for their representation in the following areas:

1. Social, economic and ecological perspectives
2. Gender
3. Ethnic and cultural background
4. Geographic diversity
5. Underserved or resource limited communities