

From: [American Tree Farm System](#)
To: [Crow, Sarah](#)
Subject: Updated AFF Standards of Sustainability Officially Released
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American Forest Foundation Announces Improved Tree Farm Certification Standards

Standards Promote Forest Health, Diverse Best Management Practices, and Species Conservation

WASHINGTON – The American Forest Foundation (AFF) today announced the release of its updated [Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification](#) under the American Tree Farm System (ATFS). The Standards, which are revised every five years, are the result of a rigorous, multi-stakeholder process and based on international guidelines for sustainable forest management and conservation.

The [American Tree Farm System](#) (ATFS) works to sustain America's family-owned forests and the clean water and air, wildlife, wood products and recreational opportunities these forests provide. ATFS does this by empowering woodland owners to be effective stewards of the land and by setting sustainable forest management standards that are used by thousands of family-owned forests certified by ATFS.

“As stewards of millions of acres of forests, small woodland owners have a credible and independently audited conservation tool in these updated Standards,” said Sarah Crow, senior director of certification at AFF. “This is a comprehensive, internationally recognized approach that puts family forest owners on the leading edge of conservation principles.”

The [Independent Standards Review Panel](#) (ISRP) developed the revisions based on an extensive public feedback process. The revised Standards include several core revisions to ensure long-term stewardship of America's forests, including expanding best management practices to encompass water, air and soil, and clarifying management needed to protect threatened and endangered species and forests of recognized importance.

These Standards help guide the work of a wide diversity of people and organizations that make up the American Tree Farm System including landowners, natural resource professionals, ATFS inspectors, group managers, and third-party assessors who evaluate the sustainability of forests. Additionally, because the rigorous Standards are consistent with the Programme for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), the world's largest forest certification system, supply chains and organizations using wood produced from ATFS-certified forests can be internationally recognized for sustainable management.

“ATFS provides a credible, sustainable source of certified raw material, so landowners, suppliers and brand owners alike can have the confidence that ATFS certified wood is grown in America by families and individuals who work hard to ensure the wood is produced with the highest environmental standards,” noted Tom Martin, AFF’s President and CEO.

The revised Standards will govern ATFS certification for the next five years, beginning on January 1, 2015. The ATFS community and certificate holders will have one year to transition to any revisions to the Standards.

Detailed information on the new Standards, including a timeline of key dates in the transition process, can be found on the [ATFS website](#).

Those interested in learning more about changes to the Standards are encouraged to visit <https://www.treefarmssystem.org/transition-period> or contact Sarah Crow at scrow@forestfoundation.org, 202-765-3440.

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The American Forest Foundation (AFF) works on the ground with families, educators and elected officials to promote stewardship and protect the values provided by our nation’s forest heritage. A commitment to the next generation unites our nationwide network of forest owners and teachers. These devoted professionals work to keep our forests healthy and our children well prepared for the future they will inherit.

Join us on [January 21st from 1-2 pm](#) for a webinar just for foresters.

This webinar, [Online Tools for Landowners](#), will highlight the [MyLandPlan.org](#) website including the *Forester Directory*.

In the directory, you can highlight your experience and qualification and interested landowners can contact you directly from your profile.

[This webinar](#) has been approved for 1 Category 2 CFE from SAF.

This message was intended for: scrow@forestfoundation.org

You were added to the system March 7, 2014.

The Leadership Update is the monthly e-newsletter specifically for ATFS State Tree Farm Leaders.

By unsubscribing, you will be at risk of losing valuable updates and information from the national office.

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