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Cc: [Crow, Sarah](#)
Subject: FW: Press release: American Tree Farm System® Announces New Independent Standards Review Panel
Date: Wednesday, January 08, 2014 2:41:11 PM

To All,
Below you will find a press release on the American Tree Farm System review panel and the opportunity for public review of the standards for certification. Please pass on to your Sustainable Forestry Project partners, colleagues, contacts, and landowners. As noted below please inform Sarah Crow of your distribution of the announcement.

Thanks,
Alton Perry

From: Crow, Sarah [scrow@forestfoundation.org]
Sent: Tuesday, January 07, 2014 9:11 PM
To: 'John Godbee'; 'Hulka, Bryan'; 'Graden, Barry'; 'Lyons, Anthony J'; 'Street Bill'; 'Heyde, Mark A - DNR'; 'Austin, Carmelita M, EMNRD'; 'Nicole Hill'; 'cbentz@bcsllc.com'; 'Diop, Amadou -FS'; McDow, Will; Alton Perry; Ring, Bettina; Rawcliffe, MacKenzie; 'Nicole Hill'; 'Jessica Leahy'; McDow, Will
Subject: Press release: American Tree Farm System® Announces New Independent Standards Review Panel

Greetings ISRP Members,
The following press release announcing the ISRP and the opening of the review period was shared with members of the media as well as the ATFS network today. Again, please do feel free to share with your networks and, in cases where you further distribute via newsletters or listservs, please do let me know.

Kindly,
Sarah

Sarah Crow
Director of Certification, American Tree Farm System
American Forest Foundation

We Moved!

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Washington, DC 20036
Direct Line: 202.765.3440
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Looking for an interesting read filled with inspiring stories, powerful images, helpful advice and practical tips for woodland owners? Check out [Woodland Magazine!](#)

<https://www.treefarmssystem.org/atfs-announces-independent-standards-review-panel>

American Tree Farm System® Announces New Independent Standards Review Panel

Launches 60-day Public Comment Period on Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification

WASHINGTON (January 7, 2014)—The American Tree Farm System® (ATFS), a program of the [American Forest Foundation](#) (AFF), today announced the 14 members of a new Independent Standards Review Panel (ISRP), a body of forest stakeholders that is charged with reviewing AFF's current Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification (Standards) and recommending revisions to the AFF Board of Trustees based on public review.

Last reviewed in 2010, the 2010-2015 Standards are the benchmark for all ATFS forest certifications and its national network of certified inspectors and certificate holders. All certifications are third-party audited.

Announcement of the ISRP begins [the first of two public review periods](#). The first 60-day review of the existing Standards will run through March 7, 2014. A second review of any revisions to the Standards will be scheduled for later this year.

The process for reviewing the Standards follows protocols accepted around the world. AFF adheres to the requirements established by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), the world's largest forest certification program, based in Geneva, Switzerland.

"The American Tree Farm System® already adheres to a rigorous set of standards, which are a good match for the size, scale, and characteristics of family forestlands," said Sarah Crow, Director of Certification for ATFS. "We see this review process as an opportunity to further add value and support to family forest owners in their stewardship. America's 22 million family forest owners collectively own more forestland than the federal government or forest industry."

"We've invited a representative cross-section of forestry community leaders to serve on the Independent Standards Review Panel and we are grateful for their service to sustainability on family-owned woodlands," Crow said.

The 14 members of the panel announced today represent a broad spectrum of conservation organizations, forestry professionals, forest science and academia, forest owners, government agencies, and the forest products industry. They represent the social, environmental, and economic sectors associated with family forest ownership in the United States. [ISRP members](#) are:

- Steve Sinclair, Chair, Vermont Department of Forests

- Carmen Austin, Navajo Nation and New Mexico Division of Forestry
- Clint Bentz, Private Landowner
- Amadou Diop, United States Forest Service
- Barry Graden, Sustainable Forestry Initiative
- John Godbee, F&W Forestry
- Mark A. Heyde, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Nicole Hill, Nisqually Land Trust
- Bryan Hulka, Weyerhaeuser Company
- Jessica Leahy University of Maine
- Tony Lyons, NewPage Corporation
- Will McDow, Environmental Defense Fund
- Alton Perry, Roanoke Electric Cooperative
- Bill Street, International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers

The panel will hold its first in-person meeting in Washington, D.C. in March to begin reviewing the current Standards and public comments. Interested members of the public are invited to participate in the 60-day public review of the Standards by [submitting comments online](#).

The ISRP will continue to review public comments and work collaboratively with stakeholders through 2014 for presentation of revised Standards to the AFF Board of Trustees in November. Upon adoption, the ATFS community and certificate holders will have a year to transition to any revisions to the Standards. Those interested in learning more about the ISRP process and its work should visit www.treefarmssystem.org/standardsreview or contact Sarah Crow at scrow@forestfoundation.org, 202-765-3440.

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Media Contact: Amanda Cooke at acooke@forestfoundation.org and 202-765-3755.

The American Tree Farm System® is a network of 82,000 family forest owners sustainably managing 24 million acres of forestland. ATFS is the largest and oldest sustainable woodland system in the United States, internationally recognized, meeting strict third-party certification standards.

Amanda C. Cooke
Media & Marketing Manager
American Forest Foundation

NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS!

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Washington, DC 20036

202-765-3755 (NEW Office) | 202-420-9155 (Cell) | [ac350](#) (Twitter)

www.forestfoundation.org

www.mylandplan.org

We grow stewardship every day.

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Check out AFF's Resources for Woodland Owners: MyLandPlan.org and Woodland Magazine