

AFF STANDARDS (2015 – 2020) MONITORING CHECKLIST

Group Organization’s Name: _____

Group Member’s Tree Farm Name: _____

Internal Auditor’s Signature: _____

Date: _____

This document is provided as a tool to IMGs to record and document objective evidence and findings for each AFF Standards Core Performance Measure and Primary Indicator. A narrative description of the objective evidence should be provided indicating what documents were reviewed, personnel interviewed, or field sites inspected. A check Mark (X) should be placed in the correct column indicating Conformance (Conform), Major Non-conformance (Major), Minor Non-conformance (Minor), and Opportunity for Improvement (OFI). Where a major or minor non-conformance is found, the internal auditor should fully document the rationale for the non-conformance on a Corrective Action Request (CAR) form (GO-06). Indicate (N/A) if the Core Performance Measure and/or Primary Indicators is not applicable under Objective Evidence. (Note that conformance is measured to the Core Performance Measures and Primary Indicators. Performance Measures and Indicators with the term Shall are considered Core and Primary, respectively).

AFF Standards Requirements	Briefly Described the Objective Evidence of Conformance (Documents Reviewed, Personnel Interviewed, Sites Visited)	Conform	Major	Minor	OFI
Standard 1: Commitment to Practicing Sustainable Forestry Landowner demonstrates commitment to forest health and sustainability by developing a forest management plan and implementing sustainable practices.					
Performance Measure 1.1 Landowner <u>shall</u> have and implement a written forest management plan consistent with the size of the forest and the scale and intensity of the forest activities.					
Indicator 1.1.1 Management plan <u>shall</u> be active, adaptive and embody the landowner’s current objectives, remain appropriate for the land certified and reflect the current state of knowledge about natural resources and sustainable forest management.					

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<p>Indicator 1.1.2 Management plans <u>shall</u> describe current forest conditions, landowner’s objectives, management activities aimed at achieving landowner’s objectives, document a feasible strategy for activity implementation and include a map accurately depicting significant forest-related resources.</p> <p>The forest management plan <u>shall</u> demonstrate consideration of the following resource elements: forest health, soil, water, wood and fiber production, threatened and endangered species, special sites, invasive species and forests of recognized importance. Where present and relevant to the property, the plan <u>shall</u> describe management activities related to these resource elements.</p> <p>Where present, relevant to the property and consistent with landowner’s objectives, the plan preparer should consider, describe and evaluate the following resource elements: fire, wetlands, desired species, recreation, forest aesthetics, biomass and carbon.</p>					
<p>Indicator 1.1.3 The Landowner should monitor for changes that could interfere with the management objectives as stated in management plan. When problems are found, reasonable actions are taken.</p>					
<p>Standard 2: Compliance With Laws Forest management activities comply with all relevant federal, state and local laws, regulations and ordinances.</p>					
<p>Performance Measure 2.1 Landowner <u>shall</u> comply with all relevant federal, state, county and municipal laws, regulations and ordinances governing forest management activities.</p>					
<p>Indicator 2.1.1 Landowner <u>shall</u> comply with all relevant laws, regulations and ordinances and will correct conditions that led to adverse regulatory actions, if any.</p>					

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Indicator 2.1.2 Landowner should obtain advice from appropriate qualified natural resource professionals or qualified contractors who are trained in, and familiar with, relevant laws, regulations and ordinances.					
Standard 3: Reforestation and Afforestation Landowner completes timely restocking of desired species of trees on harvested sites and nonstocked areas where tree growing is consistent with land use practices and the landowner's objectives.					
Performance Measure 3.1 Reforestation or afforestation <u>shall</u> be achieved by a suitable process that ensures adequate stocking levels.					
Indicator 3.1.1 Harvested forest land <u>shall</u> achieve adequate stocking of desired species reflecting the landowner's objectives, within five years after harvest, or within a time interval as specified by applicable regulation.					
Standard 4: Air, Water and Soil Protection Forest management practices maintain or enhance the environment and ecosystems, including air, water, soil and site quality.					
Performance Measure 4.1 Landowner <u>shall</u> meet or exceed practices prescribed by state forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) that are applicable to the property.					
Indicator 4.1.1 Landowner <u>shall</u> implement specific state forestry BMPs that are applicable to the property.					
Indicator 4.1.2 Landowner <u>shall</u> minimize road construction and other disturbances within riparian zones and wetlands.					

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Performance Measure 4.2 Landowner <u>shall</u> consider a range of forest management activities to control pests, pathogens and unwanted vegetation.					
Indicator 4.2.1 Landowner <u>shall</u> evaluate alternatives to pesticides for the prevention or control of pests, pathogens and unwanted vegetation to achieve specific management objectives.					
Indicator 4.2.2 Pesticides used <u>shall</u> be EPA-approved and applied, stored and disposed of in accordance with EPA-approved labels and by persons appropriately trained, licensed and supervised.					
Performance Measure 4.3 When used, prescribed fire <u>shall</u> conform with landowner’s objectives and pre-fire planning.					
Indicator 4.3.1 Prescribed fire <u>shall</u> conform with the landowner’s objectives and state and local laws and regulations.					
Standard 5: Fish, Wildlife and Biodiversity Forest management activities contribute to the conservation of biodiversity.					
Performance Measure 5.1 Forest management activities <u>shall</u> protect habitats and communities occupied by threatened or endangered communities as required by law.					
Indicator 5.1.1 Landowner <u>shall</u> confer with natural resource agencies, state natural resource heritage programs, qualified natural resource professionals or review other sources of information to determine occurrences of threatened or endangered species on the property and their habitat requirements.					
Indicator 5.1.2 Forest management activities <u>shall</u> incorporate measures to protect identified threatened or endangered species on the property.					

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Performance Measure 5.2 Landowner should address the desired species and/or desired forest communities when conducting forest management activities, if consistent with landowner’s objectives.					
Indicator 5.2.1 Landowner should consult available and accessible information on management of the forest for desired species and/or forest communities and integrate it into forest management.					
Performance Measure 5.3 Landowner should make practical efforts to promote forest health.					
Indicator 5.3.1 Landowner should make practical efforts to promote forest health, including prevention, control or response to disturbances such as wildland fire, invasive species and other pests, pathogens or unwanted vegetation, to achieve specific management objectives.					
Performance Measure 5.4 Where present, forest management activities should maintain or enhance forests of recognized importance.					
Indicator 5.4.1 Appropriate to the scale and intensity of the situation, forest management activities should incorporate measures to contribute to the conservation of identified forests of recognized importance.					
Standard 6: Forest Aesthetics Forest management activities recognize the value of forest aesthetics.					
Performance Measure 6.1 Landowner should manage the visual impacts of forest management activities consistent with the size of the forest, the scale and intensity of forest management activities and the location of the property.					

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Indicator 6.1.1 Forest management activities should apply visual quality measures compatible with appropriate silvicultural practices.					
Standard 7: Protect Special Sites Special sites are managed in ways that recognize their unique historical, archaeological, cultural, geological, biological or ecological characteristics.					
Performance Measure 7.1 Forest management activities <u>shall</u> consider and maintain any special sites relevant on the property.					
Indicator 7.1.1 Landowner <u>shall</u> make a reasonable effort to locate and protect special sites appropriate for the size of the forest and the scale and intensity of forest management activities.					
Standard 8: Forest Product Harvests and Other Activities Forest product harvests and other management activities are conducted in accordance with the landowner’s objectives and consider other forest values.					
Performance Measure 8.1 Landowner should use qualified natural resource professionals and qualified contractors when contracting for services.					
Indicator 8.1.1 Landowner should seek qualified natural resource professionals and qualified contractors.					
Indicator 8.1.2 Landowner should engage qualified contractors who carry appropriate insurance and comply with appropriate federal, state and local safety and fair labor rules, regulations and standard practices ¹ .					
Indicator 8.1.3 Landowner should retain appropriate contracts or records for forest product harvests and other management activities to demonstrate conformance to the Standards.					

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Performance Measure 8.2 Landowner <u>shall</u> monitor forest product harvests and other management activities to ensure they conform to their objectives.					
Indicator 8.2.1 Harvest, utilization, removal and other management activities <u>shall</u> be conducted in compliance with the landowner’s objectives and to maintain the potential of the property to produce forest products and other benefits sustainably.					

¹ Auditors shall consider any complaints alleging violation of fair labor rules filed by workers or organized labor since the previous third-party certification audit. The auditor shall not take action on any labor issues pending in a formal grievance process or before federal, state or local agencies or the courts, however, until those processes are completed. Absent a record of documented complaints or noncompliances, contractors and managers are assumed to be in compliance with this indicator.