



American Tree Farm System

2000 M Street, NW, Suite 550 • Washington, D.C. 20036 • Phone 202.765.3660

September 5, 2016

Mr. Ben Gunneberg
Secretary General
PEFC International
10, Route de l'Aéroport
Case Postale 636
1215 Geneva - Switzerland

Subject: ATFS Application for PEFC Re-Endorsement

Dear Mr. Gunneberg,

On behalf of the American Tree Farm System® (ATFS®) and the American Forest Foundation® (AFF), I formally submit our 2015-2020 Standards for re-endorsement under the PEFC Standards and System Requirements.

ATFS is the oldest and largest sustainable woodland system in America, providing tools and resources to family forest landowners since 1941. This long and rich history has resulted in a uniquely comprehensive and effective program to promote and recognize sustainable forest management.

ATFS achieved initial endorsement from the PEFC membership on August 8, 2008 and, again, in 2013. Since that time, the AFF Board of Directors has approved revised Standards of Sustainability and updated other Group Certification Program documents and procedures. We are hereby submitting our 2015-2020 Standards for re-endorsement. We are confident that we will continue to receive PEFC endorsement and mutual recognition.

Our application for re-endorsement is attached, including the updated Standard and System Requirement Checklists and supporting Appendices, of which there are now twenty six (26). Additional background information on our updated Standards and programs are available upon request and can be found on our website: <http://www.treefarmssystem.org/>

We appreciate your assistance with this matter and look forward to continuing our strong partnership in advancing the goals of sustainable forest management on family forest ownerships across the United States, while providing an example for other countries around the world.

Sincerely,

Ms. Sarah Crow,
Senior Director of Certification
American Forest Foundation

CC:
Tom Martin, AFF
Michael Berger, PEFC

Annex 1

Formal Supporting Evidence

Standard and System Requirement Checklists (Part I, II, III, IV, & VI)

- Appendix 1: American Forest Foundation (AFF) 2015-2020 Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification
- Appendix 2: Standard Setting Procedures
- Appendix 3: Pre-Revision Public Comment Period
- Appendix 4: Announcement of Public Comment Period 2, resulting Themes & Important Comments, Emails & Working Drafts
- Appendix 5: Independent Standards Review Panel, List of Members, Invitation to Participate, Standards Consensus Return Form
- Appendix 6: Dispute and Appeals Procedure
- Appendix 7: Independent Standard Review Panel Meeting Minutes and Correspondence
- Appendix 8: AFF Final Standards Press Release
- Appendix 9: AFF Standards Guidance
- Appendix 10: ATFS Independently Managed Group Requirements (IMG-01), Internal Monitoring Checklists for Managers and Group Members
- Appendix 11: Regional Group Public Summary Report
- Appendix 12: Eligibility Requirements and Guidance
- Appendix 13: Management Plan Template
- Appendix 14: Links to State BMPs
- Appendix 15: ANAB Accreditation Rule 27/Standards Council of Canada Accreditation
- Appendix 16: Sampling Design for Internal Audits of Regional Groups to the AFF Standard
- Appendix 17: Regional Group Certification Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs)
- Appendix 18: ATFS Interpretations and Guidance
- Appendix 19: Tree Farm Inspection Record (Form 004)
- Appendix 20: Memorandum of Understanding with Labor Organizations
- Appendix 21: Monthly PEFC Reports
- Appendix 22: Independent Certification Body Certificates (Regional Groups)
- Appendix 23: AFF Board of Directors Approval of Standards
- Appendix 24: Tree Farm Inspector Manual
- Appendix 25: Family Forest Owners Survey
- Appendix 26: 2015 SFI, Inc. Services Agreement with ATFS as PEFC US NGB and Secretary