ATFS Management Plan Addendum for the 2015-2020 Standards of Sustainability

The American Tree Farm System® (ATFS) Management Plan Addendum is an easy-to-use tool to support Certified Tree Farmers and Family Forest owners. This tool is designed to help you understand the range of resources for consideration in the managing of your woodlands. As you consider your stewardship objectives, this tool will help ensure your activities align with the AFF 2015-2020 Standards of Sustainability (the Standards). The Standards are the benchmark for all Certified Tree Farmers and Family Forest owners, verifying the good stewardship that is expected from participants in ATFS.

This document is designed as a complement to your current management plan. Your management plan should outline the goals you have for your land and a strategy for achieving those goals. This addendum should be retained for your personal records; you may be requested to show this addendum along with your management plan to demonstrate conformance to the Standards.

Sustainable Forestry

Having a current, up-to-date management plan is an important indicator of conformance to the Standards. Your management plan must include:

- A description of the current forest conditions (may include tree species composition, age, density, health conditions and other describers)
- A list of the current goals and objectives that you have for your land
- An up-to-date schedule of activities
- A map showing significant forest resources (may include stand boundaries and acreage amounts, special sites, water bodies, roads and trails, buildings, fences, etc.)
- A narrative demonstrating consideration of each 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 describes management activities related to these resource elements. If an element is not present on the property, the plan should outline which resources (such as natural heritage databases) were consulted to make the determination.

This addendum is a tool for considering and incorporating these resource elements into your stewardship. You may also consider contacting your forester or a qualified natural resource professional to discuss your management plan and upcoming activities.

Forest Health

ATFS recommends regular monitoring of your woods, including an annual review of your management plan and documenting of any changes. These changes may include natural disasters, damage from trespassers, pests, invasive species, weeds, and disease. To assist you with these activities, please visit AFF resources http://www.treefarmsystem.org/reviewing-your-management-plan or this website. Your forester or qualified natural resource professional(s) are important partners to help identify and address current and potential forest health issues.

Soil and Water
Maintaining and enhancing the soil and water on your land are essential requirements of the Standards. Your management plan need to include information on the soils that support your forests. If you do not have that information already included in your management plan, you can consult the National Resource Conservation Service’s (NRCS’s) website: websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov or contact your local office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture–Natural Resource Conservation Service to find out more about your soils.

All Tree Farmers are required to implement all applicable state forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs), even in those states where BMPs are voluntary. To learn about the BMPs in your state, visit www.mylandplan.org/BMPs or www.treefarmsystem.org/woodland-resources or contact your local qualified natural resource professional to learn about your state’s BMPs.

**Pesticides**

Pesticides are approved for use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for specific uses; however, as a landowner, it is your responsibility to ensure that you understand and comply with all EPA label requirements for application, storage and disposal.

There are alternatives to pesticides that can be effective and easy to use. As part of the Standards, you should evaluate alternatives to pesticides for the prevention or control of pests, pathogens, unwanted plants and weeds to achieve specific management objectives. For more information on alternatives to pesticides, please consult our online resources: http://mylandplan.org/pests-weeds, http://mylandplan.org/content/integrated-pest-management or http://www.treefarmsystem.org/woodland-resources or contact a local qualified natural resource professional to find state-specific information on pests, weeds and diseases.

**Prescribed Burning**

Where appropriate, prescribed burning can be a valuable management technique to help you achieve your goals whether they be around creating wildlife habitat, promoting the restoration of a desired tree species or addressing unwanted trees or plants. Consult www.mylandplan.org/prescribed-burns or contact your local qualified natural resource professional to learn more about prescribed burning use and regulations in your state.

**Wildlife**

Threatened or endangered species are those species that have been identified by either the federal or state governments as in need of special protections. Protection of occupied habitats and communities for these species is required by the Standards and by law. Please consult
www.treefarmsystem.org/woodland-resources to research threatened or endangered species or contact your local qualified natural resource professional.

**Forest of Recognized Importance (FORI)**

Forests of Recognized Importance (FORI) are globally, regionally and nationally significant large landscape areas of exceptional ecological, social, cultural or biological value. These forests are evaluated at the landscape level, rather than at the stand level and are recognized for a combination of unique values, rather than a single attribute. To learn more, please contact an ATFS Inspecting Forester or visit [http://www.treefarmsystem.org/fori](http://www.treefarmsystem.org/fori) or [http://mylandplan.org/fori](http://mylandplan.org/fori) to determine the presence of FORI in your area.

**Special Sites**

Special sites can be places of personal significance that you and your family designate, like a special tree or a campsite or other location with a personal meaning. Special sites also include areas offering unique historical, archaeological, cultural, geological, biological or ecological values; for example, cemeteries, cave entrances or outcroppings. The Standards provide guidance for identifying special sites and how to protect special sites on your land. Consult [www.mylandplan.org/special-sites](http://www.mylandplan.org/special-sites) and [www.treefarmsystem.org/woodland-resources](http://www.treefarmsystem.org/woodland-resources) to research special sites or contact your local qualified natural resource professional.

This ATFS Addendum was created on www.MyLandPlan.org.