

### **Guidance on IMG Certificate Transfers**

In the event of a merger or purchase that warrants a transfer of an Independently Managed Group (IMG) certificate, the purchaser has ninety (90) days from the purchase date to declare an intent to maintain or dissolve the IMG.

If the purchaser chooses to maintain the IMG certificate, the purchaser has ninety (90) days from the date of purchase to demonstrate that the management has not changed and declare the intent to certify the IMG via a Certification Body. The purchaser will work with the Certification Body to determine the level of risk and the schedule for the next surveillance audit. AFF will allow for an extension of this ninety (90) day deadline as warranted.

In the event that the purchaser elects to dissolve the IMG, AFF will absorb the Tree Farms within that IMG into the regional certificates for up to six (6) months from the date of election, providing the landowners with adequate time to join a state program or another IMG.