



Sightline *Express*

Sightline *Express* – The Latest Tree Farm News

November 2009

1. **New Tree Farm Eligibility Requirements**

The American Forest Foundation Board of Trustees recently approved revised eligibility requirements for certification under the American Tree Farm System. Properties managed by Timber Investment Management Organizations that meet all eligibility requirements may be certified through Aggregated Management Group programs, a new certification category to be established in 2010. Eligible state-owned lands may also be certified through an Independently Managed Group program or as an individual third-party certificate holder. Acreage requirements will remain the same at 10,000 contiguous acres for certification under the state Tree Farm committees and 20,000 contiguous acres for certification under independently managed group programs and for individual certificate holders. The new eligibility requirements will be posted on the Tree Farm website (www.treefarmssystem.org).

2. **Special Sites**

Under the AFF Standards, management activities on certified Tree Farms must maintain special sites. Tree Farmers must make a reasonable effort to locate and protect special sites appropriate for the size of the forest and the scale and intensity of the forest management activities. Special sites include historical, archeological, cultural and ceremonial sites or features of importance to the Tree Farmer as well sites of importance to wildlife and unique ecological communities. As an inspector, you can help Tree Farmers by pointing them towards resources such as state natural heritage databases and special site experts. The Tree Farm website will be updated in the beginning of 2010 with resources for landowners to research special sites in their state. Look for more

information to come on special site protection on certified Tree Farms.

3. Profile: Arnie Friedt, 2009 Western Region Inspector of the Year

Arnie Friedt is our 2009 Western Region Inspector of the Year. Arnie's commitment to the Tree Farm program and New Mexico's Tree Farmers is evident in the excitement and stability he brings to his state's program. Arnie is actively engaged in outreach activities, working with the Boy Scouts of America on the Philmont Scout Ranch Demonstration Forest and volunteering as a forestry camp teacher.

To learn more about Arnie Friedt, 2009 Western Region Inspector of the Year, and our other recognition award recipients, please visit - http://www.treefarmssystem.org/cms/pages/19_3.html

4. Call for questions about Carbon and Biomass

Do you want to learn more about carbon credit trading and biomass production? Send us your questions and you may see your question in a future Sightline newsletter or on the website! Email inspectors@forestfoundation.org.

5. Need a 004 form?

Electronic copies of the 004 inspector form and the auditor verification form are always available on the ATFS website. Visit www.treefarmssystem.org>Tree Farm in Your State>Inspectors Corner for this and other resources for inspectors.

Or contact your state program if you are meeting with a specific landowner and you would like to have an electronic copy to print that is pre-populated with the Tree Farm and landowner information. All state contacts are listed on the Tree Farm website.

As always, check out the latest news of what's happening at the American Forest Foundation on our website – www.forestfoundation.org.

Please feel free to contact us at any time with any questions or concerns.