



Sightline *Express*

Sightline *Express* – A new way to be in the loop with what’s going on at Tree Farm!

For inspectors: Your monthly Sightline *Express* will help you stay up-to-date on the latest Tree Farm news and other important topics. Sightline *Express* will compliment the paper editions of Sightline sent out throughout the year. We hope you find this newsletter informative! Please contact Victoria Lockhart at vlockhart@forestfoundation.org with any questions or content suggestions.

1. **Active and Adaptive Management Plans**

Under the AFF Standards, management plans should be active, adaptive and current to the landowner objectives. As all foresters know, management plans are much more useful if they are up-to-date. But what constitutes a plan update?

A plan update can be as informal as a handwritten note in the margin indicating you have completed a management activity or a short amendment describing why you have chosen to defer a harvest. More formal updates may be needed as landowner management objectives change or if all management activities prescribed in the plan are completed. Updates should always include a date.

Keeping management plans current through updates helps to remind landowners to go back to their plan and evaluate them to ensure that their stated objectives still match their current goals for the land. Management plans should be active pathways to completing landowner goals and updates can help accomplish this.

2. **2009 Certification Assessments**

Thank you to all of the states that participated in our 2009 third party certification assessments. With enormous help and support

from our state Tree Farm committees, volunteer inspectors and landowners, we received positive reports from the certification assessment teams in each of our four Tree Farm regions and were granted our certificates. On the Tree Farm website, you will find summaries of each of the certification assessments as well as copies of the certificates.

Thank you Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, New Mexico, South Dakota, Colorado, Missouri, Kentucky, Kansas, Vermont, Maine and West Virginia!

3. 2010 Certification Assessments

Following successful completion of our 2009 certification assessments, we have begun to plan for the 2010 assessments. Our 2010 assessment states include:

South – Alabama, Georgia, Florida

West – Montana, Idaho, Washington

North Central – Ohio, Indiana, Michigan

North east – New Hampshire, Delaware, Maryland

4. National Tree Farmer Convention 2009

Tree Farmers and volunteers gathered in Washington D.C. this week to spread awareness of policy issues important to Tree Farmers and the forestry community. Tree Farmers were able to attend sessions on Farm Bill opportunities, invasive species, family succession planning, key tax updates, conservation easements and many more topics. Tree Farmers made visits up on Capital Hill to highlight policy issues such as carbon trading, renewable fuel standards, tax policy improvements, and environmental education.

5. Announcing! National Tree Farmer Convention 2010

We are excited to announce that our 2010 National Tree Farmer Convention will be held in Burlington, Vermont! As part of our focus on education and outreach to future Tree Farmers, we have scheduled the Convention for July 13 to 15, 2010, to encourage Tree Farmers and volunteers to bring their children of all ages. Look for more information to come in the March/April issue of the Tree Farmer magazine!

4. 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.

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