

treefarmer

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AMERICAN
FOREST FOUNDATION



AMERICAN
TREE FARM SYSTEM®

The guide to sustaining America's family forests

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

North Central Regional Tree Farmers of the Year

Log-loading Trailers for Horse or Tractor

Defending Against Unwanted Intruders

Herbicides Clear the Competition

Save the Secret Mast Tree for Wildlife

ANALYZE *Your* INVESTMENT

to Boost Economic and
Non-economic Returns

tree farmer



THE AMERICAN TREE FARM SYSTEM®

Tree Farmer is the official magazine of the American Tree Farm System (ATFS), a program of the American Forest Foundation. It is published six times a year for private forest landowners and volunteer foresters. Opinions do not necessarily represent those of ATFS.

MISSION

To promote the growing of renewable forest resources on private lands while protecting environmental benefits and increasing public understanding of all benefits of productive forestry.

Tree Farmer magazine is a forest enhancement publication by Tree Farmers for Tree Farmers and all who benefit from their endeavors. *Tree Farmer* espouses the environmental benefits of sustainable production of forest products through responsible forest stewardship on private forestlands. With information, advocacy, and practical advice, the magazine promotes sustainable forest practices for multiple benefits to society.

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PLEASE WRITE

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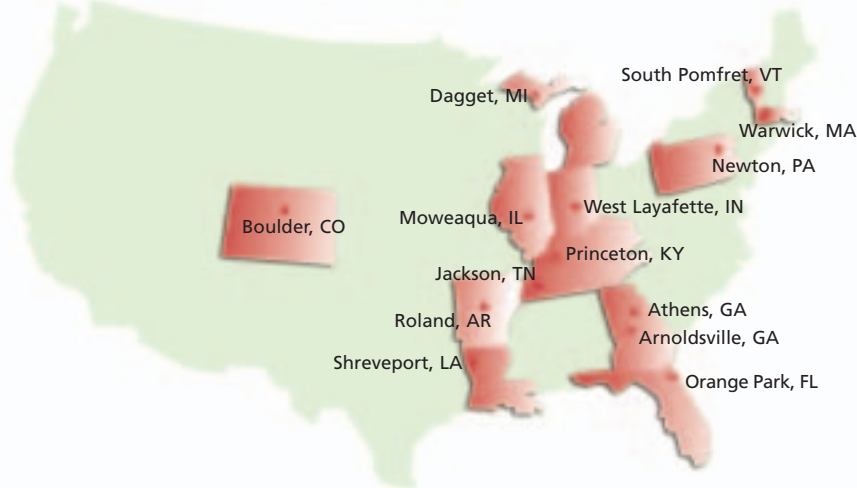
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Features

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When managed strategically, our forests can produce a multitude of economic and "non-economic" returns that benefit the owner, their neighbors, rural communities and society as a whole. Managing forests economically allows Tree Farmers to achieve many of their other objectives too, such as building trails or ponds, fencing, hiring professional assistance, planting wildlife food plots or a host of other forest management activities.

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Herbicides can help reduce the level of competition in your forestland, providing more resources for valuable pine trees and therefore more volume of valuable wood, faster growth into higher-value products and shorter rotation times. Here we outline costs and schedules of different treatments, as well as the benefits to wildlife habitat.

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Nick and Carol Thoney expect generations to come will enjoy the forestry legacy they have built on TO-NE-HIL Tree Farm.

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COVER PHOTO: A MALE PILEATED WOODPECKER ON A SUGAR MAPLE. PHOTO BY NED THERRIEN



Going Once, Going Twice, GONE!

By **BOB**
Simpson

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For Sale: 44 million acres. Features include productive forestland, abundant wildlife, pristine streams, clean air, peace, and quiet. Excellent location for housing developments, shopping malls, and big-box stores.

That's how the ad should read. The latest U.S. Forest Service study predicts that's the amount of America's private and family forestlands that will go on the auction block during the next 25 years. This is equivalent to selling the state of Maine — twice! If the American public heard that Congress was putting Maine up for sale there would be a public outcry

Congress needs to realize that a perverse Wall Street is in effect forcing our vast tracts of industrial forest ownership to the auction block.

like never heard before. But it's happening, one tract at a time, coast to coast, border to border ... and neither Congress nor the White House seem really to be interested.

The only answer that Congress seems to come up with is to fund the buyers. They have created several programs that allow federal agencies and land trusts to purchase larger tracts of forestland — most of it coming from U.S. forest industry sell-offs to appease Wall Street. One such program is the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). But when you look at the numbers of acres and the corresponding dollars, you realize this is just a band-aid at best. As an example, the Conservation Fund

hopes to purchase 16,000 acres in California for \$48 million. The White House is recommending \$85 million in its current budget request for LWCF. Do the math.

We can't buy it all, and it's foolish to continue this tactic. We need to take a look at the symptoms. Congress needs to realize that a perverse Wall Street is in effect forcing our vast tracts of industrial forest ownership to the auction block. Federal and state regulation, legislation, and taxation, and tightening global competition are having the same affect on our family-owned forests. Congress needs to find ways to support private forest ownership. This can be accomplished by doing away with programs such as LWCF and putting the congressionally authorized \$85 million toward tax abatement and forest-enhancement programs.

Family-owned forests provide the public with clean water, pure air, quality outdoor recreation experiences, and much, much more. If the American public wants to keep enjoying these resources, it's time society start thinking about supporting them through tax breaks for landowners. America's family forest owners need to be able to say, "No," when developers come knocking. ATFS is working for you on Capitol Hill to make this become reality. 🌿



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