



Sightline express →

The monthly e-newsletter exclusively for ATFS Inspectors.

November 2012

Tools

Letters to Tree Farmers in 2013 Assessment States

Each year, a group of state Tree Farm programs represents their region in the ATFS third-party certification assessment. The Tree Farm programs participating in the 2013 assessment are South Carolina, North Carolina, West Virginia, Virginia, Maine, Vermont, Kentucky, New Mexico and Colorado.

The national office and 2013 assessment state committees are in the midst of pre-assessment planning. Part of this process is mailing a letter to all Tree Farmers in the assessment states. The letter introduces the assessment process, which is similar to an inspection, conducted by our third-party auditors. It also gives Tree Farmers an opportunity to inform the state committee of any changes to their contact information, forest management or property status, such as bought or sold acreage. Though the actual field assessment process only includes a small sample of each state's Tree Farm population, any Tree Farmer who is currently Certified is eligible to be selected. If you know of changes to a Tree Farmer's property, feel free to send us an update. The assessment process consistently recognizes the good work of both ATFS Inspectors and Tree Farmers. If you have questions about the assessment, please contact Sarah Crow at scrow@forestfoundation.org.

On the Ground

Required Sample Inspections

Many thanks to our Inspectors for your continued support and dedication to completing the 2012 required sample inspections. These inspections are critical for maintaining credibility in our certification program. They also serve as an essential form of outreach to landowners and help support the international PEFC endorsement of the ATFS program.

We provide you the on-the-ground tools you need to help validate the work that family woodland owners are doing to keep their forest healthy and productive.

Working together, we help provide outreach to landowners and promote better forest stewardship.

Contact Us

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The **American Tree Farm System**[®] is a program of the American Forest Foundation.

*We grow stewardship
from the roots.*

As of November 29, 2012, ATFS Inspectors has completed 1,340 of 1,500 required sample inspections for the 2012 required sample. This is a cumulative completion rate of 89% for the Tree Farm program nationally.

If your state has yet to complete all of this year's required inspections, please be aware there is still time to complete and enter the inspections into the database. Final required inspections submitted before December 7th, 2012 will be included in the incentive funding program distributed to states.

The total number of inspections (required and otherwise) completed since last November is approximately 3,359. This number signifies the accomplishments of the state Tree Farm programs and Inspectors. As Inspectors, your effort on the ground helping landowners manage their woods and reach their stewardship goals is vitally important. Thank you!

Our congratulations go out to those states and individuals completing 100% of their inspections prior to the deadline! If you have any questions about the 2012 required sample inspections, please feel free to contact [Justin Lindenberg](#).

Moving Toward the Future

GreatNonprofits.org has honored AFF with a 2012 Top-Rated Award.

Congratulations! Thanks in part to the reviews from you and our network peers, the website GreatNonprofits.org has recently honored the American Forest Foundation with a 2012 Top-Rated Award! Our Top-Rated badge will be displayed proudly on our GreatNonprofits.org profile, visible to nearly 1.4M potential donors and volunteers each year. We will also be able to add the 2012 Top-Rated badge to our website, marketing materials, annual report, and grant proposals to further demonstrate our credibility to donors and funders. The list of 2012 Top-Rated Awardees will be distributed during the holiday giving season to media and 2,000 corporate foundations. Check out reviews from volunteers, Tree Farmers, PLT devotees and more supporters at <http://greatnonprofits.org/organizations/view/american-forest-foundation>.

A Gift of Thanks for Your Continued Support

During this Thanksgiving season, we want to thank you for everything you've done for the American Forest Foundation and the American Tree Farm System. As a token of our

appreciation for your involvement, we've once again included personalized ATFS address labels in our latest special letter, which hit mailboxes across the country early last week. We apologize for the delay of this letter - Hurricane Sandy slowed down our process - so keep an eye out for this special letter and be sure to reply with your generous gift as soon as you can. If you prefer to donate online, please visit www.treefarmssystem.org/donate today. Thank you again for your support!

Stumped

Q: The Standard and 004 Form note that landowners should address desired species in their management plan. Technically, what is a desired species? How should they include them in their plan?

A: A landowner may wish to increase the presence of one or more desirable species, such as deer, turkey, persimmon or large-mouth bass, on his or her property. Desired species are not known to cause negative impacts on the local environment. Goals of managing for these species should be stated in the objectives of the management plan and details on the strategies for achieving these goals included in the body of the plan. There are several good sources of information on desired species management, including the ATFS Woodland Owner Resource, nonprofit organizations that focus on specific species, such as the National Wild Turkey Federation, state and federal agencies that focus on fish and game or your state extension service.