ATFS Management Plan Addendum for the 2015-2020 Standards of Sustainability

The American Tree Farm System® (ATFS) Management Plan Addendum is an easy-to-use tool to support Certified Tree Farmers and Family Forest owners. This tool is designed to help you understand the range of resources for consideration in the managing of your woodlands. As you consider your stewardship objectives, this tool will help ensure your activities align with the AFF 2015-2020 Standards of Sustainability (the Standards). The Standards are the benchmark for all Certified Tree Farmers and Family Forest owners, verifying the good stewardship that is expected from participants in ATFS.

This document is designed as a complement to your current management plan. Your management plan should outline the goals you have for your land and a strategy for achieving those goals. This addendum should be retained for your personal records; you may be requested to show this addendum along with your management plan to demonstrate conformance to the Standards.

SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

Having a current, up-to-date management plan is an important indicator of conformance to the Standards. Your management plan must include:

- A description of the current forest conditions (may include tree species composition, age, density, health conditions and other descriptors)
- A list of the current goals and objectives that you have for your land
- An up-to-date schedule of activities
- A map showing significant forest resources (may include stand boundaries and acreage amounts, special sites, water bodies, roads and trails, buildings, fences, etc.)
- A narrative demonstrating consideration of each of the following resource elements: forest health, soil, water, wood and fiber production, threatened and endangered species, special sites, invasive species and forests of recognized importance. Where present and relevant to the property, the plan describes management activities related to these resource elements. If an element is not present on the property, the plan should outline which resources (such as natural heritage databases) were consulted to make the determination.

This addendum is a tool for considering and incorporating these resource elements into your stewardship. You may also consider contacting your forester or a qualified natural resource professional to discuss your management plan and upcoming activities.

YOUR COMMITMENT

☐ My management plan is up to date and addresses all the Standards requirements noted above.

Initial: ______________    Date: ___________________

FOREST HEALTH

ATFS recommends regular monitoring of your woods, including an annual review of your management plan and documenting of any changes. These changes may include natural disasters, damage from trespassers, pests, invasive species, weeds, and disease. To assist you with these activities, please visit AFF resources www.treefarmsystem.org/reviewing-your-management-plan and www.mylandplan.org. Your forester or qualified natural resource professional(s) are important partners to help identify and address current and potential forest health issues.

YOUR COMMITMENT

☐ My woods are monitored for changes that could interfere with my stated objectives, including damage from storms or other natural disasters, trespassers, weeds, pests, invasive species, diseases and other forest health concerns.

Initial: ______________    Date: ___________________
Based on my research and regular monitoring:

☐ I currently do not have any of these forest health issues present on my property

☐ I currently have the following present on my property (check all that apply):
  ☐ Damage from natural disasters
  ☐ Damage from trespassers  ☐ Other
  ☐ Pests  ☐ Weeds  ☐ Disease  ☐ Invasive species

Therefore, I will take the following steps to address these issues:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

SOIL AND WATER

Maintaining and enhancing the soil and water on your land are essential requirements of the Standards. Your management plan need to include information on the soils that support your forests. If you do not have that information already included in your management plan, you can consult the National Resource Conservation Service’s (NRCS’s) website: websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov or contact your local office of the U.S. Department of Agriculture–Natural Resource Conservation Service to find out more about your soils.

All Tree Farmers are required to implement all applicable state forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs), even in those states where BMPs are voluntary. To learn about the BMPs in your state, visit www.mylandplan.org/BMPs or www.treefarmsystem.org/woodland-resources or contact your local qualified natural resource professional to learn about your state’s BMPs.

YOUR COMMITMENT

☐ I understand the importance of the soil, water and other natural resources on my land. Therefore, I agree to abide by the Best Management Practices (BMPs) for my state, (insert state) _________ and commit to implementing all applicable BMPs on my land.

Initial: _______________  Date: ___________________
**PRESCRIBED BURNING**

Where appropriate, prescribed burning can be a valuable management technique to help you achieve your goals whether they be around creating wildlife habitat, promoting the restoration of a desired tree species or addressing unwanted trees or plants. Consult [www.mylandplan.org/prescribed-burns](http://www.mylandplan.org/prescribed-burns) or contact your local qualified natural resource professional to learn more about prescribed burning use and regulations in your state.

Do you or your designated representative use fire in the management of your land?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

If Yes, how is fire used (check all that apply)?

- [ ] Burn Piles
- [ ] Prescribed Burns
- [ ] Other ______________________________________

**YOUR COMMITMENT**

- [ ] To ensure the safety of prescribed burns on my land, I, or my designated representative, do pre-fire planning and obtain all applicable permits. I, or my designated representative, understand and abide by the local and state laws and regulations around prescribed burning.

  Initial: ______________    Date: ___________________

Include dates of any recent burns and permits obtained.

- __________________________________________
- __________________________________________
- __________________________________________
- __________________________________________

**WILDLIFE**

Threatened or endangered species are those species that have been identified by either the federal or state governments as in need of special protections. Protection of occupied habitats and communities for these species is required by the Standards and by law. Please consult [www.treefarmsystem.org/woodland-resources](http://www.treefarmsystem.org/woodland-resources) to research threatened or endangered species or contact your local qualified natural resource professional.

My research included (check all that apply):

- [ ] Walked property with a qualified natural resource professional
  
  Date: ________________  Findings: ________________
  
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________

- [ ] Consulted with state natural resource agency
  
  Date: ________________  Findings: ________________
  
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________

- [ ] Researched online using the ATFS website, [https://www.treefarmsystem.org/woodland-resources](http://www.treefarmsystem.org/woodland-resources)
  
  Date: ________________  Findings: ________________
  
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________

- [ ] Other
  
  Date: ________________  Findings: ________________
  
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________

Based on my research, I found:

- [ ] Threatened or endangered species are not currently known to be present on my property
- [ ] Threatened or endangered species are present on my property. Therefore, I will take the following steps to protect the threatened or endangered species on my land:
  
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________
  __________________________________________

**YOUR COMMITMENT**

- [ ] I, or my designated representative, have undertaken research to identify occurrences of threatened or endangered species (listed by my state or the federal government) on my land and am committed to protecting those habitats and communities where they exist.

  Initial: ______________    Date: ________________
FOREST OF RECOGNIZED IMPORTANCE (FORI)

Forests of Recognized Importance (FORI) are globally, regionally and nationally significant large landscape areas of exceptional ecological, social, cultural or biological value. These forests are evaluated at the landscape level, rather than at the stand level and are recognized for a combination of unique values, rather than a single attribute. To learn more, please contact an ATFS Inspecting Forester or visit www.treefarmsystem.org/fori or www.mylandplan.org/fori to determine the presence of FORI in your area.

YOUR COMMITMENT

☐ I, or my designated representative, have undertaken research on Forests of Recognized Importance in my area.
  Initial: ______________  Date: ___________________

I consulted these resources when researching FORIs

____________________________________________________
____________________________________________________
____________________________________________________

Date: ___________________

Based on my research, I found:

☐ My land does not contribute to or fall within an area identified as a FORI

☐ My land does contribute to or fall within an area identified as a FORI. Therefore, I will take the following steps to conserve the FORI described below:

____________________________________________________
____________________________________________________
____________________________________________________

SPECIAL SITES

Special sites can be places of personal significance that you and your family designate, like a special tree or a campsite or other location with a personal meaning. Special sites also include areas offering unique historical, archaeological, cultural, geological, biological or ecological values; for example, cemeteries, cave entrances or outcroppings. The Standards provide guidance for identifying special sites and how to protect special sites on your land. Consult www.mylandplan.org/special-sites and www.treefarmsystem.org/woodland-resources to research special sites or contact your local qualified natural resource professional.

YOUR COMMITMENT

☐ I, or my designated representative, have undertaken research to identify special sites on my land and am committed to protecting any sites on my land.
  Initial: ______________  Date: ___________________

My research included (check all that apply):

☐ Walked the property with a qualified natural resource professional
  Date: ______________  Findings: ______________
  ___________________________________________
  ___________________________________________
  ___________________________________________

☐ Researched sites online
  Date: ______________  Findings: ______________
  ___________________________________________
  ___________________________________________
  ___________________________________________

☐ Reviewed old property maps
  Date: ______________  Findings: ______________
  ___________________________________________
  ___________________________________________
  ___________________________________________

☐ Contacted local cultural heritage organizations
  Date: ______________  Findings: ______________
  ___________________________________________
  ___________________________________________
  ___________________________________________

☐ Other
  Date: ______________  Findings: ______________
  ___________________________________________
  ___________________________________________
  ___________________________________________

Based on my research, I found:

☐ I have no special sites on my land.

☐ I do have special sites on my land. Therefore, I will take the following steps to protect these sites:

____________________________________________________
____________________________________________________
____________________________________________________