To: ATFS State Tree Farm Committee Members  
From: ATFS Staff  
Date: April 16, 2018  
Re: 2018 ATFS Outcome-Based Grants

Summary:
The American Forest Foundation (AFF) is now accepting requests for Outcome-Based Grants from American Tree Farm System (ATFS) state committees. The grants will present a simplified, less burdensome opportunity for financial assistance to state committees by replacing the traditional ATFS Grants program. ATFS Staff will host a 30-minute webinar on Monday April 16 at 2:00 p.m. EDT to discuss this grant opportunity and answer questions.

2018 Outcome-Based Grants:
ATFS has identified five important outcomes to focus funding for Outcome-Based Grants in 2018. State committees that are interested in receiving an OBG will choose an outcome to focus on and can then implement any combination of activities or strategies to achieve the selected outcome. The 2018 Outcomes are:

- Leadership and capacity development of new/emerging leaders serving the state Tree Farm program will increase.
- Quality and accuracy of the landowner, Tree Farm, and/or inspector information in the ATFS Database will be improved.
- The number of Tree Farms enrolled in ATFS will increase.
- The number of inspectors who are completing at least one inspection per year will increase.
- Collaboration with state-level Project Learning Tree partners will increase.

Process for Requests and Implementation:

1. ATFS Staff will host a 30-minute webinar on Monday April 16 at 2:00 p.m. EDT to discuss this grant opportunity and answer questions. Click here to register. Email us your questions prior to the webinar so that we can be sure to address them.
2. The deadline to request an OBG is Friday May 4. All requests must be submitted using the online request form.
3. Requests will be reviewed and all awarded grants will be awarded to states by early June.
4. On-the-ground activities associated with the grant should be completed by March 15, 2019 to allow for accurate reporting.
5. A brief follow-up questionnaire on activities and outcomes associated with the grant will need to be completed by March 15, 2019, in conjunction with your state committee’s Annual Program & Financial Health Report.
6. Beginning in 2019, the process for requesting an Outcome-Based Grant will be incorporated into the Annual Program & Financial Health Report, providing further streamlining.
Guidelines for Application:

1. Eligible applicants are state Tree Farm committees. The current Chair, Vice or Co-Chair must approve all requests. Since requests are submitted electronically, an e-mail from the Chair, Vice or Co-Chair stating approval of the request is sufficient.
2. Committees must be up-to-date on all annual program, financial, and previous grant reporting.
3. Committees may submit up to three requests for grants. Each request must be submitted using its own form.
4. The maximum award per grant is $5,000.
5. The maximum, cumulative amount of Outcome-Based Grants that any committee can receive is $15,000.
6. ATFS will not award partial funding.
7. Priority will be given to requests that include at least a 50% matching contribution. Examples of matching contributions include cost sharing, third party donations/sponsorships, cash, in kind volunteer hours, and overhead.

Who to Contact:

For questions about the OBG process, please contact Sara Anrrich at sanrich@forestfoundation.org or Jasmine Slater at jslater@forestfoundation.org.