American Tree Farm System®
Internal Monitoring Process and Procedures 2021 V2.0

Sampling Process

**Required Inspection Sample (Certification State Program)**

The sample population will be stratified, excluding all Tree Farms that have been inspected within the prior 3 years. VPI will continue to provide sample calculations and random track selection across five acreage strata.

**Guidance for Required Inspections for States participating third-party assessments**

- **In the year that a state participates in the third-party assessment, the required inspection sample for that state will be considered a Monitoring Sample, and therefore optional to complete.**
- **Internal monitoring should accompany a third-party assessment, and an inspection should be completed for each Tree Farm selected.**

**Required Inspection Sample (Recognition State Program)**

The sample population will include all states operating a Recognition Program. VPI will continue to provide sample calculations and random track selection across five acreage strata.

**Monitoring Inspection Sample (formerly Optional)**

The sample population will include all Tree Farms in the ATFS database for state programs. VPI will continue to provide sample calculations and random track selection across five acreage strata.

Guidance for Required Inspections for States participating third-party assessments

**Inspection Procedures**

**Initial Inspection**

Requires field visit, and full review of the management plan documents, including maps, schedule of activity, and other supporting documents.

**Required Inspection**

Requires field visit if management activity has occurred on the ground since the last inspection OR if the previous inspection occurred >3 years.

If a field visit is not required, the remote ‘desk’ audit would include:

- Full review of the management plan documents, including maps, management activity schedule, and other supporting documents.
• Current aerial/satellite imagery, remote sensing, or other emerging technologies support of records.

**Monitoring Inspection (formerly Optional)**

Requires a field visit if management activity has occurred on the ground since the last inspection.

If a field visit is not required, the remote ‘desk’ audit would include:

• Full review of the management plan documents, including maps, management activity schedule, and other supporting documents.
• Current aerial/satellite imagery, remote sensing, or other emerging technologies support of records.

**Guidance for Multiple Tree Farms/Single Owner/Single Management Plan**

Tree Farms selected for a Monitoring Inspection may complete inspections for additional Tree Farms if:

- the Tree Farmer owns ten or more Tree Farms
- all Tree Farms are held under the same management plan

These Monitoring Inspections may be recorded in tabular form using an ATFS designed template for single owner/multiple Tree Farms.