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TREE FARM BULLETIN

1) AMERICAN TREE FARM SYSTEM – 75 YEARS!

Proudly serving the nation's need for wood, water, wildlife, and recreation resources! 2016 marks the American Tree Farm System 75th year in operation. This logo does not replace the Tree Farm/Family Forest logo we are all familiar with; it will only be used throughout the anniversary year on various publications.

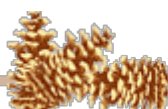


2) NEW MEXICO 2016 WILDLAND URBAN INTERFACE SUMMIT (Silver City, March 31-April 2)

The Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) Summit www.nmfireinfo.com is a statewide traveling conference that is organized by representatives from state and federal agencies and local non-profits. The WUI Summit focuses on topics that teach local leaders, emergency responders, businesses, and citizens the science behind forest fires and what each player's role is in mitigating risk of forest fires in the wildland urban interface.

The 2016 WUI Summit returns to Silver City, New Mexico for a second year and will be held at the Besse-Forward Global Resource Center on the Western New Mexico University Campus www.wnmu.edu/quickfacts/wnmu_map.pdf. This year, each day of the conference targets specific audiences, beginning with local leadership on the first day, moving to agency and responder responsibility, and ending with community involvement for a half day on Saturday. Attendees are encouraged to participate in the full conference to gain a comprehensive outlook on exactly what it takes to re-energize community fire response.

Please be advised that online registration is open until March 23, 2016. After this date, all new registrations must be done onsite. The online registration fee is \$65 for attendees and \$315 for exhibitors. Onsite registration fees are \$85 for attendees and \$350 for exhibitors.

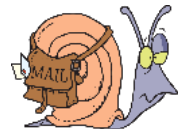




3) SACRAMENTO WOOD INDUSTRY SUMMIT (Ruidoso, March 30-31)

Enhancing the Forest Industry; New Products & Trends; Emerging Markets; Success Stories in Wood Product Businesses; Information on Networking for Contractors; Expert Panel Discussions on Funding Sources, Grants, SBA, etc.; Bidding Processes & Lists; Biomass Usage; Demonstrations and much more. The summit is free and open to the public. For more information call ENMU-Ruidoso: 575-257-3012; coda.omness@enmu.edu; or mail to: 709 Mechem Drive, Ruidoso, NM 88345.

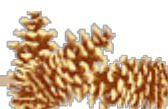
4) HELP! Reduce costs while conserving resources. And get your Tree Farm Bulletin hot off the internet. E-mail instead of snail mail.



Would you prefer to receive your Tree Farm Bulletin by e-mail instead of snail mail? If so, contact Doug Boykin at doug.boykin@state.nm.us and provide him with your contact information. By receiving your Tree Farm Bulletin by e-mail our operating costs are reduced. Thank you for considering this option.

Sustainability – A big thanks to everyone who contributed to the development of the 2015-2020 STANDARDS OF SUSTAINABILITY

The American Forest Foundation's (AFF) 2015-2020 Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification (Standards) promote the health and sustainability of America's family forests. These Standards are designed as a tool to help woodland owners be effective stewards of the land as they adaptively manage renewable resources; promote environmental, economic and social benefits; and work to increase public understanding of sustainable forestry. The Standards are based on international



sustainability metrics and North American guidelines for sustainable forest management and serve as the basis for the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) certification program. The ATFS certification program is internationally endorsed by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC). Landowners and qualified natural resource professionals who follow the Standards are encouraged to promote the program by displaying appropriate signs and participating in relevant program activities. Landowners following these Standards are recognized as ambassadors for exemplary woodland stewardship.

STANDARD 1: Commitment to Practicing Sustainable - Forestry Landowner demonstrates commitment to forest health and sustainability by developing a forest management plan and implementing sustainable practices.

STANDARD 2: Compliance with Laws - Forest-management activities comply with all relevant federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and ordinances.

STANDARD 3: Reforestation and Afforestation - Landowner completes timely restocking of desired species of trees on harvested sites and non-stocked areas where tree growing is consistent with land-use practices and the landowner's objectives.

STANDARD 4: Air, Water and Soil Protection - Forest-management practices maintain or enhance the environment and ecosystems, including air, water, soil, and site quality.

STANDARD 5: Fish, Wildlife, Biodiversity and Forest Health - Forest-management activities contribute to the conservation of biodiversity.

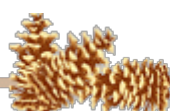
STANDARD 6: Forest Aesthetics - Forest-management activities recognize the value of forest aesthetics.

STANDARD 7: Protect Special Sites - Special sites are managed in ways that recognize their unique historical, archaeological, cultural, geological, biological, or ecological characteristics.

STANDARD 8: Forest Product Harvest and Other Activities - Forest product harvests and other management activities are conducted in accordance with the landowner's objectives and consider other forest values.

The Standards, which are revised every five years, serve as the basis for the ATFS program. Landowners who follow these Standards are recognized around the world as ambassadors for sustainable woodland stewardship. Participation in the ATFS program and management to the ATFS Standards is voluntary. Ultimately, it is your responsibility as a woodland owner to ensure that your management plan and on-the-ground activities enhance the long-term sustainability of your woodlands.

These Standards were developed at the direction of the AFF Board of Trustees by an independent Standards review panel in a year-long, inclusive public process. The panel was comprised of a wide range of stakeholders with an interest in sustainable forestry and ATFS certification.



The panel solicited input from the public, and conducted webinars and public meetings to engage woodland owners and other stakeholders in the Standards revision. Hundreds of comments were collected through public discussions and written submissions. Landowners' voices were an important part of the open dialogue. The panel asked these landowners what was working and what needs clarification and/or adjustment. The panel then took this feedback and made revisions accordingly.

IMPROVING THE STANDARDS FOR TREE FARMERS

- More flexibility on the format of your management plan: Overall, the Standards emphasize solid, thoughtful planning of your on-the-ground stewardship. This planning may be demonstrated in a variety of ways. With the new Standards, there is less emphasis on a single management plan document and more flexibility for documenting your management planning and the actions you take to meet your management goals. The key is to keep good records that demonstrate your planning process and consider all of the resource elements on your property.
- An expanded discussion of best management practices (BMPs). As state-mandated BMPs have evolved, we have expanded our Standards to reflect the current state of knowledge about natural resources and sustainable forest management.
- Conformity to internationally accepted terminology. The revised Standards use the words “shall” and “should” to clarify what a landowner is expected to do. This minor tweak to the word selection may not directly impact how you manage, but ensures that ATFS aligns with international requirements.
- Clearer guidance on managing for threatened and endangered species. Under the revised Standards and as required by law, you are *obligated* to protect habitats on your land known to be occupied by species legally identified as threatened or endangered. However, landowners are *encouraged* to protect unoccupied habitats where listed species might reside, recognizing that, for many landowners, wildlife habitat protection is a top priority.
- Introduces the concept of “forests of recognized importance” (FORI) and provides additional guidance on FORI to support landowners and foresters. FORI are large, unique but important forest landscapes that are recognized for their combination of several unique attributes. Not all Tree Farms are near to or a part of a FORI, but this element of the Standards provides an opportunity for Tree Farmers to support landscape-level conservation.

USING THE STANDARDS

The AFF Standards of Sustainability are not a one-size-fits-all prescription, but rather, are designed to accommodate the needs of a wide range of woodlands and woodland owners. You are encouraged to use them in a way that is most appropriate for the size, scale, and intensity of your management activities and your land. It is important to familiarize yourself with the official language used in the Standards. This, along with official Guidance for using the Standards, can be found on the American Tree Farm System® website <https://www.treefarmssystem.org/atfs-standards> (ATFS, Standards & Guidance 2015-2020).

