



Rhode Island Tree Farm Program



**Informational Workshop
American Tree Farm System
Forest Management Plan Requirements
2010-2015 Standards of Sustainability for Forest
Certification**



Rhode Island Tree Farm Program

Tree Farm Program Profile

- Rhode Island's Tree Farm Program began in 1949, with six (6) Tree Farms recognized
- Rhode Island's oldest continuously active Tree Farm was certified in 1951
- Rhode Island's Program now has 178 Tree Farms, covering 35,919 acres
- Size ranges from the smallest of 10 acres, to the largest of 11,900 acres

"The Sign of Good Forestry in Rhode Island since 1949"



Rhode Island Tree Farm Program

Our Local Sponsors

RI Department of Environmental
Management-Div. of Forest Environment



Rhode Island Forest
Conservators Organization (RIFCO)



Providence Water Supply Board
(PWSB)





Rhode Island Tree Farm Program

Tree Farm Committee Profile

The current committee membership includes:

- Active Tree Farmers
- State Forestry Agency Leader(s)
- State Forestry Association Executive(s)
- Industry Representation
- Consulting Forester Representation
- Society of American Foresters (SAF) Local Chapter
- NRCS Forester Representation
- Project Learning Tree State Coordinator
- Conservation organization representative
- Public Water Supply Agency

Tree Farm Inspection:

- 7 certified Tree Farm Inspectors, as of May 2011
- 1 certified Facilitator

2010 – 2015 AFF Standards

❖ **There are Eight Standards**
They were designed for small woodland owners

Standards Prologue:

Key Points:

- ✓ Encourages adaptive management
- ✓ The responsibility rests with the forest owner
- ✓ “Must” = core requirement; required element

Standard: Overarching guiding principle

Performance Measure: Conformance shown through Tree Farmers actions

Indicator: Example of Tree Farmer’s action

Standard 1: Commitment to Practicing Sustainable Forestry

Forest owner demonstrates commitment to **forest vitality** by developing and implementing a sustainable forest **management plan**.

Performance Measure 1.1

Forest owner must have and implement a written forest **management plan** consistent with the size of the forest and the **scale** and intensity of the forest activities.

Indicator 1.1.1

Management plan must be active, adaptive, and embody the **landowner's** current objectives, remain appropriate for the land certified, and reflect the current state of knowledge about forestry and natural resource management.

Standard 1

- Commitment to Practicing Sustainable Forestry
 - Must have a written management plan
 - The Management Plan requirements reflect the current forest stewardship plan guidelines



Required Plan Elements

- Forest health
- Soil
- Water
- Wood and fiber production
- Threatened and endangered species
- Special sites
- Invasive species
- Integrated pest management
- High conservation value forests

Optional Plan Elements

- Prescribed fire
- Wetlands
- Desired species
- Recreation
- Aesthetic quality measures
- Biomass
- Carbon

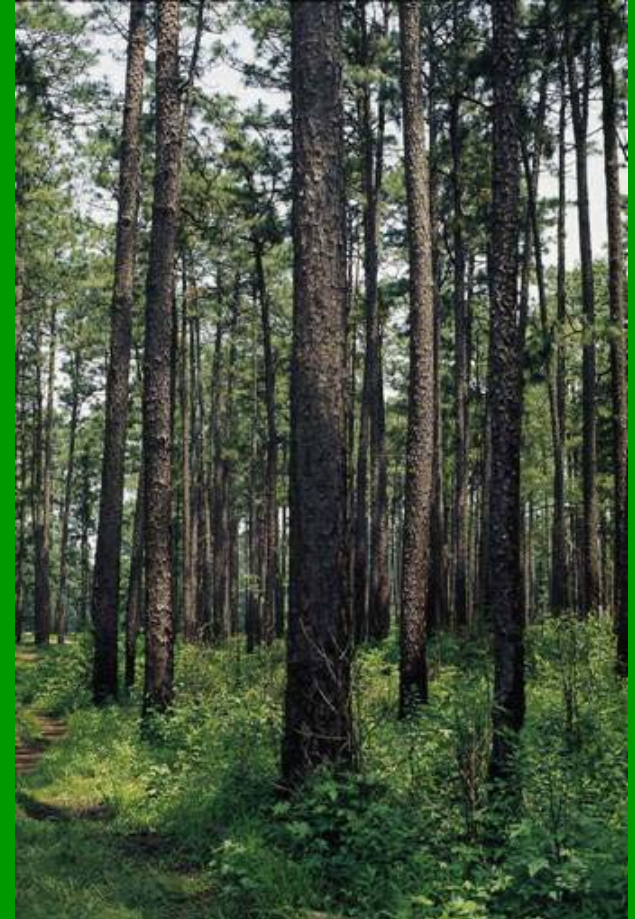
Standard 2

- Compliance with Laws
 - **Must** comply with relevant laws
 - **Must** correct conditions that led to adverse regulatory actions



Standard 3

- Reforestation and Afforestation
 - **Must** ensure adequate stocking levels
 - Use of desired species



Standard 4

- Air, Water and Soil Protection
 - **Must** follow Best Management Practices (BMPs)
 - **Must** consider Integrated Pest Management



Standard 4

- Integrated Pest Management Techniques
 - Silvicultural
 - Mechanical
 - Biological
 - Chemical



Standard 5

- Fish, Wildlife and Biodiversity
 - Threatened and Endangered species
 - Research
 - **Must** maintain or enhance habitat
 - Management Activities
 - Tree Farmer's desired species



Standard 5

- Fish, Wildlife and Biodiversity
 - Should prevent, eradicate or control invasive species
 - Rare species
 - High conservation value forests



Standard 6

- Forest Aesthetics
 - Should apply visual quality measures
 - Compatibility with appropriate silvicultural practices



Standard 7

- Protect Special Sites
 - Must Maintain Special Sites
 - Research, locate and identify (Must make a reasonable effort)



What is included in Special Sites?

- Historical
- Archeological
- Cultural
- Geological
- Biological
- Ecological



Standard 8

- Forest Product Harvest and Other Activities
 - Should use qualified professionals and contractors
 - Should use appropriate contracts for harvests and other activities



Standard 8

- Forest Product Harvests and Other Activities
 - **Must** monitor
 - **Must** be conducted in compliance with Management plan
 - Sustainability



*Thank you
for your
participation*



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