

## Management Plan Template Preamble

The forest management plan is integral to the Tree Farm certification process. Inspecting foresters who conduct initial certifications and five-year reinspections are responsible for making sure an up-to-date plan is in place that adequately describes the land and the recommended management activities that will take place over time. The quality and completeness of the plan go a long way in providing useful documentation that the landowner indeed meets the requirements necessary for Tree Farm certification.

Toward that end, the American Tree Farm System has developed a template that can be used in the development of new forest management plans. The template is intended as a helpful guide and is not a requirement in itself. It contains all of the major sections required in Tree Farm management plans according to the AFF Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification. It is available electronically so that it can be tailored to forester preferences and individual Tree Farm differences.

It is important to note that simple completion of this outline may not provide adequate documentation for certification, depending on the individual circumstances of each Tree Farm and whether various portions of the Standard apply. For example, the template does not specifically contain an integrated pest management (IPM) section, but if chemical use is planned for pest control then the plan should be expanded accordingly; upon reinspection, the Inspecting Forester will review the chemical use and will be checking to see if IPM was addressed in the plan. Same goes for prescribed burning – the Standard calls for adequate planning which should be documented in the plan. Again, there is not a specific section for prescribed burning, so the template would need to be expanded accordingly on a case by case basis.

Management plans vary considerably from region to region, from state to state, from forester to forester – and they also vary in length and depth with the size and scale of the property. There are variations in the way forest management plans are written to comply with state guidelines as well as to meet requirements of other programs. This template may not ideally match state and other program criteria. It may not fit a particular forester's style. It simply provides an outline that fairly well encompasses the elements required in a certified Tree Farmer's management plan. Available electronically, the template can be modified accordingly to better fit geographic and personal preferences.

Forest management plans developed without the use of this template are perfectly acceptable if they contain the required elements listed in the AFF Standard and adequate documentation of management activities encompassed by the AFF Standard. Foresters are encouraged to thoroughly review the AFF Standard and to keep it in mind when writing or revising their clients' management plans.

Foresters who want to use the template can access an electronic version on the ATFS website: [www.treefarmssystem.org](http://www.treefarmssystem.org).



# American Tree Farm System<sup>®</sup>

## Management Plan Template

State Tree Farm # \_\_\_\_\_

### Tree Farm Property Location

|                                |              |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| Tree Farm Name: _____          | Acres: _____ |
| Ownership <sup>1</sup> : _____ |              |
| County: _____                  | State: _____ |
| Location <sup>2</sup> _____    |              |

### Tree Farmer Contact Information

|                          |                         |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Landowner Name(s): _____ |                         |
| Mailing Address: _____   |                         |
| City: _____              | State: _____ Zip: _____ |
| Ph: (____) _____ - _____ | E-Mail: _____           |

### Forester Information

|                          |                      |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Forester Name: _____     | Inspector ID # _____ |
| Ph: (____) _____ - _____ | E-Mail: _____        |
| Employer: _____          |                      |

Landowner's signature confirms that management activities will be conducted in accordance with this proposed Tree Farm Management Plan.

Landowner's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

Forester's signature confirms that this proposed Tree Farm Management Plan meets the needs of the landowner(s) and satisfies the American Tree Farm System management plan requirements.

Forester's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

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A copy of this management plan must remain with the Landowner. The American Tree Farm System will acknowledge that the management plan and recommendations are applicable and consistent with land owner's current objectives upon receipt of the relevant 004 Form with all appropriate signatures.

1. Ownership includes Non-Industrial Private, Municipal, Public, and Other landownership classifications.
2. Location includes legal and/or local descriptions to assist in locating property for future reinspection.

# **Sustainable Forest Management Plan**

Management plans are active, adaptive, and embody the owners' current objectives, remain appropriate for the land certified, and reflect the current state of knowledge about forestry and natural resources management.

## **Section 1 - Landowner Goals**

Goal 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Goal 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Goal 3: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Section 2 - Management Objectives**

1) Wood and fiber production: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2) Wildlife habitat: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3) Water quality: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4) Recreation: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

5) Other (i.e. special sites, fish habitat): \_\_\_\_\_

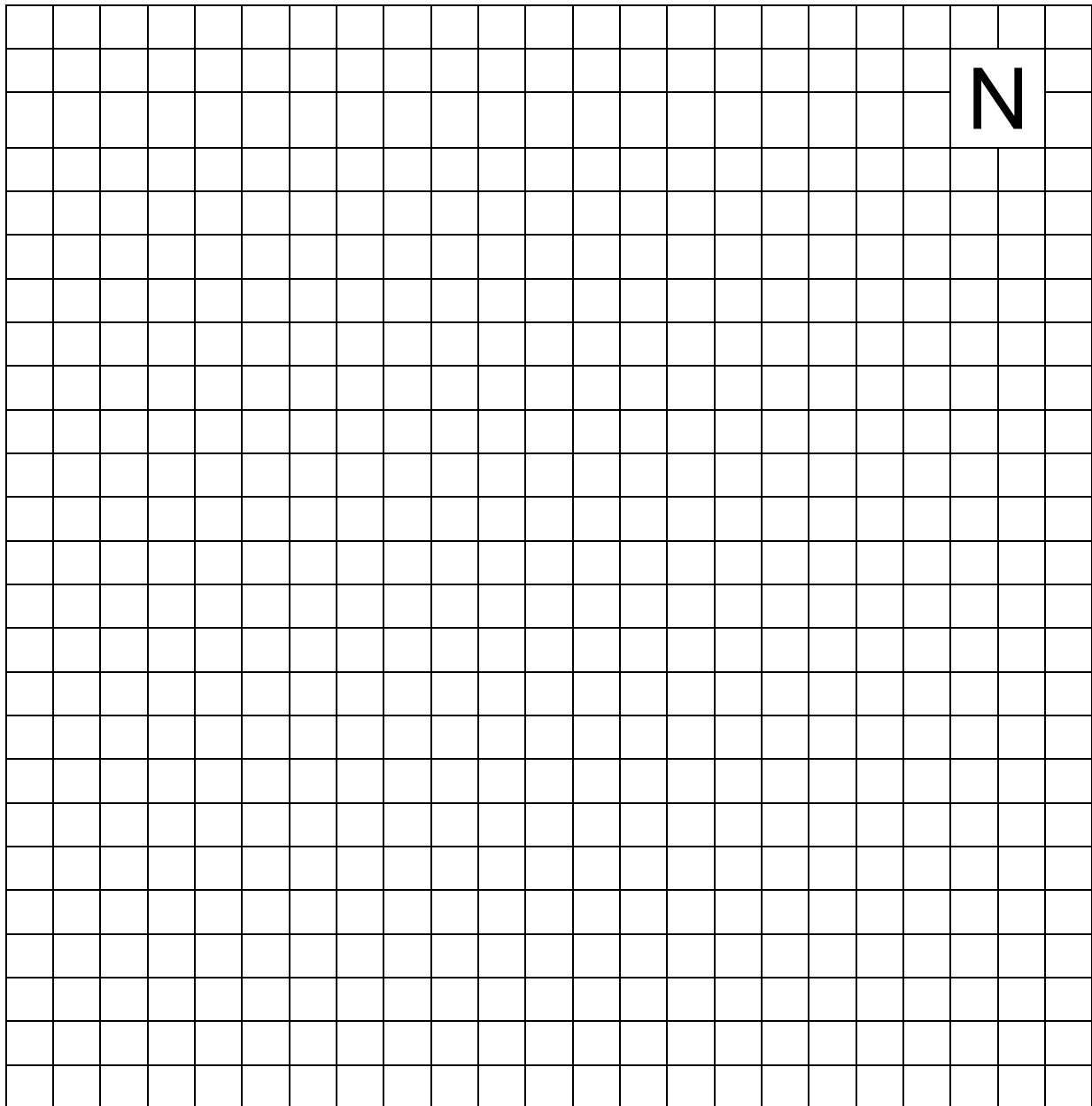
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\_\_\_\_\_

### Section 3 - Tract Map

Management plans include a tract map noting stands, conditions, and important features including special sites.



Scale (circle one): 1- square = 1-acre or 10-acres  
Please indicate roads, streams, stands, and property boundaries.

Notes: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Section 4 - Stand Descriptions

Stand descriptions include acreage, condition, species composition, age distribution, special sites, etc.

Total # of Stands: \_\_\_\_\_

Stand 1 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Stand 2 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Stand 3 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Stand 4 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Stand 5 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Stand 6 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Stand 7 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Stand 8 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Stand 9 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Stand 10 \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Section 5 - Management Recommendations

Management recommendations address wood and fiber production, wildlife habitat, owner designated fish, wildlife and plant species if desired, environmental quality and, if present and desired by the landowner, recreational opportunities. Management recommendations address Best Management Practices for forestry to ensure sustainable forests.

1) Harvest Method: \_\_\_\_\_

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2) Stand Improvement: \_\_\_\_\_

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3) Reforestation: \_\_\_\_\_

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4) Air, Water and Soil Protection: \_\_\_\_\_

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5) Wildlife: \_\_\_\_\_

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6) Recreation/Access and Other Recommendations: \_\_\_\_\_

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