

STANDARD 8

Forest Product Harvests and Other Activities

Forest product harvests and other management activities are conducted in accordance with the **landowner's objectives** and consider other forest values.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE 8.1

Landowner should use **qualified natural resource professionals** and **qualified contractors** when contracting for services.

Indicator 8.1.1

Landowner should seek **qualified natural resource professionals** and **qualified contractors**.

GUIDANCE

The services of **qualified natural resource professionals** and **qualified contractors** can prove very cost-effective for **landowners**.

Many states have registration or licensing systems for foresters and wildlife managers. The people listed by these systems have passed rigorous qualification exams and are required to regularly obtain continuing education.

State forestry and wildlife agencies often can provide referral lists of **qualified natural resource professionals** who are working in the state or county.

The Society of American Foresters has a Certified Forester program:

<https://www.eforester.org/>

The Wildlife Society has a Certified Wildlife Biologist program:

<https://wildlife.org/learn/professional-development-certification/cwbawb-directory/>

The Association of Consulting Foresters is a national association of forestry consultants:

<http://www.acf-foresters.org>

The American Forest Foundation's www.mylandplan.org has a forester directory.

A **qualified natural resource professional** often will be familiar with the **qualified contractors** who are doing forestry-related work in the area and can make recommendations.

Please consult the resource pages for **landowners** on the [ATFS website](#), for help in finding **qualified contractors** who are trained in BMP and regulatory compliance, as well as assistance in finding **qualified natural resource professionals**.



Indicator 8.1.2

Landowner should engage **qualified contractors** who carry appropriate insurance and comply with appropriate federal, state and local safety and **fair labor rules**, regulations and standard practices¹.

GUIDANCE

Landowners and **designated representatives** are encouraged to stipulate that contractors must be in compliance with all relevant laws and regulations. A **qualified natural resource professional** can help with this process.

Landowners are encouraged to discuss liability issues with their insurance agent and their attorney to gain a perspective on appropriate insurance minimums that they might require of contractors.

Indicator 8.1.3

Landowners should retain appropriate contracts or records for **forest product** harvests and other management activities to demonstrate conformance to the Standards.

GUIDANCE

Landowners or **designated representatives** should review the Standards before planning management activities. When contracting for forestry activities, **landowners** or **designated representatives** should specify that appropriate **state forestry BMPs** must be adhered to.

Other contract specifications might include:

- Protection of special sites or habitats
- Adherence to labor laws
- Requirements for adequate insurance
- Protection of soil and water integrity
- Residual tree damage
- Forest road maintenance and restoration
- Fence and gate protection and/or restoration
- Litter control
- Hazardous material spill prevention and clean-up

¹ Auditors shall consider any complaints alleging violation of fair labor rules filed by workers or organized labor since the previous third-party certification audit. The auditor shall not take action on any labor issues pending in a formal grievance process or before federal, state or local agencies or the courts, however, until those processes are completed. Absent a record of documented complaints or noncompliances, contractors and managers are assumed to be in compliance with this indicator.



Examples of forestry activities requiring review for AFF Standards compliance:

- Harvest operations including timber and nontimber products
- Site preparation and reforestation
- Forest road construction and maintenance
- Mineral extraction
- Hunting and fishing
- **Invasive species** control
- Pest management

As a general rule, **landowners** are encouraged to retain contracts or records for management activities for three years.

PERFORMANCE MEASURE 8.2

Landowner or designated representative shall monitor **forest product** harvests and other management activities to ensure they conform to their objectives.

Indicator 8.2.1

Harvest, utilization, removal and other management activities shall be conducted in compliance with the **landowner's objectives** and to maintain the potential of the property to produce forest products and other benefits sustainably.

GUIDANCE

The **landowners** may monitor harvesting and other activities personally or they may employ someone else to do it for them. Many **landowners** engage a **qualified natural resource professional** for this function.

If the **landowner's objectives** do not specify directives as to harvest, utilization and removals, regional norms and accepted practices are expected.

The intent of **Performance measure** 8.2 is to ensure the maintenance of "the potential of the property to produce **forest products** and other benefits sustainably." Good planning, utilizing **qualified natural resource professionals**, engaging competent **qualified contractors** and using an effective contract go a long way toward this end.