

GLOSSARY of terms

adaptive management: A dynamic approach to forest management in which the effects of treatments and decisions are continually monitored and used, along with research results, to modify management on a continuing basis to ensure that objectives are being met (Helms, et al., The Dictionary of Forestry, Society of American Foresters, 2018).

adverse regulatory actions: Written warnings, citations or fines issued by law enforcement or regulatory bodies.

afforestation: Process of planting or seeding trees on an area of land that have been under a different use, transforming land use from non-forest to forest.

biodiversity: The variety and abundance of life forms, processes, functions and structures of plants, animals and other living organisms, including the relative complexity of species, communities, gene pools and ecosystems at spatial scales that range from local through regional to global (Helms, et al., The Dictionary of Forestry, Society of American Foresters, 2018).

complaint: Labor complaints are those with formal documentation filed through a state's fair labor practices board or similar body.

conversion: Removal of natural or historical vegetative cover to convert land use from forest to non-forest, or non-forest to forest.

desired species: Those species of flora and fauna designated in the landowner's management plan and not known to cause negative impacts on the local environment.

designated representative: A person designated by a landowner to represent him or her. Designated representatives may include, but are not limited to, family members, trustees, property managers, qualified natural resource professionals and lawyers.

ecosystem: A biological community of interacting organisms and their physical environment.

ecosystem services: Benefits obtained from ecosystems. Provisioning Services or the provision of food, fresh water, fuel, fiber, and other goods; Regulating Services such as carbon, water, and disease regulation as well as pollination; Supporting Services such as soil formation and nutrient cycling; and Cultural Services such as educational, aesthetic, and cultural heritage values as well as recreation and tourism. (based on Millennium Ecosystem Assessment, 2005)

forest aesthetics: Forest aesthetics is the application of practices that enhance the visual quality of timber management for forest products. These practices should be carried out with the companion goals of protecting and conserving water and air quality, soil productivity and wildlife habitat

forest health: The perceived condition of a forest derived from consideration of such factors as its age, structure, composition, function, vigor, vitality, presence of unusual levels of insects or disease and resilience to disturbance and a range of stressors.



forest management- the practical application of biological, physical, quantitative, managerial, economic, social, and policy principles to the regeneration, management, utilization, and conservation of forests to meet specified goals and objectives while maintaining the productivity of the forest management includes management for aesthetics, fish, recreation, urban values, water, wilderness, wildlife, wood products and other forest resource values. (Helms, et al., The Dictionary of Forestry, Society of American Foresters, 2018).

forest plantation: A forest of introduced or native species established through planting, of the same age and generally the same species.

forest products: Goods and materials derived from the forest that are tangible and physical objects of biological origin. Such materials may include, but are not limited to, timber, fuelwood, fibers, biomass, leaves, fruit, grass, fungi, berries, resins, gums, animal parts, water, soil, gravel, stone and other minerals on forest land. In addition, products may also include other quantifiable goods or services including carbon storage or water protection.

forests of recognized importance (FORI): Globally, regionally and nationally significant large forest landscape areas of exceptional ecological, social, cultural or biological values. These forests are evaluated at the landscape level, rather than the stand level, and are recognized for a combination of unique values, rather than a single attribute.

genetically modified trees: Trees that have had genetic modifications resulting from the direct introduction of one or more genes from another non-tree organism using recombinant DNA technology. Clones and trees produced via grafting, vegetative propagation or tissue cultures and hybrids developed by natural processes are not considered genetically modified under the ATFS Standards.

good faith: A diligent and honest effort.



group manager: The individual(s) designated by the Independently Managed Group (IMG) organization to manage the administrative elements of an IMG and comply with the American Tree Farm System® (ATFS) IMG Certification Standards (2015-2020).

indicator: Identifies specific actions or activities that demonstrate conformance.

independently managed group (IMG): A company, corporation, firm, authority or institution that is a legal entity. The entity has its own functions and administration and consists of a group manager and individual qualified group members seeking to collectively implement and become certified to the AFF Standards and ATFS IMG Standards. All IMGs are required to undergo audits, by accredited third-party assessors, to ensure conformance with the ATFS Standards and the ATFS IMG Standards.

integrated pest management: A pest control, suppression or prevention approach that utilizes a suite of complementary strategies including mechanical, biological, cultural, physical, genetic and chemical approaches.

invasive species: Plants, animals, or pathogens that are non-native to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause harm. (USDA National Invasive Species Information Center, 2014)

landowner: Entity that holds title to the property to be certified.

landowner's objectives: the stated landowner desires, reasons for ownership and potential activities that guide the management of the property.

management plan: Documents that guide actions and that change in response to feedback and changed conditions, goals, objectives and policies. Management plans may incorporate several documents including, but not limited to, harvest plans, activity implementation schedules, permits, research, etc. For the purposes of the American Tree Farm System® eligible management plans, plan amendments may include letters, notes and other forms of informal updates in addition to formal plan revisions. The term "management plan" is inclusive of stewardship plans and other similar documents that describe resources, landowner objectives and management strategies.



naturalized: A non-native plant that does not need human help to reproduce and maintain itself over time in an area beyond its historical range.

performance measure: Refines the standard's intent and describes considerations and pathways for conformance.

pesticide: Pesticides include chemicals commonly known as fungicides, herbicides, insecticides and rodenticides.

prescribed burn: A fire intentionally ignited by management in accordance with applicable laws, policies, and regulations to meet specific objectives (Helms, et al., The Dictionary of Forestry, Society of American Foresters, 2018).

qualified contractor: Forest contractors who have completed recommended certification, licensing, training or education programs offered in their respective states.

qualified natural resource professional: A person who by training and experience can make forest management recommendations. Examples include foresters, soil scientists, hydrologists, forest engineers, forest ecologists, fishery and wildlife biologists or technically trained specialists in such fields.

qualified ATFS inspector: A qualified natural resource professional who has completed ATFS- required training for certifying forested properties and is eligible to inspect properties on behalf of ATFS. ATFS requires all trained inspectors meet approved eligibility requirements.

regeneration harvest: Harvest of a forest with a goal to establish a young new stand of trees, by removing all or components of an existing stand.

reforestation: Re-establishment of forest through planting or seeding on land classified as forest. (FAO 2018)

scale: The extent of forest operations on the landscape/certified property.

shall: Responsibilities or obligations that include the word “shall” are considered core elements that are required for certification under the American Tree Farm System.

should: Responsibilities or obligations that include the word “should” are directives that draw on personal and professional judgment of foresters, landowners and assessors. These directives allow for latitude in implementation to the greatest practical extent in given circumstances and are justifiable in a third-party verification process.

special sites: Those areas offering unique historical, archeological, cultural, geological, biological or ecological value. Special sites include:

- A. Historical, archaeological, cultural and ceremonial sites;
- B. Sites of importance to wildlife such as rookeries, refuges, fish spawning grounds, vernal ponds and shelters of hibernating animals;
- C. Unique ecological communities such as springs, glades, savannas, fens and bogs;
- D. Geological features such as terminal moraines, cliffs and caves;
- E. Sites of importance to the landowner.





standard: An overarching principle of sustainability.

state forestry best management practice(s) (BMPs): Forestry BMPs are generally accepted forest management guidelines that have been developed by state forestry agencies with broad public stakeholder input.

sustainability: The capacity of forests, ranging from stands to ecoregions, to maintain their health, productivity, diversity and overall integrity, in the long run, in the context of human activity (Helms, et al., The Dictionary of Forestry, Society of American Foresters, 1998).

sustainable forest management: The practice of meeting the forest resource needs and values of the present without compromising the similar capability of future generations ; practicing a land stewardship ethic that integrates the reforestation, managing, growing, nurturing, and harvesting of trees for useful products with the conservation of soil, air, and water quality, wildlife and fish habitat and aesthetics. (Helms, et al., The Dictionary of Forestry, Society of American Foresters, 2018).

third-party assessor: A qualified natural resource professional who has completed ATFS- required training for third-party assessors and is contracted or employed by an International Accreditation Forum (IAF)-accredited certification body.

threatened or endangered: Defined and listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA) and listed under applicable state or provincial laws as requiring protection.

visual quality measures: Modifications of forestry practices in consideration of public view, including timber sale layout, road and log landing locations, intersections with public roadways, distributing logging residue, tree retention, timing of operations and other factors relevant to the scale and location of the project. (see **forest aesthetics**)