



**Five Steps** to Becoming Certified









(www.treefarmsystem.org/states) and we can work with you to see if you meet the ATFS eligibility criteria. All **Certified Family Forest owners have a** management plan that addresses air, water, soil quality, wildlife, special sites, invasive species and integrated pest management as described in the ATFS **Standards of Sustainability.** 

Request a property inspection with one of our ATFS trained inspecting foresters.

An ATFS inspector will visit your property and verify your plan and management activities meet the **ATFS Standards of Sustainability** (www.treefarmsystem.org/Standards).

If approved for certification, post your ATFS sign with pride! You have been recognized for your good stewardship and your commitment to sustainability on your woodlands.

Need help with any of these steps? Visit www.treefarmsystem.org



of the American Forest Foundation.







The American Tree Farm System® is a nationwide community of Tree Farmers who want to

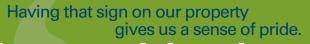
leave the land better for the next generation.











We've earned that sign by working very hard to manage our forest

and we want to show it off.

Janet Olver, Pennsylvania Tree Farmer



As a woodland owner, you want to do right by your land.

Yet, today, you face more challenges than ever. Pests, weeds, drought, catastrophic fire, severe weather, development pressures. Meeting those challenges requires ongoing information, tools, and on-the ground assistance to help you make the best decisions.

The American Tree Farm System® (ATFS) is here to help with resources that are tailor-made for woodland owners, including our national network of professional foresters for on-the-ground support. With ATFS, you can be assured you will have the best information to make the right choices for you, your family, and your land.







You are committed to doing the best for your land and ATFS can give you the road map to help you manage your land for long term sustainability. ATFS recognizes and validates family forest owners for their work and commitment to sustainable stewardship of their land.

The ATFS Certification system is internationally recognized, and the certified ATFS sign tells your community, and the world, that you stand among the best woodland stewards in America. We stand there with you as part of your team. And like the trees you plant, we are with you for the long run. That's our commitment to you.





Your woods are part of your family legacy. You've worked hard to ensure that your family can continue to enjoy the many benefits that come with woodland ownership – the peace and quiet, the recreational opportunities, the family traditions, the income from wood products. As part of the American Tree Farm System<sup>®</sup>, you will have the tools and support to help keep your woods thriving for generations to come.

The contributions you are making, along with other woodland owners, are so important to conserving America's forests. That's why we are your voice with political leaders, industry and the public to tell the story of family forest owners and the many benefits forest owners provide to all Americans. We're your voice to ensure that public policies support your good stewardship, now and for the future.

## plan on following in my father's footsteps

and passing on proper forest management and education to my children and my children's children. Carson Lail (14 years old), Georgia, in a letter to Congress

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**Benefits of Certification:** 

- Validation and recognition
- Family Forest or Tree Farm sign for certified lands
- State and local programs and activities
- Online tools and resources, including MyLandPlan.org and the ATFS webinar series
- Advocacy opportunities





Family forest owners are doing their part to conserve forest resources, but they can't do it alone.

Nancy Livingston, Wisconsin Tree Farmer