

## American Tree Farm System



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## Presentation Outline

- Tree Farm Background
- Tree Farm Certification
- ATFS & Forest Stewardship Program
- Third Party Audit

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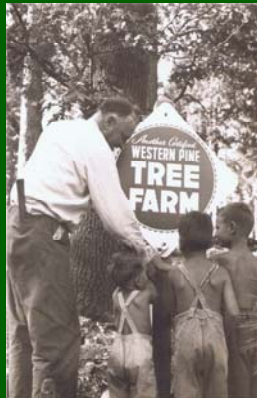
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### Tree Farm Mission

- Get Good Forestry On More Acres ----  
And Keep it there
- Outreach, Education & Recognition
- Recognition ----> Certification ---->

-----> **CERTIFICATION !!!**

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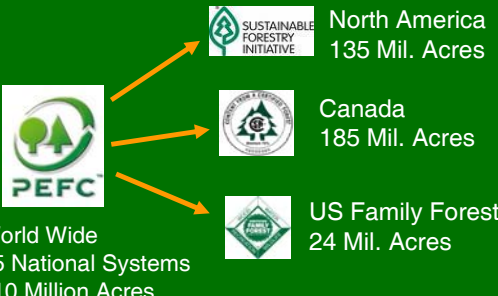
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World Wide  
35 National Systems  
510 Million Acres

North America  
Sustainable Forestry Initiative  
135 Mil. Acres

Canada  
185 Mil. Acres

US Family Forest  
24 Mil. Acres

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### National Tree Farm Statistics

- 90,000 Family Tree Farms
- 24 Million Certified Acres -- 1 in 10  
Forested Acres in US
- 4,000 Volunteer Foresters / Inspectors

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### N.C. Tree Farm Statistics

- 900 Family Tree Farms
- 250 Applications Pending
- 700,000 Certified Acres -- 7% of Potential
- 100 Volunteer Foresters / Inspectors

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### Tree Farmer & Certification

- Passionate "On The Ground"
- Committed to Tree Farm Standards
- Luke Warm on Documentation

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### Benefits of Certification

- Peer Recognition -- Key Driver
- \$\$\$ Benefits -- Still Waiting
  - Some Benefit in Public Funds
  - Losing Faith In Big \$\$ ??

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### Tree Farm and Forest Stewardship Program

- AFF and USFS -- MOU Signed
- Management Plans Equivalent
- Objective -- Common Plan Template (EQIP, etc)

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### MOU Implementation

- State Forester Requests an AFF review of plan guidelines.
- AFF Agrees State Plan Equivalent
- State Implementation Committee

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### NC Implementation

- Stewardship Tract Is Not Automatically a Certified Tree Farm
- Only About 10% Overlap Now
- Target a Common, Simplified Plan Template -- With Add-on Modules
- Future cooperation / coordination

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### 3rd Party Audit -- S.E.

- PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC)  
-Accredited 3rd Party Certification
- Management / Program Assessment
- 2009 States -- NC, SC, VA
- 30 Field Visits in NC

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### Audit Scope -- Committee

- Review State Committee  
Documentation / Execution
  - Inspection: Timing, Records
  - Inspector Training
  - Etc.

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### Audit Scope -- Tree Farm

- Documentation
  - Management Plans
  - Other: Pesticide Plans, Harvest Contracts, Conservation Easements, Etc.
- In Field Review
  - Plan execution
  - Tree Farm On-Ground Standards

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### Types of Audit Findings

- Four Types of Findings:
  - Good Management Practices
  - Opportunities for Improvement
  - Minor Non-Conformities
  - Major Non-Conformities

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### Major Non-Conformities

- Management Plans
  - Missing
  - Not Up-to-Date
  - (BUT Landowner Could Clearly Explain Plan)
- Action Plans
  - Education & Outreach of Plan Benefits
  - Focus in Inspector Training

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### Minor Non-Conformities

- Inconsistencies in State Database
- Action Plan
  - Continue Transition to National Database
  - Continue “Return Address” Mailings

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## Opportunities for Improvement

- System to Assist Tree Farmer Research on Special Sites.

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## Good Management Practices In General

- Clear Commitment by ALL to see Tree Farm Program Succeed
- Interaction with Agencies and Others
- Landowners Hosting Educational Events
- Landowner Outreach in General

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## Good Management Practices On The Ground

- Excellent Thinning & Utilization
- Tree Planting & TSI
- Wildlife Habitat & Biodiversity Improved
- Conservation of Special & Historical
- Attention to Forest Aesthetics

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### 3rd Party Audit

- In Sum -- A Very Encouraging Assessment by an Expert Group
- AFF has received Positive Audit Certificates For All Four Regions.

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Questions?



Thank You!

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