

North Carolina Tree Farm Program Standards Checklist for NC Tree Farm Plans

Plan writers can use this document to ensure that all plans written for American Tree Farm System (ATFS) forest certification meet the minimum requirements. The ATFS Management Plan Addendum can be used to update existing management plans so that they comply with the current ATFS Standards of Sustainability. Forest management plans must be reviewed by a certified Tree Farm Inspector prior to certification or recertification and must be provided to third-party auditors if the Tree Farm is selected as part of a periodic third-party audit.

#	NC Tree Farm Standards	Yes	No	N/A
	Plan Components (must be addressed)			
1	Landowner's and Plan Writer's Contact Information along with date plan was prepared.			
2	A management plan is considered current if it remains consistent with the landowner's objectives and the conditions on the ground, regardless of when the plan was written <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landowner can use notes and/or an addendum to update the plan and to keep it in compliance with the Standards of Sustainability as the Standards are revised. 			
3	Property identification information including maps with property location, boundaries, forest stands, open areas, special sites (if present), soil types, and hydrological features.			
4	Landowner's goals and objectives are clearly stated.			
5	Current Forest Health and Stand Condition(s) are described for each forest stand/area. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practices/activities for achieving desired conditions are listed for each forest stand/area. Strategies for implementing practices or activities (cost-share programs, use of contractors or consultants to perform the work, etc.) are identified. Plan advises landowner to use written contracts when applicable. 			
6	Timelines for implementing practices or activities are outlined in the Plan and can be documented by the landowner following completion. (Schedule of Activities Table Included) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring activities for the landowner or resource professional are identified. 			
	Required Plan Resource Elements to Address <i>Resource Elements 1 through 6 are required and must be specifically addressed in each plan. Where present and relevant to the property, the plan must describe management activities related to these resource elements.</i>			
1	Soil and Water <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information that adequately addresses the location and protection of these resources. Water resources should be shown on the property map. Information on any associated rules or guidelines for protection 			
2	Wood and Fiber Production <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on forest product harvests, thinning and other activities Appropriate schedules/dates along with applicable BMPs, inspections, and monitoring Information on reforestation or afforestation methods or programs Information on qualified contractors'/resource professionals and their responsibilities Information on associated laws, contracts, FPGs, and other records 			
3	Threatened and Endangered Species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statement on the research conducted to determine the presence or absence of T&E species Description of the protection measures for each T&E species or unique habitat identified on the property When available, provide listings or links to any associated species or habitats 			
4	Special Sites (Historical, Archeological, Cultural, Geological, Biological and Ecological) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Document the methods/measures used to determine the presence/absence of any special sites State the protection measures to be implemented for any sites warranting protection 			
5	Invasive Species (insects, diseases, non-native plants) and Forest Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information documenting the presence and location of any invasive species Information addressing any monitoring or control procedures Information that addresses the use, application, and rules related to pesticides or herbicides 			
6	Forests of Recognized Importance (FORI) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Statement that addresses the presence or absence of FORI and what research was conducted to make the determination. Plan writers can also include a link to FORI guidance from ATFS. 			

Optional Resource Elements (Include when present, relevant to the property and consistent with the landowner's objectives.) <i>There are no requirements for the level of detail regarding optional elements. Addressing the attribute may be as simple as saying that, "The attribute will be protected during forest operations in compliance with applicable regulations". The plan preparer may also provide a detailed description of the management actions or protections specific to the attribute.</i> Below are suggestions (but not requirements) on information to include.	Yes	No	N/A
Fire (fuel conditions and wildfire risk, prescribed burning) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information about Qualified Contractors or Resource Professionals Information about applicable burning laws or guidelines such as Smoke Management Guidelines Programs, cost-share, or protection measures 			
Wetlands <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on relevant BMPs 			
Desired Species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If landowner's objectives include desired species (fish, wildlife or plants), provide recommendations on management activities to achieve the stated objective(s). 			
Recreation			
Forest Aesthetics (scenic quality and visually sensitive areas) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on incorporating measures that enhance or protect the visual quality of the property including forest buffers and pre-planning layout of temporary trails and roads Recommendations should be consistent with the size of the forest, the scale and intensity of forest management activities and the location of the property. 			
Biomass and Carbon			
<p>_____ Tree Farm Plan meets the requirements of the ATFS Standards of Sustainability</p> <p>_____ Tree Farm Plan requires additional content to address resource elements and/or plan components above</p> <p>Plan Reviewed by: _____ Date: _____</p> <p>NC Registered Forester #: _____</p>			

Questions?

Review the ATFS Standards of Sustainability at <https://www.treefarmssystem.org/view-standards>
 Contact the N.C. Tree Farm Program at 919-917-8646 or nctreefarm@gmail.com



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