# ATFS Management Plan Addendum
## FOR THE 2021 STANDARDS OF SUSTAINABILITY

The American Tree Farm System® (ATFS) Management Plan Addendum is a tool to designed to support Certified Tree Farmers and Family Forest owners as they seek resources for consideration in the managing of your woodlands. As you consider your stewardship objectives, this tool will help ensure your activities align with the AFF 2021 Standards of Sustainability (the Standards). The Standards are the benchmark for all Certified Tree Farmers and Family Forest owners, verifying the good stewardship that is expected from participants in ATFS.

This document is designed as a complement to your current management plan. Your management plan should outline the goals you have for your land and a strategy for achieving those goals. This addendum should be retained for your personal records; you may be requested to show this addendum along with your management plan to demonstrate conformance to the Standards.

## SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY

Having a current, up-to-date management plan is an important indicator of conformance to the Standards. Your management plan must include:

- A description of the current forest conditions (may include tree species composition, age, density, health conditions and other describers)
- A list of the current goals and objectives that you have for your land
- An up-to-date schedule of activities
- A map showing significant forest resources (may include stand boundaries and acreage amounts, special sites, water bodies, roads and trails, buildings, fences, etc.)
- A narrative demonstrating consideration of each of the following resource elements: forest health, soil, water, wood and fiber production, threatened and endangered species, special sites, invasive species and forests of recognized importance. Where present and relevant to the property, the plan describes management activities related to these resource elements. If an element is not present on the property, the plan should outline which resources (such as natural heritage databases) were consulted to make the determination.

*This addendum is a tool for considering and incorporating these resource elements into your stewardship. You may also consider contacting your forester or a qualified natural resource professional to discuss your management plan and upcoming activities.*

☐ **My management plan is up to date and addresses all the Standards requirements noted above.**

Initial: _____ Date: _____

## FOREST HEALTH

ATFS recommends regular monitoring of your woods, including an annual review of your management plan and documenting of any changes. These changes may include natural disasters, damage from trespassers, pests, invasive species, weeds, and disease. To assist you with these activities, please visit AFF and ATFS online resources. Your forester or qualified natural resource professional(s) are important partners to help identify and address current and potential forest health issues.

☐ **My woods are monitored for changes that could interfere with my stated objectives, including damage from storms or other natural disasters, trespassers, weeds, pests, invasive species, diseases and other forest health concerns.**

Initial: _____ Date: _____

I, or my designated representative, monitor for these changes through (check all that apply):

☐ Regular walks of my property

☐ Consultation of local resources (for example, local educational materials or workshops)

☐ Consultation with qualified natural resource professionals

☐ Online resources (insert blank line)

☐ Other

Based on my research and regular monitoring (check all that apply):

☐ I currently do not have any of these forest health issues present on my property.

☐ I currently have the following present on my property (check all that apply):
☐ Damage from natural disasters
☐ Damage from trespassers
☐ Pests
☐ Weeds
☐ Disease
☐ Invasive species

Therefore, I will take the following steps to address these issues:

_____

_____

_____

## BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

**I understand the importance of the soil, water and other natural resources on my land. Therefore, I agree to abide by the Best Management Practices (BMPs) for my state, _____ and commit to implementing all applicable BMPs on my land.**

Initial: _____ Date: _____

**SOILS (check all that apply):**
☐ My management plan includes general information about the soils on my land

☐ My management plan did not include soil information but based on my research, the soils on my property are:

Primary: _____

Secondary: _____

**WATER**
My property includes the following types of water bodies (check all that apply):
☐ Lake
☐ Creek
☐ Pond
☐ Vernal Ponds
☐ Other
☐ Not applicable because no water bodies on my land

During management activities, I, or my designated representative, will take the following steps to ensure that my soil and water resources are protected:

_____

_____

## PESTICIDES

Pesticides are approved for use by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for specific uses; however, as a landowner, it is your responsibility to ensure that you understand and comply with all EPA label requirements for application, storage and disposal.

There are alternatives to pesticides that can be effective and easy to use. As part of the Standards, you should evaluate alternatives to pesticides for the prevention or control of pests, pathogens, unwanted plants and weeds to achieve specific management objectives. For more information on alternatives to pesticides, please consult online resources or contact a local qualified natural resource professional to find state-specific information on pests, weeds and diseases.

**When addressing a pest, weeds, unwanted plants or disease outbreak on my land, I will evaluate alternatives to pesticides for prevention or control.**

Initial: _____ Date: _____

When utilizing pesticides, I will maintain a record of use.
☐ My management plan contains a record of pesticide usage.
☐ My management plan does not contain a record of pesticide usage. I have used the following pesticides (include pesticide name, purpose, and date of application):

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Based on my research, some alternative approaches I, or my designated representative, considered include (check all that apply):
☐ Preventative Measures
☐ Mechanical
☐ Biological
☐ Genetic
☐ Other

Date: _____

## PRESCRIBED BURN

Where appropriate, prescribed burning can be a valuable management technique to help you achieve your goals, including creating wildlife habitat, promoting the restoration of a desired species, or addressing unwanted trees or plants. Contact your local qualified natural resource professional to learn more about prescribed burning use and regulations in your state.

Do you or your designated representative use fire in the management of your land?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

If Yes, how is fire used (check all that apply)?

- ☐ Burn Piles
- ☐ Prescribed Burns
- ☐ Other

**To ensure the safety of prescribed burns on my land, I, or my designated representative, do pre-fire planning and obtain all applicable permits. I, or my designated representative, understand and abide by the local and state laws and regulations around prescribed burning.**

Initial: _____ Date: _____

Include dates of any recent burns and permits obtained

_____

_____

_____

## WILDLIFE

Threatened or endangered species are those species that have been identified by either the federal or state governments as in need of special protections. Protection of occupied habitats and communities for these species is required by the Standards and by law. Please consult online resources, including the ATFS website, to research threatened or endangered species or contact your local qualified natural resource professional.

**I, or my designated representative, have undertaken research to identify occurrences of threatened or endangered species (listed by my state or the federal government) on my land and am committed to protecting those habitats and communities where they exist.**

Initial: _____ Date: _____

My research included:

☐ Walked property with a qualified natural resource professional.

Date: _____

Findings: _____

☐ Consulted with state natural resource agency.

Date: _____

Findings: _____

☐ Researched online.

Date: _____

Website:_____

Findings: _____

☐ Other.

Date: _____

Findings: _____

Based on my research I found:

☐ Threatened or endangered species are not currently known to be present on my property

☐ Threatened or endangered species are present on my property. Therefore, I will take the following steps to protect the threatened or endangered species on my land:

_____

_____

## FOREST OF RECOGNIZED IMPORTANCE (FORI)

Forests of Recognized Importance (FORI) are globally, regionally and nationally significant large landscape areas of exceptional ecological, social, cultural or biological value. These forests are evaluated at the landscape level, rather than at the stand level and are recognized for a combination of unique values, rather than a single attribute. To learn more, please contact an ATFS Inspecting Forester or visit the ATFS website.

**I, or my designated representative, have undertaken research on Forests of Recognized Importance in my area.**

Initial: _____ Date: _____

I consulted these resources when researching FORIs

_____

_____

_____

Date: _____

Based on my research, I found:

☐ My land does not contribute to or fall within an area identified as a FORI

☐ My land does contribute to or fall within an area identified as a FORI. Therefore, I will take the following steps to conserve the FORI described below

_____

_____

## SPECIAL SITES

Special sites can be places of personal significance that you and your family designate, like a special tree or a campsite or other location with a personal meaning. Special sites also include areas offering unique historical, archaeological, cultural, geological, biological or ecological values; for example, cemeteries, cave entrances or outcroppings. The Standards provide guidance for identifying special sites and how to protect special sites on your land. You may consult the online resources, including the ATFS website, to research special sites or contact your local qualified natural resource professional.

**I, or my designated representative, have undertaken research to identify special sites on my land and am committed to protecting any sites on my land.**

Initial: _____ Date: _____

My research included (check all that apply):

☐ Walked the property with a qualified natural resource professional

Date: _____

Findings: _____

☐ Researched online resources:

Date: _____

Website:_____

Findings: _____

☐ Reviewed current and historic property maps:

Date: _____

Findings: _____

☐ Contacted local resources (cultural/heritage organizations):

Date: _____

Group Name: _____

Findings: _____

☐ Other:

Date: _____

Findings: _____

Based on my research, I found:

☐ I have no special sites on my land.

☐ I do have special sites on my land. Therefore, I will take the following steps to protect these sites:

_____

_____