



Grossman Forestry Tree Farm Group Membership Application

Signing this application form indicates consent to voluntarily join the Grossman Forestry Tree Farm Group, achieve the American Forest Foundation Standards, and abide by the rules of the Group (attached to this application). Please fill out the application form as completely as possible and indicate (N/A) where the request for information is not applicable. Also note that some questions and responses are optional.

APPLICANT'S CONTACT INFORMATION

Name:			
Address:			
Telephone No:		Cell No:	
E-mail:		Fax No.	

APPLICANT'S FOREST INFORMATION (Attach additional sheets if necessary)

Name of Tree Farm(s):
Forest location(s) (By County/State):
Forest acreage (By Tree Farm & Total):
Please briefly describe your overall forest management activities over the past several years (harvesting, regeneration, site preparation, fire and insect/disease control, thinnings, recreation, wildlife management, etc.): (or attach copy of existing management plan).
Please list your membership in other forestry organizations (e.g., small woodland owners associations, State Stewardship Programs, landowner assistance programs, etc.): (Optional)



FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN(S), ASSESSMENTS AND FEES

Do you have a written forest management plan covering your property? (Note: Otherwise qualified properties without a management plan are not eligible for Group Tree Farm Certification. The landowner will need to develop a management plan, or be part of a larger management plan in order to qualify.)	YES / NO
Do you believe that you are implementing and achieving the current American Forest Foundation Standards of Sustainable Forestry (2010-2015 Edition)? Including: 1. Landowner affirms that he/she complies with all relevant federal, state, county, and municipal laws, regulations and ordinances and will correct conditions that led to adverse regulatory actions, if any. 2. Landowner should monitor for changes that could interfere with the management objectives as stated in the management plan (e.g., presence of invasive species, pest outbreaks, and indications of trespass). When problems are found, reasonable actions are taken.	YES / NO
Do you believe that you are implementing and achieving the current American Forest Foundation Standards of Sustainable Forestry (2010-2015 Edition)?	YES / NO
Do you intend to maintain your property in forest cover for the long-term, as well as remain a member of the Group Organization for the foreseeable future, barring any unforeseen circumstance? (Please explain)?	YES / NO
Do you agree to allow access to your property by the Group Manager and/or an independent Certification Body in order to assess conformance with the AFF Standards? (An appointment will be scheduled prior to site visit).	YES / NO
Are you willing to conduct tours or demonstrations of your forest management practices in order to inform and educate other Group Members about sustainable forest management activities? (Optional)	YES / NO
The Group Organization may assess a fee for providing services in implementing and administering the American Tree Farm System Group Certification Program. Are you willing to pay these fees? (see next page)	YES / NO

Applicant's Signature:	
Date:	
Group Managers Signature:	
Date:	

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GROSSMAN FORESTRY TREE FARM GROUP MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

Benefits of the American Tree Farm System Group Certification

ATFS Group Certification has a number of benefits that accrue to the individual Group Members, Group Organizations of family forest owners, and the customers of wood and paper products. These benefits generally include facilitating the flow of information to landowners, maintaining market access, improving forest management practices, reducing the overall costs of forest certification for landowners, and assuring customers and the public that landowners are practicing sustainable forestry. **In addition, Group Members enjoy all of the rights and benefits of individual Tree Farmers.**

Grossman Forestry Company agrees to:

1. Maintain certification in accordance with the American Tree Farm System, Group Certification Process.
2. Provide a subscription to *TREE FARMER: THE PRACTICAL GUIDE TO SUSTAINABLE FORESTRY*. The only national magazine specially designed for forest landowners – full of articles with easy-to use information, product reviews and plans you can put to work right away on your Tree Farm.
3. Provide at least 1 newsletter per year.
4. Notify group members at least 3 months in advance of any fee changes.
5. Maintain strict confidentiality of any proprietary information.
6. Pay all applicable fees to the American Tree Farm System:
 - a. Estimated at \$2,200 for 2010.
 - b. Fees associated with 3rd party certification.

Group Members agree to:

1. Comply with American Forest Foundation’s Standards of Sustainability. Copy available upon request or at <http://www.grossmanforestry.com/TreeFarmGroup.php>.
2. Utilize the management planning services of Grossman Forestry Company or a pre-approved alternative service.
3. Utilize the timber sale administration services of Grossman Forestry Company or a pre-approved alternative service.
4. Notify Grossman Forestry Company if/when ownership status is changed or acres added or subtracted from the Tree Farm.
5. Pay annual dues (may be waived for schools and/or non-profits). Dues structure:

Acres	Fee	Acres	Fee
10-100	\$25.00	501-1000	\$45.00
101-500	\$35.00	1001+	\$55.00

In addition the Michigan Tree Farm Committee has agreed to provide Group Members with a Tree Farm Sign, if requested.