

American Tree Farm System (ATFS) Process for Third Party Certification of Individual Lands

All lands eligible for ATFS certification may undergo a third-party certification audit to judge conformance to the AFF Standards of Sustainability. The following outlines the process for landowners interested in seeking third-party certification of their forestlands.

1. Landowner submits an application to an ANAB accredited certification body which has been notified by the PEFC US NGB, the SFI Inc.
2. Upon positive certification decision, the certification body issues certificate and notifies ATFS. Any changes to already issued certificate shall be notified by Certification Body to ATFS.
3. The landowner must make the executive summary of the certification report publicly available. The certification body shall write the executive summary of the certification report, and shall include findings on the auditees conformity with ATFS.
4. ATFS records information on certification and communicates to appropriate state(s) leadership of the new certification for programmatic purposes.
5. Yearly surveillance audits shall be conducted to verify on-going conformance to the Standard.
6. Re-certification audits shall be completed every 5 years.