FLORIDA LAND STEWARD WEBINAR: FOREST CERTIFICATION

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Please use the Q & A to ask questions, not the Chat.

Questions will be answered after the presentations are complete.
Please complete the very short evaluation at end of the webinar – Thanks!

Presentation slides and other reading materials for this webinar are available online at:

https://programs.ifas.ufl.edu/florida-land-steward/

Find recordings, links, and materials for upcoming and past Florida Land Steward Events and Webinars.

“2021 Vegetation Management and Tree Farm Program Webinars”
FLORIDA LAND STEWARD

The Florida Land Steward Program is an extension program of the UF/IFAS School of Forest, Fisheries, and Geomatics Sciences. The mission of the Program is to help and encourage private landowners to manage their lands for long-term environmental, economic and social benefits. Read more about the Florida Land Steward Program.

See our Events Calendar and News page for upcoming events, webinars, webinar and event materials, and the latest news on assistance programs and other opportunities and information.

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Source

- Southern Group of State Foresters Certification Report (2021 update)
  - Available at [http://www.southernforests.org/publications/](http://www.southernforests.org/publications/)
Topics to Cover

• What is forest certification?
• Why did forest certification arise?
• Types of forest certification systems
• Major certification systems in US
• Why get your forest certified?
What is Forest Certification?

- **System** to recognize and promote environmentally responsible forestry and the sustainability of forest resources.

- **Process** of verifying and labeling wood that has been harvested from well-managed forests. Standards include:
  - Environmental / Ecological
  - Economic
  - Social

- **Driven** by consumer demand for wood harvested from sustainably managed forests, as well as landowner interest in sustainable forestry.
Why Did Forest Certification Arise?

- Environmental awareness and concern
  - 1960’s-70’s:
    - Environmental/Forestry legislation:
      - **Multiple Use and Sustained Yield Act** of 1960 directed management of National Forests
      - **Clean Water Act of 1972** impacted forest management on all lands.
Why Did Forest Certification Arise?

- **1980’s:**
  - Despite the legislation, increasing public scrutiny of forest practices.
  - Concerns included **global forestry issues**, such as **tropical deforestation**.
Certification Standards Born

- **1990’s:**
  - **Certification standards developed** – Global forest stakeholders developed forest practice standards that are now the framework for today’s forest certification programs.

  - **1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (Rio Earth Summit)** – Established vision of sustainable development

    - FSC and SFI Standards originated from these criteria and indicators.
Types of Certification Systems

- **Forest Management Certification**
  - Forest management evaluated against sustainability standards. Can be issued as **standard** or **group**.

- **Standard Certification**
  - Landowner or organization certified individually and subject to periodic audits.

- **Group Certification**
  - Group of landowners or organizations certified collectively as one group or under one certificate holder.
    - **Lower cost** - small sample of owners’ property is audited annually

- **Product Certification - Chain of Custody**
  - Wood is tracked from certified forest to finished product.
    - Involves mills, manufacturers and retailers. Finished product has label or logo identifying the certification system.
    - FSC, SFI, Program for Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)
Types of Certification Systems

- **Fiber Sourcing**
  - For manufacturers that source directly from a variety of sources/landowners.
  - Sets procurement requirements for how they source logs in a responsible way.

- **Controlled Wood**
  - Defines the minimum standards for the amount of raw material from forests that are not certified that can be mixed with raw material from certified forests for product labeling.
Major Forest Certification Systems

Forest Stewardship Council

American Tree Farm System
Forest Stewardship Council

- **International** - began in 1993 to address tropical forestry, expanded to include temperate and boreal forests

- **Standard and Group Certification**
  - Many certification bodies worldwide – 3 in US:
    - Rainforest Alliance, Scientific Certification Systems Global, and Bureau Veritas
  - Annual office and field audit, auditors accredited by FSC Accreditation Services International
  - Rigorous standards and high audit cost

- New **Small and Low-Intensity Managed Forest Standards** for Family Forests 1,000 hectares (2,470 acres) or less.

- **Forest and Product certification**
  - **Chain of custody** monitored to ensure all or portion of material in the final product is from certified sources
  - Emphasis on **environmental and social** criteria
  - More at [https://us.fsc.org/](https://us.fsc.org/)
Sustainable Forestry Initiative

• SFI, Inc. is independent 501(c)(3) charitable organization – manages the SFI program
  • Fully independent, Governed by SFI Board, State SFI Implementation Committees
  • **SFI Board: 3-chamber**, representing
    • **Environmental**: non-profit environmental or conservation organizations
    • **Economic**: forest products industry, other ownership or management entities
    • **Social**: community/social interest groups, universities, labor, family forest owners, and/or government agencies

• **Forest and Product Certification** - General emphasis on **management and operations balanced with environmental and social criteria.**
  • Land management standards
  • Domestic and international fiber sourcing standards
  • Research, training, legal, and social standards

• See standards at [http://sfiprogram.org/](http://sfiprogram.org/)

[SFIP logo]

[Certified Chain of Custody]

[www.sfiprogram.org]

[SFI-00001]
American Tree Farm System

• “Tree farming” started in the 1940s to introduce the public to the capabilities of sustainable forestry.
• The first Tree Farm was established in 1941 by Weyerhaeuser in Montesano, WA.
American Tree Farm System

• Today Tree Farm administered by **American Forest Foundation**,  [https://www.treefarmsystem.org/](https://www.treefarmsystem.org/)

• **State Tree Farm Programs**
  • [https://www.treefarmsystem.org/florida](https://www.treefarmsystem.org/florida)

• **Group Certification**
  • Regional, State or Independently Managed Groups

• **Eligibility**
  • Private or public ownership 10 to 10,000 acres
  • Non-industrial - no publicly traded companies, small business allowed
  • Commitment to sustainable forest management and conformance with standards
American Tree Farm System

Standards include:

- Written management plan
- Compliance with laws, BMPs
- Reforestation, afforestation
- Wildlife habitat, biodiversity
- Invasive species control
- Aesthetics
- Forests of Recognized Importance
- Historical sites
- Practical harvesting guidelines
American Tree Farm System

Forest and Product Certification

- Lands certified by the American Tree Farm System are a source of fiber for the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI, Inc.) and PEFC chain of custody programs.
- Certified Tree Farmers get a certificate number for chain of custody tracking.
- “States decision” in 2016 - certification or recognition?
  - Florida and most states are on the certification track.
- In 2017 the Florida Tree Farm program gained 501(c)(3) status.
## Certified Acres in Florida

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certification Program</th>
<th>Acres</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Forest Stewardship Council</td>
<td>127,356</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sustainable Forestry Initiative</td>
<td>1,837,119</td>
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<tr>
<td>American Tree Farm System</td>
<td>800,859</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,744,133</strong></td>
</tr>
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Southern Group of State Foresters,
Forest Certification Programs: Status and Recommendations in the South, 2021 Report Update
John Nash - Landowner – Osceola Pines

NWTF member since 1978
Current VP & Incoming President Florida Tree Farm Program

How did I get here?
The Vision

2002 Purchased 587 acres in Levy County, FL
  • Lifelong desire to own Florida hunting property
  • Land to hunt Osceola Wild Turkey
  • Family recreation

The Reality....
Florida Tree Farm Partners

You are not in this alone!

IFAS – Institute of Food and Agricultural Services

FFS – Florida Forestry Service

USDA – US Department Agriculture

NRCS – National Resources Conservation Services

FWC – Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation

NWTF – National Wild Turkey Federation
2004 Forest Stewardship Management Plan

“Tells you what to do, when”

Goals
- Primary goal is wildlife habitat
- Improve timber for future income
- Recreational use for family
  - Hunting, Horses, Wildlife viewing
- Soil and water conservation

Tactics
- Reforest stand with Slash Pines
- 3rd row mowing
- Establish fire lines
- Build patches/corridors
- Chop, mow, burn

Partners
Jimmy Bielling – Bielling Site Prep
Florida Division of Forestry
Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission
2012 Enrolled in Florida Tree Farm Program

- Wood
- Water
- Recreation
- Wildlife

Partner
Greg Marshall, FFS, Levy County Forester
Florida Tree Farm Program

Wood

Burning

Fire lines
Wildlife Corridor

Rotational Mowing
Thinning
“Florida is dependent on clean water. It is the state’s lifeblood – its very reason to exist.”

Florida Forestry Economic Impact

$25 Billion

BMP – Best Management Practices protect the watershed.

Sink holes can recharge Florida Aquifer.
Florida Tree Farm Program
Recreation
Florida Tree Farm Program

Recreation & History
Florida Tree Farm Program
Recreation & History
Florida Tree Farm Program

Wildlife
2013 Hosted a Forest Stewardship Tour

Osceola Pines
2017 Florida Outstanding Tree Farm of the Year

Jimmy Bielling, 2017 Silvicultural Contractor of the Year.
Florida Tree Farm Program

Benefits – Why should YOU Get involved?

• Easy to enroll – 10 acres, no fee, no obstacles
• Tax benefits – income and property
• Representation on local, state and federal issues
• Connection of robust network of forestry professionals and landowners
• Workshops, tours and quarterly newsletter
• Forest certification that meets international standards of sustainable forest management
• Participation in local, state, regional and national Outstanding Tree Farmer of the year award
• Communication via email, newsletter and Magazine from the American Tree Farm System

• Florida Tree Farm Program: https://www.treefarmsystem.org/florida
Remember this?
Vision Realized!  Osceola Pines
Why Get Certified?

- Market **access**
- Workshops, tours, webinars, other **educational opportunities**
- Connection to a **network** of landowners, foresters, extension, natural resource professionals
- Newsletters, magazines, publications web **resources**
- **Representation** on important policy issues
Questions?

Use Q&A
Thanks Partners and Supporters!
Please complete the short evaluation at:
https://qfreeaccountssjc1.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3z3w82ksS99keDs

Thanks for joining us today!