



## Forecon, Inc. & ATFS Eligibility Requirements for Tree Farm Certification



1. Landowner(s) must have clear title to the tract(s).
2. Tracts considered for enrollment must be at least 10 acres and no more than 10,000 contiguous\* acres.
3. Properties exceeding 10,000 contiguous acres and less than 20,000 contiguous acres must complete an application to be administered by the National Office. Properties exceeding 10,000 acres may be subject to an annual administrative fee by ATFS.
4. All properties exceeding 10,000 contiguous acres must undergo a third party audit by a certification body accredited to conduct ATFS certification audits. These entities must be certified under an IMG Certification or Individual Certification.
5. Properties must be non-industrial but may be associated with small local business.
6. Ownership must be privately held and publicly traded.
7. Landowners must have a written management plan that meets all core criteria included in the ATFS standard. These plans could be at the tract level or an umbrella management plan that covers multiple tracts under one management system. Management plans and or systems should be appropriate in intensity for the size and scope of the ownership.
8. Landowners must demonstrate proactive management and agree that their management activities will correlate with their objectives and written management plan, and must be in conformance with the ATFS standard and State Best Management Practices.
9. Landowners goals and objectives do not compromise the ATFS mission.
10. Landowners must agree to open their land (with advance notification) to periodic inspection by Forecon Inc. representatives and/or auditors during certification or re-certification audits.
11. Landowners must agree to pay all fees associated with participation and/or becoming eligible for participation in the ATFS certification program. These fees could include;
  - Management Plan development or revisions (fees quoted after a no cost consultation and review of your management plan (if available) prior to starting work).
  - Administrative and/or service costs associated with any management plan implementation activities on participant's lands. This could include property inspections, timber sales, non-commercial thinning, tree planting, wildlife habitat improvement, boundary line maintenance, etc. Charges for these additional projects will be quoted in advance on an hourly, commission, per acre, or other fee basis.
  - Administrative and/or service costs associated with Forecon, Inc. representation during certification or re-certification audits or addressing any corrective actions on participants lands should non-conformances be found.

*\*Properties ATFS certified prior to February 1, 2002 are not subject to this guidance.*

*\*Contiguous is defined as the ability to walk the entire property without leaving it.*