



VERMONT TREE FARM PROGRAM

# A LEGACY FOR YOUR LAND



[www.vermontreefarm.org](http://www.vermontreefarm.org)



# LET TREE FARM BE YOUR WOODLAND LEGACY

**Welcome** and **thank you** for your interest in the American Tree Farm System® (ATFS), an internationally-known recognition and certification program of the American Forest Foundation (AFF). On a state level, each Tree Farm program is sponsored and managed locally by a state Tree Farm Committee. In Vermont, this committee is a subcommittee of the Vermont Woodlands Association, consisting generally of Tree Farmers and foresters. Vermont has **440 Certified Tree Farms** managing over **133,000 acres**.

We are glad you are interested in joining us!

**Stewardship** is no small undertaking, as you well know. The work you have done thus far shows your **dedication** to your forest land and its long-term **sustainability**. Becoming a certified Tree Farmer is just one more step on a path you have already started traveling. Tree Farmers have a long history of connecting multiple generations to their woodlands. **Come along with us!**

SUSTAINABILITY WILDLIFE  
WATER WOOD  
RECREATION

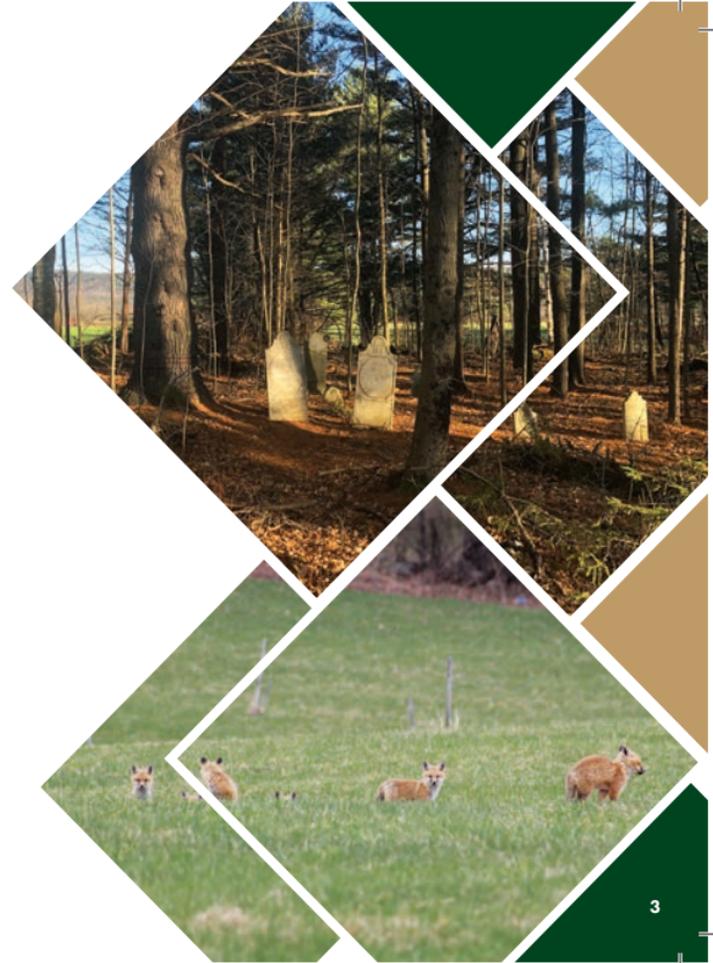
# STANDARDS

SUSTAINABLE STEWARDSHIP  
GUIDANCE PLAN  
COMPLIANCE FORESTER

The **AFF Standards** are the **road map** you will need to follow on your way to Tree Farm Certification. These Standards confirm your **dedication** as an ambassador for **exemplary woodland stewardship**.

- STANDARD 1:** Commitment to Practicing **Sustainable Forestry**
- STANDARD 2:** **Compliance** with Laws
- STANDARD 3:** **Reforestation** and **Afforestation**
- STANDARD 4:** **Air, Water,** and **Soil** Protection
- STANDARD 5:** **Fish, Wildlife, Biodiversity,** and Forest **Health**
- STANDARD 6:** Forest **Aesthetics**
- STANDARD 7:** Protect **Special Sites**
- STANDARD 8:** Forest Product Harvests and Other **Activities**

Your forester can walk you through the details of each of the Standards and the next steps to becoming a Tree Farmer.





# WOOD

SUSTAINABLE HARVEST  
FIREWOOD STAND  
TIMBER

---

“I have found, from all the years cutting firewood and tending the forest with my dad, I have developed a great appreciation for beautiful trees that will make beautiful sawlogs.”

– Jock Irons, Woodford;  
Tree Farm #1013, since 1987

**Wood production** has always been a cornerstone of the Tree Farm Program, established in 1941 to highlight sound **forest management practices**. Determining how to produce timber sustainably in conjunction with other demands on forestland may include the following factors in setting up long-term goals and objectives:

- ◆ **Timber production**, including sawlogs, firewood, pulpwood
- ◆ Forest **health issues**
- ◆ History of **past management**
- ◆ Balancing **ecological** and **financial stability**
- ◆ Non-timber forest **products**, such as maple syrup, foraging, Christmas trees
- ◆ **Compliance** with laws, regulations, and ordinances

“

## I am a Tree Farmer

because I grew up **working** and recreating in the **woods** and appreciate the value of each. As a kid growing up, I worked with other family members getting in household **firewood** and wood for **boiling sap**. **Hunted** the same woods for deer and partridges. Cut my first tree with an **ax** and **crosscut** at about age 9. **Chainsaws** came much later. The **Tree Farm** sign and logo are a proud symbol of **participation** with others in **valuing** our woodland and wildlife.

”

– Dave Potter, Clarendon, Tinmouth, Wallingford  
Tree Farm #588, since 1980





# WATER

SUSTAINABLE  
CHANNEL QUALITY  
RUNOFF  
STREAM

---

Good forest management leads to **clean water**. It doesn't make a difference where your woodland is located; it is all part of a larger **watershed**, whether draining toward the Connecticut River or Lake Champlain. Following recommendations on maintaining water quality may include these important practices:

- ◆ Following Vermont **Acceptable Management Practices (AMPs)** for water **quality**
- ◆ Controlling **drainage** and **erosion** by **stabilizing** roads and trails
- ◆ Installing stream **crossings** that meet AMPs
- ◆ Considering wildlife, fish, and aquatic species
- ◆ Considering recreation demands on trails
- ◆ Maintaining **buffers** along watercourses



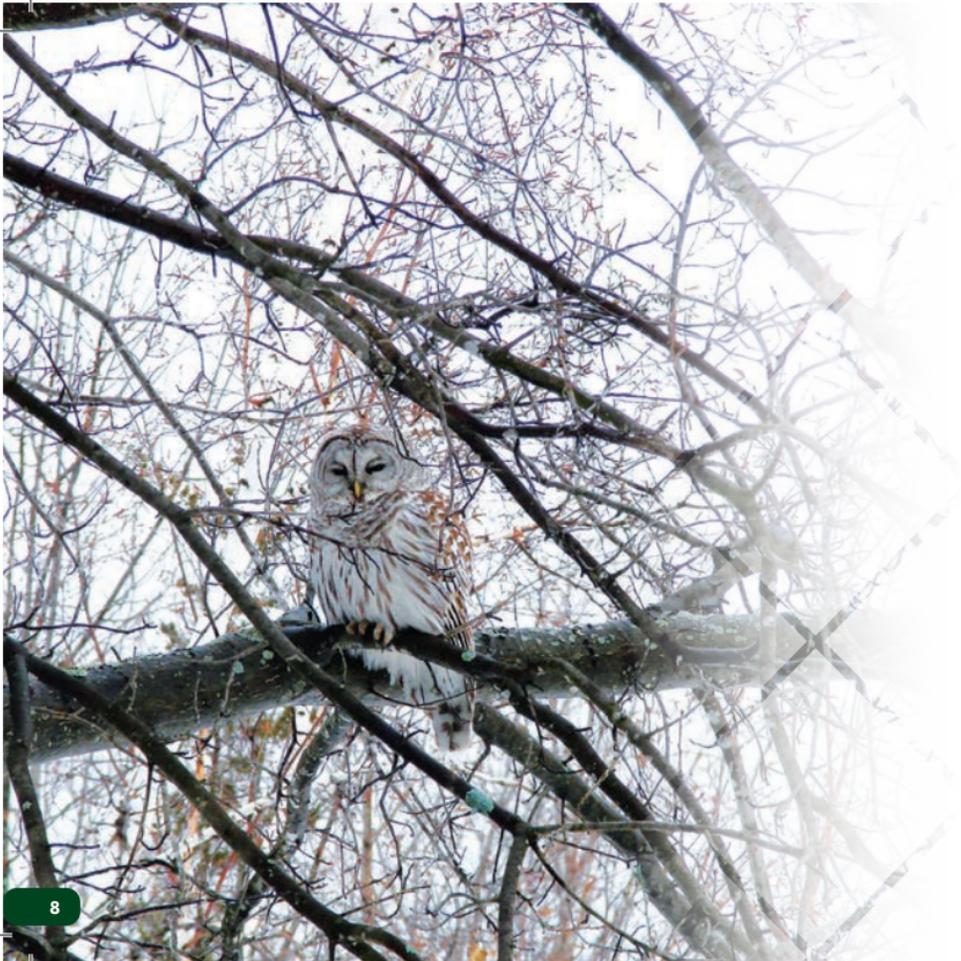
## “ I am a Tree Farmer

because I believe in **maintaining** a healthy forested **ecosystem** and maximizing the economic and aesthetic values of my property, which has about a half-mile of frontage on the Clyde River. This river is part of the **Northern Forest Canoe Trail**, and we have a **portage through our tree farm** to bypass a difficult part of the river. We gave the NFCT permission to construct a **lean-to for canoeists** who wish to stay overnight on our portage.

– Allen Yale, Derby  
Tree Farm #415, since 1978

”





# WILDLIFE

SUSTAINABLE  
HABITAT IMPACT  
PROACTIVE BIODIVERSITY

---

Providing **habitat** for wildlife is one of the top reasons many own woodlands. Whether you hunt or fish, birdwatch, or just enjoy watching animals, **caring** about and **enhancing** the **biodiversity** of the landscape is as much a part of the Tree Farm Program as wood, water, and recreation. You may already manage for these elements:

- ◆ Habitat diversity
- ◆ Hunting/trapping/fishing
- ◆ Songbirds, waterfowl
- ◆ Non-game species
- ◆ High conservation value forests
- ◆ Threatened or endangered species
- ◆ Forest of Recognized Importance (FORI)

“

## I am a Tree Farmer

because I want to support and practice **sustainable**, long-term forest management practices on private lands. My father purchased the property in 1988 with a vision that it would stay **forested**, provide opportunities for **hunting and birding**, provide wildlife habitat, produce marketable **timber**, and remain forested through **multiple generations**. I hope to pass the management of the property to one of my own sons. ”

– Tim Upton, Hubbardton  
Tree Farm #1496, since 2008





# RECREATION

SUSTAINABLE BEAUTY  
QUALITY PASSIONATE

---

How do you **enjoy** your woods? Have you incorporated your “fun” into your forest management plan? Tree Farm recognizes that recreating in your woodlands is what helps to **connect** people to the land. Your plan may include management specifically for some of these activities:

- ◆ Enjoying scenic beauty, privacy, aesthetics
- ◆ Hiking, biking, camping
- ◆ ATV and snowmobile trails
- ◆ Cross-country skiing, snowshoeing
- ◆ Birdwatching, wildlife viewing
- ◆ Canoeing, kayaking
- ◆ Fishing, hunting

“ **I am a Tree Farmer**

because my dad hung a **swing** in an **old-growth white oak** in our 10-acre former pasture. That huge oak and others on the property inspired a **lifelong love** of trees and a **passion** for growing cut-over forests into **mature** stands. Nothing is more **enjoyable** than returning to Vermont in mid-winter to ski our gently graded woods roads. **Gliding** along in powdery snow while admiring our trees can't be beat. We have certain tall, straight **favorites** and gnarly old '**sentinels**' we look for every year. Neighbors often join us in the fun.

– Peter & Julie Parker, Granville  
Tree Farm #1042, since 2005

”





50th anniversary celebration of Marsh-Billings-Rockefeller National Historical Park, which is VT Tree Farm #1 (2006).

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
CONTACT YOUR  
FORESTER AND  
CHECK OUT THESE  
RESOURCES:**



[vermontreefarm.org](http://vermontreefarm.org)



[vermontwoodlands.org](http://vermontwoodlands.org)



[woodsandwildlife.org](http://woodsandwildlife.org)



[fpr.vermont.gov](http://fpr.vermont.gov)

PO Box 6004 | Rutland, VT 05702 | [info@vermontwoodlands.org](mailto:info@vermontwoodlands.org) | 802-747-7900