Sustainable Forestry Practices for Landowners
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Your forestland provides you with many benefits. It may supply income for your family today or for your retirement tomorrow. Responsibly managed forests reduce greenhouse gases, provide wildlife habitat, clean water, aesthetic benefits and recreation opportunities. Your forestland also helps provide your community and our nation with the forest products needed for a growing economy. Together, these points capture the essence of sustainable forest management – managing and conserving our forest resources to meet the needs of society today without compromising the needs of tomorrow.

As one of more than 10 million family forest landowners in the United States, who own about 50 percent of the nation’s timberland, your management decisions have an important impact on the forests of tomorrow. Putting sustainable forestry into practice on your land will help protect your investment while conserving its valuable resources. There are several credible forest certification programs available to landowners that can assist you in meeting your management objectives and the recommendations in this booklet. Four of these are discussed below and additional information on each program is available on their websites.

Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC) – www.pefc.org
Sustainable Forestry Initiative® (SFI) – sfiprogram.org
Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC®) – us.fsc.org
American Tree Farm System® (ATFS) – treefarmsystem.org

The Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)
Founded in 1999, PEFC is an independent non-profit global umbrella organization. PEFC promotes sustainable forest management through independent third-party certification. It assesses and endorses national land management standards that align with its principles. In the United States, both SFI® and ATFS discussed below are endorsed by PEFC.

The Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)
The Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Inc founded in 1994, is an independent non-profit organization dedicated to promoting sustainable forest management in the United States and Canada. The SFI program was developed to safeguard our forests through land stewardship in such a manner that they would meet the needs of our society today without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

SFI guides the forest management of the majority of industrial forestland in the United States as well as some privately and publically held lands. SFI Program Participants demonstrate their SFI commitment by improving forestry practices on their forestland and by promoting sustainable forestry practices with private forest landowners, foresters and loggers.
The Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
The Forest Stewardship Council founded in 1994, is a global non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of responsible forest management on industrial, private and public forestland. The FSC mission is to promote environmentally sound, socially beneficial and economically prosperous management of the world’s forests. The program’s vision is to meet current needs for forest products without compromising the health of the world’s forests for future generations.

The American Tree Farm System (ATFS)
An organization that can make all the difference in your success as a responsible landowner is the American Tree Farm System (ATFS). ATFS was created in 1941 to promote the growing of renewable forest resources on private lands, while protecting environmental benefits and increasing public understanding of the benefits of productive forestry.

The American Tree Farm System has over 70,000 family forest owners totaling more than 20 million acres of non-industrial private forestland certified in the program in 46 states. Since 1941, the American Tree Farm System has recognized landowners for their commitment to sustainable forest management. One of the program’s main features is providing information, education and assistance to family forest landowners regarding forest management practices that will sustain or enhance forest productivity, wildlife habitat, water quality and outdoor recreation. Participating landowners, foresters and government representatives can help you find the assistance you need to accomplish your land management goals, develop and implement a land management plan and certify your land as a Tree Farm.

When becoming a member of the American Tree Farm System, you must show that you follow BMPs when harvesting, take measures to provide wildlife habitat and protect biodiversity whenever possible. You reap not only the rewards of good management, but also the benefits of belonging to a strong and knowledgeable group that’s committed to protecting the environment. Another consideration is a growing preference among forest product customers for certified wood.

As a program endorsed by PEFC, the American Tree Farm System has a mutual recognition agreement with the SFI program, which will promote and expand the practice of sustainable forest management on small and large ownerships. Under this agreement, as an American Tree Farm System member, you will have the potential for greater access to certified wood markets both in the United States and abroad.

Certification Program Principles and Standards
Each of the certification programs discussed above is based on principles and standards. Although there are differences among them, they cover all or most of the following components:
Sustainable Forestry Practices for Landowners
1. Sustainable Forestry
To practice sustainable forestry to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs by practicing a land stewardship ethic that integrates reforestation and the managing, growing, nurturing and harvesting of trees for useful products and ecosystem services such as the conservation of soil, air and water quality, carbon, biological diversity, wildlife and aquatic habitats, recreation and aesthetics.

2. Forest Productivity and Health
To provide for regeneration after harvest and maintain the productive capacity of the forest land base, and to protect and maintain long-term forest and soil productivity. In addition, to protect forests from economically or environmentally undesirable levels of wildfire, pests, diseases, invasive exotic plants and animals, and other damaging agents and thus maintain and improve long-term forest health and productivity.

3. Protection of Water Resources
To protect water bodies and riparian areas, and to conform with forestry Best Management Practices to protect water quality.

4. Protection of Biological Diversity
To manage forests in ways that protect and promote biological diversity, including animal and plant species, wildlife habitats, and ecological or natural community types.

5. Aesthetics and Recreation
To manage the visual impacts of forest operations, and to provide recreational opportunities for the public.

6. Protection of Special Sites
To manage lands that are ecologically, geologically or culturally important in a manner that takes into account their unique qualities.

7. Responsible Fiber Sourcing Practices in North America
To use and promote among other forest landowners sustainable forestry practices that are both scientifically credible and economically, environmentally and socially responsible.

8. Legal Compliance
To comply with applicable federal, provincial, state, and local forestry and related environmental laws, statutes, and regulations.

9. Research
To support advances in sustainable forest management through forestry research, science and technology.

10. Training and Education
To improve the practice of sustainable forestry through training and education programs.
Sustainable Forestry Practices for Landowners
11. Community Involvement and Social Responsibility
   To broaden the practice of sustainable forestry on all lands through community involvement, socially responsible practices, and through recognition and respect of indigenous peoples’ rights and traditional forest-related knowledge.

12. Transparency
   To broaden the understanding of forest certification to the SFI standards by documenting certification audits and making the findings publicly available.

13. Continual Improvement
   To continually improve the practice of forest management, and to monitor, measure and report performance in achieving the commitment to sustainable forestry.

14. Avoidance of Controversial Sources including Illegal Logging in Offshore Fiber Sourcing
   To avoid wood fiber from illegally logged forests and to avoid sourcing fiber from countries without effective social laws.

Giving you the support to succeed

State forestry and wildlife conservation agencies, your state forestry association and programs like the ATFS, FSC and SFI will assist you in getting professional assistance for developing an effective forest management plan. To realize your land stewardship goals, your plan should be based on sustainable forestry principles.

Some of the basic features of your plan:

1. Identify your specific goals and objectives. Do you want to manage your forestland primarily for timber? Wildlife? Recreation? There are many more possibilities. Once you decide what is most important to you, it is then possible to develop a plan targeting your personal goals for your land.

2. Take inventory of forest resources and property. Determine exactly what you have to manage by identifying your land’s features: timber types, wildlife habitat types, streams and special sites.

3. Evaluate your objectives and decide on alternatives. Begin by listing your objectives along with their benefits, the cost to implement them and how they will affect future decisions. This is an important step in preparing your final forest management plan.

4. Make your plan. Put it in writing: what your goals are for the land, the timetable to meet those goals, a list of forest management activities and their itemized expenses. Input and advice from a professional forester at this stage in the development of your plan will help assure that your goals are successfully achieved.
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5. Make plans for the reduction of wildfire risk on your forestland. Typically the state forestry office is the agency responsible for the detection, suppression and prevention of wildfires, but there are steps landowners can include in their plans such as:

- Determining the risk to your forestland by using tools found at www.southernwildfirerisk.com.
- Using gates, etc. to control access to your property.
- If you do not live on or visit your property regularly, know your neighbors, your forester or hunt club members that can notify you of anything out of the ordinary.
- Installing firebreaks to help protect your property from wildfires and to halt the spread of wildfires.
- Scheduling prescribed burns to reduce hazardous fuels. Check with your forester or the state forestry office before conducting a prescribed burn.
- Along roadways and property entrances where arson fires may be an issue, work to reduce hazardous fuels.

6. Implement your plan. Now is when you put theory into action. Most plans will need some modification when implemented. Using a forestry professional or state forestry representative to assist you with implementation may be beneficial in helping you meet your objectives effectively and efficiently.

**Let the pros do it**

Professional foresters and loggers are trained to handle a complex and wide range of situations safely, economically and conscientiously. When it comes time to harvest, using the services of professional foresters and qualified logging professionals will go a long way toward successfully applying the principles of sustainable forest management to your lands.

**Some of the expertise you should expect in a trained or certified logging professional:**

- Knowledge and experience in applying forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Knowledge and compliance with federal, state and local laws regarding timber harvesting

In addition, loggers must be up-to-date on technology and safety measures, understand and implement the variety of regulations designed to protect natural resources and be able to manage people effectively. In short, a professional logger needs to be a good business-person and a good steward of the land.
Most states offer training programs for loggers and some states have a certified logger program. A typical program covers a variety of skills and safety training, as well as Best Management Practices, Occupational Safety and Health Administration regulations, forest renewal or regeneration practices, first aid and business management. A certified logger program requires a third-party on-site audit.

Call your state forestry agency, state forestry association or county extension agent and ask for a list of loggers who are participating in certified logger, logger training and continuing education programs in your state.

Planning for the future

Reforestation and afforestation

In planning for the future, you should consider both reforestation and afforestation as ways to enhance the productivity of your land. Reforestation is the restocking of a forest after removal of trees through harvesting, wildfire or other causes by planting or natural regeneration. Afforestation is the establishment of a forest or stand in an area where the preceding vegetation or land use was not forest (e.g., pasture, crop land, etc.).

Over the years, if your objectives for your land change from agriculture or other activities, think about planting these lands to improve your future income, decrease the potential for erosion, and improve wildlife habitat and biodiversity. In areas where appropriate, you may want to consider transitioning land toward more historical species such as longleaf pine or mixed hardwoods.

Planning your reforestation method is best done before you harvest. Reforesting promptly is key to providing a sustainable supply of forest products, maximizing future income from the land, and guaranteeing our beautiful forests for all the generations which come after us.

Landowners should make a plan with their professional forester or logger, addressing harvesting techniques and expected products before a harvest is begun. This will ensure that the appropriate forest harvesting technology and other best practices are used to minimize waste and prepare the site for efficient reforestation.

State and federal cost-share programs can help off-set the costs associated with site preparation and replanting. Check with your professional forester or state forestry agency to learn what cost-share incentives may be available.

Reforestation costs (site preparation, seedling costs, planting costs, etc.) up to $10,000 per year may be deducted from income in the year incurred for federal tax purposes. Additionally, reforestation costs in excess of the $10,000 may be deducted from annual income over an 84-month period. Special rules may apply to lands held in trusts and estates. Check with your forestry agency for more details.
professional or tax advisor to learn more about this and other tax incentives for growing timber.

Some methods to consider for your reforestation goals:

• Advanced natural regeneration: in some areas, harvesting practices typically encourage abundant regeneration and planting is not necessary. Planning for the protection of existing softwood or hardwood tree seedlings or sprouts in the forest understory during and after the harvest is critical.

• Natural regeneration after the harvest: this happens when seeds in the ground or from nearby trees germinate after the harvest. Most hardwood species can also reestablish themselves through sprouting from the roots or stump.

• Replanting: planting of softwood or hardwood tree seedlings, either by hand or machine. This method gives you more control of your forest composition and is often more compatible with your business management goals.

If you want to pass on your land to the next generation in better shape than you received it, while meeting any goals you may have, implementing a reforestation plan is a must.

United States Timberland

The United States currently supports in excess of 766 million acres of forestland, which represents approximately 34 percent of the land area in the United States. More than 521 million of these acres are capable of productively growing trees and are not prohibited by laws or regulation from commercial use. Private non-corporate landowners control about 39 percent of this timberland.


Best Management Practices

Determining when, where and how to implement forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs) is an important part of any effective forest management plan. The Clean Water Act, originally enacted in 1972 and amended in 1977 and 1987, requires forestry operations to be conducted in a manner that does not impact water quality. To meet this requirement, most states adopted or reemphasized the use of state Best Management Practices.
Forestry BMPs are forestry practices used to protect water quality, with additional benefits for wildlife habitat, forest aesthetics and soil productivity. As a forest landowner, you know what resources need to be protected on your land, and using BMPs in all forest management activities will help you meet this goal. Implementing BMPs may incur actual expenditures, such as road improvements, and costs can also result from lost revenue, such as leaving vegetated buffer strips along streams. The price of failing to implement BMPs, however, may result in much larger expenditures for a landowner. For example, an improperly designed and constructed road that has failed can cost as much to fix as building it right the first time. Not to mention the potential fines that may result if the failure results in a negative impact to water quality.

Many state forestry agencies have collected data over time to monitor the use of BMPs and evaluate the results of promotion and use of BMPs. SFI member companies have also developed verifiable monitoring systems to measure the effectiveness of BMP implementation and to identify steps to take for the improvement of BMP compliance. Key areas for improvement for BMPs identified in these programs include the following:

- Removal and stabilization of stream crossings following use
- Erosion control measures on skid trails and roads
- Identification and protection of streamside or riparian management zones along streams

Contracts for timber harvesting or other forestry activities should stipulate the use of applicable BMPs. You should also implement BMPs as part of your routine forestland maintenance activities.

Most states have developed manuals for implementing the recommended or required BMPs for that state.

To find out more about Best Management Practices in your state contact:

- The professional forester who assisted you with your management plan and/or is buying your timber
- The logging professional who harvested your timber
- Your state forestry agency or association
- Your local office of the Cooperative Extension Service
- The person who gave you this booklet

Forest biomass utilization

As the demand for renewable energy sources continues to grow, landowners should weigh the benefits and costs of biomass utilization from their forestland. One such consideration is residue harvesting following a sawtimber/pulpwood harvest. With careful planning and by following your state’s BMPs, this can be
Cogongrass

Tallowtree (popcorn tree)

White pine blister rust

Gypsy moth

Emerald ash borer
accomplished using the same landing and road systems with very little impact to the site. Additionally, residue harvesting should have little impact on site productivity since the high-nutrient portions of the trees (stumps, leaves, roots and limbs) will remain, and such harvests are spread over time.

Benefits of biomass utilization following harvests or through other operations include:

- Reduction in dependency on fossil fuels while satisfying growing energy needs
- Creation of jobs and business opportunities
- Income for landowners from biomass sales
- Decreased site preparation costs as harvested sites are left cleaner
- Opportunities for low to no cost timber stand improvement
- Increased forest health by reducing threats and/or restoration costs from fire, disease/pest infestations, invasive species and storm damage

Landowners should work closely with their resource professionals to ensure that this type of harvest is right for their property and that the activities follow the state’s BMPs.

Invasive exotic plants and animals

Invasive exotic plants and animals are those that are found outside their native range; they can potentially have negative ecological, financial and social impacts. Invasive species pose a threat to the survival and reproduction of native species and can decrease forest productivity, complicate forest management and degrade biodiversity, wildlife habitat and the visual value of your forest.

Invasive species are typically able to thrive due to geographic and climatic conditions being similar to those of their native range and to the lack of natural predators and diseases. Effective control can only be accomplished when you know what species to be on the lookout for and how to identify the species or their impacts. There are hundreds, maybe even thousands, of invasive species across the U.S. Some of the more common ones are listed here.

**Plants** – cogongrass, kudzu, Japanese climbing fern, tallowtree (popcorn tree), non-native privets, water hyacinth. **Animals** – gypsy moth, emerald ash borer, Asian longhorned beetle, hemlock woolly adelgid, sirex woodwasp, feral hogs. **Microorganisms** – white pine blister rust, sudden oak death, Dutch elm disease, American chestnut blight.

Control measures

An integrated pest management program is the best approach for control, and may involve the following:
Sustainable Forestry Practices for Landowners

Bald eagle

Red-cockaded woodpecker

Gopher tortoise

Spotted owl
• Prevent introduction
• Early detection and rapid response
• Surveillance, control and management
• For plants – rehabilitation and restoration
• Maintain forest health and vigor
• Using resource professionals

Preventing the introduction of non-native species is by far the most effective and economical control measure, therefore you should have an effective, ongoing surveillance program in place. If an invasive species should get established, the second most important control measure is a rapid response to prevent its spread and eradicate the unwelcome competitor. Depending on the invasive species and particular circumstances, control measures can involve one or a combination of methods – mechanical (e.g., hand-picking, traps, tillage), biological (e.g., promoting beneficial predators), chemical (e.g., pesticides). Following this, it may be beneficial to establish and/or release fast-growing native plants that can out-compete any surviving invasive plants while preventing soil erosion. Maintaining a healthy forest through sound forest management practices will increase your forest’s ability to combat invasive species.

Contact a resource professional to assist you in learning more about invasive species, their identification and control. Listed below are some resources:

• Your state forestry agency or association
• Your local office of the Cooperative Extension Service
• invasive.org
• fs.fed.us/foresthealth/management/fhm-invasives.shtml

Enhancing wildlife habitats

Many landowners are committed to growing forests to ensure that future generations of Americans may experience the same abundant forests and wildlife we enjoy today.

Because forestry practices can be tailored to improve a wide variety of wildlife habitats while providing a continuous source of revenue, including timber production, many forest owners have successfully integrated mutually beneficial timber and wildlife habitat management on their lands.
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Wild turkey
Prothonotary warbler
Brown-headed nuthatch
Black bear
White-tailed deer
Keys to making this happen:

- Understanding the habitat(s) needed by the wildlife species you are interested in attracting to, or protecting on, your land
- Providing these habitats through forest management practices

Who is there to help you? With careful planning and the assistance of natural resource professionals, management practices can be implemented to meet both timber production and wildlife enhancement objectives.

Assistance you may expect from natural resource professionals:

- Help determine, refine, or modify your forest management plan to include objectives for wildlife and timber
- Supply you with technical guidance to provide or protect habitat for the wildlife you are interested in attracting to your land
- Tailor forest management activities to meet your wildlife habitat goals
- Provide access to cost-sharing programs that enhance wildlife

Where can you go to find assistance from a natural resource professional?

- Your state wildlife / natural resources agency
- USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS)
- Private natural resource consultants
- Your state forestry agency or association
- Your local office of the Cooperative Extension Service

Threatened and endangered species

There are over 1,600 federally listed threatened or endangered species in the United States today. Threatened and endangered species can thrive in managed forests. In fact, active management is necessary for the survival of some species. It is up to landowners to take the steps necessary to identify and conserve the habitat that these species need.

As with the red-cockaded woodpecker pictured in this booklet, being able to recognize habitat characteristics can be as important or even more important than being able to identify the threatened or endangered plant or animal. The red-cockaded woodpecker cavity tree with its characteristic sap surrounding the entrance hole can be seen easily in the forest while the bird itself can be quite elusive.

To find out about which species may occur on your land, contact the Natural Heritage Program office listed for your state at the back of this booklet, or visit NatureServe at natureserve.org.
Maintaining biological diversity

Among other benefits, maintaining biological diversity is another means of enhancing wildlife habitats on your land. The SFI standard defines biodiversity as: “The variety and abundance of life forms, processes, functions, and structures of plants, animals and other living organisms, including the relative complexity of species, communities, gene pools and ecosystems at spatial scales that range from local to regional to global.” While many believe that biodiversity is most effectively addressed at the watershed or larger level, there are opportunities to manage and contribute to biodiversity at all levels – stand, forest, watershed, landscape and global. Landowners can influence compositional and structural diversity at the stand and forest levels through management choices. Techniques landowners can use to ensure biodiversity involve maintaining:

- A mix of habitat and cover types – both terrestrial and aquatic
- A mix of species – both flora and fauna
- A distribution of age classes within and between stands
- Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value (FECV)
- Special sites and other unique stand features such as snags, low-value trees, etc.

What are Forests with Exceptional Conservation Value (FECV)?

Certain places in the more than 766 million acres of U.S. forestland are valuable for reasons other than their potential to give us paper, packaging and wood products. These forests might be home to a globally rare plant, animal or community. If a plant, animal or community is found to be very rare in the world and especially vulnerable to extinction, then it may be classified as imperiled or critically imperiled. This designation is similar to the threatened and endangered designations afforded to species protected under the U.S. Endangered Species Act (ESA). It is not unusual for imperiled or critically imperiled species and communities with no protection under the ESA to be rarer than some of the species that are protected under the ESA. For example, the red-cockaded woodpecker is listed as a federally endangered species protected under the ESA, but is not classified as globally imperiled or critically imperiled. On the other hand, the Florida bog frog is globally imperiled, but is not protected under the ESA.

How do you know if you have rare species inhabiting your land?

If you are interested in knowing if you have threatened or endangered species or imperiled or critically imperiled species and communities inhabiting your land, contact the Natural Heritage Program office listed for your state at the back of this booklet or visit NatureServe at natureserve.org.
What do you have to do if you have rare species inhabiting your land?

You are not required by law to do anything for imperiled or critically imperiled species and communities unless that species is listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, and/or listed under applicable state laws requiring protection. For these species, contact your state department of environment and conservation or natural resources to learn more about threatened and endangered species that may occur on your land. Many times, threatened and endangered species and imperiled or critically imperiled species and communities can thrive in managed forests with no special considerations. Other species, however, may require specific management actions. At a minimum, when planning a harvest or other forest management activity where imperiled or critically imperiled species and communities occur, you should consider communicating the location and protection measures associated with these sites to your logger or contractor.

Definitions

**Conservation** – 1. Protection of plant and animal habitat. 2. The management of a renewable natural resource with the objective of sustaining its productivity in perpetuity while providing for human use compatible with sustainability of the resource.

**Critically Imperiled** (G1) – A plant or animal or community that is globally extremely rare or, because of some factor(s), especially vulnerable to extinction or elimination.

**Imperiled** (G2) – A plant or animal or community that is globally rare or, because of some factor(s), is very vulnerable to extinction or elimination.

**Threatened and Endangered** – Listed under the U.S. Endangered Species Act, and/or listed under applicable state laws requiring protection.

Characteristics of special sites

Your land may hold sites that have ecological, geological, cultural or historical significance and which should be protected for future generations. Such sites may include cemeteries, waterfalls, Indian mounds and unusual plant communities or habitats. By preserving these special sites you can enhance the biodiversity of your property for all who enjoy it, including humans, plants and animals, while ensuring these sites will not disappear from the landscape. Your resource professionals can assist you in identifying and protecting these special sites.

Some examples of non-forested sites that you may want to consider protecting as special sites are caves, seepage slopes, rock outcrops, riparian areas, water bodies (creeks, rivers, pools and ponds), and natural openings in the forest such
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as prairies, glades and dry sandhills. These sensitive sites harbor many of the critically imperiled and imperiled aquatic and terrestrial species. Temporary pools that fill up with water in the spring are especially important features that contain rare, threatened and endangered species. All of these areas are important and are often very easy to work around.

Appearance is important

The aesthetic appeal of your management activities can make an impact on the face of forestry in your community and across the landscape. Managing aesthetically can also benefit such things as wildlife habitat, threatened and endangered species, biological diversity, FECV and special sites.

Considerations in visual quality management

Forestry operations are highly visible and subject to the perceptions and opinions of an environmentally aware public. Careful planning is recommended as a proactive approach to improving forest aesthetics. Conducting forestry operations of all types in an aesthetically acceptable manner is important to the future of forestry. Though it is impossible to list everything a landowner might do to manage the visual quality of management activities, here are some of the more significant potential actions for consideration:

- Do not allow trash to be left by contractors or visitors
- During a harvest, use all fiber designated for removal that is economically and operationally feasible
- Do not allow appreciable amounts of mud on public paved roads
- Keep logging slash at least 50 feet away from lakes, recreational waterways and public roads
- In aesthetically sensitive locations, minimize rutting or churning of the soil even if there are no water quality concerns
- A permanent vegetative buffer may be needed in sensitive high-visibility areas
- Locate loading decks out of public view
- Configure harvests with irregular shapes to break up the impact and match existing terrain
- Consider alternative harvesting systems and vegetative screens in highly sensitive areas
Climate change is a topic of much discussion these days. Greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide (CO$_2$), are thought to be a significant cause. Climate change may be caused by natural factors or processes, such as changes in the sun’s intensity, changes in ocean circulation or by human activities that affect the composition of the earth’s atmosphere (burning fossil fuels which release greenhouse gases, etc.).

Your carbon footprint, put simply, is the amount of CO$_2$ your activities generate. To reduce your carbon footprint you must reduce emissions both direct and indirect, promote storage or sequestration, and when possible, avoid emissions altogether.

Forests play a role in sequestering carbon

Forests and forest products are a store of carbon as trees absorb CO$_2$ through photosynthesis as they grow. Since the amount of carbon in the world is a constant, when there is more carbon sequestered in long-term sinks such as trees and forest products, there is less carbon going into the atmosphere.

When wood is burned for energy, or when trees die and decay, or when wood products reach the end of their useful life and are disposed of, stored carbon is recycled to the environment. Since these products are not adding new carbon to the atmosphere, they are considered carbon-neutral compared to burning fossil fuel which adds new carbon to the atmosphere.

Landowners are encouraged to check with their state forestry associations and County Extension Services to learn more about the developing carbon trading markets that support sustainable forest management and recognize the role forests can play in mitigating climate change.

Why sustainable forestry?

You can have a positive impact on the forests of the future. Development and other pressures threaten the nation’s forests. Implementing sustainable forest management practices on your land is a potential solution to combating this threat. Sustainable forest management can also protect and enhance the water quality, aesthetics, special sites or wildlife habitat on your land. Reforestation, one of the main objectives of sustainable forest management, ensures that your investment in forestland will create a valuable return in the future for you, your children and for generations to come. Following laws, regulations and your state’s BMPs for forestry is a critical component of implementing sustainable
forestry practices. Using professional foresters, trained professional loggers, or becoming a certified Tree Farmer can help you implement BMPs and reach your management objectives.

Sustainable forest management ensures forests for the future. It also helps to protect our forests, and in turn, our livelihood, wildlife, water quality and recreation. Managing your land for timber production and sustainable forestry go hand in hand. It is a business practice that is at the absolute core of managing for today and the future. Sustainable forestry management is the foundation and road map for a profitable forestry business.

Leading by example

Perhaps most importantly, however, your dedication to sustainable forest management on your land promotes responsible forestry to others. With the world population expected to approach 10 billion by 2050, sustainable forestry is not just a company ideal. It’s a business, social and global ideal. And it’s one more thing – It’s the right thing to do.
National Heritage Program contacts

Alabama Natural Heritage Program
1090 South Donahue Drive, Auburn University, AL 36849
334-844-4132
alnhp.org

Arkansas Natural Heritage Commission
110 North Street, Little Rock, AR 72201
501-324-9619
naturalheritage.com

Florida Natural Areas Inventory
1018 Thomasville Road, Suite 200-C, Tallahassee, FL 32303
850-224-8207
fnai.org

Georgia Department of Natural Resources Nongame Conservation Section
2065 U.S. Highway 278 SE, Social Circle, GA 30025
770-761-3035
georgiawildlife.com

Kentucky State Nature Preserves Commission Natural Heritage Program
801 Teton Trail, Frankfort, KY 40601
502-573-2355
naturepreserves.ky.gov/naturalheritage

Louisiana Natural Heritage Program
2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70898
225-765-2800
wlf.louisiana.gov/wildlife/louisiana-natural-heritage-program

Mississippi Natural Heritage Program
2148 Riverside Drive, Jackson, MS 39202-1353
601-576-6000
mdwfp.com

New Hampshire Natural Heritage Bureau
172 Pembroke Road, Concord, NH 03301
603-271-2214
nhdfl.org/natural-heritage-and-habitats/

New York Natural Heritage Program
625 Broadway, 5th Floor, Albany, NY 12233-4757
518-402-8949
nynhp.org
National Heritage Program contacts

North Carolina Natural Heritage Program  
121 West Jones Street 1651 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1601  
919-715-4151  
ncnhp.org

Oklahoma Natural Heritage Inventory  
111 East Chesapeake Street, Norman, OK 73019  
405-325-4034  
oknaturalheritage.ou.edu

Oregon Biodiversity Information Center  
P.O. Box 751, Portland, OR 97207-0751  
503-725-9950  
inr.oregon.state.edu/orbic

South Carolina Heritage Trust Program  
1000 Assembly Street, Columbia, SC 29201  
803-734-3893  
https://www2.dnr.sc.gov/ManagedLands/ManagedLand/Preserve

Tennessee Division of Natural Heritage  
401 Church Street, Nashville, TN 37243-0447  
615-532-0439  
tn.gov/environment/topic/na-na-natural-areas-program

The Nature Conservancy of Texas  
318 Congress Avenue, Austin, TX 78701  
512-623-7240  
nature.org/ourinitiatives/regions/northamerica/unitedstates/texas/index.htm

Vermont Nongame and Natural Heritage Program  
1 National Life Drive, Montpelier, VT 05620  
802-271-0733  
vtfishandwildlife.com/about_us/wildlife_division/

Virginia Natural Heritage Program  
600 East Main Street, Richmond, VA 23219  
804-786-7951  
dcr.virginia.gov/natural-heritage