



# Green Timber Tree Farm Group Eligibility Requirements



## Eligibility Requirements of the Green Timber Tree Farm Group:

1. Forest owner must have a written forest management plan for the property to be enrolled. The forest management plan must be active, adaptive and embody the landowner's current objectives, remain appropriate for the land certified, and reflect the current state of knowledge about forestry and natural resource management. The forest management plan must clearly state landowner's objectives, describe desired forest conditions, include management activities aimed at reaching the desired forest conditions and landowner's objectives, document a feasible strategy for activity implementation, and include a tract map accurately depicting significant forest related resources. Where present and relevant to the property, the forest management plan must address the following resource elements: forest health, soil, water, wood and fiber production, threatened and endangered species, special sites, invasive species, integrated pest management and high conservation value forests.
2. Forest owner must achieve the American Forest Foundation (AFF) standards of sustainable forestry (2015 – 2020 edition)
3. Ownership must be privately held or held by a public entity.
4. Properties must be nonindustrial but may be associated with small local business.
5. Leasing of Timber Rights: If a landowner retains control and decision-making authority over their forest management, in accordance with their objectives as reflected in their management plan, the land may be certified to that landowner. Lessees may not certify leased lands to the ATFS Standard.
6. Leasing of Mineral Rights: Woodlands eligible for ATFS certification that have mining/subsurface leases in place on the property may be certified. However, if disturbance and/or change in land use renders the land no longer in conformance with the ATFS Standards of Sustainability, upon activation of the lease, the property must be decertified.
7. Forest owner must intend to maintain the property in forest cover and remain a member of the Green Timber Tree Farm Group for the foreseeable future.
8. Forest owner must allow access to the property for the group manager and/or an independent certification body in order to assess conformance with the AFF standards.
9. The property owned must be within Michigan, Wisconsin, or Minnesota.
10. The property owned must consist of 10 or more contiguous forested acres and shall not exceed 20,000 acres.
11. Forest owner must agree to use Green Timber Consulting Foresters, Inc. or a pre-approved alternative service for all forest management needs. If an alternative service provider is approved a monitoring procedure specific to the forest owner will be drafted to ensure compliance with the ATFS Standards. The forest owner specific monitoring procedure will be provided to the forest owner and kept in the forest owners electronic file.



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12. Forest owner must agree to pay a yearly due of 10 cents per acre for Tree Farms equal to or larger than 1,000 acres in size. Tree Farms less than 1,000 acres in size will not be charged yearly dues.
13. Landowner must be the true legal owner of the property and the timber located within the property.

## Green Timber Tree Farm Group Enrollment Guide

Situation	GTTFG Eligibility
Individual Owner – all contiguous parcels are 10 acres to 20,000 acres	X
Small Business owner – all contiguous parcels 10 acres to 20,000 acres.	X
Public Entity (except state governments) – contiguous parcels 10 acres to 20,000 acres.	X
State Government – contiguous parcels 10 to 20,000 acres.	X
Investment portfolio property – contiguous parcels 10 acres to 20,000 acres	X

**Table 1:** Description of ownerships and sizes of contiguous properties eligible for enrollment in the Green Timber Tree Farm Group.