



Forest Certification

Jennifer Gagnon

VFLEP Coordinator

Landowner Weekend Retreat April 28, 2013



Certification



Forest Certification



Sustainable Forest Management

Virginia Cooperative Extension

PUBLICATION 420-139

A Guide for Virginia Forest Landowners

Jennifer L. Gagnon, Coordinator, Virginia Forest Landowner Education Program,
Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation, Virginia Tech

Introduction

As a private woodland owner, you are a vital link in the sustainability of Virginia's forest resources. Your land provides many benefits to all Virginians, including wood products, wildlife habitat, clean air and water, and recreational opportunities. Because woodland owners like you own and manage two-thirds of the state's forestland, the decisions you make regarding your woods today will impact the quality of Virginia's forests for many years. The purpose of this publication is to provide you with a set of suggestions for starting or continuing to actively manage your land. In addition, this guide will help you understand the importance of timber harvest planning and how to work with professional foresters and natural resource management agencies.

The information contained in this publication regarding taxation and environmental regulations is accurate but should not be construed as official government interpretation. Regulations and laws are constantly evolving, so you are encouraged to obtain professional forestry assistance before making your final management decisions. Resources for learning more about any of the topics covered are available at www.virgintiafl.org, or contact the agencies listed at the end of this brochure for further assistance.

What Is Sustainable Forestry?

Virginia's forests make a vital contribution to our state and beyond by providing economic, consumer,



environmental, recreational and aesthetic benefits essential to our quality of life. While sustainability is a dynamic concept, some basic principles are clear: sustainable forestry consists of those management practices that meet present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Specifically, sustainable forestry integrates reforestation, and the managing, growing, nurturing and harvesting of trees for useful products and ecosystem benefits such as conserving soil, air and water quality, sequestering carbon, perpetuating biological diversity, conserving wildlife and aquatic habitats, improving recreational opportunities and protecting aesthetics.

Examples of sustainable forestry practices include:

- Regenerating forests as soon as possible following a timber harvest
- Minimizing the impact of forest management activities on water quality
- Maintaining important habitat elements for wildlife and plant species
- Managing for populations of imperiled and critically imperiled species
- Protecting forests with exceptional conservation value
- Managing biological diversity
- Limiting the spread of exotic (non-native) plant species and pests

Forestry practices that meet present needs without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.



Sustainable Forest Management

Specifically, integrates the regeneration, growing, nurturing, and harvesting of trees for useful products while conserving soil, air, water quality, wildlife, plants, aquatic habitat, and landscape aesthetic quality.



Forest Certification Programs



- American Tree Farm System (ATFS)
www.treefarmsystem.org



- Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)
www.fscus.org



- Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)
www.sfiprogram.org



Forest Certification

- Chain of Custody Certification
- Forest Management Certification
 - Individual
 - Group

NEW FSC Labels

FSC 100% LABEL:
FSC
www.fsc.org
100%
From well-managed forests
FSC® C000000

For papers that are made of 100% FSC-certified virgin fibre.

FSC MIX LABEL:
FSC
www.fsc.org
MIX
From responsible sources
FSC® C000000

For papers that are made of a combination of FSC-certified virgin fibre mixed with controlled virgin fibre and/or recycled fibre.

FSC Recycled LABEL:
FSC
www.fsc.org
RECYCLED
Made from recycled material
FSC® C000000

For papers that are made with 100% recycled fibre, at least 85% of which is post-consumer recycled.

FSC Trademark Standard for Certificate Holders: FSC-STD-50-001
Forest Stewardship Council | Canada




SUSTAINABLE
FORESTRY
INITIATIVE

Certified Chain of Custody
At Least X% Certified

www.sfiprogram.org




FSC

100%
well-managed forests

no. 00-000-000000
www.fsc.org
Forest Stewardship Council



Forest Management Certification

- Individual
 - Applies to individual forest properties and management practices
 - Property owners hold the certification certificate
 - Owners are audited annually, and must pay the cost of audits



Forest Management Certification

- Group
 - Certifies a group of properties under one certification certificate
 - Certificate is held by a group manager
 - The group shares the expense of the audit
 - Only a sample of properties in the group are audited each year

Certification Benefits

- Increased market access
- Acknowledgement of good forest management
- Improved forest management
- Improved business practices



Certification Costs

- Preparation
 - Management plan
 - Changes to current practices
- Maintenance
 - Auditing/monitoring fees
 - Keeping up with the Standard
 - Corrective Action Requests (CARs)



American Tree Farm System

- US outreach and education program
- Designed for family forest owners
- Group certification through VA Tree Farm Committee
- Independent Managed Groups
- Individual Certification





Forest Stewardship Council



- International Certification Program
- Administered regionally
- Family Forest Certification
- Group Certification





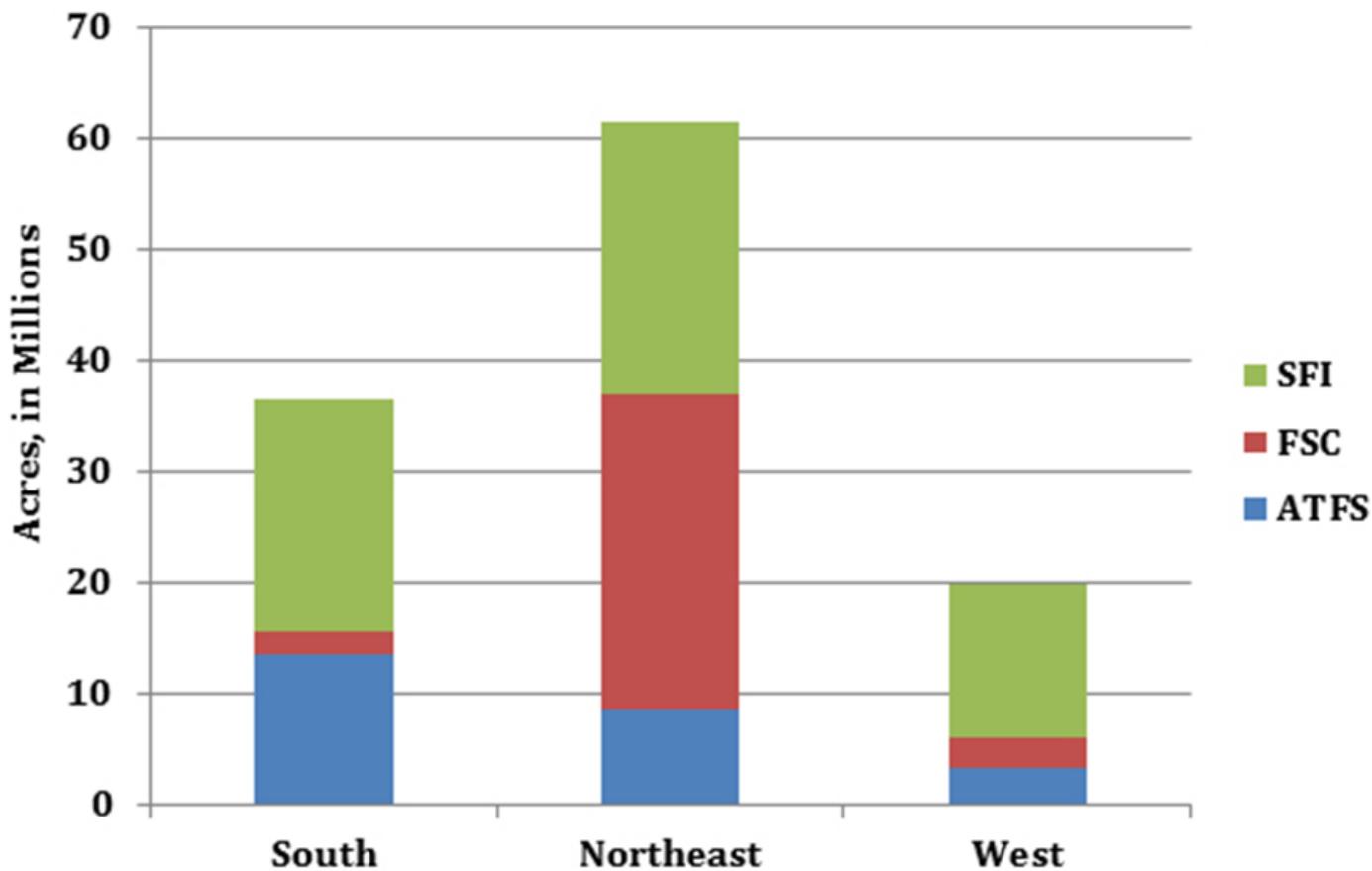
Sustainable Forestry Initiative

- North American Certification Program
- Implemented at the state level by the Virginia State Implementation Committee



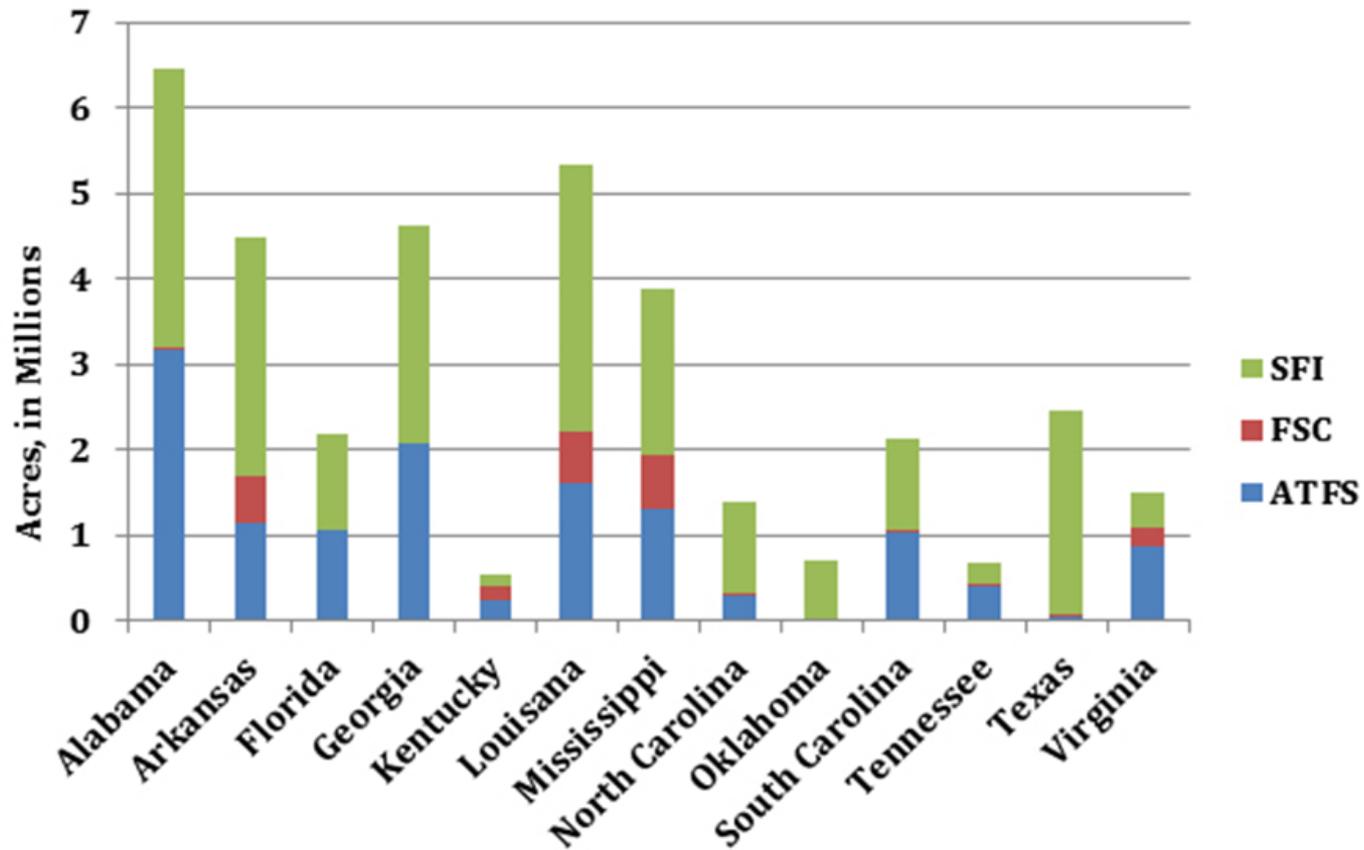


Certified Acres





Certified Acres





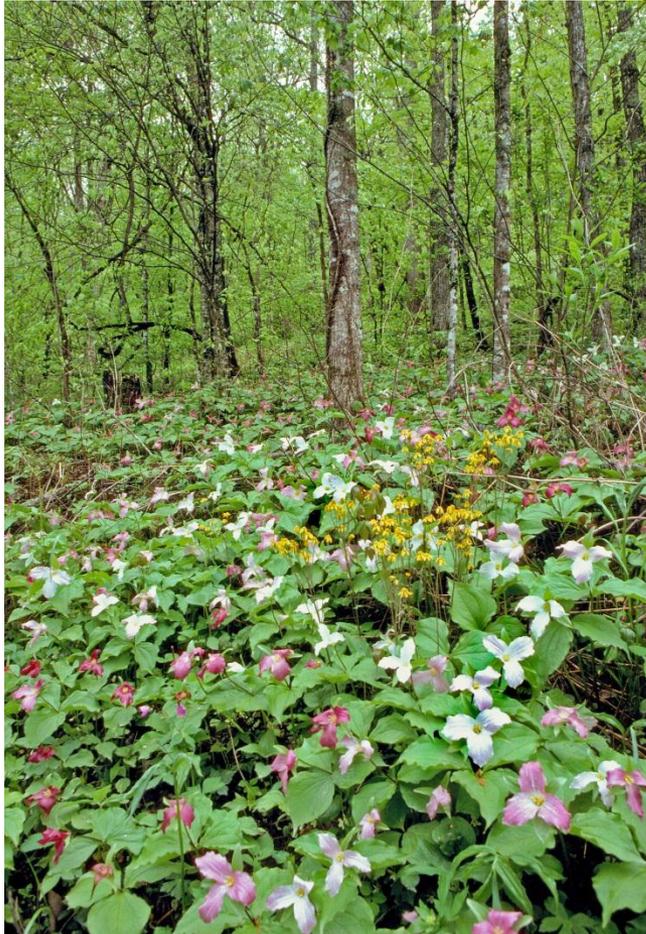
Differences

- Chemical Use
- Clearcut size
- GMOs
- Green up
- Plantations





How to certify?



- Determine which program fits
- Management plan
- Contact certification program
 - Group or individual certification



Resources

- American Tree Farm System
www.treefarmssystem.org
- Forest Stewardship Council
<http://us.fsc.org/>
- Sustainable forestry Initiative
www.sfiprogram.org/
- To Certify or Not? A Question for Virginia's Forest Owners
<http://pubs.ext.vt.edu/>
- Center for Forest & Wood Certification
<http://forestcertificationcenter.org>
- Dovetail Partners Inc.
www.dovetailinc.org