Forest Certification

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Certification
Forest Certification
Sustainable Forest Management

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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Acres in Millions</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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- **SFI**
- **FSC**
- **ATFS**
Certified Acres

- Bars represent the acres in millions for each state.
- Colors indicate different certification types: SFI, FSC, ATFS.
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
• American Tree Farm System
  www.treefarmsystem.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