



American Forest Foundation

## Press Release

September 4, 2008  
For Immediate Release

Contact: Brigitte Johnson, APR  
202.463.5163  
[bjohnson@forestfoundation.org](mailto:bjohnson@forestfoundation.org)

### **The American Forest Foundation Convenes Independent Standards Review Panel**

Washington, D.C. – The American Forest Foundation (AFF) announced that it is convening its Independent Standards Review Panel (ISRP) to begin review of the Foundation’s Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification (Standards). These Standards will be the benchmark for all forest certifications carried out by the American Tree Farm System.<sup>®</sup> The Standards were last reviewed in 2004.

AFF follows protocols accepted around the world in developing their Standards and adheres to requirements as established by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC), based in Geneva, Switzerland. The ISRP is an independent body convened to review the Standards and recommends enhancements and revisions to the AFF Board of Trustees. The ISRP represents five key forest stakeholder groups interested in forest conservation and sustainable practices on family owned forests and other similar forest ownerships in the United States. These stakeholder groups include conservation organizations, forest workers, forest science and academia, forest owners, government agencies, and the forest industry. They represent the social, environmental and economic sectors associated with family forest ownership in the United States.

The AFF Board of Trustees will task the panel to draft the revision of the Standards based on the widely accepted criteria and indicators of sustainable forestry established through the Montreal Process. Using internationally accepted protocols, the Standards review process will be transparent, methodical, and inclusive. There will be several opportunities for public comment throughout the process. The 2004-2008 Standards include nine standards, 14 performance measures and 22 indicators.

To learn more about the process and how to comment, please go to [www.forestfoundation.org](http://www.forestfoundation.org) or [www.treefarmssystem.org](http://www.treefarmssystem.org).

For more information on the ISRP please contact Victoria Lockhart, 202.463.2738, [vlockhart@forestfoundation.org](mailto:vlockhart@forestfoundation.org) or Brigitte Johnson, APR, 202.463.5163, [bjohnson@forestfoundation.org](mailto:bjohnson@forestfoundation.org).

*The American Forest Foundation (AFF) is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) conservation and education organization that strives to ensure the sustainability of America's family forests for present and future generations. Our vision is to create a future where North American forests are sustained by the public which understands and values the social, economic, and environmental benefits they provide to our communities, our nation, and our world.*

*The American Tree Farm System<sup>®</sup> (ATFS) is a national program of the Center for Family Forestry that promotes the sustainable management of forests through education and outreach to private forest landowners. Founded in 1941, ATFS has 24 million acres of privately owned forestland with more than 90,000 certified forest properties that exhibit excellence in forest stewardship. ATFS private forest landowners [Tree Farmers] manage their forestlands for wood, water, wildlife, and recreation with assistance from 4,400 volunteer foresters.*

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