

Management Plans

A written management plan is now required for certification in the American Tree Farm Program. If you don't currently have one, here are some ways that you can get one:

- Hire a consultant to write one for you. If you do not already have a consultant, a list of forestry consultants in Washington is available from WSU Extension Service at <http://ext.nrs.wsu.edu/publications/forestry/consultingdirectory.htm>
- Attend a Forest Stewardship Coached Planning short course, sponsored by WSU Cooperative Extension Service. You will learn a great deal about managing your property, and will receive guidance in writing a Stewardship Plan, which usually is sufficient for a Tree Farm Management Plan. Find out where courses are going to be offered this spring at <http://ext.nrs.wsu.edu/newsevents/forststewardship.htm> or by contacting your local Extension Agent. Courses are planned in Curlew, Colville, Deer Park, Silvana, Leavenworth, Cle Elum, and Burlington in the first half of 2008.
- Write your own plan. If you already have a good idea of the activities that you want to do on your property, you may be able to prepare your own plan. The American Tree Farm System has a "template" that you can use to help you cover the important information. You can download a copy of the ATFS Management Plan template by going to the ATFS website www.treefarmssystem.org, then choosing Certification, then Standards & Guidelines. Or you may contact the WTFP office and ask for a copy to be mailed or e-mailed to you.

Washington Tree Farmer of the Year

The Washington Tree Farm Program is the sponsor of the Washington Tree Farmer of the Year contest. The winner is entered in competition with Tree Farmers from other states and may go on to win the Western Region Tree Farmer of the Year and possibly the National Tree Farmer of the Year.

The 2008 Washington Tree Farmer of the Year will be announced at the annual meeting of the Washington Farm Forestry Association on April 25, 2008, at Mt. Vernon. All Tree Farmers are welcome to attend the awards luncheon. More details will be provided in the next newsletter.

Nominations for the 2009 Tree Farmer of the Year must be made by July 1, 2008. Local chapters of the Washington Farm Forestry Association will be coordinating nominations from their area. To suggest a worthy candidate, please contact the WTFP office or your local WFFA chapter.

Contribution Request from ATFS

You recently received a letter from the American Tree Farm System asking for a donation to support the Tree Farm Program. This has led some people to think that they must contribute in order to be certified, but this is not true. Certification into the Tree Farm Program has always been and remains free. However, contributions help support the national programs and half of the donated money is returned to the state it came from. The Washington Tree Farm Program will use its share to provide "incentives" to the volunteer inspectors, in hopes of completing inspections in a timely manner.

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