

AFM Sustainable Forestry Policies

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American Forest Management (AFM) has been in the forestry business for over 50 years and has management responsibility for over five million acres across North and Central America. AFM's foresters manage these lands under a set of Core Values, which are as follows:

AFM Core Values:

Integrity:	Do the right thing.
Stewardship:	Nurture natural resources.
Innovation:	Plant new ideas.
Dedication:	Give our best to our clients and each other.
Respect:	Treat people the way you want to be treated.
Knowledge:	Demonstrate expertise and continuous learning.

AFM's managed lands include forests that are certified to one or more programs that verify forests are being managed in a sustainable, socially responsible, and economical manner. Sustainable forestry policies that AFM implements on these lands are as follows:

1. Sustainable Forest Management – AFM believes and is committed to providing sustainable stewardship of forest resources and to maintaining viable working forested landscapes. Doing so will help meet the needs of society today without compromising the needs of future generations. Management plans developed by AFM ensure that harvest levels are sustainable and consider the many ecological services that forests provide. Forest planning also considers the potential impacts of climate change on forests.
2. Forest Productivity and Soils – Following final timber harvest, forests are promptly regenerated through either planting or natural regeneration. Harvest and site preparation activities are conducted to protect and maintain long-term soil health and productivity. Forests are also protected from economically, environmentally, or socially undesirable impacts of wildfire, pests, diseases, invasive species, and other damaging agents. Integrated Pest Management approaches ensure that forest chemicals are used only when needed, at the minimum effective application rate, and in conformance with regulations and AFM policies.
3. Protection of Water Resources – AFM will meet or exceed state and federal standards for protection of water quality, streams, lakes, and wetlands during forest management activities. This is accomplished through implementation of EPA-approved state Best Management Practices (BMPs) & state forest practice regulations, controlling impacts during wet weather, and by retaining buffers along critical water resources.

4. Protection of Biological Diversity – Forests are managed to protect and promote biological diversity of animal and plant species and their habitats. This includes Threatened or Endangered species, ecologically and culturally important species, Forests with Exceptional Conservation Values (FECVs), and native forest cover types. Measures are taken to avoid forest conversion or afforestation of ecologically important areas.
5. Aesthetics and Recreation – AFM foresters manage the visual impact of forest operations, and our managed forests provide recreational opportunities to the public where appropriate.
6. Protection of Special Sites – Management activities protect the unique qualities of sites that are ecologically, geologically, or culturally important.
7. Community Involvement and Social Responsibility – AFM recognizes the impact we can have in the communities where we operate and are committed to being a good neighbor. AFM coordinates with others to broaden the practice of sustainable forestry through public outreach, education, community involvement, and support of state sustainable forestry organizations.
8. Indigenous Peoples – AFM recognizes and respects the rights of Indigenous Peoples and their traditional forest-related knowledge.
9. Training and Education – AFM is committed to training of AFM staff in company policies and programs to implement sustainable forestry as well as promoting the broader education of sustainable forestry outside AFM. To support sustainable forestry and responsible fiber sourcing, AFM contracts with loggers trained in state BMPs and sustainable forestry.
10. Continual Improvement – Continuous learning is a Core Value at AFM. Sustainable forestry policies and programs are regularly evaluated through internal monitoring and external audits. AFM management is regularly briefed (at least annually) on the sustainable forestry program, results of monitoring and audits, and is engaged in the continuous improvement of the program. AFM is committed to transparency in the program, rapid resolution of any non-conformances, and that audit results are made available to the public.
11. Legal Compliance – Integrity is a Core Value, and AFM is committed to complying with all federal, state, and local laws. AFM does not discriminate in employment opportunities or practices because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age or any other characteristic protected by law. This policy governs all aspects of employment including selection, job assignment, compensation, discipline, termination and access to benefits. AFM contracts require legal compliance, and implementation of sustainable forestry practices.
12. Research – AFM directly and indirectly supports organizations and cooperatives that improve knowledge of sustainable forestry practices and incorporates new knowledge into land management and silvicultural decisions.