



OREGON TREE FARM SYSTEM

Our Values: Connectivity; Collaboration; Stewardship; Inclusivity; Gratitude

Our Mission: Empowering private landowners to manage their forests sustainably

Our Purpose: Impacting the world by making Oregon a better place one acre at a time

April 8, 2024

Hello Oregon Tree Farmers! It's great to think of all of you getting busy with spring work on your tree farms! We are working on ours as well, and are happy to see the first trilliums. There are a couple of things on our minds to tell you.



1. A few weeks ago the American Tree Farm System (with which OTFS is affiliated) held the annual leadership conference in the Pacific Northwest, and the Boards of OTFS and the Washington Tree Farm System hosted the conference. We learned leadership tips, of course, but the best part of the conference involved meeting tree farmers from all over the country and realizing once again what a vital organization Tree Farm is, and how proud we are to be a part of our Oregon System. One session in particular stands out in our minds: Communicating Forestry, presented by Eric Tapper, a young, charismatic forester from Vermont and the ATFS National Inspector of the Year. He encourages us to re-frame conversations so we celebrate rather than defend what we do. He advises reaching outside of the box people we don't usually invite to forest tours-book clubs, garden clubs etc. When we do this, Eric says, we will create allies in unexpected places.
2. There are two in-person events for you to note: the Oregon Family Forest Convention (June 13-15 in Lebanon) and the OTFS Annual Meeting (November 16 at the Oregon Gardens.) In June we will be announcing and honoring the 2024 Outstanding Tree Farmer of the Year. In November and we will be honoring the 2025 County Outstanding Tree Farmers of the Year, as well as presenting an engaging program. We look forward both events!
3. As you know, our OTFS policy is to recertify every tree farm every five years. We have had a large backlog of tree farms that have not been inspected on schedule, but we are working at reducing that number, and have trained more volunteer inspectors to help with this effort. In 2025 we most likely will have a third-party audit where a random sample of Oregon tree farms are selected for inspection. Many of you should have filled out the addendum we sent you by snail-mail and put it with your management plan. Let us know if you have any questions about the certification process. If you need an addendum to bring your plan up-to-date, give us a call or email and we will send you one, or you can download one from www.otfs.org.

We wish you a very happy Spring!

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