

## **NASF RESOLUTION 2013-2: Forest Certification Policy Statement**

### **ORIGIN OF RESOLUTION:**

NASF Forest Markets Committee

NASF Forest Resource Management Committee

### **ISSUE OF CONCERN:**

Adopting “*Forest Certification as it Contributes to Sustainable Forestry*” as a Policy Statement for the National Association of State Foresters.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Forest certification has emerged as another tool to promote sustainable forestry practices. Three major programs operating in the U.S. – the American Tree Farm System (ATFS), the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI) – are recognized internationally and continue to grow. While this growth is being driven by marketplace demands for “green” or “environmentally friendly” products, the benefits of certification are not confined to the marketplace. The decision to pursue forest certification is voluntary and resides with the landowners. Forest certification requires rigorous documentation to prove that forestry practices are sustainable as defined by a widely accepted standard. This process makes a positive contribution to our nation’s public and private forests. This resolution was developed and approved by the National Association of State Foresters in 2008 and reviewed in 2013. The issues addressed in it are still current and of high importance to the forestry community.

### **RESOLUTION:**

The members of the National Association of State Foresters adopt the policy statement “*Forest Certification as it Contributes to Sustainable Forestry.*” It will be published separately.

### **NASF ACTION:**

Approved

Disapproved

Tabled

DATE OF ACTION: 9/26/2013