

STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

CARRIER: Sen. Ferrioli

Senate Committee On Rules

Fiscal: No fiscal impact
Revenue: No Revenue Impact

Action Date: 02/25/16

Action: Be Adopted.

Meeting Dates: 02/25

Vote:

Yeas: 5 - Beyer, Boquist, Burdick, Ferrioli, Rosenbaum

Prepared By: Erin Seiler, Committee Administrator

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Recognizes 75th anniversary of American Tree Farm System and commends groups interested in wise management of forest resources.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- History of American Tree Farm System (ATFS)
- ATFS includes 80,000 tree farmers covering 21 million acres, including 866,241 acres in Oregon
- Elements of ATFS certification
- Importance of sustainable forest management to Oregonians
- Relationship between ATFS and Sustainable Forestry Initiative (SFI)

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

On June 12, 1941, the nation's first tree farm was dedicated near Montesano, Washington. Over the next few decades, the American Tree Farm System (ATFS) expanded to all 50 states. ATFS is the country's largest and oldest woodland certification system, and is one of three certification systems currently recognized in the United States (the others include the Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.) ATFS has certified more than 24 million acres of privately owned forestland managed by over 82,000 family forest landowners.

ATFS certification requires that private forest landowners own at least ten acres of forestland, develop a management plan, and follow environmental standards developed by ATFS and the American Forest Foundation. Family forest landowners own nearly two-thirds of U.S. forestlands, and it is estimated that 60 percent of all the wood harvested in the U.S. comes from family forestlands.

House Concurrent Resolution 208 recognizes the 75th anniversary of the American Tree Farm System.