

## AFF Certification Administration Fee Schedule

### Annual Fee to Maintain ATFS Group Certification

Certified Group Entities, including Independently Managed Groups, Individual Third-party Certificate Holders, and Exempted Tree Farms, are required to pay an annual administrative fee to maintain certification through the American Tree Farm System. After successful certification and submission of applicable group data reports, the American Forest Foundation (AFF) will invoice the group entity. The initial fee assessment will be prorated based upon the months remaining in the calendar year. Following the initial assessment, AFF will invoice group entities during the first quarter of each calendar year.

Administration fees will be based on the fee schedule below and be no less than \$500.00 per group entity per year. Effective 1/1/2025, these rates will be adjusted annually by an amount equal to the 12-month average consumer price index (CPI) as published by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics on or around January 1. The CPI may be viewed in the Annual Inflation Rates table at <https://www.usinflationcalculator.com/inflation/current-inflation-rates/>. In years where the CPI is negative (as last observed in 2009), the rates will remain the same as the previous year.

#### Administration Rate Schedule:

The following base administration rate schedule is applicable to Independently Managed Groups, Individual Third-party Certificate Holders, and Exempted Tree Farms enrolled through state programs. The per-acre rates will be adjusted annually by the CPI prior to annual fee invoicing. The annual administrative fee is based on the total number of acres reported by the certified entity. The fees enable AFF to continue offering group certification by administering, marketing, and ensuring program credibility. The base annual rate schedule is as follows:

<u>Acreage Category</u>	<u>Rate/Acre</u>
<i>Minimum Fee</i>	<i>\$500</i>
<250,000	\$0.02
250,000 - 499,999	\$0.03
500,000 - 999,999	\$0.04
≥1,000,000	\$0.05

Certified group entities may have 60 days following receipt of the annual fee calculation to raise any concerns with AFF Staff\*.

(\* AFF reserves the ability to structure fees as appropriate to the unique concerns of any IMG organization. In-kind services may be recognized by AFF as fees.)