

NO Forests of Recognized Importance (FORI) Currently Exist in Maine

“After careful consideration and research, the Maine Tree Farm Committee has determined that **NO Forests of Recognized Importance (FORI) Currently Exist in the State of Maine.**” This statement should clarify misunderstandings about FORI and remove the uncertainty surrounding the subjective nature of the term’s definition. The Committee has adopted this statement as of August 1, 2018.

ATFS Performance Measure 5.4: A Forest of Recognized Importance (FORI) represents a globally, regionally and nationally significant large landscape area of exceptional ecological, social, cultural or biological value. These forests are evaluated at the landscape level, rather than the stand level and are recognized for a combination of unique values, rather than a single attribute.

Things that might qualify as FORI: Yellowstone National Park, the Everglades, or the watershed that supplies drinking water for a major metropolitan area, such as New York City.

Things that are not FORI (in Maine): Canada Lynx habitat, deer wintering areas, fens and bog ecosystems, the watershed that supplies drinking water for the City of Portland.

The MTFC has reviewed the qualifications for FORI and potential locations in Maine, and we have determined that currently there are none here. Please be aware, this could change, as National Tree Farm Standards and definitions are updated. If you have any questions or concerns about addressing FORI, please contact the Committee Chair at chair@mainetreefarm.org.

We encourage all Tree Farmers, Inspectors and management plan authors to be aware of FORI and the way we are addressing it in Maine. We recommend incorporating this statement in all new forest management plans, and as an amendment or addendum to all existing management plans.