



THE LOUISIANA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

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2021 Public Summary Report

Louisiana Forestry Association – ATFS-IMG-21

American Forest Foundation (AFF) 2015-2020 Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification (AFF Standard) American Tree Farm System (ATFS) Independently Managed Group (IMG) Certification Requirements [2015-2020]

Project Scope and Objectives

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) completed an ATFS Independently Managed Group (IMG) Surveillance Assessment of the Louisiana Forestry Association's ATFS-IMG-21 program. The Alexandria, Louisiana head office and two of five Group Members in Louisiana¹ were assessed. The lead assessor was Karen Boyd, MF, RF, EMS(LA).

The primary objective of the assessment was to evaluate the Louisiana Forestry Association IMG's conformity with the AFF Standards of Sustainability and the ATFS IMG certification requirements (the "Standards").

Indicators

All the indicators in the AFF Standard and the ATFS IMG certification requirements were within the scope of the assessment.

Assessment Process

The assessment team conducted remote interviews and reviewed appropriate documentation to assess policies and procedures, and test implementation of the ATFS program requirements. No on-site field visits were conducted due to travel restrictions related to COVID-19. The assessment was conducted between May 25 and 28, 2021 and the final report was dated October 6, 2021. The assessment consisted of one- and one-half days of auditing that included a head office assessment and two Group member assessments. Interviews included a review of sites chosen to be visited in the field. The US and Louisiana response to the COVID-19 pandemic as well as guidance from Accreditation Bodies and American Forest Foundation necessitated this modified approach to the 2021 assessment. Review of the Client's previous audit findings revealed no open nonconformities and the 2021 assessment was a maintenance assessment. As a result, the Client was deemed to be low risk and a remote audit consisting of a document review and remote interviews were conducted.

¹ A.T. Hunt Jr., Hunt Forest Products, Crosby Family Tree Farm, Crowell Forest Resources, LLC and James Timber Company, LLC properties in Louisiana.

Summary of Conformance and Good Management Practices

Office interviews and a documentation review of the Louisiana Forestry Association's ATFS-IMG governance procedures and processes supported that required elements of the ATFS IMG Certification Requirements were met. Review of management plans for two Group Members and internal monitoring documentation for all Group Members and interviews with personnel of two Group Member properties confirmed that management activities are being conducted in accordance with written management plans and the AFF Standards of Sustainability. No on-site observations were conducted.

Specific Good management practices observed included:

- Group members active leadership and involvement in their state forestry association board and committees, involvement in other natural resource organizations and public outreach is to be commended.
- All group members participated in a LFA initiated discussion on the determination of the presence or absence of Forests of Recognized Importance within Louisiana.
- Group members' management plans included examples of applicable laws and regulations, integrated pest management strategies and management techniques to reduce visual impacts of harvesting.
- All staff for one group member have the Louisiana Master Logger qualification.
- One group member allowed an Eagle Scout candidate to work on improving a cemetery located on the group member's forest.
- Group members use current technology including mapping/GPS apps and drones.

Summary of Findings

No nonconformities were identified during the assessment. Three opportunities for improvement were identified. One related to contract terms and two related to the 2021 IMG Certification Standards.

Conclusion

The Louisiana Forestry Association's ATFS-IMG-21 and enrolled Group Member properties continue to conform to the Standards. The certificate can be obtained by contacting Charles A. "Buck" Vandersteen of the Louisiana Forestry Association at 318-443-2558.