



# THE LOUISIANA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

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## **2024 Public Summary Report**

### **Louisiana Forestry Association – ATFS-IMG-21; PwC-AFF-387**

**American Forest Foundation (AFF) 2021 Standards of Sustainability for Forest Certification (AFF Standard)**  
**American Tree Farm System (ATFS) 2021 Independently Managed Group (IMG) Certification Standards**

### **Project Scope and Objectives**

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) completed an ATFS Independently Managed Group (IMG) Maintenance (A2) Assessment of the Louisiana Forestry Association's ATFS-IMG-21 program. The Alexandria, Louisiana head office, Hunt Forest Products LLC, Yellow Jacket Timberland LLC, and A. Wilbert's Sons, LLC sites were assessed. The assessment team included James Lucas, RPF (LA) and Eric Gracey.

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 reviewed appropriate documentation to assess policies and procedures, conducted on-site interviews and made on-site field observations to test implementation of the ATFS program requirements. The assessment consisted of 2.5 audit days that included a Head Office assessment and field assessments. In total, 2 thinning harvests, 1 final harvest, 2 mechanical site preparation activities, 2 chemical site preparation activities, 2 burns (site preparation/mid rotation), 4 artificial planting activities and 3 road maintenance activities were reviewed in the field on 8 different sites. No active sites were observed.

### **Summary of Conformance and Good Management Practices**

Interviews and 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, internal monitoring documentation, interviews with personnel and site visits of selected activities on Louisiana

Forestry Association properties confirmed that management activities were conducted in accordance with written management plans and the AFF Standards of Sustainability.

Specific Good management practices observed included:

- A. Wilbert's Sons actively participates in education of landowners in students in the area giving tours to groups and hosting LSU students. They sponsor 2 renewable resource scholarships at LSU.
- A. Wilbert's Sons have an interagency agreement for a Wetland Mitigation Bank.
- A key A. Wilbert's Sons staff member sits on the LFA Endangered Species Committee and is also the Chairman of the Louisiana Landowner's Association Wildlife and Endangered Species Committee.
- Hunt Forest Products has participated in a successful quail initiative habitat project.
- Hunt Forest Products Management Plan describes a very robust data management system.
- Hunt Forest Products supports scholarships at Louisiana Tech and Grambling University in Louisiana.
- Hunt Forest Products is staying aware and looking at new technology developments (\$500K pledge of support to Forest Product Innovative Center at LA Tech) for their operations.

### **Summary of Findings**

The following Nonconformity was identified during the assessment:

- Forest Health and Soils are not currently addressed in A. Wilbert's Sons Master Forest Plan. Further, soils are not currently addressed in the Hunt Forest Products Forest Management Plan. These are required elements of the ATFS Standard.

The following Opportunity for Improvement was identified during the assessment:

- Recreation, Biomass, and Carbon are not addressed in the A. Wilbert's Sons Master Forest Plan. Further, there is currently not a date or version # on the Master Forest Plan. These are optional elements of the Standard, but they are of interest to the landowner and could be mentioned in the management plan.

### **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 or [bvan@laforestry.com](mailto:bvan@laforestry.com).