



# THE LOUISIANA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

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## **2022 Public Summary Report**

### **Louisiana Forestry Association – ATFS - IMG-21**

#### **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) Re-certification Assessment of the Louisiana Forestry Association's ATFS-IMG-21 program. The Alexandria, Louisiana head office and two of five Group Members in Louisiana<sup>1</sup> 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 reviewed appropriate documentation to assess policies and procedures, on-site interviews and on-site field observations to test implementation of the ATFS program requirements. The assessment was conducted between April 25 and 28, 2022 and the final report was dated May 20, 2022. The assessment consisted of three days of auditing that included a head office assessment and two Group member assessments. Seven thinning, two final harvest, two mechanical site preparation, two chemical site preparation, three site preparation burn, four artificial planting, one herbaceous weed control, one fertilization and six road maintenance activities were reviewed in the field on seventeen sites. No active sites were observed.

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<sup>1</sup> A.T. Hunt Jr. Estate; Hunt Forest Products, L.L.C.; Crosby Family Tree Farm; Crowell Forest Resources, LLC and James Timber Company, L.L.C. properties in Louisiana.

## **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. Management plans for two Group Members were reviewed as well as internal monitoring documentation for all Group Members and interviews with personnel of two Group Members in the field. Site visits of selected activities on their properties confirmed that management activities are being conducted in accordance with written management plans and the AFF Standards of Sustainability.

Specific Good Management Practices observed included:

- LFA's "Minding the Forest" podcast series included interviews with the Group Manager on legislative and policy issues and one Group Member's forester on endangered species.
- Both Group Members assessed utilized specific criteria to determine selection of seedling species and specific genetic families for the stands to be reforested.
- Both Group Members sampled employ various technologies for cost and time saving methods including monitoring contractor performance, creating maps, and determining harvest acres. In addition, use of technology served to aid in determining storm damage and prioritizing salvage operations.
- One Group Member found a beneficial, cost-effective use of another industry by-product for use in road surfacing.
- One Group Member established hidden plots to monitor thinning performance.
- Both Group Members assessed made investments in equipment and personnel to improve harvest and reforestation access, facilitate in-house burning and provide protection from wildfires.

## **Summary of Findings**

No nonconformities were identified during the assessment. One opportunity for improvement was identified that related to the implementation of LFA's internal monitoring requirements.

## **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@leforestry.com](mailto:bvan@leforestry.com)