



# THE LOUISIANA FORESTRY ASSOCIATION

TELEPHONE (318) 443-2558 \*P.O. DRAWER 5067\*ALEXANDRIA, LA 71307-5067

lfa@lafaforestry.com

## **2017 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) Re-registration Assessment of the Louisiana Forestry Association's ATFS-IMG-21 program at its Alexandria, Louisiana head office and two of five Group Member properties in Louisiana<sup>1</sup>. The lead assessor was Karen Boyd, MF/RF.

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.

#### **Indicators**

All of 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 interviews and reviewed appropriate documentation to assess policies and procedures, and tested implementation of the ATFS program requirements. The assessment was conducted between March 21 and 23, 2017 and the final report was dated May 26, 2017. The assessment consisted of two and one half days auditing that included a head office assessment and two landowner field audits where active and completed harvest sites and reforestation areas were observed.

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

Office interviews and a documentation review of Louisiana Forestry Association's ATFS-IMG governance procedures and processes verified that required elements of the ATFS IMG Certification Requirements were met with the exception of one minor non-conformity that was identified. On-site visits of two Group Member properties confirmed that management

---

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

activities are being conducted in accordance with written management plans and the AFF Standards of Sustainability.

Specific Good management practices observed included:

- Retention of personnel and equipment allow one Group Member to respond quickly to wildfires instead of relying on state resources. Company personnel are active members of the Louisiana Prescribed Fire Council.
- Group Members assessed participate on LFA's Endangered Species Committee, and have proactively implemented alternative silviculture prescriptions on stands with soils deemed suitable for the Louisiana Pine Snake, a candidate species listing as a Threatened and Endangered Species.
- Monitoring strategies for various silvicultural practices.
- Group members support of Louisiana SFI State Implementation Committee (SIC) logger training.

### **Summary of Findings**

One non-conformity was identified during the assessment regarding the LA IMG's procedure for evaluating eligibility according to the ATFS Eligibility Requirements prior to property enrollment under the group certificate.

### **Conclusion**

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