

Certified by:



Filosoofi 31
50108 Tartu
Estonia
www.Preferred by Nature.net

Certification Managed by:

Preferred by Nature
Tel: 304-884-9364
Contact person: Randy Coots
Email: rcoots@preferredbynature.org

SmartLogging
2021 Annual audit
Report for:
Louisiana Forestry Association

In
Alexandria, Louisiana USA

Certificate code: NC-SL-002480
Auditors: **Randy Coots**
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Operation Contact: **Buck Vandersteen**
Address: **PO Box 5067**
Alexandria LA 71307-5067

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1. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to document annual audit conformance of **Louisiana Forestry Association (LFA)**, hereafter referred to as SmartLogging Operation (SLO). The report presents the findings of Preferred by Nature auditors who have evaluated company systems and performance against the SmartLogging standards and policies. Section 2 of this report provides the audit conclusions and any necessary follow-up actions by the SLO through corrective action requests.

Preferred by Nature audit reports include information which will become public information. Sections 1-3 will be posted on Preferred by Nature's website. All appendices will remain confidential.

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2. AUDIT FINDINGS AND RESULTS

2.1. Audit conclusion

Based on the SLO's conformance with SmartLogging requirements, the audit team makes the following recommendation:	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Certification requirements <u>met</u>; certificate maintenance recommended No NCRs issued
<input type="checkbox"/>	Certification requirements <u>not met</u>: Conformance with Major NCR(s) required
Additional comments:	NA
Issues identified as controversial or hard to evaluate.	NA

2.2. Changes in the SLO operation, structure, group membership, etc.

No changes noted from last audit.

2.3. Conformance with applicable corrective action requests

The section below describes the activities of the certificate holder to address each applicable corrective action request issued during previous evaluations. For each NCR a finding is presented along with a description of its current status. Failure to meet NCRs will result in nonconformances being upgraded from minor to major status with conformance required within 3 months with risk of

suspension or termination of the Preferred by Nature certificate if Major NCRs are not met. The following classification is used to indicate the status of the NCR:

NCR Status Categories	Explanation
Closed	Certified operation has successfully met the NCR and addressed the underlying nonconformance.
Open	Certified operation has not met the NCR; underlying nonconformance is still present. NCR becomes a Major NCR with a 3-month deadline for conformance

Check if no NCR(s) have been issued

2.4. New corrective actions issued as a result of this audit

No new NCR's were issued as a result of this audit.

2.5. Audit observations

Observations are very minor problems or the early stages of a problem which does not of itself constitute a non-conformance, but which the auditor considers may lead to a future non-conformance if not addressed by the client. An observation may be a warning signal on a particular issue that, if not addressed, could turn into a NCR in the future.

No new Observations were issued as a result of this audit.

3. AUDIT PROCESS

3.1. Auditors and qualifications:

Name	Role and qualifications
Randy Coots	Lead Auditor: B.S. in Forestry from West Virginia University. Thirty-five years' experience in the field of forestry. including positions with 2 state forestry agencies (FL & WV), 4 forest products companies, U.S. Forest Service, a surveyor, self-employed forestry consultant, and now currently employed by Preferred by Nature as a Forest Management and Chain of Custody Associate. Member of the Society of American Foresters and a Certified Forester (#1547), and a WV Registered Professional Forester (#266) and have served on the Board of

	Directors of the WVRPF and the WV Forestry Association. Completed FSC COC Lead Auditor training Aug. 2018, and FM Lead Auditor training in May 2018. Completed 23 Chain of Custody audits, 19 Forest Management audits, 3 SAP (Smallholders Access Program) audits, and 4 SmartLogging audits.
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3.2. Audit Overview

This audit was conducted as a fully remote audit due to COVID-19. This was in accordance with Preferred by Nature Policy on Auditing during COVID-19 Outbreak. Preferred by Nature determined that a fully remote audit could be credibly conducted for the organization.

Site(s)	Date(s)	Main activities	Auditor(s)
Canvas, WV	19 February 2021 and 3 March 2021	Review of evidence provided	Coots
Remote- Zoom	4 March 2021	Opening meeting, logger interview, staff interview, closing meeting	Coots
Canvas, WV	12 March 2021	Review of evidence provided and report writing	Coots
Total auditing time used (number in person days based on 8 hour working days): 2			

3.3. Sampling methodology:

LFA SmartLogging is a small group with only 3 members. The membership is geographically separated with 1 member in southern Louisiana and 2 members in northern Louisiana. Since the 2 northern members are somewhat close together, they are typically audited during the same the year, while the lone southern member is audited on different years. This year, the southern member was audited. The SmartLogging Standard guidance for sampling of small groups is to sample at least 25% of the group members during assessments and reassessments and at least half of that number for annual audits. With only 3 group members, auditing of only one each year meets this requirement.

3.4. Stakeholder consultation process

No formal stakeholder notification was conducted for this surveillance audit. Individual stakeholders were interviewed as available to evaluate conformance to requirements.

Stakeholder Type	Stakeholders
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(NGO, government bodies, local inhabitant, contractor etc.)	consulted directly or provided input (#)
Local businesses	1
Contractors	1
Consulting Forester	1

3.5. Changes to Certification Standards

SmartLogging standard used in audit:	SmartLogging Generic Certification Standard, Version 6, SL-02 SmartLogging Group Certification Standard, Version 1, SL-03
Revisions to the standard since the last audit:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No changes to standard. <input type="checkbox"/> Standard was changed (detail changes below)
Changes in standard:	None
Implications for SLO:	Conformance to new requirements verified

APPENDIX I: List of visited sites (confidential)

APPENDIX II: List of stakeholders consulted (confidential)

APPENDIX III: SmartLogging standard conformance (confidential)

APPENDIX IV: Chain of Custody Conformance (confidential)

APPENDIX V: Group management conformance checklist (confidential)

APPENDIX VI: Certified Group Membership List

1. Total # members in the certified group:

GROUP MEMBERSHIP TABLE

Name of Member	Registration Subcode assigned	Address	Type of Equipment	Date of entry
Dennis Aucoin		PO Box 8815 Clinton, LA 70722	Conventional	2006
Jack McFarland		156 Douglas Garrett Rd. Winnfield, LA 71483	Conventional	2014
John Keith		7333 Hwy 157 Houghton, LA 71037	Conventional	2016
Total number in certified group.			3	