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SmartLogging 2023 Annual audit Report for:

Louisiana Forestry Association

In Alexandria, Louisiana USA

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Certificate code:	NC-SL-002480
Auditors:	John Auel, Lead Auditor
Audit Dates:	March 7, 2023
Report Finalized:	April 10, 2023
Certificate: issue/expiry:	SmartLogger July 10, 2022- July 9, 2027
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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.

Dispute resolution: If PREFERRED BY NATURE clients encounter organizations or individuals having concerns or comments about PREFERRED BY NATURE and our services, these parties are strongly encouraged to contact PREFERRED BY NATURE regional or Headquarters offices directly (see contact information on report cover). Formal complaints or concerns should be sent in writing.

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:	
Issues identified as controversial or hard to evaluate.	

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

There were no changes to the operation, structure, or membership during the audit period.

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 <u>not met</u> the NCR; underlying nonconformance is still present. NCR becomes a Major NCR with a 3-month deadline for conformance

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

No new NCRs 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
John B. Auel	Forester. John B Auel, MS RF# 1892, completed a BS and MS in Forestry with an emphasis on Industrial Forest Operations from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He completed a PhD in Forestry from Mississippi State University in 2016. He is the Coordinator for Mississippi’s Professional Logging Manager Program and is the MS Tree Farm State Administrator. He has taught Best Management Practices, Certification, and Logging Safety for 26 years. He has been an auditor for 16 years and is certified to the ISO 9001:2008 standard for Quality Management Systems for Lead

	Auditors, and ISO 14001:2015 standard for IRCA Environmental Management Systems Auditor/Lead Auditor. He has completed Rainforest Alliance Lead Auditor Training for Forest Management, Chain of Custody, and SmartLogging. He has completed dozens of FM, SmartLogging and CoC audits.
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3.2. Audit Overview

Site(s)	Date(s)	Main activities	Auditor(s)
Clinton, LA	March 7, 2023	Opening Meeting	Auel
Clinton, LA	March 7, 2023	Group Member evaluation	Auel
Alexandria, LA	March 7, 2023	Group Records Review	Auel
Alexandria, LA	March 7, 2023	Closing Meeting	Auel
Total auditing time used (number in person days based on 8 hour working days): 1			

3.3. Sampling methodology:

There are 3 group members in this SmartLogging Group. One member was selected for the sample.

3.4. Stakeholder consultation process

During the certification audit process stakeholders may be consulted by the auditor(s). Stakeholder consultation carried out during a SmartLogging audit may provide evidence concerning harvester conformance with the SL standard. Stakeholders may include forest industry (including loggers, foresters, mill personnel, log purchasers, workers etc.) landowners, government regulatory agencies, and community members.

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

Stakeholder Type (NGO, government bodies, local inhabitant, contractor etc.)	Stakeholders consulted directly or provided input (#)
Local businesses	0
Contractors	0
Workers	0

Principle/Subject Area	Stakeholder comment	Preferred by Nature response
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Subject Area 1: Legal Requirements	No comment	None needed
Subject Area 2: Harvest Planning and Monitoring	No comment	None needed
Subject Area 3: Harvesting Practices	Group member is a well-respected logger in the area.	None needed
Subject Area 4: Community Values	Group member is very active in the community.	None needed
Subject Area 5: Occupational Health and Safety	No comment	None needed
Subject Area 6: Business Viability	No comment	None needed
Subject Area 7: Continuous Improvement and Innovation	No comment	None needed
Subject Area 8: Silviculture and Reforestation	No comment	None needed

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:	Not applicable - no new requirements

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
Aucoin, Dennis		PO Box 8815, Clinton, LA 70722	Conventional	2006
McFarland, Jack		156 Douglas Garrett Rd, Winnfield, LA 71483	Conventional	2014
Keith, John		7333 Hwy 157, Haughton, LA 71037	Conventional and Chipping	2016
Total number in certified group.			3	