



**Bureau Veritas Certification
North America, Inc.
SFI Forest Management Audit Report**

390 Benmar Drive, Suite 100
Houston, TX 77060
Phone (281) 986-1300: Toll Free (800) 937-9311

Company Name	Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries
Contact Person	Donald Locascio
Address	P.O. Box 98000, 2000 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70898
Phone / Fax	(225) 765-2347
PQC Code	E01E
Contract Number	US.2122721

Certification Audit:	X	Re-Certification Audit:		Surveillance Audit:		#	Scope extension audit:	
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Audit Summary

Introduction

This report summarizes the results of the certification audit conducted on the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) SFI program for forest and land management. Rick Larkin, Bureau Veritas Certification Lead Auditor, and a Certified Wildlife Biologist, conducted the Stage 1 audit on September 6, 2016 at the Headquarter office in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Mr. Larkin conducted the field audit was conducted on September 7, 2016 – September 9, 2016.

Audit Scope, Objectives and Process

The scope of the audit is “Land Management”. The audit was conducted against the SFI 2015-2019 Standard Forest Management Edition. All objectives, performance measures and indicators relevant to a forest management operation.

Audit Plan

The Stage 2 audit consisted three days of field audits on various Wildlife Management Areas owned by LDWF. A closing meeting was held September 9, 2016 at 4:30 PM in the Baton Rouge, Louisiana office. An audit plan was developed and is maintained on file by Bureau Veritas Certification.

Company Information

LDWF is a state agency that is responsible for managing the state Wildlife Management Areas. The objectives of the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries forestry program is to enhance wildlife production while maintaining native flora and fauna; to provide quality wildlife oriented recreational opportunities for the public; to develop timber stands consisting of a wide variety of species, mast-producing bottomland hardwoods of all ages, habitat diversity, and areas comparable to earlier forests in structure, composition, and diversity. LDWF manages Wildlife Management Areas throughout the state. The majority of the Wildlife Management Areas consist of bottomland hardwood forests that utilize partial harvest techniques to regenerate the forest. A minor amount of the acreage in Wildlife Management Areas are dominated by upland pine sites and are managed using both even-age and uneven-age silviculture.

Audit Results

The document review was conducted to determine if LDWF has a management system that meets the requirements of the SFI 2015-2019 Forest Management Standard. The field audit consisted of nine (9) harvest sites, one (1) invasive species control site and one (1) afforestation site.

Objective 1-Forest Management Planning: All WMA's are inventoried on a 10 year cycle for timber and wildlife attributes. A more intensive forest inventory is conducted prior to the development of a prescription for the compartment. Growth averages 4% annually and the annual harvest is less than 1% of volume. A GIS and land classification system are in place, with a number of layers needed for planning, including T&E species, soils data and hydrology. LDWF assesses forest cover types and habitats at the landscape level.

Objective 2-Forest Health and Productivity: All existing stands are reforested naturally. LDWF periodically acquires new lands that are generally agricultural fields. Newly acquired lands are reforested, generally to a mix of hardwood species. Herbicide use is very limited and is generally only used to control invasive, exotic plants.

Objective 3-Protection and Maintenance of Water Resources: Compliance with state BMPs was good on all harvest sites. Streamside management zones exceed state BMPs.

Objective 4-Conservation of Biological Diversity: LDWF has an excellent wildlife management program in place. All harvest prescriptions are reviewed by the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program to ensure that there are no negative impacts to rare species or communities.

Stand- and landscape-level wildlife management efforts are in place. Harvest sites were designed to promote habitat diversity, with irregular sale boundaries, ample SMZs, and abundant retention of wildlife trees.

LDWF staff are aware of the potential non-native invasive species that could occur in their area, and when an invasive exotic species is identified the plants are treated with herbicides.

Objective 5-Management of Visual Quality and Recreational Benefits: LDWF properties are managed at a low harvest intensity which maintains aesthetic diversity.

Objective 6-Protection of Special Sites: All harvest prescriptions are reviewed by the Louisiana Natural Heritage Program to ensure that there are no negative impacts to rare species or communities.

Objective 7-Efficient Use of Fiber Resources: LDWF monitors utilization during timber harvest operations. Utilization was acceptable on all harvest units observed during the audit.

Objective 8: Recognize and Respect Indigenous People's Rights: LDWF has a written policy of commitment to recognize and respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Objective 9-Legal and Regulatory Compliance: LDWF has pre-activity planning process and monitors all forest management activities to ensure legal compliance. No adverse regulatory actions are in evidence.

Objective 10-Forestry Research, Science and Technology: LDWF has conducted in house research and allows several universities to conduct forestry related research on WMA's.

Objective 11-Training and Education: Training requirements for employees and contractors are specified in the company training program. Any contractor responsible for conducting any activities that may disturb soil are required to complete BMP training. Records are in place to verify training has occurred as required. Loggers working on LDWF lands are required to complete SIC approved logger training.

Objective 12-Community Involvement and Landowner Outreach: LDWF personnel participate in numerous outreach activities including a prescribed fire workshop, workshops on habitat management, forestry field days, brochures and numerous other publications.

Objective 13: Public Land Management Responsibilities: LDWF invites a variety of state and federal government agencies to provide input into management planning activities. Additionally, LDWF posts all WMA management plans are posted in the LDWF website and the public can provide comments.

Objective 14-Communications and Public Reporting: LDWF maintains records needed to complete the SFI annual progress report.

Objective 15-Management Review: LDWF has a system for collecting, reviewing and reporting to management on the progress of implementing the SFI FM Standard. LDWF conducts a review, at least annually, to review to progress of implementing and improving the implantation of the SFI FM Standard.

Findings

Previous non-conformances:

N/A

Non-conformances:

No non-conformances were identified during the audit.

Opportunities for Improvement:

One opportunities for improvement was identified. Opportunities for should be considered in light of how they may affect conformance in the future.

1. PM 3.1, Ind. 2: Ensure that all contracts contain a requirement for implementation of BMPs.

Notable Practices:

No notable practices were identified during the audit.

Logo/label use:

LDWF does not intend to use the SFI Label but may use the SFI logo in the future and will seek approval from SFI Inc. prior to use of the logo.

SFI reporting:

N/A

Conclusions

Results of the audit indicate that the LDWF SFI program meets all requirements of the 2015 – 2019 SFI Standard and is being effectively implemented.

A closing meeting was held on September 9, 2016 at the Baton Rouge, Louisiana office. The results

of the audit were discussed and a recommendation for immediate certification to the 2015 – 2019 SFI Standard was made.

SEE SF61 FOR AUDIT NOTES

Summary of Audit Findings:									
Audit Date(s):		From: September 6, 2016				To: September 9, 2016			
Number of SF02's Raised:			Major:		0		Minor:		0
Is a follow up visit required:		Yes		No	X	Date(s) of follow up visit:			
Follow-up visit remarks:									
Team Leader Recommendation:									
Corrective Action Plan(s) Accepted		Yes		No		N/A	X	Date:	
Proceed to/Continue Certification		Yes	X	No		N/A		Date:	September 9 2016
All NCR's Closed		Yes		No		N/A	X	Date:	
Standard audit conducted against:									
1)	SFI 2015:2019			3)					
2)				4)					
Team Leader (1):		Team Members (2,3,4...)							
Rick Larkin, CWB		2)							
		3)							
		4)							
		5)							
Scope of Supply: (scope statement must be verified and appear in the space below)									
Land Management									
Accreditation's		ANAB							
Number of Certificates		2							
Proposed Date for Next Audit Event									
Date	September 2017								
Audit Report Distribution									
Don Locascio dlocascio@wlf.la.gov									
Bureau Veritas Certification: Dawn Komnick – dawn.komnick@us.bureauveritas.com									

Clause	Audit Report
Opening Meeting	Participants: Don Locascio, Fred Hagaman Discussions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introductions ➤ Scope of the audit ➤ Audit schedule/plan ➤ Nonconformance types – Major / Minor ➤ Review of previous nonconformances - 0. ➤ Process approach to auditing and audit sampling ➤ Confidentiality agreement ➤ Termination of the audit ➤ Appeals process ➤ Closing meeting timing
Closing Meeting	Participants: Don Locascio, Fred Hagaman Discussions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introductions and appreciation for selecting Bureau Veritas Certification. ➤ Review of audit process - process approach and sampling. ➤ Review of OFIs and System Strengths ➤ Nonconformances - 0 ➤ Date for next audit. ➤ Reporting protocol and timing