



**Public Briefing Paper for  
FSC® Forest Management Certification Re-Assessment of  
Drennen Forestry Corporation  
in  
Cullman, Alabama, USA  
May 12, 2026**

**Introduction** – Preferred by Nature is conducting Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®) Forest Management and Chain of Custody certification re-assessments of **Drennen Forestry Corporation** with an office located in Cullman, Alabama. **Drennen Forestry Corporation** has been certified by Preferred by Nature (formerly NEPCo) since November 29, 2021 (PBN-FM/COC-064964). The re-assessment includes 364 properties managed under 16 Resource Managers, across Alabama, Tennessee, Georgia, Kentucky, South Carolina, and Mississippi, totaling approximately 38,489 hectares. The re-assessment will begin on July 8, 2026.

**Scope of the Certification Re-Assessment** – The forest management certification re-assessment will assess the environmental, silvicultural, and socioeconomic aspects of the certified forests managed by **Drennen Forestry Corporation**, using the *FSC-US Forest Management Standard (v1.1)* and the *FSC Standard For Group Entities in Forest Management Groups (FM-STD-30-005)*. To obtain a copy of these guidelines, please visit the FSC-US website (at <https://us.fsc.org/en-us/certification/forest-management-certification>) or contact Preferred by Nature directly by telephone, fax, or e-mail as listed below. Preferred by Nature is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC®)<sup>1</sup> and this re-assessment process must follow procedures which have been approved by the FSC.

**Re-Assessment Team Composition** – The re-assessment will be conducted by:

- Kyle Meister, Lead Auditor, Forestry; and
- Mark Graveel, Forestry;

**Re-assessment Steps and Schedule** – Following is a short description of the certification process and a tentative agenda:

- ◆ **Re-assessment organization** – The Preferred by Nature auditors and **Drennen Forestry Corporation** staff will meet at a group members office in Georgia on July 8, 2026.
- ◆ **Field assessments** – The auditors will visit properties managed by **Drennen Forestry Corporation** that are included in the scope of the certificate from July 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup>.
- ◆ **Re-assessment briefing** – Prior to departure, the auditors will meet with **Drennen Forestry Corporation** managers and other parties to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- ◆ **Stakeholder consultation** – The auditors will conduct interviews with stakeholders prior to, during, and after the re-assessment.

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<sup>1</sup> FSC® A000535

- ◆ Draft report production – The auditors will produce a confidential draft report that will be circulated for comment to **Drennen Forestry Corporation**. This should occur 45 days after completion of the re-assessment field work.
- ◆ Certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from **Drennen Forestry Corporation** and other general stakeholder comments, Preferred by Nature will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur by September 1, 2026.

**Your Input Sought** – As a part of the forest certification re-assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on **Drennen Forestry Corporation's** forest management in relation to conformance with the requirements of the forest management standard referenced above. We welcome input, either public or confidential, in whatever form is easiest and most secure for you. Your input will be valuable at any stage of the re-assessment process, but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior to the re-assessment, during the re-assessment, or prior to July 15, 2026 so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision by September 1, 2026. Your options for communicating your observations to us are as follows:

1. Meet with the Preferred by Nature audit team during or shortly after the fieldwork.
2. Call and give comments to Randy Coots, the Preferred by Nature staff person responsible for coordinating this certification re-assessment.
3. Submit written comments by mail, FAX or email to Randy Coots. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of auditing **Drennen Forestry Corporation** as described in this briefing.

For more information or to provide comments on **Drennen Forestry Corporation's** forest management, you can also contact Randy Coots, the Preferred by Nature staff person responsible for coordinating this recertification audit.

### **Contacting Preferred by Nature**

*Randy Coots, Forestry Specialist, United States & Canada*

- ◆ Email: [rcoots@preferredbynature.org](mailto:rcoots@preferredbynature.org)
- ◆ Website: [www.preferredbynature.org](http://www.preferredbynature.org)
- ◆ Telephone: 304-884-9364
- ◆ Mailing address: P.O. Box 99, Richmond, VT 05477, USA

The source of any information provided will be kept confidential and will be available to only the FSC and Preferred by Nature staff.

Stakeholders who may wish to dispute any aspect of the forest certification process or decision can access Preferred by Nature's Complaints, Appeals and Dispute resolution procedures at [Complaints and resolutions](#)