



Forest Management Certification Assessment of Carolina Timber Brokers, LLC in Florence, South Carolina, USA

August 1, 2025

Introduction – Preferred by Nature is conducting Forest Management and Chain of Custody certification assessments of the **Carolina Timber Brokers, LLC** located in **Florence, SC, USA**. The assessment will be implemented from August 25th - 26th, 2025.

Scope of the Certification Assessment – The forest management certification assessment will assess the environmental, silvicultural and socioeconomic aspects of the **Carolina Timber Brokers, LLC** of 11 properties located in North Carolina and South Carolina, totaling approximately 6,600 hectares, 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 to make comments about these standards, please contact Preferred by Nature by telephone, FAX, email, or website listed below. Please note that the standard may be modified to take account of stakeholder comments. Preferred by Nature is accredited by the Forest Stewardship Council™ (FSC™), and this assessment process must follow procedures which have been approved.

Assessment Team Composition – The assessment team will be led by Randy Coots.

Assessment Steps and Schedule – Following is a short description of the certification process and a tentative agenda:

- Assessment organization – Preferred by Nature team will assemble in Florence SC, August 25, 2025.
- Field assessments – The team will visit sites managed by **Carolina Timber Brokers, LLC** from August 25-26, 2025.
- Stakeholder consultation – Throughout the fieldwork, the team will contact local stakeholders regarding **Carolina Timber Brokers, LLC** forest management in villages surrounding the forest area. This will include private interviews and discussions, and public stakeholder meetings.
- Final assessment briefing – Prior to departure the team will meet with **Carolina Timber Brokers, LLC** managers and other parties to finalize their data collection and present preliminary findings.
- Draft report production – The assessment team will produce a confidential draft report that will be circulated for comment to **Carolina Timber Brokers, LLC** and an independent peer reviewer. This should occur 45 days after completion of the assessment.
- Certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from **Carolina Timber Brokers, LLC** forest managers and independent peer reviewers, and other general stakeholder comments, PbN will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur by October 15, 2025.

Your Input Sought – As a part of the forest certification assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on **Carolina Timber Brokers, LLC** forest management in relation to conformance with the requirements of the forest management standard referenced above as well as comments on the FME's management and protection of High Conservation Values within the forest under evaluation. 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 assessment process, but we would prefer to receive your comments either prior to the assessment, during the assessment, or prior to September 1, 2025, so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision by October 15, 2025. Your options for communicating your observations to us are as follows.

1. Meet with a Preferred by Nature assessment team member during or shortly after the fieldwork.
2. Call and give comments to Randy Coots, Preferred by Nature staff person responsible for coordinating this certification assessment. If Randy Coots is not in the office, please give your comments to Karen Brenner.
3. Submit written comments by mail, FAX or email to Preferred by Nature to Randy Coots. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purpose of assessing the **Carolina Timber Brokers, LLC**

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

Stakeholders who may wish to dispute any aspect of the forest certification process or decision can access PbN's Dispute Resolution Policy at www.preferredbynature.org.

Contacting Preferred by Nature

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