



**Public Briefing Paper for**  
**FSC® Forest Management Certification Re-Assessment of**  
**Martin Sustainable Resources, LLC dba RoyOMartin**  
**in**  
**Alexandria, Louisiana USA**  
**January 6, 2022**

**Introduction** – Preferred by Nature is conducting Forest Stewardship Council (FSC®) Forest Management and Chain of Custody certification re-assessments of Martin Sustainable Resources, LLC dba RoyOMartin, with an office located in Alexandria, Louisiana. Martin Sustainable Resources, LLC dba RoyOMartin, has been certified by Preferred by Nature (formerly NEPCo) since 2002 (NC-FM/COC-000186). The re-assessment includes forest in Louisiana totaling approximately 205,927 hectares. The re-assessment will be begin on February 21, 2022.

**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 Martin Sustainable Resources, LLC dba RoyOMartin, using the *FSC-US Forest Management Standard (v1.1)*. 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:

- John Auel, Lead Auditor, Forestry
- Steve Grado, Forestry and Socio-economic Specialist

**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 Martin Sustainable Resources, LLC dba RoyOMartin, staff will meet at Martin Sustainable Resources, LLC dba RoyOMartin’s office in Alexandria, Louisiana, on February 21, 2022.
- ◆ Field assessments – The auditors will visit sites managed by Martin Sustainable Resources, LLC dba RoyOMartin, that are included in the scope of the certificate from February 21-23, 2022.
- ◆ Re-assessment briefing – Prior to departure, the auditors will meet with Martin Sustainable Resources, LLC dba RoyOMartin, 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 Martin Sustainable Resources, LLC dba RoyOMartin. This should occur 45 days after completion of the re-assessment field work.
- ◆ Certification decision – Upon receipt of comments on the draft report from Martin Sustainable Resources, LLC dba RoyOMartin, and other general stakeholder comments, Preferred by Nature will reach a certification decision. Barring unforeseen obstacles, this should occur by April 1, 2022.

**Your Input Sought** – As a part of the forest certification re-assessment process we invite stakeholders to offer comment and feedback on Martin Sustainable Resources, LLC dba RoyOMartin'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 March 1, 2022, so that we can take them into consideration in reaching a certification decision by April 1, 2022. 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 Steve Grado the Preferred by Nature audit team member responsible for coordinating stakeholder participation.
3. Submit written comments by mail, FAX or email to Steve Grado. Unless you request otherwise, these comments will be kept confidential and are solely for the purposes of auditing Martin Sustainable Resources, LLC dba RoyOMartin as described in this briefing.

*Steve Grado, Socioeconomic Auditor*

- ◆ Email: [sgrado@hotmail.com](mailto:sgrado@hotmail.com)
- ◆ Telephone: 662-325-2792 (work); 662-617-3691 (cell)
- ◆ FAX: 662-325-8726
- ◆ Mailing address: 707 Shadowood Lane, Starkville, MS 39759-4133

For more information or to provide comments on Martin Sustainable Resources, LLC dba RoyOMartin'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*

- ◆ Email: [rcoots@preferredbynature.org](mailto:rcoots@preferredbynature.org)
- ◆ Website: [www.preferredbynature.org](http://www.preferredbynature.org)
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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 <https://preferredbynature.org/certification/fsc/complaints-and-resolutions>.