

# Mitigation Options by Specified Risk Topic

*Excerpt from FSC US Controlled Wood Regional Meeting Report: PACIFIC COAST & ROCKY MOUNTAIN REGIONS: Portland, OR – August 14, 2018*

## Category 4: Forest Conversion

The input received on proposed mitigation options for Conversion in the Pacific Coast and Southeast Regions did not reveal any significant regional differences that might affect implementation of mitigation. Therefore, to provide consistency for organizations across US regions, the mitigation options that follow are for both regions where specified risk from conversion was designated.

***The following mitigation options are available to certificate holders so that they may implement Control Measure CM 4.2 when sourcing from areas of specified risk designated for Forest Conversion.***

### CENTRAL THEME: Education & Outreach

The following is offered as an option that could be scaled for any level of mitigation:

Using materials as described below, communicate to audiences (also described below) the social benefits of keeping forests as forests, and the value-enhancing alternatives to conversion and opportunities for the maintenance of forests (e.g., tax-relief programs, succession planning). The desired outcome of these communications is engaging landowners within the specified risk area and the Organization's supply area in the maintenance of forests.

- **Materials:** Materials are developed by or developed in cooperation with, organizations/individuals with expertise in the maintenance of forests, or developed in collaboration with FSC US. Materials are delivered in a manner that has a proven or reasonable expectation of effectiveness in achieving the above defined desired outcome. Materials may already exist or may need to be created.
- **Audiences:** Communications are directed toward audiences where there is a proven or reasonable expectation of effectiveness in achieving the above defined desired outcome. Depending upon the Organization's location in the supply chain, communications may be directly with landowners, foresters, or loggers, or through intermediaries such as community members, forest managers, suppliers, forestry associations or landowner associations, or through collaboration with organizations/individuals already working for maintenance of forests.

**INTENT:** The intent of this mitigation option is to implement education and outreach-related actions that will result in maintenance of forests, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites in the specified risk area where the forest is being converted to non-forest use.

### CENTRAL THEME: Procurement Policy

The following is offered as an option for Organizations that purchase directly from the source forest:

Develop/adapt a procurement policy that reflects the above Education & Outreach communications themes and clearly states the requirement that the landowner/forester/logger at the source forest will not supply materials from forests that are being converted to a non-forest use.

*NOTE: Actions to demonstrate policy enforcement and communicate policies on sourcing to suppliers should be audited under the Due Diligence system requirements within the 40-005V3- 1 standard section 1.1*

**INTENT:** The intent of this mitigation option is to implement a procurement policy that will either result in avoidance of materials from sites where forest was converted to a non-forest use, or result in maintenance of forests, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites in the specified risk area where the forest is being converted to non-forest use.

### **CENTRAL THEME: Research & Mapping**

The following is offered as a two-part option for when a 'High' level of mitigation is required:

1. Engage with and/or provide monetary or in-kind resources to an entity or alliance that is working to improve predictions of future urban growth through modeling and mapping within the specified risk area, using remote sensing or other techniques that do not require landowner declarations regarding their ownerships; and
2. Use the results of the mapping work to improve implementation of another mitigation option or demonstrate that the results of the research are being used in some other way to maintain forests.

**INTENT:** The intent of this mitigation option is to implement research-related actions and then use the research outputs to increase the effectiveness of another implemented mitigation option that, in turn, will result in maintenance of forests, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites in the specified risk area where the forest is being converted to non-forest use.

### **CENTRAL THEME: Conservation Initiatives**

The following is offered as an option that could be scaled for any level of mitigation:

Engage with and/or provide monetary or in-kind resources to conservation partnerships, organizations or similar entities that are supporting or promoting programs/projects to develop new or augment existing programs within the specified risk area and the Organization's supply area that will result in the maintenance of forests. These programs/projects may include incentives, such as working forest easements and other conservation easements. These entities may include, but are not limited to: land trusts, community forest programs, landowner cooperatives, forest industry groups, programs offering technical forest management assistance to landowners, government organizations or conservation organizations (public or private).

**INTENT:** The intent of this mitigation option is to implement actions through conservation programs/projects that will result in maintenance of forests, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites in the specified risk area where the forest is being converted to non-forest use.

## CENTRAL THEME: Planning

The following is offered as an option that could be scaled for any level of mitigation:

Engage in on-going regional landscape-level planning processes (land use and/or sustainable forestry) to support viable policies or regulations that are intended to promote maintenance of forests within the specified risk area and the Organization's supply area. Engagement may include, but is not limited to: direct communication with federal, state and/or local resource policy makers and planners; participation on regional planning groups/committees; and collaboration with, or support for, organizations/individuals advocating for viable policies or regulations with the goal of maintaining forests.

**INTENT:** The intent of this mitigation option is to implement planning-related actions that will result in maintenance of forests, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites in the specified risk area where the forest is being converted to non-forest use.

The following is offered as an option for when a 'High' level of mitigation is required:

If regional landscape level planning processes are not currently occurring, collaborate and develop an engagement strategy with 1) federal, state and/or local resource policy makers and planners, and 2) organizations/individuals advocating for policies or regulations aimed at maintaining forests, with a goal to establish a regional landscape level planning process (land use and/or sustainable forestry) to support the development of viable policies or regulations that are intended to achieve maintenance of forests within the specified risk area and the Organization's supply area.

**INTENT:** The intent of this mitigation option is to implement planning-related actions that will result in maintenance of forests, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites in the specified risk area where the forest is being converted to non-forest use.