

Mitigation Options by Specified Risk Topic

Excerpt from FSC US Controlled Wood Regional Meeting Report: APPALACHIAN REGION: Asheville, NC – July 19, 2018

HCV 1: Cheoah Bald Salamander

The following mitigation options are available to certificate holders so that they may implement Control Measure CM 3.1 when sourcing from areas of specified risk designated for HCV 1 Cheoah Bald Salamander.

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 conservation values of Cheoah Bald Salamander (CBS), potential threats from forest management activities (as described in the FSC US National Risk Assessment), and opportunities for conservation through management that maintains, enhances, or restores CBS populations and reduces or eliminates these threats. The desired outcome of these communications is engaging landowners, foresters, and loggers in conservation of CBS populations within the specified risk area and the Organization's supply area.

- **Materials:** Materials are developed by or developed in cooperation with organizations/individuals with expertise in CBS, 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. Materials are updated as appropriate to incorporate new information when it becomes available.
- **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 conservation of CBS.

INTENT: The intent of this mitigation option is to implement education and outreach-related actions that will result in changes to on-the-ground forest management activities that improve maintenance, enhancement, or restoration of CBS populations, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites where CBS in the specified risk area are threatened by forest management activities.

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 where Cheoah Bald Salamanders (CBS) are threatened as a result of

the forest management activities that produced the forest materials. This will require providing a description of the forest type in which CBS populations occur, potential threats to CBS from forest management activities (as described in the FSC US National Risk Assessment), and the kinds of activities that would maintain or enhance CBS populations in the specified risk area.

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 CBS are threatened by forest management activities, or result in changes to on-the-ground forest management activities that mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites where CBS in the specified risk area are threatened by forest management activities.

CENTRAL THEME: Research

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 currently conducting, or has the capacity to initiate, research on species characteristics, on clarifying positive and negative impacts of forest management activities on Cheoah Bald Salamander (CBS) populations and/or on management practices for CBS conservation, where the research builds on knowledge already acquired by the USFS within the specified risk area; and
2. Use the results of the research to improve implementation of another mitigation option or demonstrate that the results of the research are being used in some other way to improve maintenance, enhancement, or restoration of CBS populations.

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 changes to on-the-ground forest management activities that improve maintenance, enhancement, or restoration of CBS populations, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites where CBS in the specified risk area are threatened by forest management activities.

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 that will enhance or conserve Cheoah Bald Salamander (CBS) populations, with a particular focus on increasing and improving implementation of forest management practices for conservation of CBS populations within areas of the specified risk area and the Organization's supply area. These entities may include: 1) partnerships (government and/or non-government organizations),

or non-governmental organizations working alone, that have active programs/projects to conserve CBS or amphibians in general; and/or 2) federal, state and/or local governmental organizations.

INTENT: The intent of this mitigation option is to implement actions through conservation programs/projects that will result in changes to on-the-ground forest management activities that improve maintenance, enhancement, or restoration of CBS populations, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites where CBS in the specified risk area are threatened by forest management activities.

CENTRAL THEME: Planning

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

Engage in and/or provide monetary or in-kind resources to conservation planning processes, and, when possible, the implementation of conservation plans, that include, or could potentially include, goals, objectives and/or actions that will likely have an impact on Cheoah Bald Salamander (CBS) populations within the specified risk area and the Organization's supply area. This may include: federal, state and/or local resource planning and plans; industry land plans; regional planning and plans directly for CBS; and/or broad-spectrum regional conservation planning and plans that include some or all of the specified risk area. The desired outcome of this engagement or provision of resources is to increase and improve forest management practices that conserve CBS populations.

NOTE: There are some situations where engagement/support by the Organization may not be possible for both the planning process and the plan implementation (e.g., when the relevant plan has already been developed, or when there is an opportunity to participate in a planning process where implementation of the plan will be the complete responsibility of a public agency and there is no opportunity to engage or support implementation).

INTENT: The intent of this mitigation option is to implement planning-related actions that will result in changes to on-the-ground forest management activities that improve maintenance, enhancement, or restoration of CBS populations, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites where CBS in the specified risk area are threatened by forest management activities.

CENTRAL THEME: Direct Influence

The following are offered as options for Organizations that purchase directly from the source forest:

- A. Document acceptable implementation of best management practices that conserve Cheoah Bald Salamander (CBS) populations during harvests that produce non-certified materials that will be controlled by the Organization.
- B. Include best management practices that will conserve CBS populations in harvest plans and/or in contracts made with loggers for harvests that produce non-certified materials and that will be controlled by the Organization and require in those harvest plans and/or contracts that the best management practices are implemented.

NOTE: In these situations, 'best management practices' are not intended to specifically reference State-established BMPs for water quality, but instead established practices that are effective in restoring, maintaining or enhancing CBS populations.

INTENT: The intent of this mitigation option is to implement supplier-engagement actions that will result in changes to on-the-ground forest management activities that improve maintenance, enhancement, or restoration of CBS populations, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites where CBS in the specified risk area are threatened by forest management activities.