

Mitigation Options by Specified Risk Topic

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HCV 1: Central California Critical Biodiversity Area

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 Central California Critical Biodiversity Area (CBA).

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 Sierra Nevada biodiversity associated with mixed conifer forests and the montane meadows embedded within them, threats from incompatible forest management activities (as described in the FSC US National Risk Assessment), and opportunities for conservation through management practices that reduce or eliminate these threats (e.g., management practices that maintain both within-stand diversity, such as maintenance of snags, large trees and hardwood, and between-stand diversity), with recognition of both even-age and uneven-age management practices if appropriate for the supply area. Communications should recognize the importance of maintaining or enhancing mixed conifer forests and montane meadows, and the role of fire and the importance of mimicking disturbance patterns in the Sierra Nevada region. The desired outcome of these communications is engaging landowners, foresters and loggers in conservation of Sierra Nevada biodiversity 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 Sierra Nevada biodiversity conservation, 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 conservation of Sierra Nevada biodiversity.

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 or enhancement of Sierra Nevada biodiversity, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites where the concentration of biodiversity in the specified risk area is 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 Sierra Nevada biodiversity is threatened as a result of forest management activities that produced the forest materials. This will require providing a description of the potential threats to Sierra Nevada biodiversity from forest management activities (as described in the FSC US National Risk Assessment), and of the kinds of activities that would maintain or enhance the Sierra Nevada biodiversity 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 40-005 V3-1 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 Sierra Nevada biodiversity is 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 the concentration of biodiversity in the specified risk area is 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 clarifying positive and negative impacts of forest management activities on Sierra Nevada biodiversity and/or on improving management practices for conservation of Sierra Nevada biodiversity 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 or enhancement of Sierra Nevada biodiversity.

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 or enhancement of Sierra Nevada biodiversity, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites where the concentration of biodiversity in the specified risk area is 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 are intended to achieve conservation of Sierra Nevada biodiversity within the specified risk area and the Organization's supply area. This may include: federal, state and/or local resource planning and plans; planning and plans for Sierra Nevada mixed- conifer forest or montane meadow dependent species; regional planning and plans directly for Sierra Nevada biodiversity itself; and/or broad-spectrum regional conservation planning and plans that include Sierra Nevada biodiversity conservation. The desired outcome of this engagement or provision of resources is to increase and improve forest management practices that conserve Sierra Nevada biodiversity.

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 or enhancement of Sierra Nevada biodiversity, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites where the concentration of biodiversity in the specified risk area is threatened by forest management activities.

CENTRAL THEME: Staff/Forester Training

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

Ensure staff and contract foresters receive training or the equivalent, with periodic refreshers that include any new information, on Sierra Nevada biodiversity, particularly mixed-conifer forest and montane meadows, threats from incompatible forest management activities (as described in the FSC US National Risk Assessment), management techniques that will conserve biodiversity, and provision of public values. The training or equivalent shall be: a) developed by or developed in cooperation with organizations/individuals with expertise in Sierra Nevada biodiversity, or developed in collaboration with FSC US; and b) result in foresters having knowledge on these subjects to the extent that they are able to communicate the same content to the landowners and land managers with whom they are working.

INTENT: The intent of this mitigation option is to train staff and contract foresters so that they are able to implement education and outreach-related actions that will result in changes to on-the- ground forest management activities that improve maintenance or enhancement of Sierra Nevada biodiversity, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites where the concentration of biodiversity in the specified risk area is threatened by forest management activities.