

Mitigation Options by Specified Risk Topic

Excerpt from FSC US Controlled Wood Regional Meeting Report: SOUTHEAST & MISSISSIPPI ALLUVIAL VALLEY REGIONS: ATLANTA, GA – July 31, 2018

HCV 1: Cape Fear Arch Critical Biodiversity Area

The US Controlled Wood National Risk Assessment identifies two drivers of biodiversity in this CBA that may be threatened by forest management activities: Longleaf Pine and Pocosins.

- Longleaf Pine: As the specified risk area associated with this CBA **does not** overlap (for the most part) with the specified risk area associated with HCV 3 Native Longleaf Pine Systems (NLPS), **any Organization that is mitigating risks associated with sourcing from within this CBA will still be required to mitigate the identified risk associated with this driver of biodiversity**. However, mitigation may be implemented by selecting one of the mitigation options provided for NLPS.
- Pocosins: Mitigation to address the identified risk associated with this driver of biodiversity is also required, and mitigation options are provided below.

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 Cape Fear Arch 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 Cape Fear Arch biodiversity associated with pocosins, threats from incompatible forest management (as described in the FSC US National Risk Assessment), and opportunities for conservation through management that enhances biodiversity and reduces or eliminates these threats. The desired outcome of these communications is engaging landowners, foresters, and loggers in conservation of pocosins within the specified risk area and the Organization's supply area. Communications should recognize the importance of hydrology for maintenance and enhancement of pocosins.

- **Materials:** Materials are developed by or developed in cooperation with organizations/individuals with expertise in pocosin 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 pocosin or Cape Fear Arch 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 pocosin 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 pocosin biodiversity is threatened as a result of the forest management activities that produced the forest materials. This will require providing a description of pocosin systems (as they occur in the supply area), potential threats to pocosins from forest management activities (as described in the FSC US National Risk Assessment), and the kinds of activities that would maintain or enhance pocosin 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 40-005V3- 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 pocosin 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: 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 identify and conserve pocosins within areas of the specified risk area and the Organization's supply area, with a particular focus on increasing and improving implementation of management practices that will conserve pocosin biodiversity. 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 pocosins and their associated biodiversity; 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 or enhancement of pocosin 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: Cape Fear Arch Conservation Collaboration

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

Attend Cape Fear Arch Conservation Collaboration meetings and develop and implement an action plan (either alone or cooperatively with other Collaborative participants) that will improve the maintenance or enhancement of Cape Fear Arch biodiversity within the specified risk area and the Organization's supply area.

INTENT: The intent of this mitigation option is to implement actions that will result in changes to on-the-ground forest management activities that improve maintenance or enhancement of Cape Fear Arch 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.