

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: Central Florida Critical Biodiversity Area

The US Controlled Wood National Risk Assessment identifies Pine Flatwoods as the primary driver of biodiversity in this CBA and recognizes that it may be threatened by forest management activities. Threats from forest management activities, proposed mitigation options and feedback received for this CBA are very similar to those associated with the Native Longleaf Pine System (NLPS) risk topic. Therefore, as the specified risk area associated with this CBA overlaps with the specified risk area associated with HCV 3 Native Longleaf Pine Systems (NLPS), any Organization that is mitigating risks associated with sourcing from specified risk areas for NLPS that are within this CBA will already be mitigating the identified risk associated with this CBA, and no additional mitigation is needed. However, if the Organization is only sourcing from the portion of the CBA that is not within the specified risk area for NLPS, one of the following mitigation options is required.

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 Florida 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 social benefits and values of pine flatwoods, threats from incompatible forest management activities (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 the biodiversity associated with pine flatwoods 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 pine flatwoods 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 pine flatwoods 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 pine flatwoods 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 pine flatwoods biodiversity is threatened as a result of the forest management activities that produced the forest materials. This will require providing a description of the forest type (as it occurs in the supply area), potential threats to pine flatwoods from forest management activities (as described in the FSC US National Risk Assessment), and the kinds of activities that would maintain or enhance pine flatwoods 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 pine flatwoods 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 within the specified risk area and the Organization's supply area that will: a) restore, enhance, or maintain pine flatwoods, with a particular focus on increasing and improving implementation of management practices that will conserve pine flatwood biodiversity; and/or b) result in increased access to incentive programs for landowner who restore, maintain or enhance forests in a way that will conserve pine flatwood 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 pine flatwoods 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 pine flatwoods 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: Implement Management Activities

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 organizations or similar entities (as described below) that are facilitating active, on-the-ground implementation of management activities (as described below) to maintain or enhance pine flatwoods, with a goal of long-term conservation of the pine flatwood biodiversity within the specified risk area and the Organization's supply area.

- **Conservation Entities:** These may include: non-governmental organizations that have active programs/projects to conserve pine flatwoods; federal, state and/or local governmental organizations with natural resource conservation responsibilities or goals; and/or organizations that have active programs/projects focused on habitat conservation for species dependent upon pine flatwoods.
- **Management Activities:** These should include efforts to: increase and improve the use of management practices that conserve the biodiversity of the pine flatwoods; increase the use of prescribed fire as a management tool; restore and maintain native understory communities; and restore and maintain essential hydrology.

INTENT: The intent of this mitigation option is to implement on-the-ground forest management activities that improve maintenance or enhancement of pine flatwoods 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.