

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: Florida Panhandle 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 Savanna and the Apalachicola Bay/River System.

- Longleaf Pine Savanna: 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 areas of NLPS that are within this CBA will already be mitigating the identified risk associated with this driver of biodiversity, and no additional mitigation is needed.
- Apalachicola Bay/River System: Mitigation to address the identified risk associated with this driver of biodiversity will still be required, and the 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 Florida Panhandle 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 aquatic biodiversity, threats from poorly implemented 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, including but not limited to forest management activities on steep slopes. The desired outcome of these communications is engaging landowners, foresters, and loggers in increasing and improving forest management best practice implementation that conserves aquatic biodiversity within the portion of the Apalachicola Bay/River System that is 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 aquatic 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 aquatic 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 aquatic 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: 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 currently conducting, or has the capacity to initiate, research on effectiveness of water quality Best Management Practices (BMPs) for conserving aquatic biodiversity, or on identifying landscapes within the portion of the Apalachicola River/Bay System that is within the specified risk area that include forests where there is a higher level of the identified risk; and
2. If research on effectiveness of BMPs is completed, then advocate for changes to state BMPs that reflect the results of the research. If mapping of higher risk areas is completed, then use the results of the mapping 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 aquatic 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 aquatic 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: 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 aquatic biodiversity in the Apalachicola Bay/River System, with a particular focus on bottomland hardwood forests and forests identified as having higher risk within the portion of the Apalachicola Bay/River System that occurs 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 aquatic biodiversity or the forests important for doing so; 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 aquatic 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.