

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: Houston Toad

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 Houston Toad.

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 Houston Toad, 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 Houston Toad populations and reduces or eliminates potential threats. The desired outcome of these communications is engaging landowners, foresters, and loggers in conservation of Houston Toad 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 Houston Toad, 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 Houston Toads.

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 Houston Toad populations, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites where Houston Toads 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 Houston Toads 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 Houston Toad populations occur, potential threats to Houston Toad from forest management activities (as described in the FSC US National Risk Assessment), and the kinds of activities that would maintain or enhance Houston Toad 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 40-005 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 Houston Toads 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 Houston Toads 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 clarifying positive and negative impacts of forest management activities on Houston Toad populations and/or on management practices for Houston Toad conservation 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 Houston Toad 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 Houston Toad populations, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites where Houston Toads in the specified risk area are 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 restore, maintain or enhance Houston Toad populations, with a goal of long-term conservation of Houston Toad 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 Houston Toad; federal, state and/or local governmental organizations with natural resource conservation responsibilities or goals; and/or organizations that have active programs/projects focused on amphibian conservation.
- Management Activities: These should include efforts to increase and improve the use of management practices that conserve Houston Toad populations such as opportunities to provide appropriate canopy shading; 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, enhancement or restoration of Houston Toad populations, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites where Houston Toads in the specified risk area are threatened by forest management activities.