

## Mitigation Options by Specified Risk Topic

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### HCV 1: Lesser Slender Salamander

***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 Lesser Slender Salamander.***

#### 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 Lesser Slender Salamander (LSS), 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 LSS populations and reduces or eliminates potential threats. The desired outcome of these communications is engaging landowners, foresters, and loggers in conservation of LSS 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 LSS or amphibian 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 LSS.

**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 LSS populations, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites where LSS 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 Lesser Slender Salamanders (LSS) 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 LSS populations occur, potential threats to LSS from forest management activities (as described in the FSC US National Risk Assessment), and the kinds of activities that would maintain or enhance LSS 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 40-005V3- 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 LSS 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 LSS 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 Lesser Slender Salamander (LSS) populations and/or on management practices for LSS 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 or enhancement of LSS 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 LSS populations, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites where LSS 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 Lesser Slender Salamander (LSS) populations, with a goal of long-term conservation of LSS within the specified risk area and the Organization's supply area.

- **Conservation Entities/Associations:** These may include: non-governmental organizations that have active programs/projects to conserve LSS; 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 LSS populations such as opportunities to provide proper canopy shading, moisture levels and down woody debris.

**INTENT:** The intent of this mitigation option is to implement on-the-ground forest management activities that improve maintenance, enhancement or restoration of LSS populations, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites where LSS in the specified risk area are threatened by forest management activities.