

Mitigation Options by Specified Risk Topic

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HCV 3: Mesophytic Cove Sites

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 3 Mesophytic Cove Sites.

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 Mesophytic Cove Sites (MCS), how to identify them in the field, threats from incompatible forest management activities (as described in the FSC US National Risk Assessment), and opportunities for conservation through management that enhances MCS and reduces or eliminates these threats. The desired outcome of these communications is engaging landowners, foresters, and loggers in conservation of MCS 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 MSC 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 MCS.

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 MCS, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites where MCS 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 management practices for conservation of Mesophytic Cove Sites (MCS), on invasive species management, including

treatment and prevention, and/or on development of improved identification tools for MCS 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 MCS.

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 MCS, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites where MCS in the specified risk area are threatened by forest management activities.

CENTRAL THEME: 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 to map or refine existing maps of Mesophytic Cove Sites (MCS) within the specified risk area, where the research complements other MCS mapping efforts in the region, and the entity or alliance is working to address the challenge of providing this information about MCS locations while ensuring protection of the ecosystem; 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 MCS.

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 MCS, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites where MCS in the specified risk area are threatened by forest management activities.

CENTRAL THEME: Staff/Forester Training

The following is offered as an option for Organizations that purchase directly from the source forest:

Ensure staff and contract foresters receive training or the equivalent, with periodic refreshers that include any new information, on identification of Mesophytic Cove Sites (MCS), MCS conservation and social values, management techniques, and treatment and prevention of invasive species. The training or equivalent shall be: a) customized for MCS that occur within the Organization's supply area; b) developed by or developed in cooperation with organizations/individuals with expertise in conservation of MCS, or developed in collaboration with FSC US; and c) result in staff having knowledge on these subjects to the extent that they are able to communicate the same content to the landowners, loggers and forest managers with whom they are working.

INTENT: The intent of this mitigation option is to train staff and contract foresters so that they are able 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 MCS, and thereby mitigate the

risk of sourcing materials from sites where MCS in the specified risk area are threatened by forest management activities.