

## Mitigation Options by Specified Risk Topic

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### HCV 3: Old Growth Forest

*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 Old Growth Forest.*

#### 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 Old Growth forests (as defined in the FSC US Forest Management Standard), threats from forest management (as described in the FSC US National Risk Assessment) and related loss of values, and opportunities for conservation (e.g., conservation easements, best management practices), with recognition of differences between moist and dry sites. In areas with fire-dependent forest systems, communications should recognize the role of fire, along with the potential positive and negative impacts of fire. The desired outcome of these communications is engaging landowners, foresters and loggers in conservation of Old Growth forests 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 Old Growth forest 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 Old Growth forests.

**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 restoration or maintenance of Old Growth forests, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites where Old Growth forests 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 Old Growth forests (as defined in the FSC US Forest Management Standard) 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 (as it occurs in the supply area), potential threats to Old Growth forest from forest management activities (as described in the FSC US National Risk Assessment), and the kinds of activities that would maintain or enhance Old Growth forest 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 Old Growth forest 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 Old Growth forests in the specified risk area are 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 to map or refine existing maps of Old Growth forest within the specified risk area, where the research complements more recent US Forest Service and/or Northwest Forest Plan mapping efforts and includes mapping of private lands, using remote sensing or other techniques that do not require landowner declarations regarding their ownerships; and
2. Use the results of the mapping work 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 Old Growth forests.

**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 restoration or maintenance of Old Growth forests, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites where Old Growth forests in the specified risk area are threatened by forest management activities.

### **CENTRAL THEME: Planning**

The following is offered as an option that could be scaled for any level of mitigation:

Engage in and/or provide monetary or in-kind resources to conservation planning processes, and, when possible, the implementation of conservation plans, that include, or could potentially include, goals, objectives and/or actions that are intended to achieve conservation of existing Old Growth forest (as defined in the FSC US Forest Management Standard) within the specified risk area and the Organization's supply area. This may include: federal, state and/or local resource planning and plans; planning and plans for old growth-dependent species; regional planning and plans directly for old growth itself; and/or broad-spectrum regional conservation planning and plans that include old growth conservation. The desired outcome of this engagement or provision of resources is to increase and improve forest management practices that conserve Old Growth forests.

*NOTE: There are some situations where engagement/support by the Organization may not be possible for both the planning process and the plan implementation (e.g., when the relevant plan has already been developed, or when there is an opportunity to participate in a planning process where implementation of the plan will be the complete responsibility of a public agency and there is no opportunity to engage or support implementation).*

**INTENT:** The intent of this mitigation option is to implement planning-related actions that will result in changes to on-the-ground forest management activities that improve restoration or maintenance of Old

Growth forests, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites where Old Growth forests 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 Old Growth forest (as defined in the FSC US Forest Management Standard) identification, ecological function, management techniques, and provision of public values. The training or equivalent shall be: a) customized for old growth associated with the forest types that occur within the Organization's supply area; b) developed by or developed in cooperation with organizations/individuals with expertise in Old Growth conservation 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 and land 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 restoration or maintenance of Old Growth forests, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites where Old Growth forests in the specified risk area are threatened by forest management activities.

### **CENTRAL THEME: Landowner Incentives**

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: 1) conservation organizations or similar entities that are supporting or promoting programs or projects to develop new or augment existing incentive programs for landowner who maintain or enhance existing examples of Old Growth forests (as defined in the FSC US Forest Management Standard) within the specified risk area and the Organization's supply area; or 2) organizations that work to connect landowners with incentives provided by other entities within the same area. These organizations may include: non-governmental organizations that have active programs/projects to conserve Old Growth forests; federal, state and/or local governmental organizations; and/or organizations that have active programs/ projects to conserve habitat for species dependent upon Old Growth forests. If the incentive involves a working forest easement, the easement language should include requirements for use of compatible forest management practices that will maintain or enhance the Old Growth forests.

**INTENT:** The intent of this mitigation option is to implement actions to increase incentives for landowners that will result in changes to on-the-ground forest management activities that improve restoration or maintenance of Old Growth forests, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites where Old Growth forests in the specified risk area are threatened by forest management activities.