

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: Patch-Nosed 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 Patch- Nosed 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 Patch-Nosed Salamander (PNS), 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 PNS populations and reduces or eliminates potential threats. The desired outcome of these communications is engaging landowners, foresters, and loggers in conservation of PNS 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 PNS 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 PNS.

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 PNS populations, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites where PNS 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 Patch-Nosed Salamanders (PNS) 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 PNS populations occur, potential threats to PNS from forest management activities (as described in the FSC US National Risk Assessment), and the kinds of activities that would maintain or enhance PNS 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 PNS 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 PNS 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 effectiveness of water quality Best Management Practices for conserving Patch-Nosed Salamander (PNS) populations, or on improving knowledge of the species, including distribution, within the specified risk area; and
2. Use the results of 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 PNS 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 PNS populations, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites where PNS in the specified risk area are 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 organizations or similar entities that are supporting or promoting programs or projects to develop new or augment existing programs within the specified risk area and the Organization's supply area that will: a) result in increased and improved implementation of forest management practices for conservation of Patch-Nosed Salamander (PNS) populations; and/or b) result in increased access to incentive programs for landowner who conserve PNS populations. 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 PNS or amphibians in general; 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, enhancement or restoration of PNS populations, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites where PNS 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 National Forest management planning processes, and, when possible, the implementation of National Forest plans, that include, or could potentially include, goals, objectives and/or actions that will likely have an impact on Patch-nosed Salamander (PNS) populations within the specified risk area and the Organization's supply area. The desired outcome of this engagement is to increase and improve forest management practices that conserve PNS populations.

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 maintenance, enhancement or restoration of PNS populations, and thereby mitigate the risk of sourcing materials from sites where PNS in the specified risk area are threatened by forest management activities.