

Description

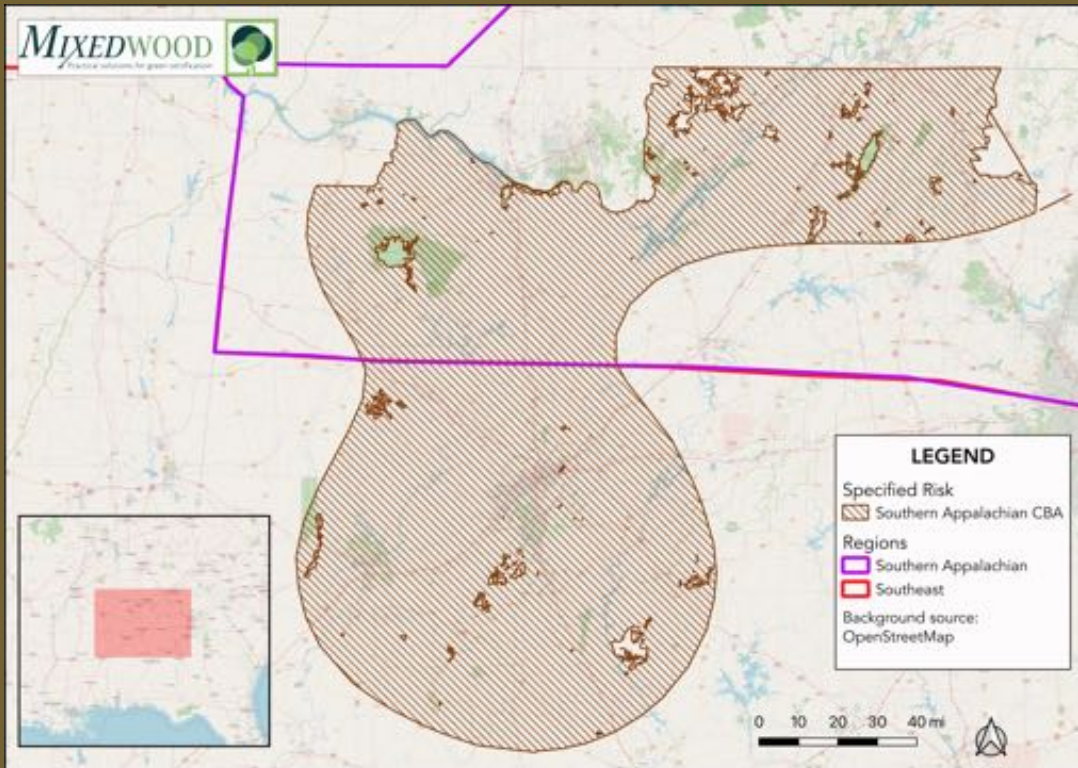
Biodiversity values in the southern Appalachians include aquatic habitats, glades, and montane longleaf pine.

Alabama is recognized as having the greatest number of freshwater species of mollusks and fish in the United States, and many of these species have very restricted distributions and specialized habitat requirements that make them highly vulnerable to extinction.

The Cahaba River watershed is the center of the biodiversity hotspot, but the biodiversity area includes other smaller watercourses as well. Aquatic habitats driving this concentration of biodiversity include lakes, rivers, streams, bogs, swamps, ephemeral pools, fens, seeps, swamp forests and wet meadows. Other drivers of biodiversity include glades and montane longleaf pine.¹

SOUTHERN APPALACHIAN CBA

FSC Controlled Wood
Specified Risk Fact Sheet



FSC US Region:
Southeast

Type: Critical
Biodiversity
Area (CBA)

NRA Category:
HCV 3.1

Scope:
moderate

¹Forest Stewardship Council. (2018). FSC US Controlled Wood Regional Meeting Report Southeast & Mississippi Alluvial Valley Regions: Atlanta, GA. Retrieved from <https://us.fsc.org/download.controlled-wood-regional-meeting-report-southeast-mississippi-alluvial-valley-regions.a-703.pdf>





High Conservation Value (HCV)

This CBA is considered an HCV because it contains a high overall species richness, diversity, or uniqueness within a defined area compared to other sites within the same biogeographic area. The CBA was identified using a species richness index originally published by NatureServe and The Nature Conservancy that identifies areas with high concentrations of rare species.¹

Recommended Mitigation

- **Education & Outreach:** information sharing with landowners, loggers, wood suppliers.

Mitigation Resources

- **Georgia Forestry Commission:** Forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- **Alabama Department of Environmental Management:** Forestry Best Management Practices (BMPs).
- **Alabama Soil & Water Conservation Committee:** Erosion and Sediment Control website.
- **Alabama Extension:** Management of Hardwood Forests for Timber in Alabama. Online article.
- **Alabama Forests Magazine online.** Forestry advice for landowners.
- **Landscape Partnership:** Biodiversity “Hotspot” description.

Information Sources

- **Highlands Biological Center website:** Biodiversity of the Southern Appalachians.
- **Conservation GIS Southern Appalachian Forest Coalition website.** Project descriptions.
- **USDA-FS Southern Research Station.** Paper SRS-41: Ecological Zones in the Southern Appalachians: 1st Approximation.

Social Value

- **Cahaba River Society - About the Cahaba River:** Article, video, and description of values.
- **The Wilderness Society - Things to Do: Southern Appalachians:** article with links.

