

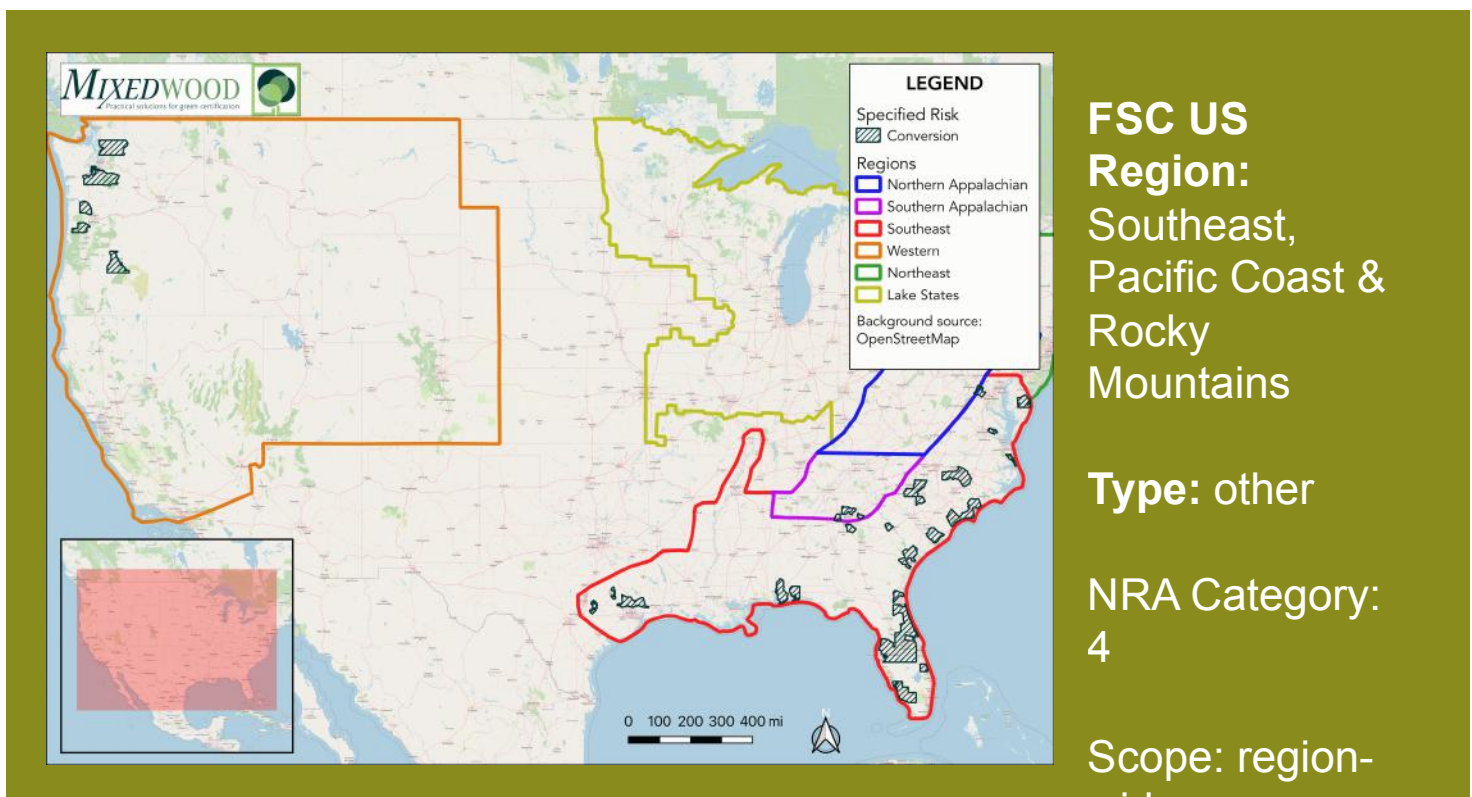
## Description

FSC considers materials that come from places where forests are converted to non-forest use or plantation to be unacceptable, no matter the reason for the conversion. FSC is working to ensure that there is a low risk of forest materials from forest conversions being used in FSC-certified products.

# FOREST CONVERSION

## FSC Controlled Wood Specified Risk Fact Sheet

Overall in the US, the rates of forest loss are very low – with forest losses being balanced by forest gains. However, numerous sources indicate that the forest losses are most often driven by urban development. Rates of urban development are highest and most recent in the Pacific Coast and Southeast regions of the US. Therefore, the greatest risk of materials entering the supply chain from conversions will most likely be in these areas; however, the risk is not consistent across these regions.<sup>1</sup>



<sup>1</sup>Forest 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>





## Recommended Mitigation

- **Education & Outreach:** information sharing with landowners, loggers, wood suppliers.
- **Procurement Policy:** supporting and promoting conservation.

## Mitigation Resources

- **Keeping Forests as Forests**. Information website about forest conversion.
- **Land Trust Alliance**: Conserve Your Land.

## Information Sources

- **USDA-Forest Service**: Open Space Conservation Strategy. Link to publication.
- **Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy - Southeast Conservation Blueprint**: Spatial plan that identifies priority areas.
- **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)** - Forest Service (FS): Southern Forest Futures Project: summary report (SRS-GTR-168).

## Social Value

- **Dovetail Partners**. Understanding Payments For Ecosystem Services: Opportunities for Forests, Water and Private Landowners in Georgia and the Southeastern United States. PDF.
- **USDA & Forest Service**. Forests to Faucets 2.0. Connecting Forests, Water, and Communities. PDF.
- **Keeping Forests: Public Opinion Research on Southern Forests**. PDF.
- **Southeastern Partnerships for Forests & Water**: Healthy Forests = Clean Water. PDF.

