

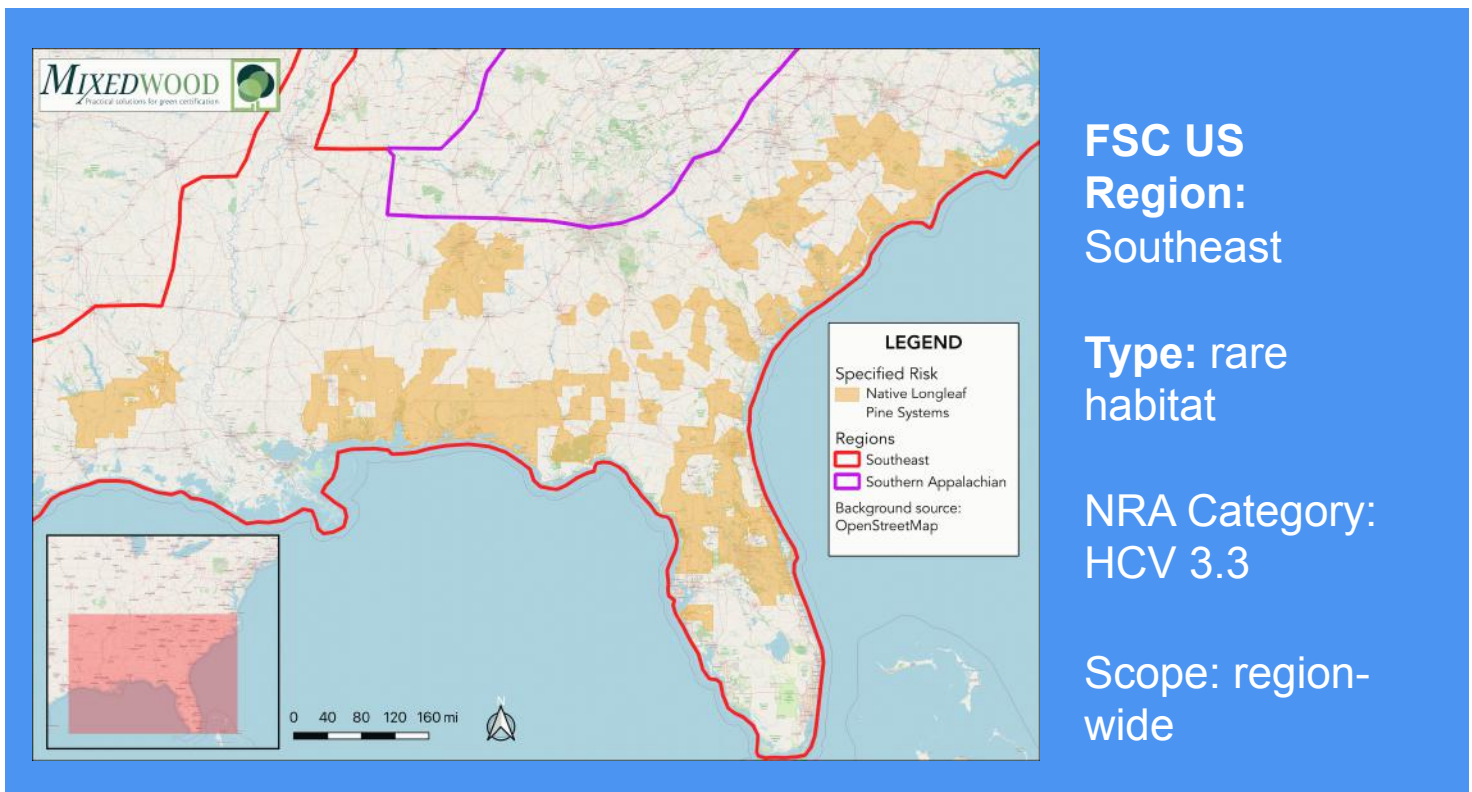
NATIVE LONGLEAF PINE SYSTEMS

Description

These fire-dependent systems include longleaf pine as the dominant tree, a conspicuous lack of mid-story trees and shrubs, and a well-developed, diverse ground layer (dominated by bunch grasses and other flowering plants). This variability helps to drive the high biodiversity associated in the ground layer. Fire is the most important driver in the system, maintaining both the structural characteristics and the species diversity, particularly in the ground layer.

FSC Controlled Wood
Specified Risk Fact Sheet

These diverse systems include nearly 900 endemic plant species and rare wildlife. “Native” in this instance refers to existing longleaf pine that is on a site that has historically been maintained as longleaf pine. Longleaf pine stands that have been restored in areas that have not been historically maintained in longleaf pine do not apply under this definition. “Native” does not imply a particular regeneration method; these stands may be either planted or naturally regenerated.¹



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)

Native Longleaf Pine Systems were once one of the most widespread forest types in the US but were reduced to less than 5% of their original range, becoming one of the rarest forest systems in the world. This historical reduction was driven by suppression of fire and conversion to other forest types. These forest systems are associated with many rare, threatened and endangered species.¹

Recommended Mitigation

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

Mitigation Resources

- **America's Longleaf website**. Conservation planning. Status reports.
- **The Longleaf Alliance** - Support: website link to membership, involvement, and corporate sustainability programs
- **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) - Forest Service**. Restoration of southern pine ecosystems. Article with research findings.
- **Shortleaf Pine Initiative website**. Restoration information.
- **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)** – Forest Service (FS) Southern Research Station: Restoring and Managing Longleaf Pine Ecosystems (RWU-4158). Links to additional resources and publications.

Information Sources

- **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)** - Forest Service (FS) Pacific Northwest Research Station - Science Findings: Restoring a Disappearing Ecosystem: the Longleaf Pine Savanna.
- **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)/Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)** - Plant Fact Sheet: Longleaf Pine
- **The Nature Conservancy**: The Role of Fire. Online article.

Social Value

- **University of Arizona/Sean C. Zion** - The Right Tree, Right Now: Advantages, Values, & Benefits of Longleaf Pine Ecosystem Management. Scholarly paper.
- **North Carolina Forest Service** Longleaf Leaflet - The Economics of Longleaf Pine Management: PDF.

