

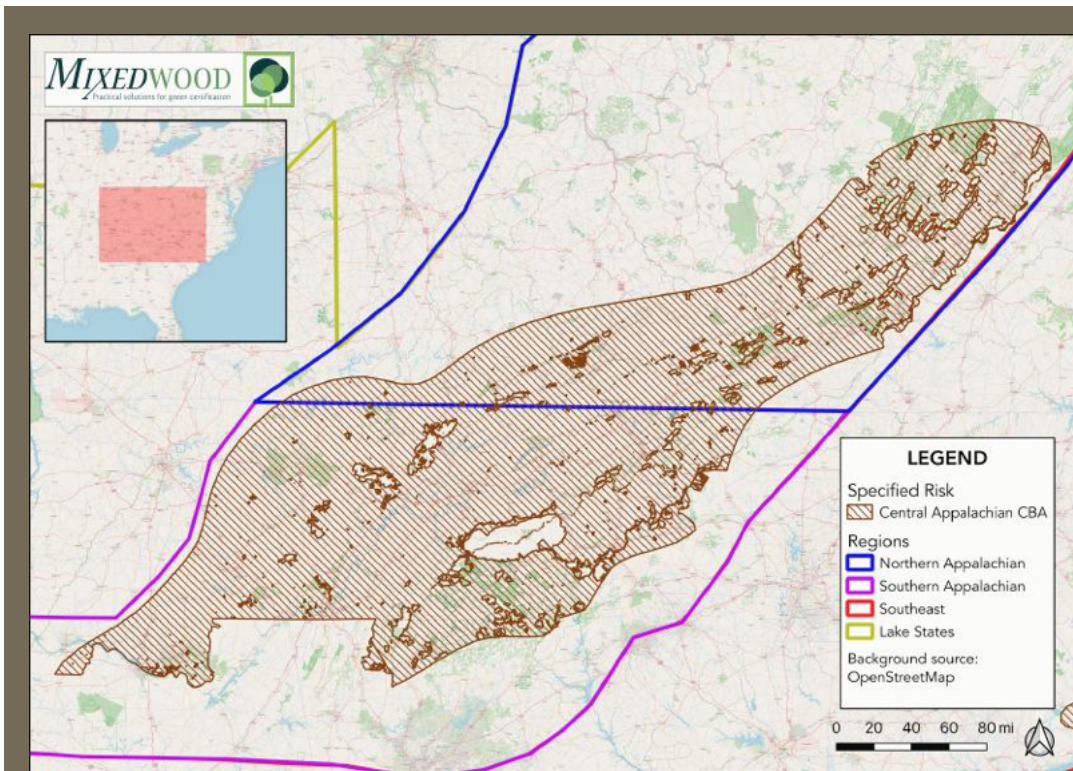
Description

The forests are significant in the diversity of different forest types that occur and within them the large number of different tree species that occur, along with incredibly diverse understories and associated wildlife species. The geologic history, change in elevation, and diverse topography and climate have resulted in a very large number of microhabitats within the region. Additionally, the mountains served as a refuge for northern species during the last ice age. It also represents one of two regions left in the world where relics of ancient mesic forest still exist.

The region's freshwater systems are together considered to be the richest temperate freshwater ecosystem in the world – representing the highest richness and endemism in mussels, fish, crayfish and other invertebrates for the entire world. The southern running riverine systems allowed many aquatic species to escape the glaciers of the last ice age and then re-establish afterward.¹

CENTRAL APPALACHIAN CBA

FSC Controlled Wood Specified Risk Fact Sheet



**FSC US
Region:**
Appalachian

Type: Critical
Biodiversity
Area (CBA)

NRA Category:
HCV 3.1

Scope: large

¹Forest Stewardship Council. (2018). FSC US Controlled Wood Regional Meeting Report Appalachian Region: Asheville, NC. Retrieved from <https://us.fsc.org/download.controlled-wood-regional-meeting-report-appalachian-region.a-702.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

- **SFI Implementation Committee Map:** Find your local SFI community.
- **USDA/US Forest Service Southern Region:** Website with state/regional-specific links.
- **USDA/US Forest Service Southern Region:** Resource Management.
- **National Association of State Foresters: Best Management Practices:** Website map with links to other BMP resources.
- **Appalachian Landscape Conservation Cooperative:** Website map with contacts, resources, and projects to protect, conserve, and educate benefits.

Information Sources

- **NatureServe Ecological System Comprehensive Report:** Southern & Central Appalachian Cove Forest. Report.
- **National Fish & Wildlife Foundation** - The Southeastern Aquatic Biodiversity Conservation Plan: PDF.
- **Appalachian Mountains Joint Venture: Focal Landscapes.** Link to website and state-specific fact sheets.

