

Description

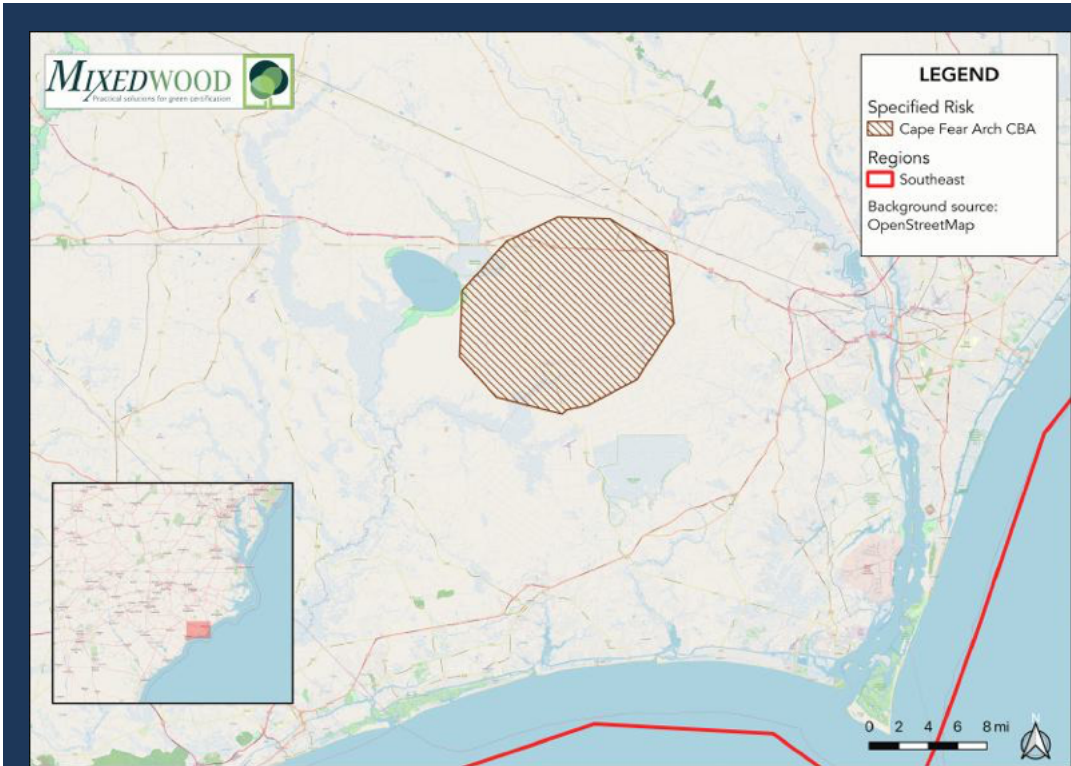
The geologic and hydrologic history of the Cape Fear Arch region have resulted in a diversity of wet and dry habitats. Important drivers of biodiversity in this region include longleaf pine forests and pocosins (coastal peatlands).

Pocosins typically occur within Carolina bays as a mosaic, along with Atlantic white cedar forests and nonriverine swamp forests within nutrient-poor peatlands in shallow depressions on plateaus, typically continuously saturated with water. The overstory is usually pine, often Pond pine. Higher, drier sites typically have a dense evergreen shrub layer, while the wettest may only have low shrubs, stunted pines and beds of sphagnum, pitcher plants and cranberry.

Longleaf pine forests once covered much of the Atlantic Coastal Plain, but the extent and condition of the system has been severely depleted due to habitat fragmentation, unsustainable harvest, conversion to other land uses and vegetative types, invasive species, and exclusion of natural fire regimes. The CBA includes a portion of the focal areas for the Cape Fear Arch Longleaf Initiative.¹

CAPE FEAR ARCH CBA

FSC Controlled Wood
Specified Risk Fact Sheet



**FSC US
Region:**
Southeast

Type: Critical
Biodiversity
Area (CBA)

NRA Category:
HCV 3.1

Scope: narrow

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)

The region is considered to have the greatest biological diversity along the Atlantic Coast north of Florida and has been identified in North Carolina's Wildlife Action Plan, the Nature Conservancy's Mid- Atlantic Coastal Plain Ecoregional Plan and One North Carolina Naturally as a high priority area for conservation.¹

Recommended Mitigation

- **Avoidance:** verified evidence that wood procurement is not active in the identified area.
- **Education & Outreach:** information sharing with landowners, loggers, wood suppliers.
- **Procurement Policy:** supporting and promoting conservation.

Mitigation Resources

- **Cape Fear Arch Conservation Collaboration - Resources:** Conservation Plan and Priority Focal Area interactive map.
- **North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission Green Growth Toolbox:** technical assistance tool to help communities conserve high-quality habitats.
- **North Carolina SFI Implementation Committee:** management of forests through training & education.
- **South Carolina Forestry Commission Landowner Services:** Management recommendations.

Information Sources

- **North Carolina Longleaf Commission:** Landowner Technical Assistance Fact Sheet.
- **Charleston South Carolina Post & Courier:** Cape Fear Arch Has Vast Influence. Descriptive Article.

