

Five Things to Know About the Controlled Wood US National Risk Assessment & Risk Mitigation

Controlled Wood, which is a risk based system, is an important part of the FSC system, driving important benefits across forested landscapes and underpinning the FSC Mix label.

1	<p><u>The Risk Assessment Identifies a Number of Areas of ‘Specified Risk’</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In these areas, there is an assessed risk (that is greater than ‘low’) of sourcing unacceptable materials from places where high conservation values are threatened by forest management activities, or where forest is being converted to non-forest uses. ○ The areas of specified risk are concentrated mostly along Pacific Coast and in the southeast regions of the country – areas recognized as having some of the highest biodiversity in the country.
2	<p><u>Certificate Holders Will be Required to Mitigate these Risks</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Certificate holders will implement mitigation actions to reduce the risk of sourcing unacceptable materials from the identified areas. ○ This could be done either by reducing threats and therefore the risk of sourcing from places where threats occur, or by improving knowledge that helps certificate holders avoid sourcing unacceptable materials.
3	<p><u>Stakeholders Can Help to Drive Effective Mitigation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The proposed Regional Meeting approach engages interested stakeholders in the initial development of mitigation options – previously stakeholders were typically just asked to react to certificate holders’ proposals. ○ Effective mitigation options may include enhancement or expansion of existing, proven projects and programs that are already addressing the identified threats. Stakeholders will help to identify these opportunities.
4	<p><u>FSC Is Working to Maintain and Enhance our Credibility in the US</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The revised Controlled Wood Standard (published in 2015) raised the bar for the level of scrutiny required for risk assessments and risk designations – many companies will be addressing risk for the first time. ○ FSC and its partners are now responsible for developing Controlled Wood risk assessments, thereby adding additional credibility.
5	<p><u>We Will Improve Forest Management Across the Landscape</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ By working at a landscape scale and compelling consistent, effective mitigation across that landscape, our proposed approach will result in reduced threats to high conservation values and from forest conversion, not just the avoidance of materials from places where those threats continue. ○ We are excited about working with you to build relationships with certified companies and see this vision achieved!