

# FSC US CONTROLLED WOOD REGIONAL MEETINGS KLAMATH-SISKIYOU CBA



FOREST  
STEWARDSHIP  
COUNCIL®

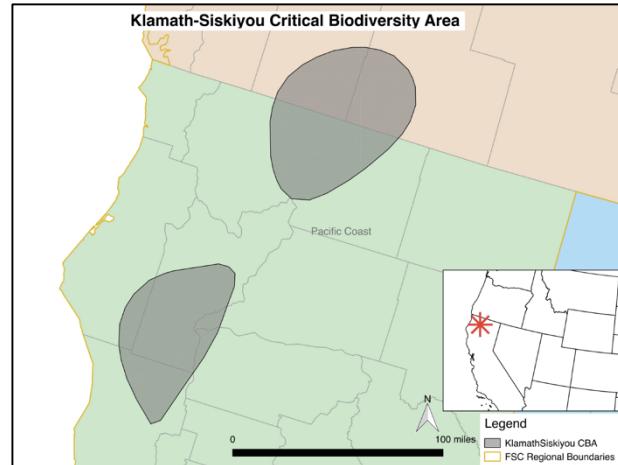
FSC REGION Pacific Coast

**HCVS IN FSC** A High Conservation Value (HCV) is a biological, ecological, social or cultural value of outstanding significance or critical importance. FSC is working to ensure that our system helps to maintain and enhance the special places that support these values. For more information on HCVs, see the Common Guidance for the Identification of High Conservation Values.<sup>1</sup>

**WHY IS KLAMATH-SISKIYOU CBA CONSIDERED AN 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. This index preferences species that have limited ranges by applying additional weighting. The results identify areas with concentrations of high biological diversity and spaces with an increased conservation significance.

## SUMMARY OF KLAMATH-SISKIYOU CBA

The biodiversity in the Klamath-Siskiyou ecoregion is driven by geologic, topographic, and climatic complexity and history. The region was not covered by glaciers during recent ice ages, which mean that it provided a refuge for many species that did not survive elsewhere. Additionally, the diversity in the geophysical landscapes has resulted in many unique combinations of characteristics in different places that promote a diversity of forest and other ecosystem types. In turn, this high diversity of unique fine-scale habitats supports a very large number of terrestrial and aquatic species, including many invertebrate and plant species. The forest-based biodiversity in the Klamath-Siskiyou is largely sustained in diverse mixed conifer stands that are adapted to low- to mid-severity and frequency fires.



## IDENTIFIED THREATS TO THE KLAMATH-SISKIYOU CBA HABITATS

Reported threats to mixed conifer stands include structural changes due to altered fire regimes and conversion through forest management activities to forest stands that have a single dominant species (as opposed to the high diversity of tree species that would most likely occur naturally, and supports the concentration of biodiversity in this area). Other threats include fire suppression, habitat loss and degradation (due to logging and other human activities) including a loss of the full representation of forest successional stages at all elevations, mining, road building and grazing.

<sup>1</sup>Common Guidance for the Identification of High Conservation Values (<https://ic.fsc.org/en/what-is-fsc-certification/consultations/archive/hcv-common-guidance>)



## WHAT ARE MITIGATION ACTIONS AND WHAT WOULD WE LIKE TO ACHIEVE?

Companies that mix FSC-certified forest materials and non-certified materials to make products with an 'FSC Mix' claim/logo are required to address certain risks before using the non-certified forest materials. One of these is the risk that their forest materials come from areas where HCVs are threatened by forest management activities. FSC has completed a US National Risk Assessment to identify where this risk is greater than 'low' and the Klamath-Siskiyou CBA is one of these places. Companies that wish to use non-certified materials from the identified places (like this CBA) are required to either avoid sourcing from specific sites where the threats are occurring, or to implement mitigation actions that reduce the risk of sourcing from those sites. For this CBA, any mitigation actions will need to address the threats identified above in **bold**.

The FSC US National Risk Assessment also introduces the concept of holding regional meetings to bring stakeholders together to collaboratively identify effective and practical mitigation actions. We are asking participants to consider landscape-scale mitigation actions, that will help to reduce risks across the landscape in which the companies source forest materials. An effective way to do this may be to build on existing programs and projects that are already tackling these issues. The companies implementing mitigation actions are required to select one or more from the options identified at the regional meetings.

**Please help us to determine what these mitigation actions should be, by visiting [engage.fsc.us.org](http://engage.fsc.us.org) and joining the virtual discussion, or attending a regional meeting.**

## INFORMATION SOURCES THAT MAY HELP GENERATE MITIGATION IDEAS

- [California Department of Fish and Game](#)
- [Oregon Conservation Strategy – Klamath Mountains](#)
- [World Wildlife Fund](#)
- [The Conservation Fund](#)
- [Wildlife Conservation Society](#)

