



CFWC
Center for Forest & Wood Certification

Family Forest High Conservation Value Forest Worksheet

HCV Type	Description	Finding		
		Yes (present)	Maybe (present)	No (absent/not likely)
1	Concentrations of rare, threatened, or endangered species			
2	Large, landscape level forests or significant forest types			
3	Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems			
4	Areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations			
5	Basic needs of local communities			
6	Areas critical to cultural identity			

*It is recommended this be included your management plan

*Worksheet was adapted from FSC International documentation

High Conservation Value Forest Descriptions

HCV 1: Forest areas containing globally, regionally, or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values (e.g., endemism, endangered species, refugia).

- HCV 1 specifically includes RTE species

HCV 2: Forest areas containing globally, regionally, or nationally significant large landscape level forests, contained within, or containing the management unit, where viable populations of most if not all natural occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance

- HCV 2 includes relatively contiguous areas of forest (which may be crossed by land management roads or public roads). At the minimum these forests are likely to be thousands or tens of thousands of acres in size.
- HCV 2 also includes the following forest types
 - Old forests/mixed age stands that include trees >160 years old
 - Intact forest blocks in an agriculturally dominated landscape (refugia)
 - Intact forests >1,000 ac (valuable to interior forest species)
 - Protected caves
 - Savannas
 - Barrens
 - Prairie remnants
 - Mixed mesophytic cove sites on the Cumberland Plateau
 - Limestone glades in Tennessee and Kentucky
 - Pocosins (evergreen shrub bogs) and other mountain bogs in Virginia, Tennessee, and North Carolina
 - Unique and sensitive geophysical features, such as caves and rock outcrops; and forested wetlands or glades, such as springs, fens, and seeps
 - Spruce-fir (*Picea rubens*-*Abies fraseria*) forests in southern Appalachia
 - Atlantic white-cedar (*Chamaecyparis thyoides*) stands red spruce (*Picea rubens*) forest in central Appalachia

HCV 3: Forest areas that are in or contain rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems

- HCV 3 includes: old growth, roadless areas greater than 500 acres or that have unique attributes, and primary forests

HCV 4: Forest areas that provide basic services of nature in critical situations (e.g., watershed protection, erosion control)

- HCV 4 includes forests that are part of a local drinking water catchment or irrigation supply system, or is a critical source for a remote location.

HCV 5: Forest areas are fundamental to meeting basic needs of local communities

- HCV 5 includes forest areas that local people use to obtain resources which they are critically dependent. This may be the case if local people harvest food products from the forest, or collect building materials or medicinal plants where no viable alternative exists. Forest uses such as recreational hunting or commercial timber harvesting are not basic needs.

HCV 6: Forest areas critical to local communities' traditional cultural identity

- HCV 6 includes areas of cultural significance that have traditional importance to local or indigenous people. These may be religious/sacred sites, burial grounds or sites at which regular traditional ceremonies take place. They may also include outstanding natural landscapes that have evolved as a result of social, economic, administrative, and/or religious imperative (i.e., fossils, artifacts), or areas that by virtue of their natural properties possess significant religious, artistic, or cultural association.