

2.1 Purpose. This chapter documents the policies, standards, and responsibilities required for management planning on Indian forest lands.

2.2 Guidance. Handbooks, directives and other guides may be issued and revised as necessary (see 53 IAM 1.3; also see the *Indian Forestry Management Handbook, Volume 2*, titled, *Forest Management Planning*, for detailed process and procedural guidance).

2.3 Scope. The directives contained in this chapter apply to all Federal agencies and programs participating in the management, accountability, or protection of Indian forest lands. Regardless of the means of program execution, the appropriate Federal official shall assure that the standards prescribed herein are met.

2.4 Policy. All forested reservations, as categorized in 53 IAM 2.8A, in trust or restricted status, shall have a current Forest Management Plan (FMP) which satisfies 25 CFR 163.11 prior to the authorization of activities or expenditure of funds for forest management activities, except as provided for under 53 IAM 2.7. FMPs shall be covered by an appropriate environmental document in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

A. Plan Period. An FMP may remain "current" unless it is determined through either a mandatory periodic formal review process or contemporary finding(s) or event(s) the plan no longer represents tribal goals or forest management policy, or the state or condition of forest/timber resources (See the *Indian Forestry Management Handbook, Volume 2*, titled, *Management Planning*, for information on mandatory periodic formal review, contemporary finding(s) and event(s)).

B. Plan Modification. A current FMP should be reviewed periodically and may be modified at any time to address a change in tribal goals or forest management policy, or a change in the state or condition of forest/timber resources. The modified plan shall comply with other Federal mandates (53 IAM 2.8, C.30.) and may include an updated Forest Inventory Analysis (Inventory Analysis) (53 IAM 8.6).

C. Mandatory Periodic Review. An FMP shall be formally reviewed within a specific time period from the year it is approved. This period shall not exceed 15 years for Category 1 and 2 reservations; and 20 years for Category 3 and 4 reservations. The formal review shall comply with Federal mandates (53 IAM 2.8, C.30.) and include an updated Inventory Analysis (53 IAM 8.6).

D. Plan Extension. An FMP that no is longer current and needs to be rewritten may be extended for a period not to exceed five years from the date of the finding, provided it is shown that continuation of the plan does not violate the principles of sustained-yield management, Federal mandates and the extension is acceptable by the beneficial owners and the trustee. The extended plan shall comply with other Federal mandates (53 IAM 2.8, C.30.) and include an updated Inventory Analysis (53 IAM 8.6).

2.5 FMP with IRMP. FMPs shall incorporate reservation specific resource management policies, goals and objectives documented within a tribal Integrated Resource Management Plan (IRMP), and shall be consistent with said IRMP (refer to "*Guidelines for Integrated Resource Management Planning in Indian Country*").

2.6 FMP without IRMP. The lack of a tribal IRMP will not impede the timely development and approval of an FMP. If an IRMP is not in place, the Regional Director, in conjunction with the beneficial owners' representatives, shall provide the specific forest management policies necessary to develop a stand-alone FMP for Indian forest lands. These policies will be supported by written tribal goals and objectives.

2.7 FMP not Current. Program managers have restricted authority to implement only the following actions without an approved FMP in place:

- A. Preparation of an FMP** (25 CFR 163.11).
- B. Emergency sale of timber on allotted lands held in trust** (25 CFR 163.14(b)).
- C. Free use cutting without permit** (25 CFR 163.27).
- D. Fire management measures** (25 CFR 163.28(a), (b), and (c)).
- E. Trespass protection and prosecution** (25 CFR 163.29).
- F. Insect and disease control** (25 CFR 163.31(b)).

2.8 FMP Content. All reservations are unique and each plan is expected to differ in context, content, and complexity while meeting the minimum requirements listed in 2.8B. While all plans contain specific minimum components, the process used to develop plans may differ. For an example of a forest planning process see the *Indian Forest Management Handbook, Volume 2*.

A. Reservation Prioritization Categories. To facilitate program definition and management priorities, reservations shall be categorized as follows based upon current forest land data:

- Category 1.** Major Forested Reservation. Includes major forested reservations comprised of more than 10,000 acres of trust or restricted commercial timberland or having more than one million board foot harvest of forest products annually (25 CFR 163.36(b)(1)).
- Category 2.** Minor Forested Reservation. Includes minor forested reservations comprised of less than 10,000 acres of trust or restricted commercial timberland and having less than one million board foot harvest of forest products annually, or whose forest resources is determined by the Regional Director to be significant commercial timber value (25 CFR 163.36(b)(2)).
- Category 3.** Significant Woodland Reservation. Includes significant woodland reservations comprised of an identifiable trust or restricted forest area of any size which is lacking a timberland component, and whose forest resource is determined by the Regional Director to be of significant commercial woodland value (25 CFR 163.36(b)(3)).
- Category 4.** Minimally Forested Reservation. Comprised of an identifiable forest area of any size determined by the Regional Director to be of minimal commercial value at this time.
- Category 5.** Reservation or Indian property with forest land that the Bureau is charged with some degree of legal responsibility, but the land is not in trust status.

B. Minimum Content Standards. The FMP shall meet or exceed content standards by Category prior to plan approval and implementation. The identified basic elements within each function shall be addressed with sufficient detail to support implementation of planned activity throughout the plan period. For examples of FMP outline formats, refer to *Indian Forest Management Handbook, Volume 2*.

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Minimum Forest Management Plan Content

Program Function	Category 1 (Cat. 1)	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4
Inventory	Inventory Analysis (see 53 IAM 8.5 & 8.6.)	Same as Cat. 1	Same as Cat. 1	Same as Cat. 1
Approvals	BIA Line Officer & Tribal Resolution ^{1/}	Same as Cat. 1	Same as Cat. 1	Same as Cat. 1
Tribal Goals & Objectives	Tribally developed/approved goals & objectives for mgmt. of forest resources.	Same as Cat. 1	Same as Cat. 1	Same as Cat. 1
Forest Description	1) Resource Assessment 2) General Location Map 3) Reservation Maps	Same as Cat. 1	Same as Cat. 1	Same as Cat. 1
Protection	1) Ordinances/Standards 2) Fire 3) Insect & Disease 4) Trespass 5) Emergency Rehab. 6) Doc., Monitoring, Records 7) Planning Coordination & Communication 8) Organization & Funding	Same as Cat. 1	Same as Cat. 1	Same as Cat. 1
Forest Land Management	1) Tribal IRMP policy, goals, and objectives, if available 2) Ordinances/Standards 3) Silvicultural Guidelines 4) AAC 5) Harvest Policy 6) Harvest Schedule 7) Forest Development 8) Data Collection 9) Doc., Monitoring, Records 10) Planning Coordination & Communication 11) Organization & Funding 12) Trends	Same as Cat. 1	Same as Cat. 1	1) Tribal IRMP policy, goals & objectives 2) Ord./Standards 3) Silvicultural Guidelines 4) Harvest Policy 5) Doc., Monitoring, Records 6) Planning Coordination & Communication
Forest History	1) Chronology of Events 2) Harvest Record 3) Maps & Charts	Not Required	Not Required	Not Required
Social and Economic Benefit Assessments	1) Income 2) Indian Benefits 3) Non-Indian Benefits 4) Regional Econ. Impacts 5) Economic Trends 6) Social Assessment	Same as Cat. 1	Same as Cat. 1	Not Required
Document Retention	FMP & all supporting documents archived in Central Office	Same as Cat. 1	Same as Cat. 1	Same as Cat. 1
Other Federal Mandates	Comply	Comply	Comply	Comply

Category 5 (non-trust) lands may be included in the overall reservation FMP, but shall not require a separate FMP.

^{1/} Tribal resolution may not be required [refer to 2.8C(1) and 2.9B(5)&(6) of this Manual].

C. Content Substance. The substance of the above functional elements will be unique to the resource and the beneficial owners' expectations for management. However, where identified above as required, the significance of the topic shall be explained relative to the following minimum content as it pertains to the planned management action.

(1) Approval Page. *Illustration 2 in Indian Forest Management Handbook, Volume 2,* gives an example of an approval page. Unless otherwise specified, the FMP is in effect from the date of approval through December 31 of the end year if specified on the approval page. If an end date is not specified the plan is in effect until the plan is renewed, modified or rewritten requiring a new approval page and date. The Approval Page must contain the name of the reservation(s) governed by the FMP. The Approval Page must also include the signature of the BIA line officer with the delegated authority to approve FMPs. Signatures from the approved tribal leadership, together with a resolution or other form of tribal authority, are recommended but not required. In the absence of tribal signatures and/or a resolution, documentation of tribal participation in the development of the plan is required. For those reservations where tribes are not interested in, or elect to not participate in forest management planning, signed documentation by the Approving Officer is required.

(2) Landowner Goals and Objectives. A narrative description of the resources being managed and owner's goals and objectives, including policies, goals and objectives as stated in a tribal IRMP.

(3) Resource Assessment. Forest description should include forest acres, cover types, land classification, etc.

(4) General Location Map. A map showing the location of the reservation within the region/state/county.

(5) Reservation Maps. Depending upon the complexity of the FMP, maps should include reservation boundary, forest area, water resource, transportation system, etc.

(6) Ordinances or Standards. Discussion of any tribal and Federal policies, laws, or restrictions that have been formally adopted affecting the implementation of the plan.

(7) Fire Protection. The forest component(s) of the Wildland Fire Management Plan shall be incorporated into the FMP (see 90 IAM 2.1).

(8) Insect & Disease Protection. Planned action to promote forest health; and detect, diagnose, and treat forest insect and disease problems (see 53 IAM 6).

(9) Trespass. Planned action to deter, detect, investigate, and prosecute trespassers (see 53 IAM 7).

(10) Emergency Rehabilitation. Actions and/or restrictions imposed upon the stabilization of soils and replenishment of biological systems following cataclysmic events. (For burned area rehabilitation, see 90 IAM 3.3 B).

(11) Documentation, Monitoring, & Records. Identification of required program documentation and recording procedures, and planned action necessary to monitor plan progress.

(12) Planning, Coordination and Communication. Contacts and processes required for intra- and inter-disciplinary program implementation and conflict resolution.

- (13) **Organization & Funding.** Staffing (e.g. organization, experience, qualification) and program resources (e.g. equipment, funding) required for implementation.
- (14) **Silvicultural Guidelines.** Stand treatment criteria, procedures and restrictions.
- (15) **AAC (Allowable Annual Cut).** A clear statement of the administrative determination of the annual harvest level and explanation as to how it relates to the Indicated Annual Cut.
- (16) **Harvest Policy.** Explanation of AAC to be applied during the plan period in terms of product utilization standards, processes, procedures, restrictions, and products to be harvested, including non-timber forest products.
- (17) **Harvest Schedule.** Annually updated projection of harvest volume and location of forest product sales planned to satisfy the AAC for a specified period of time.
- (18) **Forest Development.** Scheduled regeneration and stand improvement treatments for the period of the plan and update procedures (see 53 IAM 5).
- (19) **Data Collection.** Processes, procedures, and scheduling of inventories (see 53 IAM 8).
- (20) **Chronology of Events.** Historical narrative or update of important management and natural events through time resulting in the present forest condition.
- (21) **Harvest Record.** Tabular chronology of volumes and values removed from the forest through its history of management.
- (22) **Maps & Charts.** As relevant and descriptive for historical record.
- (23) **Income.** Anticipated value of product royalties and other cash revenues from utilization of forest resources.
- (24) **Indian Benefits.** Indian related employment, profit, personal and cultural use, and subsistence.
- (25) **Non-Indian Benefits.** Non-Indian related employment and profit.
- (26) **Regional Economic Impacts.** Value from regional direct, indirect, and induced employment and income multipliers.
- (27) **Economic Trends.** Historic trends and future projections of economic potential.
- (28) **Social Assessments.** Documentation of the social conditions, processes and trends in a specific setting, and their relationships to natural resource conditions and management actions.
- (29) **Document Retention.** The FMP and all supporting documents (e.g., Forest History) will be permanently archived in Central Office.
- (30) **Other Federal Mandates.** Ensure compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Endangered Species Act (ESA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), etc.

D. Appendices. Though supplemental inclusions are dependent upon the complexity of the FMP, the following are minimally required for plan approval:

(1) Forest Land Classification. Graphic replicating *Illustration 1, Indian Forest Management Handbook, Volume 2*, showing the reservation's forest lands as classified and defined by the *Indian Forest Management Handbook, Volume 8*.

(2) Plan Participation. Documented participation of the beneficial owners and appropriate tribal resolutions.

2.9 Responsibilities. In addition to the responsibilities identified in 53 IAM 1.7, the following are directly associated with forest planning:

A. Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs.

- (1)** Develop national forest planning policy, standards and procedures.
- (2)** Provide national forest planning program direction, oversight and guidance.
- (3)** Provide direction and guidance nationally to facilitate state-of-the-art forest management planning.
- (4)** Maintain planning document archive for all Indian forest lands in trust.
- (5)** Annually compile and publish the "Status of Forest Management Inventories and Planning" and the "Catalog of Forest Acres" reports.

B. Regional Director.

- (1)** Develop regional forest planning guidelines for program implementation within the scope and guidance of this manual and all other national policies and standards.
- (2)** Assure national and regional planning standards and planning policies are met.
- (3)** Provide regional forest planning program direction, oversight and guidance within the scope of this manual and in compliance with all other national policies, directions and standards.
- (4)** Approve forest management plans, plan extensions and modifications.
- (5)** Obtain tribal approval of reservation forest management plans, if possible. In the absence of tribal signatures and/or a resolution, documentation of tribal participation in the development of the plan is required. This may be delegated to the Agency Superintendent.
- (6)** Obtain and sign documentation of those reservations where tribes are not interested in, or elect to not participate in forest management planning. This may be delegated to the Agency Superintendent.

C. Agency Superintendent.

- (1)** Plan and budget for FMP.
- (2)** Implement planned activities.

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- (3)** Support tribal efforts to develop IRMPs.

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EXPLANATION OF MATERIAL TRANSMITTED:

This second chapter of the manual documents policies, authorities, and responsibilities required for management planning on Indian forest lands. Management plan approval process and plan expiration time frames have been changed. Reissuance will be for five years.

This Chapter replaces 53 IAM 2, Release #03-01, Issued 10/15/03.



FOR William Pat Ragsdale
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

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