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

1.2 Scope. This policy applies to all Indian Affairs (IA) offices and programs participating in the management, accountability, and protection of Indian forest lands. Other Federal agencies and programs that are also involved in the administration of Indian forest lands are encouraged to ensure that the standards prescribed herein are met.

1.3 Policy. All Indian forest lands in trust or restricted status shall have a current Forest Management Plan (FMP) which satisfies 25 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 163.11 prior to the authorization of activities or expenditure of funds for forest management activities. FMPs shall be covered by an appropriate environmental document in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

1.4 Authority.

A. Statutes and Regulations.

1) 25 CFR 163, General Forestry Regulations

2) 18 U.S. Code (U.S.C.) § 1853, 1855 and 1856, Trees cut or injured; Timber set afire; Fires left unattended and unextinguished

3) 25 U.S.C. Chapter 33 – National Indian Forest Resources Management

4) 25 U.S.C. § 196, Sale or Other Disposition of Dead Timber

4) 25 U.S.C. § 406-407, Sale of timber on lands held under trust-Sale of timber on unalloted lands

5) 25 U.S.C. § 413, Fees to Cover Cost of Work Performed for Indians

6) 25 U.S.C. § 415, Leases of Restricted Lands

7) 25 U.S.C. § 466, Indian forestry units; Rules and Regulations

B. Guidance.

1) 303 Departmental Manual (DM) 2, Indian Trust Responsibilities – Principles for Managing Indian Trust Assets

2) 586 DM 1, Timber Management – General Policies and Responsibility

3) 611 DM 1, Forest Pest Control Program - General

1.5 Responsibilities. In addition to the responsibilities identified in 53 IAM 1, the following are directly associated with forest planning:

A. Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is responsible for:

1) Developing national forest planning policy, standards, and procedures;
2) Providing national forest planning program direction, oversight, and guidance;
3) Providing direction and guidance nationally to facilitate forest management planning;
4) Maintaining a planning document archive for all Indian forest lands in trust;
5) Annual compiling and publishing of the "Status of Forest Management Inventories and Planning" and the "Catalog of Forest Acres" reports.

B. Regional Directors (RDs) are responsible for:

1) Developing regional forest planning guidelines for program implementation within the scope and guidance of this policy and all other national policies and standards;
2) Ensuring national and regional planning standards and planning policies are met;
3) Providing regional forest planning program direction, oversight, and guidance within the scope of this policy and in compliance with all other national policies, directions and standards;
4) Approving forest management plans, and modifications;
5) Obtaining tribal approval of 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) Obtaining and signing documentation from tribes that are not interested in, or elect to not participate in, forest management planning. This may be delegated to the Agency Superintendent.

C. **Agency Superintendents** are responsible for:

1) Planning and budgeting for FMPs;
2) Implementing planned activities;
3) Supporting tribal efforts to develop Integrated Resource Management Plans (IRMPs).

1.6 Standards and Requirements.

An FMP is non-expiring and will remain in effect until a new plan is approved. A new plan should be considered when a periodic review determines the current plan no longer represents tribal goals and objectives, forest management policy, or the state or condition of forest/timber resources. An FMP written and approved prior to September 30, 2006, will be considered valid by the BIA.

A. FMP Review and Revision

An FMP should be periodically reviewed and may be revised to address changes in tribal goals and objectives, forest management policy, or a change in the state or condition of forest/timber resources. The revised plan shall comply with Federal mandates and may include an updated Forest Inventory Analysis.

It is recommended that from the approval date of the plan, at least one review should be done within 15 years for Category 1 and 2 Indian forest lands; and 20 years for Category 3 and 4 Indian forest lands. A review and/or revision shall comply with Federal mandates and may include an updated Inventory Analysis.

B. FMP in Relation to an IRMP

An FMP should be written as a standalone management plan. The lack of a tribal IRMP should not impede the timely development and approval of an FMP. If an IRMP is in development, a separate FMP should be developed and can be referenced in the IRMP document. If an existing IRMP includes an FMP, the IRMP will substitute for a standalone FMP. The RD, in cooperation with the beneficial owners' representatives, shall provide the specific forest management policies necessary to develop a standalone FMP for Indian forest lands. These policies will be supported by written tribal goals and objectives.

C. Management Actions Allowed without an Approved FMP

Program managers have restricted authority to implement only the following actions without an approved FMP in place:

1) Preparation of an FMP (25 CFR 163.11)

2) Emergency sale of timber on allotted lands held in trust (25 CFR 163.14(b))

3) Free use cutting without permit (25 CFR 163.27)

4) Fire management measures (25 CFR 163.28(a), (b), and (c))

5) Trespass protection and prosecution (25 CFR 163.29)

6) Insect and disease control (25 CFR 163.31(b))

1.7 FMP Content.

All Indian forest lands are unique and each plan is expected to differ in context, content, and complexity while meeting the minimum requirements listed in 1.7B. While all plans contain specific minimum components, the process used to develop plans may differ.

A. Tribal Forest Land Categories. To facilitate program definition and management, forest land is categorized based upon current forest land acres and annual harvest of forest products:

Category 1, Significant Forest Land. Includes forest land 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 Forest Land. Includes forest land 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 RD to be of significant commercial timber value (25 CFR 163.36(b)(2)).

Category 3, Significant Woodland. Includes significant woodlands 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 RD to be of significant commercial woodland value (25 CFR 163.36(b)(3)).

Category 4, Minimal Forest Land. Comprised of an identifiable forest land or woodland area of any size, determined by the RD to be of minimal commercial value at this time.

Category 5, Non-trust Tribal Forest Land. Indian forest land that the BIA 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 activities.

FMP content will be unique to the resource and the beneficial owners' expectations for management.

Attachment 1 identifies minimum content for each forest land category for an FMP. The following describes recommendations for meeting these requirements.

(1) **Approval Page.** The FMP is in effect from the date of approval until the plan is renewed, modified, or rewritten requiring a new approval page and date. The Approval Page must contain the name of the tribes whose forest land is covered by the FMP. The Approval Page must also include the signature of the BIA Line Officer with the delegated authority to approve FMPs. Approval signatures from the 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 tribes that 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 the owner's goals and objectives, including forest management policies.

(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 forest land within the region/state/county.

(5) **Forest Land Maps.** Depending upon the complexity of the FMP, maps should include reservation, allotment, or non-trust land boundaries, forest area, water resources, 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.** At a minimum, describe the fire protection strategies, i.e., Fire Management Plan, Fire Protection agreements.

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

(9) **Trespass.** Planned action to deter, detect, investigate, and prosecute trespassers.

(10) **Emergency Stabilization.** The purpose of Emergency Stabilization is to determine the need for, prescribe, and implement emergency treatments to minimize threats to life or property, or to stabilize and prevent further unacceptable degradation to natural and cultural resources from the effects of a wildfire or other events.

(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) **Allowable Annual Cut (AAC).** AAC is the maximum harvest level allowed by management goals and objectives during a planning period.

(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.

(19) **Data Collection.** Processes, procedures, and scheduling of inventories.

(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.** 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 NEPA, Endangered Species Act (ESA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), etc.

Approval

5/22/15

Michael Black
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Date

Attachment 1
Minimum Forest Management Plan Content

Program Function	Category 1 (Cat. 1)	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4
Inventory	Inventory Analysis (see 53 IAM 8).	Same as Cat. 1	Regional Discretion	Regional Discretion
Approvals	BIA Line Officer &/or Tribal Approval	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 or BIA for custodial plans.	Same as Cat. 1 or BIA for custodial plans.
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 policy, goals, & 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	1) Tribal policy, goals & objectives 2)Ordinances/Standards 3)Silvicultural Guidelines 4)Harvest Policy 5)Document Monitoring Records 6)Planning Coordination & Communication	1) Tribal policy, goals & objectives 2)Ordinances/Standards 3)Silvicultural Guidelines 4)Harvest Policy 5)Document 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	Not required	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 tribal FMP, but shall not require a separate FMP.

1/ Tribal resolution may not be required (refer to other sections of this IAM as needed).