1.1 References.


C. The agreement for the conduct of forest insect and disease surveys and control on lands of the Department of the Interior, approved by the Secretaries of the Interior and of Agriculture on October 11, 1961, and December 6, 1961, respectively, provides in part as follows:

The control of destructive forest insects and diseases is essential to the maintenance of the forests of the Nation in a healthy and productive condition. Annually these destructive agents kill more trees and reduce their growth potential more severely than all other destructive agents combined. This is a matter of great concern to administrators of public and private lands responsible for forest protection and preservation.

The impairment of the forest resources of the Nation by destructive insects and diseases and the menace they present to the national welfare have been recognized by the enactment of two Federal laws commonly referred to as >The Lea Act of April 26, 1940' (54 Stat. 168) and >The Forest Pest Control Act of June 25, 1947' (61 Stat. 177). The Lea Act applies specifically to the introduced white pine blister rust disease and the Forest Pest Control Act applies to forest insects and other tree diseases. These acts authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to use Federal funds to conduct surveys to detect and evaluate insect and disease outbreaks and to prevent, retard, control, suppress, or eradicate injurious forest insect pests and tree diseases on all forest lands in cooperation with Federal land-managing agencies, the States, and private owners of forest land. The Secretary of Agriculture has delegated to the Forest Service the responsibility for carrying out the provisions of these acts.

To implement the Lea Act of 1940, annual acts providing appropriations to the Department of Agriculture carry funds for white pine blister rust control and indicate amounts of these
funds to be used by the Department of the Interior for work on Federal lands under its jurisdiction as well as amounts to be used by the Forest Service on the national forests and on non-Federal lands. Appropriations to implement the Forest Pest Control Act are also made annually to the Department of Agriculture, based on control estimates developed by the Forest Service, the Department of the Interior, other Federal land-managing agencies, and cooperating State agencies, for forest insects and other tree diseases. Aside from certain amounts for administrative expenses, the funds for forest pest control are released by the Office of Management and Budget only upon presentation of evidence of need prepared by the Forest Service from data submitted by all affected agencies.

The basic plan for control of destructive insects and diseases, to accomplish the purpose of this legislation, requires close cooperation between the several responsible bureaus and agencies of the two Federal departments that participate in this work. Moreover, forest lands in different ownerships often are intermingled necessitating coordinated and integrated action programs on lands subject to the respective administrative authorities of Federal, State, and private agencies to achieve the objectives of the Federal Pest Control Acts as set forth by The Congress.

In recognition of these facts, it is essential that the Department of the Interior and Agriculture agree in general terms on the basic principles necessary and desirable to effectuate the fullest cooperation in the performance of forest insect and disease control. Therefore, in the interest of cooperative control of all forest insects and diseases, other than silvicultural treatments, it is mutually agreed:

(1) That the two Departments and the field representatives thereof will, under the legal, fiscal and other limitations respectively governing each, cooperate fully and freely in the exchange of information relating to control of all insect and disease pests and in the planning, development, coordination, and execution of field operations.

(2) That the guiding principles of the cooperation to minimize forest losses from insects and diseases shall be those established by existing legislation, including the Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act of August 1, 1958 (72 Stat. 479), and equal consideration to the protection of timber, soil, and water resources, the protection of fish and wildlife habitat, and the direct and indirect effects on fish and wildlife.

(3) That the Secretaries of the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture authorize the respective bureaus and agencies concerned with the control of forest insects and diseases to collaborate and to develop and execute coordinated work programs and projects.

1.2 **Type of Program.** The control programs authorized by the two acts referred to in 611 DM 1.1 comprise the development and execution of coordinated work programs for the prevention, retardation, control suppression or eradication of incipient, potential or emergency attacks of destructive insects and diseases on or threatening all forest lands of the Nation irrespective of ownership.
1.3 **Department Policy.** It is the policy of the Department that the bureaus concerned with the management and protection of forests and woodlands will cooperate to the fullest possible extent with the Department of Agriculture and with the States and local organizations in carrying out the statutory provisions insofar as public and Indian forests and woodlands under their jurisdiction are affected. Any actions taken by the Department will conform with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (83 Stat. 852).

9/28/72 #1493
Replaces 2/13/62 #485