

# INDIAN AFFAIRS MANUAL

Part 53  
Chapter 2

Forestry  
Forest Management Planning

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- 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 unallotted 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

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- 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.

### **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.

