

2324.1 - Management of Insects and Diseases

2324.11 - Objectives

1. To allow indigenous insect and plant diseases to play, as nearly as possible, their natural ecological role within wilderness.
2. To protect the scientific value of observing the effect of insects and diseases on ecosystems and identifying genetically resistant plant species.
3. To control insect and plant disease epidemics that threatens adjacent lands or resources.

2324.12 - Policy

1. Do not control insect or plant disease outbreaks unless it is necessary to prevent unacceptable damage to resources on adjacent lands or an unnatural loss to the wilderness resource due to exotic pests.
2. Trees within the wilderness have no commercial value. Do not consider the commercial value of trees in wilderness in evaluations for insect and disease control.

2324.13 - Detection

Conduct surveys to monitor forest insects or diseases in wilderness in a manner that preserves the wilderness character of the area. Generally this will be in the same manner as that prescribed for other National Forest System lands (FSM 3412). Modify any procedures that are in conflict with wilderness management objectives.

2324.14 - Evaluation of Epidemics

Perform a biological evaluation of insect or disease outbreaks that have been detected as prescribed in FSM 3421. Do not allow cost-benefit evaluation (FSM 3422) to influence decisions on treatment of insect disease outbreaks in wilderness to the same degree this evaluation affects decisions on other National Forest System land. Weigh the effects of insect or disease epidemics on the wilderness or on resource values outside the wilderness against the adverse effects of a control project in the wilderness.

2324.15 - Control Measures

When control of insects or disease is necessary in National Forest wilderness, it shall be carried out by measures that have the least adverse impact on the wilderness resource and are compatible with wilderness management objectives.

Meet the requirements in FSM 2324.04, FSM 2151, FSM 3430, and FSM 1950 in carrying out insect and disease control projects in wilderness. Special care must be taken with the use of chemicals inside wilderness because of possible effects on the total biological complex. Consider other alternatives to chemical use in the environmental analysis.