

FOREST SERVICE MANUAL (FSM) REFERENCES

FSM 2320 – Wilderness Management, does not include a section specifically addressing non-native invasive species. However, numerous sections provide applicable direction, and below are sections which are determined to be most applicable. Managers are urged to review the FS Directives, especially any applicable Regional and/or Forest Manual Supplements. Other FSM with applicable NNIS and/or Wilderness direction include FSM 2080 – Noxious Weeds Management, and FSM 2150 – Pesticide Use Management and Coordination

FSM 2320 – WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT

“Wilderness is ... valuable for its scientific and educational uses, as a benchmark for ecological studies, and for the preservation of historical and natural features.”

“Manage the wilderness resource to ensure its character and values are dominant and enduring. Its management must be consistent over time and between areas to ensure its present and future availability and enjoyment as wilderness. Manage wilderness to ensure that human influence does not impede the free play of natural forces or interfere with natural successions in the ecosystems and to ensure that each wilderness offers outstanding opportunities for solitude or a primitive and unconfined type of recreation. Manage wilderness as one resource rather than a series of separate resources (sec. 2320.6).”

2320.2 – Objectives

2. Maintain wilderness in such a manner that ecosystems are unaffected by human manipulation and influences so that plants and animals develop and respond to natural forces.

2320.5 – Definitions

10. Indigenous Species. Any species of flora or fauna that naturally occurs in a wilderness area and that was not introduced by man.

11. Native Species. Any species of flora or fauna that naturally occurs in the United States and that was not introduced by man.

12. Naturalized Species. Any non-indigenous species of flora or fauna that is close genetically or resembles an indigenous species and that has become established in the ecosystem as if it were an indigenous species.

13. Exotic Species. Any species that is not indigenous, native, or naturalized.

2320.6 – The Wilderness Management Model and the Wilderness Act.

Each designated wilderness is affected by a variety of human influences that vary in intensity.... The number and intensity of these influences cause a gap between the attainable legislative wilderness and the conditions that exist on a wilderness (“X”). The goal of wilderness management is to identify these influences, define their causes, remedy them, and close the gap (“A”) between the attainable level of purity and the level that exists on each wilderness (“X”).

Where a choice must be made between wilderness values and ... any other activity, preserving the wilderness resource is the overriding value.

2323 – MANAGEMENT OF OTHER RESOURCES IN WILDERNESS

2323.04 - Responsibilities

2323.04c – Regional Forester....

9. Approving the use of pesticides within wilderness.

2323.26b - Nonstructural Range Improvements

2. Plant Control. Approve plant control only for:

- b. Noxious farm weeds by grubbing or with chemicals when they threaten lands outside wilderness or when they are spreading within the wilderness, provided that it is possible to effect control without causing serious adverse impacts on wilderness values.

2323.5 - Management of Forest Cover

2323.51 - Objective. Manage forest cover to retain the primeval character of the environment and to allow natural ecological processes to operate freely.

2323.52 - Policy

1. Permit ecological processes to operate naturally.
2. Recognize both climax and successional biotic communities as natural and desirable.
3. Allow, wherever possible, the natural process of healing in handling disturbed communities. Consider structural or vegetative assistance only as a last resort.
4. Only allow vegetation to be cut or sold when necessary for wilderness purposes or on valid mining claims under specified conditions, or when emergency conditions like fire, insect and disease, or protecting public safety make it necessary.

2323.54 – Reforestation. Allow reforestation only if a loss of the wilderness resource, due to human influence, has occurred and there is no reasonable expectation of natural reforestation.

FSM 2080 – NOXIOUS WEED MANAGEMENT

2080.3 - Policy. In consultation with Federal, State, and local government entities and the public, develop and implement a program for noxious weed management on National Forest System lands. Activities implementing the noxious weed management program must be consistent with the goals and objectives identified in Forest Land and Resource Management Plans (FSM 1910, 1920, and 1930).

2080.43 - Forest Supervisor. Forest Supervisors are responsible for:

1. Appointing a Forest coordinator for the noxious weed program.
2. Developing and implementing a noxious weed management program that is consistent with the goals and objectives identified in Forest Land and Resource Management Plans (FSM 1910, 1920, and 1930).
6. Cooperating with State agencies to enforce State legislation requiring noxious weed-free forage or seed on National Forest System lands.

2080.44 - District Ranger. District Rangers are responsible for:

7. Cooperating with State agencies to enforce State legislation requiring noxious weed-free forage or seed on National Forest System lands.

2081.03 - Policy. When any ground disturbing action or activity is proposed, determine the risk of introducing or spreading noxious weeds associated with the proposed action.

1. For projects having moderate to high risk of introducing or spreading noxious weeds, the project decision document must identify noxious weed control measures that must be undertaken during project implementation.

2. Make every effort to ensure that all seed, feed, hay, and straw used on National Forest System lands is free of noxious weed seeds. (FSH 6309.12, sec. 42 and 42.1).

3. Where States have enacted legislation and have an active program to make weed-free forage available, Forest Officers shall issue orders restricting the transport of feed, hay, straw, or mulch which is not declared as weed-free, as provided in 36 CFR 261.50(a) and 261.58(t).

4. Use contract and permit clauses to prevent the introduction or spread of noxious weeds by contractors and permittees. For example, where determined to be appropriate, use clauses requiring contractors or permittees to clean their equipment prior to entering National Forest System lands.

2081.2 - Prevention and Control Measures. Determine the factors which favor the establishment and spread of noxious weeds and design management practices or prescriptions to reduce the risk of infestation or spread of noxious weeds.

Where funds and other resources do not permit undertaking all desired measures, address and schedule noxious weed prevention and control in the following order:

1. First Priority: Prevent the introduction of new invaders,
2. Second Priority: Conduct early treatment of new infestations, and
3. Third Priority: Contain and control established infestations.

When assigning management priorities for prevention and control measures, utilize Noxious Weed Classification Systems developed at the State, county, or local level to provide a coordinated approach. Particular consideration should be given to emergency staging areas, trailheads, campgrounds, and gravel pits.

REGIONAL FSM 2080 SUPPLEMENTS

Following are Regional Supplements to FSM 2080 that contain direction specific to management of non-native invasive plants in Wilderness.

FSM 2080 R1 SUPPLEMENT 2000-2001-1

FSM 2150 - PESTICIDE USE MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

2150.3 - Policy. In managing and coordinating the use of pesticides, Forest Service policy is to:

3. Use pesticides in designated Wilderness only when necessary to protect or restore significant resource values within the Wilderness or on public or private lands

bordering the Wilderness after receipt of the public or private landowner's written permission.

2151 - REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PESTICIDE USE. Conduct appropriate reviews and obtain necessary approvals (FSM 2151.04) before applying pesticides on National Forest System lands. Use Form FS-2100-2, Pesticide-Use Proposal (FSH 2109.14), to document approval, except for the following uses that require only oral approval:

2151.04 - Responsibility.

2151.04a - Regional Foresters. Regional Foresters are responsible for reviewing and approving or disapproving all proposed pesticide uses on National Forest System lands. The Regional Forester may delegate this authority to other line officers on a case-by-case basis or by supplement to this code, except for the following

1. Any pesticide use in Wilderness, which includes Wilderness study areas.

A number of Regions (R1, R2, R3, R4, R5, R10) currently have supplements to this Chapter; however, all supplements reserve responsibility for approving pesticide use in Wilderness to the Regional Forester, as stated in FSM 2151.04a.

FOREST SERVICE HANDBOOK REFERENCES

FSH 2109 – PESTICIDE USE MANAGEMENT AND COORDINATION

11 - DETERMINATION OF PESTICIDE-USE NEED. All pesticide-use activities on National Forest System lands must be consistent with the standards and guidelines and other management direction in applicable Forest land and resource management plans (Forest plans) (36 CFR Part 219). Forest plans (FSM 1920) generally mandate principles of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for management of forest pests such as insects, diseases, animals, and unwanted vegetation. Forest plans should also contain standards and guidelines for managing pests in areas as diverse as Wilderness, seed orchards, nurseries, and multiple-use areas.

13.11 - Pesticides Proposed for Use on National Forest System Lands. (FSM 2152). On National Forest System lands, District personnel prepare or coordinate all proposals for pesticide uses on the District. These include uses by licensees, permittees, grantees, States, and other Federal agencies. The District Rangers review and approve pesticide proposals within their delegated authorities and forward the remainder, not under District Ranger authority, to the Forest Supervisor. Forest Supervisors screen and consolidate proposed District program needs, add uses not indicated by the District Ranger, and review and approve, if appropriate, those pesticide uses that are under their approval authority. Forest Supervisors forward the proposals not under their authority to the Regional Office for review, concurrence, and/or approval (FSM 2151).

13.4 - Approval. Regional Foresters or their designated representatives must approve all proposed pesticide uses on National Forest System lands (FSM 2151). Approval is indicated by signing the Pesticide-Use Proposal (Form FS-2100-2). Housekeeping and other minor uses of pesticides that do not require Pesticide-Use Proposals may be approved orally (FSM 2151). Only the Regional Forester can approve pesticide use in designated Wilderness Areas (FSM 2323.04c), wilderness study areas, or designated or

candidate research areas, and any use of sodium cyanide. This approval authority cannot be redelegated.