



**FOREST SERVICE HANDBOOK
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FSH 1909.15 - ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND PROCEDURES HANDBOOK

CHAPTER 30 - CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION FROM DOCUMENTATION

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Date Approved: 05/29/2003

Posting Instructions: Interim directives are numbered consecutively by Handbook number and calendar year. Post by document at the end of the chapter. Retain this transmittal as the first page(s) of this document. The last interim directive was 1909.15-2002-3 to chapter 30.

New Document	id_1909.15-2003-1	2 Pages
Superseded Document(s) (Interim Directive Number and Effective Date)	None	

Digest:

The categorical exclusions set out in this interim directive (ID) were published as proposals for notice and comment in the Federal Register on December 16, 2002 (67 FR 77038). Notice of the issuance of this ID and the response to public comment was published in the Federal Register on June 5, 2003 (68 FR 33814). These Federal Register notices were published jointly with the Department of the Interior, which has issued the same categorical exclusions to Department of the Interior Manual 516 DM, Chapter 2, Appendix 1.

31.2 - Establishes categorical exclusions for hazardous fuels reduction activities (paragraph 10) and post-fire rehabilitation activities (paragraph 11).

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31.2 - Categories of Actions for Which a Project or Case File and Decision Memo Are Required

10. Hazardous fuels reduction activities using prescribed fire, not to exceed 4,500 acres, and mechanical methods for crushing, piling, thinning, pruning, cutting, chipping, mulching, and mowing, not to exceed 1,000 acres. Such activities:

- a. Shall be limited to areas;
 - (1) In wildland-urban interface; and
 - (2) Condition Classes 2 or 3 in Fire Regime Groups I, II, or III, outside the wildland-urban interface;
- b. Shall be identified through a collaborative framework as described in “A Collaborative Approach for Reducing Wildland Fire Risks to Communities and Environment 10-Year Comprehensive Strategy Implementation Plan”;
- c. Shall be conducted consistent with agency and Departmental procedures and applicable land and resource management plans;
- d. Shall not be conducted in wilderness areas or impair the suitability of wilderness study areas for preservation as wilderness;
- e. Shall not include the use of herbicides or pesticides or the construction of new permanent roads or other new permanent infrastructure; and may include the sale of vegetative material if the primary purpose of the activity is hazardous fuels reduction.

11. Post-fire rehabilitation activities, not to exceed 4,200 acres (such as tree planting, fence replacement, habitat restoration, heritage site restoration, repair of roads and trails, and repair of damage to minor facilities such as campgrounds), to repair or improve lands unlikely to recover to a management approved condition from wildland fire damage, or to repair or replace minor facilities damaged by fire. Such activities:

- f. Shall be conducted consistent with agency and Departmental procedures and applicable land and resource management plans;
- g. Shall not include the use of herbicides or pesticides or the construction of new permanent roads or other new permanent infrastructure; and
- h. Shall be completed within three years following a wildland fire.