

**Forest Service Manual
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**Forest Service Manual 2500 – Watershed and Air Management
Chapter 2580 – Air Resource Management**

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Date approved:

Responsible Staff:

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NEW POSTING NOTICE: This amendment is the first in a new numbering series corresponding to the year in which material was amended. Since this amendment replaces all text except Interim Directives (ID), do not check for the last transmittal received for this title. Replace the entire title text except ID's. Place this transmittal sheet at the front of the title and retain until the first transmittal of the next calendar year is received.

Digest: Following is an explanation of the changes throughout the directive by section.

2500: Please read the new posting notice carefully. These directions apply to this transmittal only.

Entire text, except ID's, is replaced. New text corresponds with text located in the National Information Center.

The electronic document names are shown above for ease in accessing them from the National Information Center.

Direction has not been changed. Some minor typographical and technical errors were corrected.

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Amendment numbers and dates noted above are listed for historical purposes only.

All subsequent amendments will be issued by document.

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2580.1 - Authority

1. The Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resource Planning Act of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1602), directs the Secretary of Agriculture to protect and, where appropriate, improve the quality of soil, water, and air resources.

2. The Clean Air Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.), significantly broadened the authority and responsibility of the Forest Service by:

- a. Complying with all Federal, State, or local air control rules, regulations, and directives.
- b. Requiring compliance with substantive and procedural requirements imposed by a Federal, State, interstate, or local administrative authority or court.
- c. Requiring consultation with each State having delegated authority on all matters concerning the prevention of significant deterioration of air quality, visibility, air quality maintenance plan requirements, and nonattainment requirements.
- d. Giving Federal land managers an affirmative responsibility to:
 - (1) Protect the air quality related values on any lands managed by them within a class I area.
 - (2) Consider, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, whether a proposed major emitting facility will have an adverse impact on air quality related values.

2580.2 - Objectives

The objectives of air resource management are:

- 1. Protect air quality related values within class I areas, as described in 42 U.S.C. 7475(d)(2)(B) and (C) and section 2580.5.
- 2. Control and minimize air pollutant impact from land management activities.
- 3. Cooperate with air regulatory authorities to prevent significant adverse effects of air pollutants and atmospheric deposition on forest and rangeland resources.

2580.3 - Policy

- 1. Integrate air resource management objectives into all resource planning and management activities.
- 2. Use cost effective methods of achieving resource management objectives.

2580.4 - Responsibility

2580.41 - Deputy Chief, National Forest System

The Deputy Chief, National Forest System provides liaison and coordination at the national level with other Federal agencies and implements interagency programs to meet the provisions of all applicable air resource management legislation.

2580.42 - Staff Director, Watershed and Air Management

The Staff Director, Watershed and Air Management develops:

1. Overall Forest Service policy for air resource management.
2. Program direction and budgets for air resource management on National Forest System lands.
3. Joint policy and program direction with:
 - a. Staff Director, Fire and Aviation Management. To mitigate adverse impacts from prescribed fire on the air resource of the National Forests and the air resource outside Forest Service jurisdiction.
 - b. Staff Director, Recreation. To identify and protect air quality related values and to establish an acceptable level of protection to prevent adverse impacts (2323.6).
 - c. Staff Director, Forest Pest Management. To detect and evaluate atmospheric deposition effects on forest and rangeland vegetation and to provide technical assistance to Regions and other forest resource managers (section 3410).
 - d. Staff Directors, Forest Environmental Research and Forest Fire and Atmospheric Sciences Research. To develop and prioritize direction for Research needed to support air resource management programs.
4. Cooperates with Federal, State, and local agencies to develop and revise air quality standards and regulations affecting the protection and management of forest and rangeland resources.
5. Consults and provides technical assistance to Regions and other forest resources managers.

2580.43 - Regional Foresters

The Regional Foresters shall:

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1. Establish budgets and coordination requirements to protect air resources and air quality related values.
2. Protect current condition of air quality related values within class I areas.
3. Document the decision criteria and process used to:
 - a. Respond to inquiries from States concerning area redesignations (42 U.S.C. 7474(b)(1)(B)).
 - b. Determine effects of a proposed major emitting facility on air quality related values within class I area (42 U.S.C. 7475 (d)(2)(A), (B) (C)(i), (ii), and (iii)).
 - c. Certify concurrence or nonconcurrence with the Environmental Protection Agency Administrator's exemption of major stationary sources from visibility requirements (42 U.S.C. 7491 (c)(3) and (d)).
4. Monitor the effects of air pollution and atmospheric deposition on forest resources. Monitor air pollutants when Forest Service goals and objectives are at risk and adequate data are not available.
5. Cooperate with Federal, State, and local air regulatory agencies to protect resource values; participate with them in the assessment of air quality monitoring needs and in the development or revisions of air quality standards and regulations affecting forest resource.
6. Ensure that all land and resource management activities comply with all substantive and procedural requirements of Federal, State, interstate, or local air regulatory authorities (42 U.S.C. 7418 (a)).
7. Encourage all forest and rangeland ownership to minimize air pollutants from their land management activities.
8. Use cost effective programs to reduce the prescribed burning impacts on air quality related values in class I areas.

2580.44 - Area Director

The Area Director shall:

1. Monitor the effects of air pollution and atmospheric deposition on forest resources. Monitor air pollutants when Forest Service goals and objectives are at risk and adequate data are not available.

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2. Cooperate with Federal, State, and local air regulatory agencies to protect resource values; participate with them in the assessment of air quality monitoring needs and in the development or revisions of air quality standards and regulations affecting forest resource.

3. Ensure that all land and resource management activities comply with all substantive and procedural requirements of Federal, State, interstate, or local air regulatory authorities (42 U.S.C. 7418 (a)).

4. Encourage all forest and rangeland ownership to minimize air pollutants from their land management activities.

5. Use cost effective programs to reduce the prescribed burning impacts on air quality related values in class I areas.

2580.5 - Definitions

1. Adverse Impact. The harmful interference with the structure or functioning of a person, place, ecosystem, or object. Any effect that exceeds identified limits of acceptable change.

2. Air Pollutant. Substances (gases, liquids, or solid particles) in the ambient air that are foreign to the "natural" atmosphere or in quantities exceeding "natural" concentrations.

3. Air Quality. The composition of air with respect to quantities of pollutants there in; used most frequently in connection with "standards" of maximum acceptable pollutant concentration.

4. Air Quality Related Values. A feature or property of an area that is affected in some way by air pollution. Identified values are visibility, odor, flora, fauna, soil, water, geologic feature, and cultural resources.

5. Ambient Air. The air of the surrounding outside environment; literally, the air moving around us.

6. Ambient Air Quality Standards. A legal limit on the level of atmospheric contamination. The National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) are the level established by EPA as the concentration limits needed to protect all of the public against adverse effects on public health and welfare from effects such as visibility reduction, soiling, material damage, and nuisance.

7. Atmospheric Deposition. The wet and dry transfer of pollutants from the atmosphere to the surface by any form of precipitation, gravitation, impaction, absorption, or adsorption.

8. Baseline Concentration. The ambient pollution concentration levels existing at the time of the first application for a permit in an area subject to "prevention of significant deterioration" requirements (42 U.S.C 7479 (4)).

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9. Base Level. The air quality or AQRV condition from which increments or limits of acceptable change are measured. Current condition at the time of control program initiation.

10. Class I Area. One of three classes of areas provided for in the Clean Air Act for the Prevention of Significant Deterioration program. Class I areas are the "cleanest" area and receive special visibility protection. They are allowed very limited increases (increments) in sulfur dioxide and particulate matter concentrations in the ambient air over baseline concentrations. (See 42 U.S.C. 7473 for description of the specific increments).

11. Current Condition. The condition of air quality related values when first inventoried.

12. Major Emitting Facility. Certain specific stationary sources which emit or have the potential to emit 100 tons per year or more of any air pollutants, (see 42 U.S.C. 7479 (1) for a listing of specific sources covered) or any other source with the potential to emit two hundred and fifty tons per year or more of any air pollutant.

13. Nonattainment Area. An area identified by an air quality regulatory agency through ambient air monitoring (and designated by the Environmental Protection Agency) that presently exceeds the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

14. Prevention of Significant Deterioration. A program established by the Clean Air Act to:

a. Protect public health and welfare from any actual or potential adverse effects from air pollutants not withstanding attainment and maintenance of all national ambient air quality standards.

b. Ensure economic growth will occur in a manner consistent with the preservation of existing clean air resources.

c. Preserve air quality and air quality related values in area of special national or regional natural, recreational, scenic or historic values.

d. Ensure that any decision to permit increased air pollution is made only after there has been adequate opportunity for informed public participation in the decisionmaking process and after careful evaluation of all consequences.

15. Redesignation. A change in class (I, II, or III) designation of an area. Only States or Indian tribes have the authority to make redesignations (42 U.S.C. 7473 and 7474). Recommendations are provided to the States by the appropriate land manager.

16. Visibility. The ability to clearly see distant features and the unimpaired colors and textures of intermediate distance scenic elements.