

**Forest Service Handbook
National Headquarters - Washington Office
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**Forest Service Handbook 2809.15 – Minerals and Geology Handbook
Transmittal**

Amendment: 2809.15-2006-1

Effective date: August 31, 2006

Duration: This amendment is effective until superseded or removed.

Approved by: Gloria Manning, Associate Deputy Chief

Date approved: August 17, 2006

Responsible Staff:

Posting Instructions: Amendments are numbered consecutively by handbook number and calendar year. Post by document; remove the entire document and replace it with this amendment. Retain this transmittal as the first page(s) of this document.

Last Change:

Superseded Document(s):

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

2809.15: Establishes new Handbook, FSH 2809.15, Minerals and Geology Handbook.

10: Establishes code and caption for the new chapter, "Surface Use Determinations." Clarifies direction for obtaining protection of surface resources from activities conducted under the authority of the 1872 Mining Law, as amended.

10.5: Defines key terms used in surface use determinations.

11: Establishes procedures authorized officers should follow when investigating the reasonableness, logic, or justification of proposed or existing activities.

12: Describes the elements of a logically sequenced mining operation.

13: Describes the necessary content, level of detail, evaluation, and conclusions and recommendations for a surface use determination.

14: Clarifies direction on changing proposed plans of operation.

15: Clarifies direction on modifying existing plans of operation.