

**Forest Service Manual
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**Forest Service Manual 3200 – Rural and Urban Forestry Assistance
Chapter 3210 – Forest Management Assistance**

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Approved by: Susan M. Super, Acting Service-wide Directive Manager

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Responsible Staff:

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Posting Instructions: This amendment replaces the entire title except Interim Directives (ID's). Place this transmittal at the front of the title; remove previous transmittals. DO NOT remove ID's when posting this amendment. ID's are not being reformatted at this time. Post the documents in the order displayed under New Documents in the following table.

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

3200: This is a technical amendment that converts the format and style of this Forest Service Manual (FSM) title (previously in "Applixware") to the new FSM template using the agency's current corporate word processing software. Where chapters were previously organized into more than one document, they are now merged into one chapter whenever possible.

Although some minor typographical and technical errors have been corrected, this amendment contains no changes to the substantive direction in this title.

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3210.2 - Objective

The objective of providing forest management assistance under the Rural Forestry Assistance authority is to advance forest resource management by ensuring that both the individual landowner's objectives and the public need for goods and services from non-Federal forest lands are met now and in the future.

3210.5 - Definitions

1. Service Forester. State forestry personnel who provide on-the-ground technical assistance; includes Area Foresters, County Foresters, Farm Foresters, and other comparable positions and titles.

2. Nonindustrial Private Forest Land. Forest land owned by a private person, group, or corporation who does not own wood processing facilities.

3211 - Program Criteria

3211.1 - Qualifying Lands

These are nonindustrial private forest lands and other non-Federal forest or potential forest lands.

3211.2 - Qualifying Recipients

The following are eligible for forest management assistance from State forestry agencies:

1. Owners, leasees, managers, and operators of qualifying lands.
2. Landowner associations or cooperatives organized for the purpose of accomplishing forest-related resource management.
3. Nonprofit organizations, such as the Young Men's Christian Association, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America, and Extension 4-H Youth, owning or leasing qualifying lands.
4. Vendors of forest management services.

3211.3 - Allowable Costs

See FSM 1580 for detailed descriptions of allowable project costs, specific items requiring prior Forest Service approval, and nonallowable costs applicable to all Forest Service cooperative programs.

3211.4 - Limitations on Assistance

See FSM 1581.12e.

3212 - Technical Assistance

The guiding principle in furnishing assistance is to help attain the landowner's objectives, consistent with benefits that accrue to the general public from improved resource use and management. If the landowner's objectives are not consistent with the public interest, withhold assistance. Similarly, technical advice that would result in violation of the intent of Federal legislation or regulations, such as the Endangered Species Act of 1973, is prohibited.

3212.1 - Delivery of Technical Assistance

The State forestry agency provides technical assistance in forest management to the landowners through the service forester. The Forest Service provides administrative and specialized technical support to the State forestry agencies.

3212.2 - Kinds of Technical Assistance

3212.21 - Multiple-Use Management Plans

Management plans should address the full range of resource values present or attainable, incorporate owner objectives, recommend resource management practices, recognize public benefits, and provide for maintenance or enhancement of environmental quality. Such a plan provides the basis for a sound forestry program of action over a specified period of time and provides an important record for future reference.

3212.22 - Timber

Activities associated with reforestation and afforestation, intermediate timber stand treatments, harvesting, and regeneration are the primary forms of technical assistance in timber management. Carefully consider the effects of these activities on the other forest resources, such as recreation, fish and wildlife, soil and water, aesthetics, and so forth, during the planning and implementation phases. Common examples of the kinds of technical assistance offered by service foresters in timber management are:

1. Analysis of needs and opportunities for increased production of timber.
2. Prescriptions for precommercial thinning, weeding, pruning, harvest, prescribed burning, site preparation, and planting.
3. Tree marking and sale layout.
4. Fire protection measures and pest control advice.
5. Multipurpose road layout.
6. Counseling on product marketing and timber sales.

7. General timber tax considerations.

8. Technical services related to cost-sharing projects under State and Federal forestry incentives programs.

3212.23 - Wildlife Habitat

Silvicultural and other forest management activities affect wildlife habitat; plan and implement these activities so as to help landowners meet their objectives.

The Endangered Species Act of 1973 requires that actions authorized, funded, or carried out by the Federal Government, including Rural Forestry Assistance, do not jeopardize the continued existence of endangered or threatened species or result in destruction or modification of habitat determined to be critical to such endangered or threatened animal and plant species. Management recommendations must provide for preserving or improving endangered or threatened species habitat where applicable.

3212.24 - Forest Range

Research has demonstrated that silvicultural practices affect forage quality and quantity. Recognize forest range management problems and opportunities and incorporate recommendations in plans.

By agreement dated December 1982, the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) and the Forest Service agreed to cooperate in providing forest range assistance to private landowners. Work closely with SCS personnel, soil and water conservation districts, user associations, and others to improve these resources and to increase productivity and returns.

3212.25 - Forest Watersheds and Soil

Protection of soil and watersheds is basic to each recommendation, plan, or prescription. Program activities must seek to minimize erosion, to maintain or improve soil fertility, and to protect or enhance watershed conditions. Advise landowners to avoid activities that may increase sedimentation to unacceptable levels. Advise landowners of soil and water conservation cost-sharing assistance available under the Agricultural Conservation Program, the Great Plains Conservation Program, or other applicable State or Federal programs.

3212.26 - Forest Recreation

Service foresters must be responsive to the landowner's noncommercial recreational objectives in advising on forest management activities. Service foresters may prescribe establishment or manipulation of forest vegetation in existing or planned recreation areas, in areas bordering roads and trails, and in other areas of scenic or recreational importance. Refer requests for assistance for income-producing recreation on rural non-Federal lands to Soil Conservation Service.

3212.27 - Forest Protection

Service foresters shall integrate forest pest management and fire management considerations into multiple-use management plans, timber management prescriptions, and other resource management activities as needed.

3212.28 - Windbreaks and Shelterbelts

Technical assistance in shelterbelts and windbreaks may be provided where not in conflict with the Soil Conservation Service leadership role in shelterbelts and windbreaks as delegated by the Secretary of Agriculture.