

**Forest Service Manual  
National Headquarters - Washington Office  
Washington, DC**

**Forest Service Manual 3200 – Rural and Urban Forestry Assistance  
Chapter 3250 - Forest Soil And Water Management**

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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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### **3250.1 - Authority**

1. Public Law 95-313, Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978. This law authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to provide technical and related assistance to State Foresters, or equivalent State officials, to protect or improve soil fertility on non-Federal forest lands and the quality, quantity, and timing of water yields.

2. Public Law 92-500, Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972. This law authorizes the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to cooperate and enter into agreements with the Secretary of Agriculture for purposes of reducing pollution in the nation's waters.

3. Public Law 95-217, Clean Water Act of 1977. This law authorizes the Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to coordinate joint studies and to grant funds to the Secretary of Agriculture for the purpose of reducing pollution in the nation's waters and for the utilization of other Federal laws to achieve and maintain water quality.

4. Public Law 95-87, Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977. This law authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to enter into agreements and grant funds to the Secretary of Agriculture for the purposes of interagency cooperation and the reclamation of mined rural lands.

### **3250.2 - Objective**

To maintain or improve soil productivity and the quality, quantity, and timing of water yield on non-Federal forest lands.

### **3250.3 - Policy**

1. Make available to State Foresters, or equivalent State officials, and other cooperating State and Federal agencies forest soils, watershed, hydrology, technology, and expertise in support of the following activities:

- a. State forest resources planning (FSM 3900).
- b. State silvicultural nonpoint source pollution planning.
- c. Preparation of forest management plans for owners and managers of non-Federal forest lands.
- d. Training and development of State service foresters, hydrologists, soil scientists, forestry technicians, and others such as consulting foresters, vendors, forest operators, wood processors, public agencies, and individuals.
- e. Special projects affecting forest soil productivity and water production.

- f. Development of monitoring and evaluating criteria and joint implementation of evaluation programs with States.
  - g. Rehabilitation of surface mined areas through forestry treatments.
  - h. Enhancement of water yields and timing of runoff through land management activities.
  - i. Rehabilitation of burned areas.
  - j. Site selection and soil analysis for the establishment or rehabilitation of nurseries.
2. Help States coordinate their forest soil and water management efforts with other Federal agencies.

#### **3250.4 - Responsibility**

##### **3250.41 - Regional Foresters and Area Director**

Regional Foresters and Area Director shall:

- 1. Provide requested forest soil/water management technology, technical assistance and expertise to the States.
- 2. Provide soil/water management training for Forest Service specialists who provide assistance to States.
- 3. Provide for appropriate forest soil/water management coordination and expertise as requested by cooperating Federal agencies.
- 4. Provide the Area Planning and Development Staff, Washington Office, with information on forest soils and water management needs and accomplishments.

#### **3250.5 - Definitions**

- 1. Soil Productivity. A measure of the quality of a soil to produce vegetation growth at or near its maximum capability. Loss of soil productive results when management activities impact the drainage features, nutrient contents, and other properties through disturbances or destruction of litter and humus layer.
- 2. Nonpoint Source Water Pollution. Pollutants of a chemical, physical and biological nature, whose source is general and nondefinable rather than specific and definable in nature; they are those that pollute receiving waters as a result of naturally occurring events such as precipitation seepage and runoff.

### **3252 - Soil Management**

When managing forest soils, take into consideration the basic soil resource and understand the planned activities, which may impact the soil quality and reduce the capacity of the soil to produce vegetative growth. Most forest management activities are influenced by or have an impact on the soil. In providing forest assistance, consider maintenance or enhancement of soil productivity.

### **3253 - Watershed Management**

When providing Forest Service assistance in State and private forestry, take into consideration two major areas of water-related concern: (1) water quality, and (2) water yield and timing of runoff.

#### **3253.1 - Water Quality**

In forest management assistance and activities, take into consideration the knowledge and understanding of the characteristics of nonpoint source pollution. Emphasize preventative measures rather than corrective measures in the maintenance and enhancement of water quality.

#### **3253.2 - Water Yield and Timing**

In the development of forest resource management plans or as required by statute, regulation, or agreement at the Federal, State, or local level, take into consideration the potentials for water yield increases and timing of runoff.

### **3254 - Financing**

Use the annual program budget process based on the approved Resources Planning Act Program, to provide for the budgetary and financing of technical assistance and land management activities to protect or improve soil and water resources.

### **3255 - Annual Reports**

Regional Foresters and Area Director in cooperation with State Foresters shall prepare fiscal year progress reports that include forest soil and water management accomplishments. Use Cooperative Forestry Accomplishment Report (Report No. 3000-D) and form FS-3200-6 to document acres receiving treatment for watershed protection (MIH Code X90). Regional Foresters and Area Director shall provide narrative documentation on soil and water improvement target accomplishments.