

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

**Forest Service Manual 3500 – Cooperative Watershed Management  
Chapter 3530 - Flood Prevention Program**

**Amendment:** 3500-2000-1

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**Approved by:** Mike Dombeck, Chief

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**Responsible Staff:**

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**Posting Instructions:** This is a technical amendment that converts the format and style of this FSM title from Applixware to the current corporate word processing application. Since this amendment replaces all text except Interim Directives (ID's), do not check for the last transmittal received for this title; instead place this transmittal sheet at the front of the title. DO NOT remove ID's when posting this amendment. ID's are not being reformatted at this time.

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

Please read the new posting instructions (above) carefully.

**3500:** The entire amendment text has been reformatted and replaced, so that the amendment text on the Service-wide Directives Home Page in the Forest Service Web/Intranet (<http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/directives/index.html>) corresponds with the amendment text on the Forest Service Directives Home Page in the Forest Service World Wide Web/Internet (<http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives>).

Although some minor typographical and technical errors have been corrected, substantive direction has not been changed.

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### **3530.1 - Authority**

The Flood Control Act of 1944 authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to initiate measures to retard runoff and waterflow, prevent soil erosion, and carry out works of improvement in the interest of flood control on the following watersheds:

1. Los Angeles River Basin (California).
2. Santa Ynez River Watershed (California).
3. Trinity River Basin (Texas).
4. Little Tallahatchie River Watershed (Mississippi).
5. Yazoo River Watershed (Mississippi).
6. Coosa River Watershed (Georgia).
7. Washita River Watershed (Oklahoma, Texas).
8. Little Sioux River Watershed (Iowa).
9. Potomac River Watershed (Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Virginia).
10. Buffalo Creek Watershed (New York).
11. Colorado River (Middle) Watershed (Texas).

### **3530.2 - Objectives**

To restore and preserve desirable watershed conditions that will help prevent floods and control sediment from forest lands.

### **3530.3 - Policy**

Install approved flood prevention and watershed protection treatment measures as rapidly as funds permit to solve watershed problems that cause downstream threats to life and property. After installation, ensure that these measures are maintained.

On National Forest System lands, install the authorized work as a part of the management and administration of these lands. Use the full authority and facilities of ongoing Forest Service programs to support and supplement flood prevention objectives that are consistent with National Forest objectives.

Use the existing arrangements with State agencies as in other State and Private programs for the installation of land treatment measures on private lands.

## **3530.4 - Responsibilities**

### **3530.41 - Soil Conservation Service**

The Soil Conservation Service administers the program providing overall direction, procedures, and guidance. State Conservationists administer the program in their respective States including the administrative approval of subwatershed work plans.

### **3530.42 - Forest Service**

The Forest Service administers the forestry aspects of the program on all forested lands including National Forests and National Grasslands, and on adjacent rangelands under formal agreements (7 CFR subtitles A, 2.60 (a)(8)(ii)(iii)).

#### **3530.42a - Cooperative Forestry**

The Director, Cooperative Forestry, is responsible for Forest Service participation in this program including national coordination with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS).

#### **3530.42b - Regional Foresters and the Area Director**

Regional Foresters in Regions 5 and 8 and the Area Director are responsible for the administration of the program including coordination with the SCS State Conservationists. The Regional Forester, Region 9, is responsible for the National Forest aspects of the program involving the Monongahela National Forest.

### **3530.43 - State Forester**

The State Forester may participate in all aspects of the program including planning and the installation of land treatment measures.

## **3530.6 - Reference**

The Soil Conservation Service's National Watershed Manual, Parts 500-511, contains guidelines, operational procedures, and direction for the administration of the program.

## **3531 - Program Administration**

The purposes and objectives of the flood prevention program are similar to those of the P.L. 566 small watershed program (FSM 3510). Planning criteria, economic justification, local sponsorship, agency participation, financial assistance, eligible measures, and operation and maintenance arrangements are consistent with the P.L. 566 program. Notable differences between the two are:

1. Federal legislation authorizes individual flood prevention projects.

2. State Conservationists approve subwatershed plans for the flood prevention program.

3. Flood prevention funds may be used to install treatment measures on National Forest System lands.

The Regional Foresters and the Area Director shall administer the flood prevention program in the same manner as described in FSM 3510 for the P.L. 566 small watershed program.

#### **3531.1 - Reports**

Reporting requirements of the flood prevention program are identical to that of the P.L. 566 small watershed program. See FSM 3531.1 for further direction.

#### **3531.2 - Records**

Regions and Area shall maintain, within the framework of the National Finance accounting structure, records of obligations, expenditures, and unobligated balances for each project. Also include deposits and reimbursements for State Foresters.