

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

**Forest Service Manual 3600 – Rural Resource Conservation and Development  
Chapter 3610 - Rural Development**

**Amendment:** 3600-2000-1

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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.

**3600:** 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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## **3610.2 - Objectives**

Forest Service objectives in rural development are:

1. To protect and manage the natural resources including scenic, wilderness, and other special values of forest and range environments in rural areas.
2. To promote research to expand the technological base for forestry and the use of forest products and to lend support for rural housing goals.
3. To encourage the development and transfer of technological improvements to protect and improve the quality of the rural environment, and to extend the supplies of natural resources.
4. To maintain or increase the forest land base, improve its productivity, and improve forest land-ownership patterns.
5. To promote orderly development and wise use of forest resources consistent with sound stewardship to develop and increase rural employment and income with the aim of improving or stabilizing rural social and economic conditions.
6. To expand public understanding of environmental conservation and natural resource planning, protection, and management and how stewardship is related to these activities.
7. To provide information and analysis for determining forest resource potentials and opportunities to enhance rural development.

## **3610.3 - Policy**

To the extent possible, respond to and support State and local requests and concerns for solutions to problems in rural areas. Seek opportunities to develop forest based enterprises and forest resources that contribute to rural growth. All programs shall contribute and lend support to other public and private agency efforts to provide public services, income, jobs, and amenities in rural areas through planning, resource management, economic development, and manpower programs.

## **3610.4 - Responsibilities**

### **3610.41 - Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry**

The Deputy Chief serves as the Forest Service member of the Departmental Rural Development Committee. The Deputy Chief responsibilities are found in FSM 1235.25.

### **3610.42 - Director, Area Planning and Development**

The Director shall:

1. Serve as a member of the Rural Development Committee Working Group and designate an alternate.
2. Coordinate with and answer requests from the Office of Rural Development Policy.
3. Assign staff to represent Forest Service on Rural Development Committee Working Group task forces and provide input on reports, work plans, and data generated.
4. Attend meetings of the National Advisory Council on Rural Development, respond to its forestry requests, and keep it advised of the forest resource role in rural areas.
5. Provide rural development leadership and training for National Forests, Stations, and State forestry agencies.

### **3610.43 - Regional Foresters and Area Director**

Regional Foresters and Area Director shall assign rural development staff activities and assure Forest Service or forestry representation in Department of Agriculture rural development activities at the State and local levels. Such representation and activities include:

1. Assuring there is at the State level forestry representation on established rural development committees or at other rural development activities. Regional Foresters and Area Director shall keep State Foresters informed on rural development issues and invite them to attend and participate in meetings and activities that address relevant issues.
2. Assigning at the local level a Forest Service representative to rural development committees or activities where a Forest Service office is located or where there are National Forests or Grasslands.
3. Inviting State Foresters to assign their personnel as a forest representative to local rural development committees or activities.
4. Coordinating with Station Directors assisting in Department of Agriculture rural development activities.
5. Seeking ways to emphasize rural development and achieving rural development objectives (FSM 3610.2) utilizing the full range of Forest Service programs and activities.

#### **3610.44 - Station Directors**

Station Directors shall support Department of Agriculture rural development activities at State and local levels with timely information regarding forest resource development and utilization potentials and opportunities.

#### **3611 - Annual Rural Development Activities**

To fulfill the mandate of the Rural Development Policy Act of 1980 for Department of Agriculture coordination of Federal rural development efforts, Regions and the Area shall submit annually, upon request by the WO, significant rural development activities relating to rural America.

The rural development information should contain specific rural policy initiatives and programs, funding levels for these initiatives and programs, and the scope of rural participation in other agency programs.