

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

**Forest Service Manual 3900 – Statewide Forest Resources Planning
Zero Code**

Amendment: 3900-2000-1

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Duration: This amendment is effective until superseded or removed.

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.

3900: 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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3901 - Authority

The Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (P.L. 95-313), Section 8b, provides for Federal technical and financial assistance in Statewide forest resources planning.

3902 - Objectives

To assist States in the long-range program planning of their forest resources including the completion and periodic updating of a Statewide forest resources plan.

The following objectives for the States apply to the Federal interest and responsibility:

1. To enhance State capability for providing forest resources data to Federal, State, and other planning efforts affecting forest land.
2. To enhance State capability to identify opportunities and provide guidance for the efficient investment of public and private funds in the use and management of forest resources to strengthen the national economy.
3. To develop a permanent planning process for forest resource programs in each State.
4. To enhance State capability to develop an operational management model that integrates the functions of planning, implementation, and control.

3903 - Policy

Forest Service policy is to provide assistance with flexible guidelines so that States may address specific situations. The State Forester should prepare the Statewide forest resources plan with assistance from the Forest Service. This plan provides program guidance and direction to forestry related activities on all forest lands within the State, regardless of ownership. The plan addresses forest and related resources and makes recommendations for programs and policies, not specific land uses.

3904 - Responsibility

3904.1 - Deputy Chief, State and Private Forestry

In consultation with the National Association of State Foresters, the Deputy Chief determines if objectives are being met and if the SFRP program is responsive to and satisfactorily meets the needs of the Forest Service and the States.

3904.2 - Regional Foresters and Area Director

The Regional Foresters and Area Director shall:

1. Participate with State Foresters or equivalent cooperators in conducting periodic joint State/Federal program and activity reviews and assessments of needs.
2. Develop annual Statewide forest resources planning (SFRP) work objectives based on State Forester assistance needs and national goals.
3. Coordinate efforts with State Foresters to ensure compatibility between SFRP and National Forest plans.
4. Work closely with Station Directors for effective linkage of current forest survey data and analysis with initial and updated Statewide forest resources plans.
5. Support the SFRP efforts of other Regions and Area through inter-Regional/Area sharing of expertise and specialist skills.

3904.3 - State Forester

The State Forester determines format and content of the Statewide forest resources plan in response to State needs and encourages the expansion or organization of a permanent, State-level forestry coordinating committee to increase the effectiveness of the planning process, its implementation and control.

3905 - Definitions

1. Statewide Forest Resources Planning Program. A program developed in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters to carry out the intent of Section 8(b) of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 to ensure that data regarding forest lands are available for, and effectively presented in, State and Federal natural resources planning.
2. Planning Assistance Program. A shorter name used in reference to the Statewide forest resource planning program defined in item 1.
3. Forest Resources. As used in the chapter includes esthetics, fish and wildlife, forage, outdoor recreation opportunities, timber, and water.

3906 - Planning Assistance

Technical and financial assistance to the States should ensure the development of a quality Statewide forest resources planning program.

When preparing the plan:

1. Assess Statewide forest resource conditions analyzing capability of the resources to meet future demands.

2. Use a systematic approach to identify forestry related goals and ensuing issues. The Federal program emphasizes managing and using State's forest resources for economic development as the primary planning goal.
3. Involve the public and State forestry leadership guided by a public involvement plan prepared as an integral part of the planning process. (See State-level forestry coordinating committee, FSM 3904.3).
4. Support multiple-use management and address opportunities for the use of all forest resource outputs.
5. Address fire and pest management and other support programs as they relate to the achievement of State goals.
6. Determine a range of alternatives for the use of Statewide forest resources to meet goals and resolve issues.
7. Identify outputs and costs and provide analysis of benefits showing additional income, jobs, and tax revenues available to the State resulting from plan implementation.
8. Analyze alternatives and select a recommended program.
9. Provide a budget framework for implementing the recommended program to the State legislature; incorporate strategy when possible for using forest resources for economic development.
10. Plan for implementation and include a monitoring procedure to determine program effectiveness.

3907 - Coordination with National Forest System

Coordination must take place between Statewide forest resources planning and National Forest planning (FSM 1906.13c). Although State planning is policy oriented and National Forest planning is a more detailed approach (including land designated for specific management uses), the two processes should be in agreement as to the amount of outputs produced in support of the local, State, and national economy. The State's plan should include the respective contributions of Federal, State, and private and industrial lands to the overall State and national economy. The Statewide forest resources plan will be a primary document providing State input to the Resources Planning Act (RPA) process.

3908 - National Accomplishment Report

The Regions (except Region 9) and Area shall submit to the Washington Office by November 1 of each year an annual report, Report FS-3000-H, Planning Assistance Program (State and Private Forestry) Annual Accomplishment Report on the previous fiscal year's planning assistance program accomplishment. The Forest Service uses summarized information from this

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report, to report annual accomplishment to the Administration and Congress through the Annual Report of the Forest Service, report FS-1900-C.