

**Forest Service Handbook
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**Forest Service Handbook 6509.11g – Service-Wide Appropriation Use Handbook
Chapter 30 - National Forest System**

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

31.11q: Establishes code, caption, and sets forth direction for fund code NFHF, Hazardous Fuels, which is now being managed under FSH 6509.11g, chapter 30, National Forest System. This fund was originally WFHF, and was managed under FSH 6509.11g, chapter 50, Wildland Fire Management.

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30.1 - Authority

1. U.S. Mining Laws Act of May 10, 1872, as amended (30 U.S.C. 22, 28). This Act governs mining activities for valuable minerals on public domain lands.
2. Organic Administration Act of 1897, as amended (16 U.S.C. 473-478, 479-482, and 551). Section 24 of the Act provides authority for the administration, protection, and management of the National Forests, including the furnishing of a continuous supply of timber for the use and necessities of citizens of the United States. Also, this Act gives the President authority to modify any executive order or proclamation establishing any National Forest and by such action to change the boundary lines of such National Forest. The National Forest Management Act of 1976 (para. 14) limits the President's authority under this act. Thus, boundaries may be changed but land cannot be removed from National Forest status.
3. Use and Occupancy Permits Act of 1915, as amended (16 U.S.C. 497), and the National Forest Ski Area Permit Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 497b). These Acts authorize the issuance of permits for use and occupancy of suitable lands within the National Forest System for construction and maintenance of buildings, structures, and other facilities for hotels, resorts, summer homes, stores, industrial or commercial purposes, education or other public use, alpine and Nordic skiing operations, and so forth.
4. Pipelines Act of 1920 (30 U.S.C. 185). This Act authorizes granting of rights-of-way or permits through National Forest System lands for gas or oil pipelines.
5. Land Acquisition Act of March 3, 1925, as amended (16 U.S.C. 555). This law permits acquisition of sites for forest headquarters, ranger stations, and dwellings by purchase or donation subject to reservations or outstanding rights as the Secretary of Agriculture determines would not interfere with the purpose of the act. The purpose of this act is to provide sites needed for the effective conduct of authorized activities of the Forest Service.
6. Bankhead-Jones Farm Tenant Act of 1937, as amended (7 U.S.C. 1010-1011). Sections 31 and 32 of the Act authorizes and directs the Secretary of Agriculture to "...develop a program of land conservation and land utilization, in order thereby to correct maladjustments in land use, and thus assist in controlling soil erosion, reforestation, preserving natural resources,...", and to cooperate with Federal, State, territorial, and other public agencies in development and implementation of plans. This Act also provides authority to dispose of, or exchange, land acquired for the land utilization and conservation program, including the exchange of National Forest System lands that have Bankhead-Jones Title III status and all Federal lands in National Grasslands. Section 32 also gives the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to make such rules and regulations deemed necessary to regulate the use and occupancy of the property acquired by, or transferred to, the Secretary under or for the purposes of the Bankhead-Jones Act; which includes for example, protection and preservation of the soil and natural resources, and protection of the watersheds of navigable streams. This Act authorizes the transfer of

lands acquired under the Act to other Federal, State, or Territorial agencies subject to a public reverter provision.

7. Common Varieties of Mineral Materials Act of 1947, as amended (30 U.S.C. 226, 601-602, and 611). This Act provides authority to: (a) dispose of mineral material and (b) approve and issue permits to explore and develop oil and gas leases.

8. Anderson-Mansfield Reforestation and Revegetation Act of 1949, as amended (16 U.S.C. 581j-k). This Act authorizes appropriations as needed to provide for reasonable continuity of reforestation and revegetation programs.

9. Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1956, as amended (7 U.S.C. 428a(a) and (b)). Section 11 of the Act provides authority for acquisition of land to carry out authorized work if provided for in appropriation acts. See also FSM 5420.11d and FSM 2470.1, paragraph 4.

10. Department of Agriculture Grants and Powers Act of 1965, as amended (7 U.S.C. 2250a). This Act provides authority to expend appropriations for the acquisition of a long-term lease when needed to accomplish mission objectives. See also FSM 5430.12, paragraph 2.

11. Carlson-Foley Act of 1968 (43 U.S.C. 1241-1243). This Act authorizes use of noxious plant control funds to reimburse States for such activity on Federal land.

12. Sisk Act of 1971, as amended (16 U.S.C. 551a). This Act authorizes cooperation with States and political subdivisions in enforcement of State and local laws on National Forest System lands, and reimbursement of States and political subdivisions for expenditures incurred in such activities.

13. Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of August 17, 1974, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1600-1606). This Act requires the following actions pertaining to forest and rangeland renewable resources:

- a. Prepare an assessment of renewable resources.
- b. Develop a national renewable resource program.
- c. Create land and resource management plans.
- d. Conduct renewable resource inventories.
- e. Prepare and submit adequate budget requests to finance this work.
- d. Update the items listed in 13a through 13d above, every 5 years.

See also FSM 2470.1, paragraph 8.

14. National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a (a)-(i)). This Act amends the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act and provides authority and requirements for the sale of timber on the National Forest System. See also FSM 2470.1, paragraph 9.
15. Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), Preservation of Historical and Archaeological Data Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-291), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 (Public Law 96-95), as amended (16 U.S.C. 469, 469a-1, 470a, 470f, 470h-2, 470j, 470w-1, and 470aa-11). These Acts authorize use of appropriated funds for the preservation and protection of historical and archaeological resources.
16. Small Tracts Act of January 12, 1983 (16 U.S.C. 521d). (FSM 5470.11b) This Act authorizes the sale, exchange, or interchange of National Forest System lands of 40 acres or less and of \$150,000 or less in value.
17. Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1986, Title XV, known by the authorized short name “National Forest System Drug Control Act of 1986”, as amended (16 U.S.C. 559b-f). This Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to prevent and control drug abuse on the National Forest System, including using investigative powers beyond the exterior boundaries of National Forest System lands to do so. See also FSM 5301.1, paragraph 6.
18. Federal Land Exchange Facilitation Act of 1988 (43 U.S.C. 1716). Section 4 of the Act authorizes appropriations to consider, process, and consummate land exchanges pursuant to the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701).
19. Valles Caldera Preservation Act of July 25, 2000 (16 U.S.C. 698v, et. seq.) (Public Law 106-248). This Act authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to acquire the Baca Ranch in New Mexico and establish such lands as a unit of the National Forest System to be managed in accordance with the purposes and requirements of this title.
20. Conveyance of Administrative Sites, P.L. 107-63, Interior and Related Appropriations Bill, General Provisions, Section 329 (115 Stat. 471), as amended by P.L. 108-7, General Provisions Section 325 (117 Stat. 275-276), and P.L. 108-108, General Provisions, Section 322 (117 Stat. 1307). This authority allows the Forest Service to retain and expend proceeds from the conveyance of excess structures for maintenance, rehabilitation and construction for specified projects that have received concurrence from both the House and Senate Committee on Appropriations.
21. Healthy Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-148, December 3, 2003). This Act improves the capacity of the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct hazardous fuels reduction projects on National Forest System lands aimed at protecting communities, watersheds, and certain other at-risk lands from catastrophic wildfire, to enhance efforts to protect watersheds and address threats to forest and rangeland health, including catastrophic wildfire.

30.6 - Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Short Names

Below is a list of abbreviations, acronyms, and short names used in this chapter.

AEUI	Aquatic Ecological Unit Inventory
ALP	Automated Lands Project Database
AMP	Allotment Management Plan
ATSA	Automated Timber Sale Accounting System
CFF	Cartographic Feature Files
CMFC	Program Code for Capital Improvement and Maintenance – Facilities Funds
CMRD	Program Code for Capital Improvement and Maintenance – Roads Funds
CMTL	Program Code for Capital Improvement and Maintenance – Trails Funds
CUA	Concentrated Use Areas
DEM	Digital Elevation Models
DOQ	Digital Orthophoto Quadrangles
FSNRAS	Forest Service Natural Resource Application Systems
GFA	General Forest Areas
GIS	Geographic Information System
IMPP	Inventory and Monitoring Program Planning
INA	Information Needs Assessment
Infra	Short-name for the Infrastructure Database
Infra-SUDS	Special Uses Database System
LMP	Land Management Plan
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NFIM	Program Code for National Forest System (NFS) Inventory and Monitoring Funds
NFLE	Program Code for NFS Law Enforcement Funds
NFLM	Program Code for NFS Landownership Management Funds
NFMG	Program Code for NFS Minerals and Geology Management Funds
NFPN	Program Code for NFS Land Management Planning Funds
NFRG	Program Code for NFS Grazing Management Funds
NFRW	Program Code for NFS Recreation, Heritage, Wilderness Funds
NFS	National Forest System
NFTM	Program Code for NFS Forest Products Funds
NFVC	Program Code for NFS Valles Caldera Funds
NFVW	Program Code for NFS Vegetation and Watershed Management Funds
NFWF	Program Code for NFS Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management Funds
NRIS	Natural Resource Information System Database
RMET	Resource Mapping and Evaluation Toolkit
ROW	Right-of-Way
TEUI	Terrestrial Ecological Unit Inventory
TIMS	Timber Information Management System Database

31 - National Forest System – Treasury Symbol 12X1106

31.1 - NFS Programs

Use National Forest System (NFS) program funds as necessary to pay for management, protection, improvement, and utilization of the NFS. Projects must be on NFS lands unless otherwise authorized by law.

Use the NFS appropriations, Treasury Symbol 12X1106, for the expenses necessary for managing, protecting, improving, and utilizing the NFS. See the special funds described in chapter 60, and trust funds in chapter 70, that are available to finance work similar to many of the NFS programs.

31.11 - NFS Program Codes and Descriptions

Four-position alphanumeric program codes are assigned to each NFS program by representatives from the following: NFS Deputy Chief's Office, Washington Office's Strategic Planning, Budget and Accountability staff, Washington Office Financial Policy and Standards staff, Washington Office Financial Systems staff, and Albuquerque Service Center-Budget and Finance (ASC-B&F) Budget Execution section. These program codes are used to allocate budget authority to Forest Service field offices and to track subsequent spending.

31.11a - Land Management Planning – Program Code NFPN

Land management plans establish a framework for conforming to laws and regulations governing National Forest System management. The National Forest Management Act (NFMA) requires that each unit of the National Forest System (NFS) have a land management plan (LMP) that may be continuously amended, as appropriate, but is formally revised every 10 to 15 years to address changing conditions and new information related to natural resources, management goals, and public use. These plans establish a framework for conforming to laws and regulations governing national forest and grassland management; such as the Multiple-Use Sustained Yield Act, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and other laws.

Use NFPN funds for the following land management planning activities:

1. Create or revise land management plans (LMPs). Use NFPN funds for activities specifically associated with the development and publication of new (initial) or revised land management plans (LMPs); such as analysis, writing of the Notice of Intent, or other document initiating the planning activity and documenting analyses required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), as well as collaborative efforts undertaken while developing the plans and after the release of an initial plan or revision. This also includes activities directly related to appeals, objections, and litigation of decisions to approve initial and revised land management plans.

Creating or revising LMPs include the following activities financed with NFPN funds:

- a. Analyzing issues; including all analyses, reports, and maps (including GIS) and/or assessments started, and conducted, after legal notice initiating the LMP creation or revision is published.
 - b. Involving and informing the public by conducting meetings, placing articles in publications, issuing new press releases, mailing informative announcements, and so forth.
 - c. Collaborating with constituents.
 - d. Managing appeals, objections and litigation to forest plan decisions, and requests under the Data Quality Act for correction of data used in forest plan decisions.
 - e. Developing planning policy and guidelines at the regional and Washington Office levels.
 - f. Consulting with other Federal agencies, State, local, and Tribal governments.
 - g. Analyzing and modeling geospatial and other data in support of the creation and revision of LMPs.
2. Maintain land management plans. Use NFPN funds to finance all work associated with Forest Plan Maintenance. Forest plan maintenance includes programmatic and forest-wide amendments; plan amendments resulting from site-specific project decisions; corrections; and adjustments.

Maintaining LMPs include the following activities financed with NFPN funds:

- a. Analyzing issues, including all analyses and/or assessments started and conducted after the publication of the legal notice that initiates the plan amendment.
- b. Involving and informing the public by conducting meetings, placing articles in publications, issuing new press releases, mailing informative announcements, and so forth.
- c. Collaborating with constituents.
- d. Managing appeals, litigation, and objections to forest plan amendments and requests under the Data Quality Act for correction of data used in these activities.
- e. Developing planning policy and guidelines at the regional and Washington Office levels.
- f. Consulting with other Federal, State, and local agencies, and tribal governments.
- g. Analyzing and modeling geospatial and other data in support of plan maintenance, amendments, or corrections.

3. Conduct roadless area evaluations. Include petition development and review; analyses; rule development and publication; and area evaluations and content analysis of public response to proposed rules.

31.11b - Inventory and Monitoring – Program Code NFIM [Reserved]

31.11c - Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness – Program Code NFRW

The recreation program oversees the management and administration of developed recreation sites including campgrounds and day-use areas. Also included are recreation special use authorizations such as ski areas, lodges and resorts, and outfitter-guides. The heritage program provides protection of significant heritage resources, and provides interpretive, educational, site stewardship, and scientific and technical information to governmental entities, the public, and tribes, as it relates to land and resource management. The wilderness program manages wilderness areas and wild and scenic rivers designated under the National Wilderness Preservation System and the National Wild and Scenic River System.

Use NFRW funds for the following activities:

1. Managing and operating recreation developed sites, such as campgrounds, day-use areas, improved boat ramps, sewage or solid waste disposal facilities, and visitor centers. Activities include: cleaning facilities, such as buildings, toilets, campsites, picnic areas, tables, fire rings; removing litter; providing safety and security measures for visitors and employees; conducting prescribed inspections; and managing contracts, partnerships, volunteers, and other agreements.
2. Managing and operating general forest areas (GFAs). GFAs are comprised of concentrated use areas (CUAs) and include all lands available for recreation use but exclude lands within wilderness areas, developed sites, trails, and administrative sites. Examples of GFAs are snow play areas; areas along lakes, streams, and roads; and non-commercial product areas. Activities include: removing litter; providing safety and security measures for visitors and employees; conducting prescribed inspections; and managing contracts, partnerships, volunteers, and other agreements.
3. Providing interpretive or educational programs, presentations, and products to visitors and other interested customers with the intent of enhancing the visitor's recreational experience.
4. Processing new and administering existing recreation special use authorizations. Recreation special use authorizations such as campground concessions, recreation events, ski areas, marinas, outfitter guides, and recreation residences (CUFFA). Activities include providing responses, analyses, and/or decisions directly to proponents and applicants that request to use NFS lands. Additional activities are: providing inspection, oversight, and monitoring of authorizations issued to ensure compliance with the terms and conditions of the authorization. These activities occur while ensuring the health and safety of the public, protection of the environment, compliance with Federal, State, and local laws and regulations, and protection of the interests of the United States.

5. Managing designated wilderness and wild and scenic rivers and evaluating and making recommendations for areas and rivers worthy of addition to the National Wilderness Preservation System and the National Wild and Scenic River (W&SR) System. Activities include identification, evaluation, and planning for wilderness opportunities; education and outreach; wilderness inventory and monitoring; information management; and addressing priority resource issues, including providing adequate access (rights-of-way) to wilderness users. It does not include forest system trails or the administration of recreation special use permits within wilderness areas.
6. Providing for the protection and site stewardship of significant heritage assets, including stabilization and maintenance of heritage resource sites; administering and managing the traditional cultural properties program; collecting and providing interpretive, educational, and scientific and technical information to governmental entities, the public, tribes, and future generations on heritage resources. Activities within this program also include identifying, evaluating, protecting, monitoring, and preserving heritage resources, sites, and areas and promoting heritage values through interpretation, Passport in Time (PIT) projects, presentations, and other public information and outreach efforts. All heritage activities, such as surveys, evaluations, mitigation, reports, and consultations for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, carried out in support of other programs and activities are to be funded by that program or activity.

31.11d - Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management – Program Code NFWF

The Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management program manages and enhances habitat for vertebrate, invertebrate and plant species. Activities include managing habitats and providing the ecological conditions necessary to maintain the diversity, viability, and productivity of plant and animal communities. Implementation of this program results in enhanced opportunities for consumptive, commercial, subsistence, and other beneficial uses of fish and wildlife resources. It also provides for non-consumptive uses such as wildlife viewing and photography, appreciation of nature, and outdoor education. The Wildlife and Fisheries Habitat Management program is enhanced through collaboration and partnerships that results in improved accomplishments.

Use NFWF funds for the following activities:

1. Managing aquatic habitat to reduce sedimentation, stabilize stream banks, improve riparian and spawning areas, restore native species assemblages, and provide improved access for anglers. This activity also includes preventing, detecting, and controlling invasive aquatic species. Activities include inventorying, monitoring, and administrative studies for the development of protocols or for specific fish and rare aquatic plant program needs. Physical improvements are limited to signs, and structural features outside of developed recreation areas and system roads and trails. Structural improvements include instream habitat projects such as fish ladders or structures for bank stabilization, current deflection, or pool enhancement. Non-structural activities include seeding and stabilizing eroding waterway banks to reduce fine sediment, removing stream barriers impeding fish migration, and improving spawning beds.

2. Managing terrestrial habitat includes actions to restore, recover, and maintain habitat and ecosystem conditions necessary for healthy populations of wildlife. This activity also includes actions to restore, recover, and maintain rare, threatened, and endangered plant species. Actions also include inventorying, monitoring, and administrative studies for the development of protocols or for specific wildlife and rare plant program needs; maintaining important habitats, such as early successional habitats and fire dependent ecosystems, regenerating aspen and oaks, planting and seeding areas to improve wildlife forage conditions; developing wildlife drinking water sources in arid habitats; and restoring native plant assemblages. Physical improvements are limited to signs and structural features outside of developed recreation areas and system roads and trails.

3. Providing wildlife interpretation and environmental education programs to raise levels of awareness, understanding, and enjoyment of wildlife, fish, and plants, and their connection to ecosystems. Activities include developing and disseminating information for hunting, fishing, and viewing opportunities on national forests and grasslands; developing and maintaining Nature Watch viewing sites; sponsoring special events on national forests and grasslands such as National Fishing Week, and National Hunting and Fishing Days; and providing information and related educational activities about preventing, detecting, and controlling invasive species of wildlife, fish, and plants that damage habitats.

31.11e - Grazing Management – Program Code NFRG

The Grazing Management program manages the vast and diverse rangeland resources on approximately 92 million acres of National Forest System (NFS) lands to maintain a sustainable supply of forage for livestock through permitted livestock grazing on NFS lands. The Grazing Management program is also closely integrated with the rangeland vegetation and other activities of the Vegetation and Watershed Management program.

Activities include preparing environmental analyses required by NEPA for making subsequent decisions for allotment management, including implementation of the adaptive management strategies incorporated into many decisions; and administering grazing allotments for compliance with land management plans and any biological opinions issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for those grazing permits.

1. Use NFRG funds for the following activities:
 - a. Conducting environmental analyses required by NEPA for making subsequent decisions for permitted grazing use. This includes inventories of range condition, public scoping, coordination with Federal, State, and local agencies, and tribal governments, development of alternatives, analysis of environmental effects, and the preparation of the environmental document. This activity also includes resolving appeals and litigation.
 - b. Managing grazing allotments. This activity involves the re-issuance of expired grazing permits, processing permit transfers, preparation and processing of bills for collection, and development of annual operating instructions. In addition,

administration to standard requires compliance, implementation, and effectiveness monitoring. The following tasks are involved: collection and evaluation of apparent and long-term condition and trend data for vegetation and soils for uplands and/or riparian systems, as well as establishing permanent photo points and/or transects that are used for effectiveness monitoring, and capturing the data collected in the appropriate corporate database. Implementation monitoring determines whether prescribed actions in grazing permits or allotment management plans have taken place. Effectiveness monitoring determines whether the evaluated acres meet, do not meet, or are moving towards resource objectives identified in the forest plan or other appropriate decision document, and whether additional monitoring or adjustments in management are required.

2. Use NFRG funds for expenses associated with managing the livestock-grazing program on National Forest System (NFS) lands. This includes the following:
 - a. Administering grazing allotments and managing associated grazing permits issued for use and occupancy of NFS lands;
 - b. Preparing NEPA documents for decisions related to management of allotments;
 - c. Creating allotment management plans (AMPs) which tier to NEPA decision documents and their environmental analyses;
 - d. Implementing NEPA decisions, AMPs, court ordered actions, and biological opinion and evaluation actions;
 - e. Monitoring the implementation of NEPA decisions, AMPs, court ordered actions, and biological opinion and evaluation actions;
 - f. Preparing inventories and analyses of grazing lands; and
 - g. Constructing structural improvements for grazing management purposes including constructing fences, water structures, and other range structures.

31.11f - Vegetation and Watershed Management – Program Code NFWW

Use NFWW funds for improvements and protection measures associated with maintaining soil productivity; water quality, quantity, and timing; and restoring and maintaining forest, range, and grassland vegetation in healthy conditions.

1. These objectives are achieved by the following:
 - a. Maintaining and improving soil and water conditions,
 - b. Protecting, managing, and controlling wild free-roaming horses and burros,
 - c. Preventing, detecting, and controlling invasive plant species,

- d. Managing vegetative treatments, including reforestation, timber stand improvement, nursery, genetic tree improvement, and rangeland vegetation improvement, and
 - e. Managing weather and air programs.
2. Use NFVW funds for the following work projects:
- a. Soil, Water and Air Operations. For expenses necessary to plan, evaluate, monitor, administer, inspect, restore, improve, and maintain soil, water, and air improvements. Include necessary expenses to accomplish the following:
 - (1) Develop, implement, and monitor projects that restore and improve soil resources on Forest Service lands, including measures to improve or restore soil productivity and reduce erosion.
 - (2) Improve or maintain water quality, quantity, and timing of flows necessary to support purposes of National Forests.
 - (3) Manage groundwater resources.
 - (4) Manage weather and air programs.
 - b. Wild Free-roaming Horses and Burros. For expenses necessary to:
 - (1) Protect, manage, and control wild horses and burros on the National Forest System lands, and
 - (2) Remove excess animals.
 - c. Noxious Weed Control. For expenses that result in the prevention and control of invasive and noxious plants, including:
 - (1) Prevention, early detection and rapid response, control and management, inventory and monitoring, restoration and rehabilitation, education and outreach, and partnership development for invasive and noxious plant species;
 - (2) Control and monitoring invasive species on National Forest System (NFS) lands, and on adjacent lands where lack of control will allow the species to invade NFS lands.
 - (3) Reimbursing States and local weed control districts for their costs incurred to control weeds on NFS land (sec. 30.1, paragraph 11).
 - d. Improve Rangelands. Use NFVW funds for expenses to improve, or rehabilitate NFS rangelands; to maintain appropriate vegetative conditions and rangeland grass and shrub cover with species of desired native plants; and to rehabilitation degraded rangeland towards desired conditions. Actions include:

- (1) Inventorying and analyzing vegetation, soil conditions, and seral stages on rangelands;
- (2) Treating rangeland vegetation as directed in decision documents, including non-structural rangeland improvements; and
- (3) Monitoring the effectiveness of rangeland treatments and management activities to achieve desired conditions.

e. Reforestation. Use NFVW funds for expenses to replant and otherwise treat NFS lands to maintain appropriate forest cover with species of trees, degree of stocking, rate of growth, and condition of stand designed to secure the maximum benefits of multiple-use and sustained yield management. Reforestation includes expenditures incurred to:

- (1) Secure seedlings,
- (2) Prepare sites for natural and artificial regeneration,
- (3) Plant seedlings,
- (4) Sow seeds,
- (5) Build fences to exclude livestock and wildlife from regeneration areas,
- (6) Conduct survival and stocking surveys, and
- (7) Otherwise aid in the re-establishment of a forest stand.

f. Timber Stand Improvement. Use NFVW funds for necessary expenses of silvicultural treatment on National Forest System lands with stands of trees growing at less than their best. These treatments include:

- (1) All noncommercial intermediate cuttings and other treatments to improve composition, constitution, condition, and the growth rate of established timber stands, and
- (2) Control of understory vegetation and animals.

g. Nursery Program. Use NFVW funds for necessary expenses for the following costs of nursery operations:

- (1) Securing cones and seed,
- (2) Extracting seed,
- (3) Sowing seeds and growing seedlings, and

(4) Lifting, sorting, and transportation of seedlings.

h. Genetic Resources Program. Use NFWF funds for expenses associated with the genetic resources program, which includes establishing, operating, and maintaining seed orchards and seed production areas.

31.11g - Forest Products – Program Code NFTM

Use NFTM funds for expenses necessary to inventory, develop, prepare, and update commercial timber resource information for timber analysis and monitoring at the project level, including obtaining aerial photography. The collection of field data up through presale preparation benchmarks (called “gates”) 1 and 2 (sec. 37.1), including NEPA analysis, must be charged using the Primary Purpose principle to determine the appropriate program.

1. Timber Sales Preparation, Gates 1-2. Use NFTM funds for Position Statement Development and Sale Area Design only when the Primary Purpose of the sale is commercial timber; otherwise use the Primary Purpose principle to determine the appropriate program. (FSM 2432.1 and FSM 2432.2)

2. Timber Sales Preparation, Gates 3-6. Use NFTM funds for necessary expenses to prepare timber for sale in accordance with land plans, including:

- a. Implementing sale plans,
- b. Preparing final sale packages, and
- c. Opening bids and awarding sales.

3. Timber Harvest Administration. Use NFTM funds for expenses necessary to administer timber sales from the date of award to closing, in accordance with the terms of the timber sale contract, including:

- a. Approving and monitoring purchaser activities for contract compliance,
- b. Negotiating and resolving disputes,
- c. Scaling logs,
- d. Ensuring that payments are adequate for the expected level of activity, and
- e. Operation of Timber Information Management System (TIMS), Automated Timber Sale Accounting (ATSA), and other automated timber information systems.

31.11h - Minerals and Geology Management - Program Code NFMG

This budget line item includes work needed to process and administer mineral operations, and to identify and manage geologic resources and hazards.

1. Mineral Operations. Mineral operations include all operations involving locatable minerals, leasable minerals, mineral materials, and private minerals. Use NFMG for processing mineral operations proposals. This includes completing any necessary environmental analyses, ensuring coordination with other specialists and government agencies, determining adequate bonding requirements, and then taking final action including resolution of appeals and lawsuits. Charge NFMG for all work needed to ensure that mineral operations are in compliance with applicable laws, regulations and instruments that authorize the operation. This includes negotiating modifications and resolving appeals.
2. Geologic Resources and Hazards. Use NFMG for oversight, establishing policy and procedures for the geology program, and for identifying and managing geologic resources and hazards. Charge other programs, such as lands, inventory and monitoring, wilderness, etc., when geologic work is done to support the objectives of that program, such as inventory, wilderness management, terrestrial ecological unit inventories (TEUI), and so forth.
3. Environmental Compliance and Protection. Use NFMG for work projects related to the following:
 - a. Mitigating physical hazards on abandoned mine lands;
 - b. Performing environmental cleanups on abandoned mine lands and other sites where the responsible party, program, and/or project cannot be identified, for example, illegal dumps;
 - c. Performing environmental cleanups where the release occurred prior to implementation of the relevant environmental statute; and
 - d. Developing forest-wide environmental management systems, including developing pollution prevention plans, conducting environmental compliance audits, and environmental management reviews.

31.11i - Landownership Management – Program Code NFLM

Use NFLM funds to finance the work required for the efficient management of National Forest System lands. This includes protecting private and public land and resources from unauthorized uses and occupancy and complying with all applicable laws and regulations.

Use NFLM funds to finance the following activities:

1. Adjust Landownership. This activity includes negotiating, preparing, and processing proposals, appraisals, and title documents required for the exchange, transfer, interchange, and conveyance of land or interests in land. For environmental assessments and for land acquired with known environmental hazards, use the Primary Purpose principle to determine the appropriate funding source. Funding for related administrative activities and support costs for granting rights-of-way across NFS lands, and special conveyance and sales authorities are as follows:

a. Linear Rights-of-Way (ROWs).

(1) Acquiring linear ROWs by the Forest Service across private lands including processing activities, such as appraisal, survey, plats, title work, environmental analysis, negotiations, design, and acquisition costs, shall be financed by other programs using the following Primary Purpose principles:

(a) Use Capital Improvement and Maintenance Facilities (CMFC) funds for ROWs for facilities financed by CMFC (ch. 40).

(b) Use Capital Improvement and Maintenance Roads (CMRD) funds for ROWs for system roads and for administering land aspects of the Cost Share Cooperative Road Development Program (ch. 40).

(c) Use Capital Improvement and Maintenance Trails (CMTL) funds for ROWs for system trails (ch. 40).

(d) Use the Primary Purpose principle for all other permanent or temporary linear ROWs across NFS lands.

(2) Granting linear ROWs. See paragraph 2, Land Use Authorizations, Proposals and Applications below.

b. Conveyance and sales authorities for land and facilities.

(1) Conveyance processing activities such as appraisal, survey, and title work should be financed using NFLM funds.

(2) Environmental assessment costs and hazardous material inspections, including lead-based paint and asbestos risk assessments, and related remediation for conveyances involving administrative sites should be financed using CMFC funds.

(3) Administrative costs associated with the bidding process for competitive sales including auctioning, fund collection, and so forth, should be charged to Cost Pool 4.

2. Land Use Authorizations, Proposals and Applications. These activities include processing proposals and applications and administering land use authorizations granted by permits, leases, easements, including Ditch Bill easements, linear rights-of-way (ROWs), and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission licenses. Do not include land uses involving the disposal of timber, minerals and grazing of livestock in this category. Use NFLM to fund work related to the following activities:

a. Process proposals and applications including:

(1) Screening proposals against pre-application criteria and processing applications to the decision making stage;

(2) Coordinating with proponents, applicants and other entities (Federal, tribal, State, local, and private);

(3) Assessing and collecting cost recovery fees as appropriate;

(4) Conduct environmental analysis; and

(5) Preparing, issuing and executing authorizations.

b. Administer land use authorizations including:

(1) Administering land use authorizations to standard;

(2) Assuring that NFS lands and resources are protected;

(3) Assuring that authorizations, billings and collections of land use and cost recovery monitoring fees (where appropriate) are current and properly documented in the Special Uses Database System (Infra-SUDS);

(4) Conducting and documenting inspections, and ensuring that appropriate actions are taken to resolve conflicts; and

(5) Resolving appeals and litigation.

3. Protect Land Ownership Title. This activity includes maintaining and updating landownership status, records, and reports to National Forest System land, including interests such as access and conservation easements, and resolving unauthorized uses of NFS land. It includes processing claims to NFS lands, including but not limited to, title claims, claims by federally recognized Indian Tribal Governments, mineral claims, and withdrawals.

This activity also includes geometronics and geospatial activities. All use and analysis of geospatial data and technologies for a specific project must be funded using the Primary Purpose principle to determine the appropriate program. The following activities are included:

a. Use NFLM funds to produce standard Primary Base Series map and maintain Cartographic Feature Files (CFF).

b. Use NFRW funds to produce and maintain the Secondary Base Series map and development and update of the Forest recreation maps. The printing and distribution of Forest Visitors Maps are funded through a unit's map sales fund.

c. Use NFIM funds to produce and maintain geospatial data such as digital elevation models (DEM) and digital orthophoto quadrangles (DOQ).

4. Survey Boundary Lines. This activity, known as Boundary Management, includes expenses for all land surveying activities necessary to survey, locate, mark, and maintain

NFS property lines and special area boundaries, such as the marking and maintenance of congressionally designated area boundaries for wilderness, and other special management areas, to Forest Service boundary line standards. Include all expenses necessary to provide geodetic survey control for Forest Service geospatial mapping activities.

31.11j - Law Enforcement – Program Code NFLE

This budget line item includes the prevention, detection, and criminal investigation of violations of Federal laws and regulations pertaining to the protection of natural resources, Federal property, employees, and visitors. Such activities include investigative work in connection with violations on National Forest System (NFS) resource areas, as well as theft or destruction of government property.

Use NFLE funds for the cost of Cooperative Law Enforcement agreements. This includes the reimbursement to State and local law enforcement agencies under cooperative law enforcement agreements in connection with the enforcement of State and local laws involving violations against persons or their property on NFS lands. Regular cooperative law enforcement agreements cover expenses incurred in providing additional agreed-to services, beyond those normally provided by the local law enforcement agencies. Examples of actions that qualify for this funding include:

1. Extraordinary expenses associated with periods of heavy use of the national forests, usually seasonal, needed to adequately protect the visiting public and their property. This usually involves increased staffing above and beyond the normal needs of nearby communities.
2. Acquisition of intelligence for strategic and tactical law enforcement actions by the appropriate State or local jurisdiction. When both the Forest Service and cooperator have substantial need for intelligence, charge a proportional share of acquisition costs directly to these funds.
3. The pro rata share of costs incurred by a cooperator to equip or train its officers to perform the agreed upon services.
4. The cost incurred by a cooperator to lease a vehicle or other expensive equipment such as radios, radar, boats, and so forth, needed to perform the agreed upon services.
5. The cost of administration of these agreements by Forest Service personnel.

Cooperative agreements must be executed before any reimbursement is made.

31.11k - Valles Caldera National Preserve – Program Code NFVC

Use NFVC funds for all expenses authorized by the Valles Caldera Preservation Act (P.L. 106-248), including administrative and operating expenses, improvements to, and maintenance of lands and facilities necessary for the management and protection of the Valles Caldera National Preserve. Activities include providing recreation opportunities such as hiking, fishing, camping, cross-country skiing, and hunting by permit, domestic livestock grazing permits, timber

production, vegetation and watershed management, and protecting and interpreting cultural and historic resources. See chapter 70 for information about Valles Caldera Trust Fund.

31.111 - Vegetation Treatments to Improve Condition – Program Code NFCC

Use NFCC funds for vegetation treatments located in priority fire-dependent landscapes in order to accelerate the accomplishment of improvements to fire regime condition class across NFS lands. Those landscapes of lesser priority should receive less attention in the short term. All key resource staff areas must be involved when designing and analyzing these vegetation treatments.

1. Treatments and activities are to improve the condition class of the following areas:
 - a. Wildland Urban Interface lands, or
 - b. Non-wildland Urban Interface lands, where the Condition Class is 2 or 3, and Fire Regimes are 1, 2, or 3.
2. Treatments and activities that are appropriately financed by NFCC are the same activities that are authorized in other NFS programs and which have the additional effect of reducing the risk of wildland fire by contributing to the improvement in the condition class. Activities such as administrative studies, assessments, applications of models, and technology application and transfer directly supporting the objective are also appropriate.
3. Treatments and activities which have a principal objective of reducing hazardous fuels are not appropriate for funding with NFCC funds. Use program code WFHF funds instead.
4. Other examples of appropriate use of NFCC funds are as follows:
 - a. A work project where the NEPA process was funded by WFHF and the Purpose and Need statement specifies treatment of hazardous fuels. Such a project may utilize NFCC funds to the same extent that other NFS funds would implement a vegetative treatment project that has an additional effect of reducing wildland fire threat (for example, non-commercial thinning, biomass removal, and so forth). The exception would be the case in which there are other program funds identified by applying the primary purpose principle, for example, timber sales or road maintenance.
 - b. A work project where the NEPA process was not funded by WFHF and the Purpose and Need statement is not principally for treatment of hazardous fuels. If such a project's Purpose and Need also describes or alludes to a vegetative treatment that contributes to the reduction of wildfire risk, then NFCC funds may finance the project to the extent that other NFS funds would be available for the same project (for example, non-commercial thinning, wildlife habitat improvement, noxious weeds treatments, controlled burning, and so forth).
 - c. A more specific example would be to implement a NEPA decision where the purpose and need is to thin an overly dense stand of timber for silvicultural or forest health purposes. If the project's proposed action is a non-commercial thinning

project, NFCC funds are appropriate because the vegetative treatment has the additional benefit of reducing the wildland fire risk by contributing to an improvement in condition class.

d. A project where the NEPA was funded by WFHF and the Purpose and Need statement specifies treatment of hazardous fuel. Such a project cannot be financed by NFCC funds if, under primary purpose, only WFHF funds would finance that project with a treatment like a controlled burn or mechanical crushing.

e. Development of NEPA is appropriate with NFCC funds if the Purpose and Need statement addresses an NFS vegetative treatment objective where the reduction of wildland risks is a result of the activity, but where the principle concern is not removal of hazardous fuels.

f. Many activities whose primary purpose is financed by NFVW, NFWF, NFTM (Gates 1 and 2 only), and NFN3, which manipulate vegetation but also reduce fire risks, are appropriately funded by the NFCC BLI unless the work is specifically prohibited by other primary purpose direction such as timber sale prep and land line location.

g. NFCC funds may be used in accordance with the Wyden amendment.

31.11m - Disaster Fund Supplemental – Program Code NFDD

Program code NFDD was initially established for disaster recovery activities related to Hurricane Floyd's impact on the east coast from the Carolinas to Maine, September 14 through 18, 1999. In more recent years, NFDD has been used for disaster recovery activities required by other disaster declarations.

31.11n - Centennial of Service Challenge – Program Code NFEE

In honor of the February 2005 Centennial of the establishment of the U. S. Forest Service; Congress appropriated additional funds for work projects. Use NFEE funds to finance cost-shared projects which enhance conditions of forests, watersheds, habitat, and recreational services provided for forest visitors. These funds must be used in addition to, and in complimentary fashion with, the challenge cost share program dollars appropriated in other sections. Select work projects according to the following criteria:

1. Increases agency partnership capacity, leverages funds, strengthens existing and develops new partnerships.
2. Provides strong Congressional, community, and public appeal.
3. Contributes multiple resource benefits, including but not limited to, watershed conservation, fish, and wildlife habitat protection, and recreation services.
4. Provides job stimulus, local contracting, and/or improves community economic development.

5. Provides a favorable financial match from the partner, generally in excess of 1 to 1.

31.11o - Rehabilitation and Restoration – Program Code NFN3

In accordance with the National Fire Plan, funding is available for rehabilitation and restoration work that is in addition to that authorized for Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) (FSM 2523) in the Wildland Fire Management appropriation (Treasury Symbol 12X1115; FSH 6509.11g, ch. 50).

Use NFN3 funds for specific projects occurring in significantly burned watersheds to restore lands that are unlikely to recover naturally from wildland fire damage, and to repair or replace minor facilities damaged by fire. Some locations and sites outside the black burned area may be included in work projects if they are within the burned watershed. Emphasize project proposals that reintroduce native plant materials into burned over areas with the intent of reducing or eliminating the growth of exotic plant species. A project's ability to influence development and encourage growth of rural industries is a favorable and desirable attribute.

Do not use NFN3 funds for hazardous fuels reduction in unburned areas.

31.11p - Payroll Force Release and Reject – Program Code NFPM

Program code NFPM was established to provide a temporary accounting entry for salary expense charged by employees to invalid accounting job codes. The payroll system records the incorrectly charged salary expenses in program code NFPM until the charges can be corrected. Employees' job code errors must be corrected and the salary charges reclassified to the proper accounting after the payroll is disbursed.

31.11q - National Forest System Hazardous Fuels – Program Code NFHF

The major purpose of the hazardous fuels reduction program is to reduce the wildfire risk to communities, reduce exposure to firefighters and help restore fire adaptive ecosystems. Hazardous fuels treatments should be closely integrated with other vegetation management programs to maximize the effectiveness of those treatments to achieve multiple benefits. The State and Private Forestry receives and administers the Hazardous Fuels appropriation. Programmatic direction, oversight, and management of hazardous fuels funding is provided by Fire and Aviation Management, State and Private Forestry. Hazardous fuels funded treatments can occur on national forest system lands, state and/or private lands.

The hazardous fuels reduction program decreases the quantity or changes the arrangement of living and dead vegetation in forests, woodlands, shrublands, and grasslands. Reducing hazardous fuels helps reduce wildfire risk to communities and associated lives, property, and public infrastructure. Also, reducing hazardous fuel decreases firefighter exposure during wildfire response and provides an environment where wildland fire can be managed more safely and effectively, and to create healthy landscapes. Reducing hazardous fuels is important to protect historic and cultural assets. Healthy landscapes help maintain our Nation's wealth of forest and grasslands and provides places for the American public to visit and enjoy nature.

Hazardous fuels are treated using a wide range of tools with the following goals:

1. Reduce the spread, intensity, and severity of wildfire to protect values at risk,
2. Restore and maintain the resilience of natural systems by reducing high fuel loads so that when wildfires do occur their ecological impacts are positive or neutral,
3. Provide strategic opportunities to increase our capability to manage wildfire for resource benefits, and
4. Increase options for safe and efficient management tactics that reduce spread and impacts of damaging wildfire.

Use NFHF funds for necessary expenses to plan, implement, and provide support to:

1. Reduce the inventory of hazardous fuel.
2. Analyze treatment alternatives.
3. Determine and apply appropriate fuel treatment methods which include the following:
 - a. Prescribed fire, and
 - b. Mechanical and chemical treatment.
4. Monitor and evaluate fuel treatment accomplishments.

When fuel treatments are used to accomplish resource objectives, and not fuel reduction, finance the treatment work with program funds.

31.2 - Prohibited Uses of NFS Funds

Do not use NFS funds for work projects outside of NFS land boundaries unless specifically authorized by law.