

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

**FSM 2200 – Rangeland Management  
Chapter 70 – Information Management and Reports**

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**Responsible Staff:** Forest Management, Range Management, and Vegetation Ecology (FMRMVE)

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**Digest:**

**Section 2270.1:** Changes section title from “Forest Service Rangeland Management Information System Applications” to “Forest Service Rangeland Management Automated Systems” and describes its use.

**Section 2270.4:** Establishes code, caption, and sets forth direction on “Responsibilities” for Director of Forest Management, Rangeland Management, and Vegetation Ecology; Grassland/Prairie Supervisors.

**Section 2271:** Changes section title from “Forest Service Range Information System” to “Reporting Requirements.” Removes obsolete references to Forest Service Range Management Information System (FSRAMIS), as this system is no longer in use, and replaces it with Rangeland Information Management System (RIMS).

**Section 2272:** Changes section title from “Report Requirements” to “Reporting Dates” and recodes direction from 2271.1 to 2272 and sets forth direction on additional reports with upward reporting requirements and responsibilities.

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## **2270.1 – Forest Service Rangeland Management Automated Systems**

The general term “Forest Service rangeland management automated systems” covers multiple databases which include Rangeland Information Management System (RIMS), Forest Activity Tracking System (FACTS) and Rangeland Inventory and Monitoring.

Forest Service rangeland management automated systems serves, in part, to meet the requirements of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act (RPA) of 1974, as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976. The RPA requires the development and maintenance of a comprehensive and appropriately detailed inventory of all National Forest System (NFS) lands and renewable resources (16 U.S.C. §1603). This inventory must be kept current to reflect changes in conditions and identify new and emerging uses and values of resources.

The RPA also requires annual evaluation reports that show the progress of renewable resource programs, that provide information to aid Congress in its oversight responsibilities, and that improve accountability for expenditures and activities.

## **2270.2 – Objectives**

The primary objective of the Forest Service rangeland management automated systems is to provide a uniform, integrated electronic system for collection, storage, and retrieval of information used in the management of National Forest System (NFS) rangelands and related resources.

The rangeland management automated systems are also intended to:

1. Meet the legal requirement of developing and maintaining a comprehensive inventory of rangeland resources information that reflects changes in conditions.
2. Provide information about NFS rangeland resources to other government agencies, Congress, research and educational institutions, and the general public.

## **2270.3 – Policy**

Statistical and geospatial data about Forest Service rangeland resources for both internal use and public information is stored electronically (FSH 2209.15, Rangeland Management Annual Reports Handbook).

1. Collect, store, and process rangeland management information for use in activities such as:
2. Vegetation and ecosystem inventory, monitoring, and mapping.

3. Forest land management planning.
4. Range allotment management planning.
5. Grazing and livestock use permit administration.
6. Range improvement inventory.
7. Wild and free-roaming horse and burro inventory and administration.
8. Presenting accomplishments and projections for program development and budgeting.
9. Reporting annual accomplishments to Congress on Form FS-1900-C, Report of the Forest Service.

#### **2270.4 – Responsibility**

##### **2270.41 – Director of Forest Management, Rangeland Management, and Vegetation Ecology**

The Director of Forest Management, Rangeland Management, and Vegetation Ecology shall coordinate data required by the Washington Office to ensure uniform data input, and compile results for inclusion in the Annual Report of the Forest Service to Congress.

##### **2270.42 – Regional Forester**

The Regional Forester is responsible for the management and implementation of the rangeland management automated systems. The regional forester is also responsible for ensuring that rangeland management data is recorded in an accurate, complete, timely and consistent manner for their Region (FSH 2209.15, Rangeland Management Annual Reports Handbook). The regional forester must also ensure that the data and any required reports are in the required formats and that reports are provided to the Washington Office.

##### **2270.43 – Forest/Grassland/Prairie Supervisor**

Forest/Grassland/Prairie Supervisors are responsible for ensuring the staff on their administrative unit use, manage and maintain the rangeland management automated systems for rangeland management data associated with their unit. They are also responsible for ensuring consistency, accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of that data for their administrative unit. Forest/Grassland/Prairie Supervisors are responsible for ensuring the required data are compiled and reports are submitted to their Regional Office.

## **2270.44 – District Ranger**

The District Ranger is responsible for ensuring the staff on their district use, manage and maintain the rangeland management automated systems for rangeland management data associated with their district.

District rangers must ensure that their staff use the rangeland management automated systems for consistent, timely, efficient, and accurate grazing permit administration. This includes, but is not limited to, processing of applications, issuance of grazing permits and/or modifications, generating annual grazing bills, and compliance documentation.

They are also responsible for ensuring consistency, accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of rangeland management data for their District, as well as ensuring the required data are compiled and reports are submitted to the Supervisors Office.

## **2271 – Reporting Requirements**

Direction for annual rangeland reporting information can be found in FSH 2209.15.

## **2272 – Reporting Dates**

Data must be regularly maintained within the databases of record by each of the lower organizational levels to ensure accurate information is available for the Washington Office to consolidate into national reports. The following are the typical dates that data will be consolidated by the Washington Office for various reports and/or data accuracy checks. Lower organizational levels should ensure the associated data is accurate in advance of the identified dates. In some instances, lower organizational levels must submit reports to the Washington Office. Those instances are noted below along with the due dates for the submittal of the required reports.

1. The Annual Grazing Statistical Report is compiled by the Washington Office annually by July 15.
2. Signed NEPA decisions must be recorded in the Planning Appeals and Litigation System (PALS) database as soon as practicable but no later than September 27, so that they are automatically available to be uploaded into the RIMS database NEPA tab by September 30.
3. The Range Allotment Management Status Report is compiled by the Washington Office annually by October 31.

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4. The Rangeland Vegetation Improved acres (tabular and spatial) are reported in the geographic information system (GIS) and FACTS databases by October 31. Field units must make updates by October 31 each year for any applicable work completed.
5. The Range Improvement Accomplishment Report is entered in the GIS layers and FACTS database. Field units must make updates by October 31 each year for any applicable work completed. RG-VEG-IMP accomplishment description lists projects to be reported and units of measure.