

**Forest Service Handbook  
Service Wide (WO)  
Washington, DC**

**Forest Service Handbook 2409.18 – Timber Sale Preparation Handbook**

**Chapter Zero Code**

**Amendment Number:** 2409.18-2024-1

**Effective date:** October 16, 2024

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**Superseded Directive:** Zero Code, 2409.18-1990-1

**Approved by:** Christopher French, Deputy Chief National Forest System.

**Date approved:** May 28, 2024

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

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

**Section 01:** Clarifies purpose of reference.

**Section 02:** Updates reference. Clarifies purpose of reference.

**Section 03:** Updates reference. Clarifies purpose of reference.

**Section 04:** Updates references. Clarifies purpose of reference.

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## **01 - Authority**

Refer to FSM 2401 for laws enacted by Congress which provide authority for managing National Forest System timber. Applicable Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) are also identified.

## **02 - Objective**

FSM 2402 describes objectives for managing the forest resources on National Forest System lands.

## **03 - Policy**

Refer to FSM 2403 for principal policy relating to management of forest resources on National Forest System lands.

## **04 - Responsibility**

See FSM 2404 and FSM 2450.4 for delegated responsibility for leadership, Directors, Line Officers, Station Directors, contracting officers, and the timber sale contract administration team.

Timber sales shall be prepared and offered to meet land management plan objectives in accordance with instructions and guidance provided in this handbook.