

6.1 Purpose. This chapter provides the policies, standards and responsibilities for conducting and implementing Forest Pest Management (FPM) activities on Indian lands, using specially appropriated FPM funds. This chapter does not apply to forest pest management activities not funded using these special appropriations.

6.2 Guidance. A cooperative agreement between the United States Department of Agriculture (U.S.D.A.) and the Department of Interior signed on March 28, 1983, allows the U.S. Forest Service to provide funding and technical assistance to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Policy and procedural documents that govern the U.S. Forest Service administration of the FPM program are: *Forest Service Manual Title 3400 – Forest Pest Management, Amendment No. 3400-90-1*, effective June 1, 1990; and *Forest Service Handbook 3409.11 – Forest Pest Management Handbook WO Amendment*, effective September 4, 1992. In addition, the BIA *Indian Forest Management Handbook, Volume 6*, titled, *Forest Pest Management*, will soon be released for detailed process and procedural guidance. Directives and other guides may also be issued and revised as necessary.

6.3 Policy and Scope. Administration of forest pest management legislation is a function of the U.S. Forest Service, which provides technical assistance and funding for approved forest pest management programs or projects involving Indian lands. It should be noted that the term “Forest Pest Management” is synonymous with the term “Forest Health Protection” for the purposes of the program described by this manual chapter. It is Departmental policy to detect, control, and mitigate harmful effects of forest insects and diseases on forest lands under Department of Interior jurisdiction. The directives contained in this chapter apply to all Federal agencies and programs participating in the management, accountability, or protection of Indian forest lands. Regardless of the means of program execution, the appropriate Federal official shall assure that the standards prescribed herein are met.

6.4 Responsibilities.

A. Secretary of the Interior coordinates Forest Pest Management activities with the Interior Bureaus and the U.S. Forest Service.

B. Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs.

(1) Meet with the other Bureaus of the Department and the Forest Service to coordinate activities and the distribution of funds based on proposals submitted.

(2) Consolidate and prioritize proposals for insect and disease prevention/suppression projects submitted by Regional Directors.

(3) Allocate funds provided by the Forest Service for those projects approved for funding to Regional Directors.

(4) Consolidate and transmit to the Forest Service, Bureau-wide annual prevention/suppression project accomplishments on approved forms.

C. Regional Director.

(1) Coordinate Regional BIA operations with the Regional Forest Pest Management staff of the Forest Service.

(2) Provide assistance and guidance to Agencies/Tribes in all aspects of Forest Pest Management.

(a) Assure that preventive measures are taken to reduce the hazard of insect or disease damage. These may include silvicultural, cultural or mechanical treatments, the timing of forest activities, use of chemicals, and use of biological control agents. Assure that Integrated Pest Management systems and strategies are incorporated into Forest Management Plans. All uses of chemicals on Indian forest lands will conform to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations and registration information, label directions, state pesticide laws, and Department of Interior Pesticide Use Policy.

(b) Assure that the BIA *Indian Forest Management Handbook, Volume 6*, titled, *Forest Pest Management* be used as the Region's general guidelines for the administration and conduct of its forest pest management program unless inapplicable to the Bureau forestry program.

(c) Generate Regional handbooks, directives and guidance where necessary.

(3) Submit complete project proposal packages received for anticipated insect and disease control funding needs for the following year to Central Office. If more than one is submitted, a prioritized list of project proposals for the Region shall be included in the submission.

(4) Allocate funds to the Agencies and Tribes based on approved projects.

(5) Provide training and technical assistance to the Agencies and Tribes regarding the preparation of pest management project proposals.

(6) Consolidate and send region-wide annual prevention/suppression project accomplishments reports to Central Office on approved forms.

(7) Cooperate with other government agencies in pest management programs and projects that affect lands adjoining tribal lands.

D. Agency Superintendent.

(1) Request detection surveys and entomological or pathological evaluations to be made by the Forest Service on Indian lands.

(2) Decide whether to submit a pest management proposal (refer to *Indian Forest Management Handbook, Volume 6*, for factors to consider in making this decision

(3) Perform field observations and specialized detection surveys when needed to supplement Forest Service efforts.

(4) Submit detailed project proposals to the Regional Director.

(5) Carry out approved project proposals.

(6) Submit annual accomplishment reports to the Regional Director.

(7) Cooperate with other Agencies/Tribes in insect and disease control programs and projects of other ownerships that involve or affect lands administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.