

**Forest Service Manual
National Headquarters - Washington Office
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**Forest Service Manual 3200 – Rural and Urban Forestry Assistance
Zero Code**

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Approved by: Susan M. Super, Acting Service-wide Directive Manager

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Responsible Staff:

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Posting Instructions: This amendment replaces the entire title except Interim Directives (ID's). Place this transmittal at the front of the title; remove previous transmittals. DO NOT remove ID's when posting this amendment. ID's are not being reformatted at this time. Post the documents in the order displayed under New Documents in the following table.

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

3200: This is a technical amendment that converts the format and style of this Forest Service Manual (FSM) title (previously in "Applixware") to the new FSM template using the agency's current corporate word processing software. Where chapters were previously organized into more than one document, they are now merged into one chapter whenever possible.

Although some minor typographical and technical errors have been corrected, this amendment contains no changes to the substantive direction in this title.

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3201 - Authority

The Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978 (July 1, 1978; Public Law 95-313; 16 U.S.C. 2101 and 2102) Section 3, Rural Forestry Assistance; and Section 6, Urban Forestry Assistance, authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to provide financial, technical, and related assistance to State Foresters or equivalent State officials to accomplish management and use of forest resources on non-Federal forest lands.

3203 - Policy

The following policies apply to the activities authorized under sections 3 and 6 of the Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act:

1. Provide Federal assistance directly to State forestry agencies, and through them, to private landowners, wood processors, urban, and other program recipients. Accomplish this by providing program leadership and administration, technical and related assistance, and financial aid.

2. In implementing program activities, State Foresters shall make every reasonable effort to protect and enhance environmental quality. Recommendations or actions provided under rural and urban forestry assistance authorities must be consistent with the public interest and in conformance with Federal environmental laws and regulations (FSM 2140, 1950). Program assistance must ensure protection of threatened and endangered species as well as soil and water values.

3. Disseminate research results to potential users on a timely basis and incorporate them in recommendations and actions provided through the rural and urban forestry assistance programs.

Federal and State program personnel shall maintain current knowledge of pertinent research findings and studies in progress and shall provide research units with information on high priority forest resource related problems that require study.

4. Implement rural and urban forestry assistance in a manner that encourages private employment of foresters and other resource management professionals as well as the use of private vendors of forestry, forestry related, and tree care services.

5. Implement rural and urban forestry assistance in a manner that improves the welfare of underprivileged members of society.

6. Each State shall establish an approximate maximum limit for the amount and kind of assistance each client will receive free of charge.

7. Each State shall establish a clearly stated policy governing off-duty work by program personnel.

3204 - Responsibility

3204.1 - Federal

1. The Director of Cooperative Forestry in the Washington Office provides overall guidance and review of the programs at the national level.

2. The Director of Area Planning and Development in the Washington Office provides soil and water technical assistance and expertise in program and project implementation on non-Federal forest lands.

3. The Regional Foresters and Area Director are responsible for providing technical support for the States through specialists on their staffs.

3204.2 - State

The State Forester or equivalent State official is responsible for implementation of rural and urban forestry assistance at the State level, including all elements entailed in program management.

3206 - Reports

Prepare rural and urban forestry assistance reports in accordance with provisions of FSH 3090.11, State and Private Accomplishment Reporting Handbook.

3207 - Coordination with other Agencies and Allied Programs

Both Federal and State program personnel should remain informed about the programs and activities of others and ensure that forestry programs are implemented in a manner that recognizes, utilizes, and complements these other programs and activities. Avoid duplication of effort.

3207.1 - Department of Agriculture Interagency Agreement

A Department of Agriculture Interagency Agreement on Forestry, dated January 30, 1978, outlines responsibilities of the Agriculture agencies with respect to the protection, development, management, and utilization of the Nation's privately owned forest resources.

3207.2 - Related Federal Agencies and Programs

1. Extension Service. The dissemination of technical information to landowners and the general public through publications, radio and television programs, and other educational

media is a major extension function. Such activities contribute greatly to the achievement of forestry goals.

2. Soil Conservation Service. The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) may provide forestry assistance to landowners when such services are not available from the State forestry agency. The SCS programs with direct Forest Service and State Forester involvement are: Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) (FSM 3620); Watershed Protection Program (P.L. 566) (FSM 3510); Flood Prevention Program (P.L. 534) (FSM 3530); and River Basin Programs (FSM 3520).

3. Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service. The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service administers the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP) and the Forest Incentives Program (FIP) with direct Forest Service and State Forester participation (FSM 3300).

4. Farmers Home Administration. Loans are available to help in acquisition, management, or utilization of forest resources (FSM 3330). Forest Service personnel may participate with the Farmers Home Administration in promoting new building concepts and may provide assistance to builders in adopting these concepts for use. Contacts and assists are encouraged with the Federal Housing Administration and the Economic Development Administration.

5. Small Business Administration. Forest Service personnel should be conversant with the programs of the Small Business Administration and those State and Federal agencies with responsibilities in industrial development. Program personnel may be requested to provide advice and evaluation before approval of loans for installation or expansion of wood products businesses.

3207.3 - Related State Agencies and Programs

1. Soil and Water Conservation Districts. Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SCD) are local entities of State government charged with carrying out conservation measures in their respective districts in cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service. State forestry agencies are encouraged to enter into agreements with SCD's to furnish technical forestry assistance to district cooperators. State forestry personnel should be involved in preparing the forestry portions of conservation plans prepared by SCD's for district cooperators.

2. Forest Practices Regulation. In response to the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, other Federal legislation, and general public concerns about the environment and timber supply, a growing number of States have adopted or are considering forest practices regulations. State forestry agencies typically play leading roles in the implementation of these programs. Enforcement activities generated by these acts do not qualify under Rural Forestry Assistance. (FSM 1581.01e)

3207.4 - Cooperation With Private Forestry

1. Consulting Foresters, Vendors, and Tree Care Companies. See FSM 3203, item 4, for policy with respect to consulting foresters, vendors, and tree care companies. Maintain close contact with consulting foresters, vendors, and others, and be familiar with the services they offer private landowners. Each State is encouraged to meet annually with the forestry consultants working in their State.

2. Forest Industry. Forest industries are often deeply involved in promoting forest management on nonindustrial private forest lands. Maintain close contact and share professional knowledge with industry foresters offering services to private landowners.

3. Trade Associations. An example of the many trade association-sponsored programs and activities directed toward nonindustrial private forest lands is the American Tree Farm System. Use this system to help promote management of private forest lands.

4. Private Organizations. Many private organizations have interests directly or indirectly related to the cooperative forestry programs. Be familiar with these organizations and their objectives and maintain effective communications and working relationships with them.

3208 - Publications

Within the guidelines and limitations set forth in FSM 1633, prepare and issue various publications as appropriate to carry out program objectives. Program personnel are encouraged to contribute material for publication in periodicals that complement and strengthen technical assistance and other program activities.