Forest Land

Planning Resource Management Systems

Successful resource management on forest land is the correct application of a combination of practices that will meet the needs of the total forest land ecosystem (soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources) and the objectives of the land user.

Quality criteria that must be met on forest land for each of the resource concerns is explained in Section III of the Field Office Technical Guide.

In planning a forest land RMS, forest vegetative management is the foundation on which the RMS is built. Forest Stand Improvement Pest Management are ESSENTIAL practices for forest management where it isi needed within the time frame for planning consideration. A forest management plan that addresses and meets the needs of the plants, animal, soil, water, and air is essential for the formulation of a RMS on forest land.

All other practices planned on forest land are either to facilitate the application of ESSENTIAL practices or to accelerate changes in the ecosystem and are identified as NEEDED practices. These NEEDED practices are planned when needed to address site specific resource problems to meet the criteria for managing the soil, water, air, plant, and animal resource.

The Resource Management System for Forest land includes a combination of practices that are:

1. ESSENTIAL –Forest Stand Improvement is the management practice that is essential to the successful management of forest land. It is always planned when harvesting or stand improvement is needed to meet quality criteria within the time frame being planned with the landowner. The exceptions are when forest land is maintained only for the protection of a watershed study area, or natural area (e.g., park land). Then no essential practices exist. Pest Management is an essential practice for maintaining a healthy forest. Insects, diseases, and noxious weeds can cause serious damage to forests if not controlled.

2. NEEDED - These practices are planned when necessary to cause or accelerate change in the forest ecosystem that is not adequately addressed with ESSENTIAL practices alone and are required to address site-specific resource problems.

A RMS is developed by selecting a combination of the ESSENTIAL, plus NEEDED practices whose effects will meet the criteria established for each resource (soil, water, air, plant, and animal) and the objectives of the land user. When multiple land use is an objective, the needs of each use and the effects of each practice must be considered in the selection and application design of each practice to ensure compatibility.

ESSENTIAL Practices

Forest Stand Improvement - 666
Pest Management - 595

NEEDED Practices

Access Road - 560
Critical Area Planting – 342
Firebreak – 394
Forest Harvest Trails & Landings – 655
Forest Site Preparation – 490
Mulching - 484
Prescribed Burning – 338
Streambank & Shoreline Protection – 580
Tree/Shrub Pruning – 660
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management – 645
Use Exclusion - 472
Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management – 644