

SECTION III - GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS

Forestland

Planning Resource Management Systems (RMS)

Successful resource management on forestland is the correct application of a combination of practices that will meet the needs of the total forest ecosystem--the soil, water, air, plant, and animal (SWAPA+H) resources--and the objectives of the land user. The land user's objective must be consistent with the potential production capabilities of the resources.

The minimum criteria that must be met on forestland for each of the resource concerns is explained in Section III of the Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).

In planning a RMS for forestland, vegetation management is the foundation on which the RMS is built. On non-grazed forestland, firebreaks, access roads, upland wildlife management, and a forestland erosion control system are **ESSENTIAL** for forest management. On grazed forestland, prescribed grazing is an **ESSENTIAL** element in the management plan.

All other practices planned on forestland are both to facilitate the application of the vegetative or grazing management practices, and are identified as **FACILITATIVE** practices, or are needed to cause or accelerate changes in the forestland ecosystem and are identified as **ADDITIONAL** practices. These additional practices are planned when necessary to treat specific resource problems to meet the criteria for managing the SWAPA+H resources.

Resource Management Systems include a combination of practices that are:

1. **ESSENTIAL**: These management practices are recommended to the successful management of forestland and are generally planned in the RMS.
2. **FACILITATIVE**: These practices enhance the management of forestland.
3. **ADDITIONAL**: These practices are planned when necessary to cause or accelerate changes in the forestland ecosystem that cannot be achieved throughout application of the recommended and facilitating practices. These practices will be site specific and will require field evaluation. **ADDITIONAL** practices become **ESSENTIAL** when conditions make their application necessary to achieve the quality criteria for the resource, the quality level for forestland, and/or the landowner's objective.

A RMS on forestland is developed with the landowner through the planning process. A RMS generally includes the **ESSENTIAL** practices plus the combination of **FACILITATIVE** and/or **ADDITIONAL** practices whose combined effects will meet the criteria established for each resource (SWAPA+H). When multiple land use is an objective, the needs of each use and effects of each practice must be considered in the selection and application design of each practice to ensure compatibility. The RMS must also meet the quality level of forestland. The quality level of forestland is defined as: Trees are well distributed, vigorous, relatively free of insects, disease, and other damage, and the density of the stand is within 25 percent of Forest Stand Density Guide spacing on a stems/acre basis for that forest type. Shrubs and herbaceous plants are

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vigorous, properly used, and the density is commensurate with the overstory canopy. In addition, for grazed forestland, quality criteria are met if the plants are properly used by grazing and/or browsing animals, and have good vigor.

Following is a listing of conservation practices divided into ESSENTIAL, FACILITATIVE, and ADDITIONAL categories. Practice applicability may change over time, objectives, and location. See FOTG Section IV for a complete list of practices and individual practice standards for applicable land uses.

ESSENTIAL:

Firebreak and/or Fuel Break²
Access Road³
Prescribed Grazing
Water Development¹
Forest Stand Improvement
Upland Wildlife Habitat Management

FACILITATIVE:

Fence
Use Exclusion
Range Planting
Tree/Shrub Pruning
Fishpond Management
Forest Trails & Landings
Wildlife Watering Facility

ADDITIONAL:

Filter Strip
Prescribed Burn
Pest Management
Channel Vegetation
Clearing and Snagging
Forest Site Preparation
Fish Stream Improvement
Tree/Shrub Establishment
Grade Stabilization Structure
Stream Channel Stabilization
Recreation Area Improvement

¹Water to supply the minimum needs of drinking water for livestock

²Where warranted by high wildfire risk

³To ensure minimization of erosion from existing or planned access roads

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The following Guide Sheets give examples of a RMS on forestland. Situations are described based on forest growth stage, resources present, and alternative uses.

The Guide Sheets are to be used as guides only to help understand the thought process used during the planning process. They are useful in assessing the effects of conservation practices on the considerations and problems associated with the five resources.