

5.1 Purpose. This chapter provides the policies, standards, and responsibilities for conducting and implementing Forest Development activities on Indian lands.

5.2 Guidance. Handbooks, directives and other guides may be issued and revised as necessary (see 53 IAM 1.3; also see the *Indian Forest Management Handbook, Volume 5*, titled, *Forest Development*, for detailed process and procedural guidance).

5.3 Scope. Forest Development is that segment of the Forestry program that addresses the improvement of the commercial forest resources. Forest Development encompasses reforestation and commercial forest stand improvement (CFSI) projects and activities, and shall consist of all investments applied to establish, promote, enhance, and maintain optimum growth on selected trees to produce sustained yields of desired forest products under the principle of sustained yield forest management. Forest Development activities shall be planned and executed with emphasis on accomplishing on-the-ground projects using benefit-cost analyses as one of the determinants in establishing priorities for project funding. 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.

5.4 Policy. Forest Development projects and activities on Indian lands shall have tribal input and tribal approval. The overall direction for the Forest Development program shall be incorporated into the approved Forest Management Plan. All projects and activities must be planned and implemented from guidelines established in a Forest Development Plan. Non-recurring Forest Development funds will only be used for the improvement or enhancement of identified forest development needs utilizing appropriate silvicultural treatments. Reforestation immediately after a timber sale is not an approved use of these non-recurring funds.

5.5 Responsibilities.

A. Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs.

(1) Develop and provide national forest development program direction, policies, and oversight.

(2) Establish reporting standards and requirements.

(3) Maintain program budget and funding justification and procedures for efficient and effective program administration.

B. Regional Director.

(1) Provide Agency Superintendents with national and regional forest development policies, guidelines, and directives.

(2) Provide technical assistance to field offices including tribal programs; monitor and evaluate field activities and expenditures; make recommendations; and conduct program oversight.

(3) Allocate available funds to field programs for approved forest development activities. Reallocate funds when necessary.

(4) Receive, review, compile and approve forest development plans and annual project planning/activities reports.

(5) Receive, review, and compile forest development accomplishments and expenditures reports from field offices and tribes.

C. Agency Superintendent.

(1) In consultation with tribe(s), prepare and implement forest development plans and projects consistent with an approved forest management plan and an approved silvicultural prescription.

(2) Prepares, develops, and submits to the Regional Director the following reports on dates specified by the Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs:

(a) Forest Development Program Planned/Activities.

(b) Forest Development Projects/Activities Accomplishment Reports.

(3) Maintain program funding accountability, project accomplishments and expenditures, and maps.

(4) Assist tribe(s) with submission of reports and accomplishments.