



# **EMS Takes Root in the Forest Service**

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**As Presented to WO Green Team**

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# EMS in the Forest Service

- What's an EMS
- How we got here
- What we're doing now
- What's next





# What is an EMS?

**An EMS is an adaptive management model that helps an organization achieve its key environmental objectives.**

# The EMS Cycle

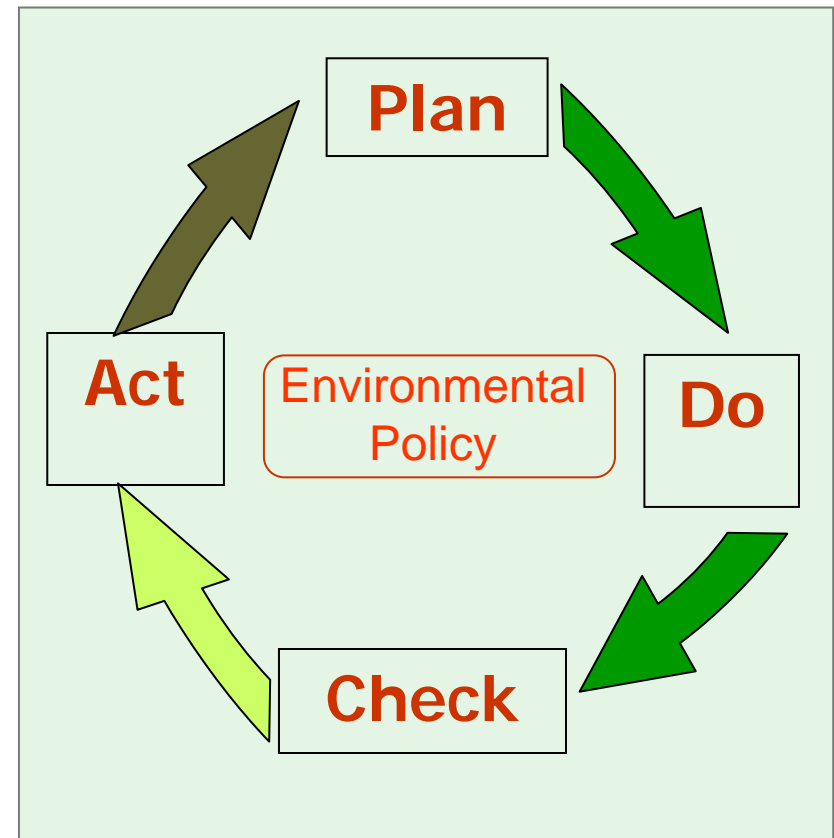
ISO 14001 uses a Plan, Do, Check, Act cycle to apply adaptive management

**PLAN** - plan activities to achieve environmental objectives in accordance with environmental laws.

**DO** - implement the plan with the appropriate design criteria.

**CHECK** - monitor the implementation and progress toward objectives, then...

**ACT** - refine policies and procedures based on lessons learned from monitoring.



# How we got here

## EO 13423

- Energy, water, fuel, green purchasing, green construction, and pollution prevention goals



## 2008 Planning Rule

- Land Management Aspects

# Where we are

- 2006 - Forest Service pilot tested Forest specific EMS's on 19 National Forests
- June 2008 - Forest Service rolled out a national EMS framework - focused on fuel conservation.
- Implemented on 142 Units



# Where we are

- **First significant environmental aspect:  
Petroleum-based fuel reduction through Fleet  
Management**
- **In 2007:**
  - Spent \$30,000,000 on 11,000,000 gallons of fuel  
to drive 138,000,000 miles
- **In 2008, reduced FS-owned fleet fuel  
consumption 2% - the EMS Target**

# Where we are

- After the National Management Review, the Chief declared EMS established, conformant to ISO and EO 13423
- Rolled out updated EMS May 1, 2009
  - Added Veg Mgt Significant Aspect



# What we're doing now

## Significant Environmental Aspects:

### 1. Fuel Conservation

- Addressing fuel use data problems

### 2. Vegetation Management

- Pilot testing procedures on 15 Forests



# Why Environmental Impacts of Mechanical Vegetation Treatments?

- on all national forests and grasslands
- significant potential for adverse environmental impacts
- existing procedures fit EMS framework



# Vegetation Management

**Activity: Mechanical Vegetation Treatments**  
using Heavy Equipment (timber harvest, mechanical fuels treatment, wildlife habitat treatment; commercial timber sales, stewardship contracts, service contracts, force account work)

**Impact: Project specific environmental impacts** (effects on water, soil, vegetation including invasive plants, wildlife, etc.)





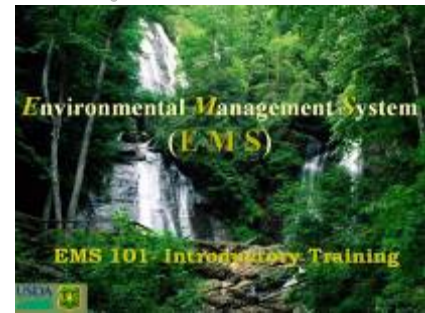
# Operational Controls

1. Land management plan (LMP) consistency?
2. Were mitigation measures identified through the NEPA analysis? Were any overlooked?
3. Were the mitigation measures incorporated into the project documents?
4. Were the mitigation measures implemented on the ground and monitored?



# Other things we're doing now

- **Environmental compliance program**
  - Integrating established program
- **Environmental emergency response**
  - Focused on first response by employees
  - Cutting across traditional work divisions
- **Training & Communication**
  - Providing "EMS 101" to all employees
  - Communicating with permittees, volunteers, contractors, etc.



# What we're doing now

## Working on barriers and obstacles

- Using AgLearn as the training database
- Baseline data for EO 13423 reporting and EMS monitoring
- Maintaining leadership support and focus
- Explaining that EMS is a tool and not a program

# What we're doing now

## Engaging employees

- EMS Unit Reps
- Training
- Auditing
- Monitoring



# What's next

- Better align EMS cycle more closely with FY cycle
- Streamlining "Finding Notices"
- Working with Green Teams and Sustainable Operations Teams to address EO Goals
- Refining Sustainable Operations baseline data measurement and reporting

# What's next



- Developing procedures for energy and water conservation as possible 2010 significant environmental aspects
- Refining procedures for Vegetation Management aspect for possible implementation on all forests in 2010
- Procedures for adding locally identified significant environmental aspects.



# Questions?



Take EMS 101