

Chapter 8 Forest Identification Signing

8.1 General

Forest identification signs are used to identify National Forest System field offices, headquarters, and facilities and administrative boundaries.

The following categories of signs are included in Chapter 8A – Administrative Sites:

- District office, forest headquarters, and regional headquarters
- Work centers and research facilities
- Experimental forests
- Human resource sites such as Job Corps (JC) or Youth Conservation Corps (YCC)
- Airfields and heliports

The following categories of signs are included in Chapter 8B – Boundaries:

- National forests
- National grasslands
- Wilderness and primitive areas
- Research natural areas
- Experimental forests
- Congressionally designated special areas, including:
 - National recreation areas
 - National monuments
 - Glacier viewing areas in Alaska
 - National scenic areas
 - National tallgrass prairies

Forest identification signs should be placed at the location that best identifies the facility or boundary, with consideration of topography, safety, cost, environmental impacts, and visibility.

Modification of standard signs requires approval from the Regional Sign Coordinator. When ordering modified signs, submit a detailed drawing or artwork to the sign manufacturer. Include shape detail, letter size, series and spacing requirements, overall dimensions, and color scheme.

Breakaway (crashworthy) posts shall be used when signs are placed within the clear zone as determined by engineering study or engineering judgment. All solid base installations require an engineering study and shall be placed either outside the clear zone or behind protective barriers if within the clear zone. Refer to Chapter 3C for clear zone requirements.

Forest Identification signs should be placed at the location that best identifies the facility or boundary.

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The standard Forest Service shield is the only symbol used to identify the Forest Service.

The national standard logotypes shall be used without modification.

8.2 Forest Service Shield, USDA Identification, and Logotypes

8.2.1 Forest Service Shield and USDA Credit Line

The standard Forest Service shield is the only symbol used to identify the Forest Service and shall be used without modification.

The Forest Service shield shall be displayed either on the sign base or face as detailed in the drawings.

Emphasize identification of the Forest Service as an agency of the Department of Agriculture. In addition to the shield, the words "United States Department of Agriculture" or "U.S. Department of Agriculture" shall be displayed on all forest entrance, administrative, and other major signs as identified in other chapters of this Guidebook. Interior boundary signs do not require the USDA credit line.

The color of the shield and USDA credit line should be compatible with the primary identification sign color.

8.2.2 Logotypes

The national standard logotypes shall be used without modification for the following:

- National forests
- National grasslands
- National recreation areas
- National monuments
- Wilderness areas

See Figure 8-1 for logotypes.

The title of the unit type, such as "National Forest" or "National Grassland" shall appear in the standard logotype preceded by the proclaimed name of the unit in standard text.

In instances where more than one unit name is in the combined unit title or all the forests in a state, the plural form of the unit, such as "National Forests," is used in the logotype.

The national distinctive logotypes may be used sparingly for identification on cooperative plaques, visitor information boards, interpretive signs, special posters, pamphlets, and so forth, providing that priority and adequate identity are given to the use of the national forest and U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Do not use logotypes on administrative signs or any other signs or posters that deal with regulations, authority, or administration.

Use of national standard logotypes for other purposes or other logotypes developed shall be submitted to the Washington Office Director of Engineering for approval.

*National
Grassland*

*National
Recreation Area*

*National
Monument*

*National National
Forest Forests*

WILDERNESS

Figure 8-1 – Logotypes.

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8.3 Sign Design

Design of signs should ensure that:

- Features such as size, contrast, color, shape, composition, and lighting or retroreflectorization are combined to draw attention to the sign.
- Shape, size, colors, and simplicity of message combine to produce a clear meaning.
- Legibility and size combine with placement to permit adequate time for viewing and response.

Standard designs have been developed for most signs and should be used whenever possible. Specific designs, such as those used for special congressionally designated areas, should assure consistency with these same objectives.

Site names on signs should match administrative maps so first-time visitors can locate and recognize the site.

8.3.1 Shape

Sign shapes for the different types of forest identification signs shall be in accordance with Figure 8-2.



Figure 8-2—Typical shapes and associated types of forest identification signs.

8.3.2 Sizes

Size of Forest identification signs are determined by the following factors:

- Speed of travel on approach road
- The message that is to be displayed on the sign
- Site characteristics

Chapter 8C shows sign sizes for use on roads with various prevailing speeds. Sign designs come in standard sizes. Standard sizes shall be used unless the message requires that the standard be revised.

If the sign is not along a road but is mounted on or in front of a building, it should be sized appropriately for exterior display to meet local conditions and the approved site plan.

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8.3.3 Materials

Signs may be routed wood or retroreflective. If the sign should be visible to the traveling public both day and night, retroreflective signs or illumination are recommended. A variety of materials are available. See Chapter 14 for material options and factors that may help in determining what substrate to use. Sign support structures should be designed to be compatible with the site. Refer to Chapter 7 and the *Built Environment Image Guide*.

8.3.4 Colors

Colors for forest identification signs shall be as shown in the drawings. Retroreflective signs shall be made from retroreflective sheeting only. Glass beads are not an acceptable alternative to provide retroreflectivity.

Congressionally designated special areas may use colors fitting the character of the area where approved by the Regional Forester in area management plans. (see Section 8B.4)

8.4 Traffic Control Devices in Administrative Sites

All traffic control devices (TCDs) on roads needed to regulate, warn, or guide traffic leading to or within administrative sites shall meet the requirements of the MUTCD and these Guidelines. This includes the design, shape, color, retroreflectivity, and installation of these signs. All TCDs, including those within the administrative site, should be reviewed by the Forest Sign Coordinator.