



Forest Service Office of the Deputy Chiefs for NFS, S&PF, R&D and OPS Briefing Paper

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Topic: Manual Direction for Resource Inventory, Monitoring and Assessment (I,M&A) Activities

Issue: The Forest Service has prepared new direction (FSM 1940) for management of I,M&A activities.

Background: The Director of Ecosystem Management Coordination (EMC), working with the Chief Information Officer (CIO), chartered an effort to produce FSM 1940 and related Forest Service Handbook (FSH) sections. This new material will result in the establishment of a standards-based approach and framework along with integrated program planning process. The framework and program planning process will guide management of I,M&A activities across deputy area programs and with partners, making our efforts more collaborative, less costly, and more transparent. Implementation of this directive will improve the effectiveness and efficiency of I,M&A operations.

Key Points:

- The scope of these directives includes all resource I,M&A activities for the National Forest System, State and Private Forestry, and Research and Development.
- FSM 1940 was reviewed multiple times by WO Directors and Staff, Regions and Stations.
- FSM 1940 assigns resource information management responsibilities for the Deputy Chiefs, the Information Management Council, all line officers, and WO Staff Directors.
- The objectives for managing inventory, monitoring, and assessment activities are to:
 - Provide the information necessary for achieving the agency's mission, goals, objectives, and business needs that fulfills information quality guidelines for objectivity, utility, and integrity;
 - Support an adaptive land management process that includes social, economic, and ecological evaluations; and
 - Obtain order, consistency and efficiency across the agency.
- Inventory, monitoring, and assessment activities shall:
 - Be coordinated through a national integrated program planning process that addresses information needs related to all agency business requirements;
 - Use a standards-based approach and framework for information management and related business operations; and
 - Foster and realize opportunities for collaboration, cooperation, and coordination across Forest Service deputy area programs and with agency partners, including the public; local, state and other federal agencies; and non-governmental organizations.
- The Information Management Council guides the development of the national integrated program planning process and standards-based approach and framework.

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