

**9.1 Purpose.** This chapter documents the policies, standards, and responsibilities relevant to the application of silviculture on Indian forest lands (See 53 IAM 1).

**9.2 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 9*, titled, *Silviculture*, for detailed process and procedural guidance). Regional directives may be issued as necessary to address local processes and procedures.

**9.3 Scope.** The directives contained in this chapter apply to all Federal agencies and programs participating in the management, accountability, or protection of Indian forest resources. Regardless of the means of program execution, the appropriate Federal Official shall assure that the standards prescribed herein are met.

**9.4 Policy.** All Indian forest lands shall have effective management and protection through the application of sound silvicultural principles.

**A. Strategic.** Silvicultural guidelines will be included in all Forest Management Plans (See 53 IAM 2.8, C.14.).

**B. Operational.** Forest treatments on Indian forest lands shall be consistent with sound silvicultural principles. Silvicultural prescriptions shall be required for all forest treatments that affect the present and/or long term character of a forest stand. Project level silvicultural decision-making should include the process of silvicultural examination, diagnosis of treatment, silvicultural prescriptions, and monitoring.

**9.5 Silvicultural Examinations.** The silvicultural examination is the process for obtaining data needed to identify existing conditions for stand diagnosis and prescription development. Various methods exist for gathering such data, ranging from informal surveys to formal Stand Exams (refer to 53 IAM 8.5.E.). The particular method used and the amount of information collected will vary with the complexity of the resource and detail needed to adequately prescribe treatment.

**9.6 Silvicultural Prescription.** A silvicultural prescription is usually stand specific but can encompass several stands, a cover type or forest type, where the desired treatment result is the same.

**A. Diagnosis of Treatment Needs.** Stand diagnosis follows silvicultural examination. Diagnosis includes collecting, recording, compiling, summarizing, and analyzing of Stand Exam data. The results of this diagnosis along with the data used shall be documented in the Silvicultural Prescription document.

**B. Silvicultural Prescription Document.** The prescription proposes a specific treatment that will meet management and resource objectives within existing constraints and desired time frames. The prescription document shall use standard terminology and definitions (See *The Dictionary of Forestry*, Society of American Foresters, September 1998). In order to reduce paperwork, a Forest Officer's Report or other project reports can also serve as the Silvicultural Prescription document, as long as the following minimum content is met:

General: Reservation/Property Preparer's name Date of preparation Method of field exam Stand designation number Silvicultural system to be applied. Cutting method/treatment this entry.
Stand Description
Special management constraints
Land owner desires as described in IRMP/FMP and other specific sources
Stand needs and treatment objectives
Spatial data such as a map or GIS theme
Description of prescribed treatment
Implementation Guide.
Monitoring needs
Appendix of supporting material
Signature page

**9.7 Monitoring and Evaluation of Silvicultural Treatments.** Appropriate monitoring plans will be included in the prescription to evaluate the results of the prescription and all silvicultural treatments that have been implemented. Monitoring may indicate the need for additional management action(s) to satisfy the objectives of the prescription.

**9.8 Document Retention.**

**A. Short Term.** The prescription with all supporting information should be retained throughout the duration of the project.

**B. Long Term.** The prescription and monitoring/evaluation results shall be retained indefinitely.

**9.9 Responsibilities.** In addition to the responsibilities identified in 53 IAM 1.7, the following are directly associated with silviculture.

**A. Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs.**

- (1)** Develop national silvicultural policies.

(2) Provide assistance in the implementation of Regional silvicultural program direction, oversight and guidance.

**B. Regional Director.**

(1) Develop regional policies, standards and silvicultural guidelines for program implementation.

(2) Assure silvicultural standards and policies are met.

(3) Provide assistance in the implementation of Reservation silvicultural program direction, oversight and guidance.

**C. Agency Superintendent.**

(1) Plan and budget for silvicultural program needs.

(2) Prepares, organizes, and conducts silvicultural activities.

(3) Assure silvicultural quality control.

(4) Maintain silvicultural data and document archive for all Indian forest lands.