

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

**10.2 Guidance.** Handbooks, directives and other guides may be issued and revised as necessary (See 53 IAM 1.3). The Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs August 1987 memorandum and "*Native American Woodland Resources: A National Overview*" provide guidance (also refer to *Indian Forest Management Handbook, Volume 10*, titled, *Woodland Management*, for detailed process and procedural guidance). Regional directives may be issued as necessary to address local processes and procedures.

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

**10.4 Policy.** All woodlands on Indian forest lands shall be afforded the opportunity for effective management and protection through the application of sound silvicultural principles. Woodlands are a component of the overall forest resource, and are subject to all policies and standards relating to forest management on Indian lands. Non-recurring Woodland project funds will only be used for the management, utilization, development, restoration, or protection of resources within designated woodland land classification areas.

**10.5 Woodland Terms.**

**A. Woodland** means forest land not included within the timberland classification, stocked, or capable of being stocked, with tree species of such form and size to produce forest products that are generally marketable within the region for products other than lumber, pulpwood, or veneer. (25 CFR §163.1)

**B. Commercial Woodland** is land qualifying as forest, containing less than 5 percent commercial timber species crown cover, diameters at least 3.0" at root collar (DRC) of woodland species or 5.0" at breast height (DBH) timber, and considered of high site potential capable of growing at least 5 cu. ft/ac/yr of merchantable material. It is a term coined to describe that portion of woodland producing marketable woody products, which is currently or prospectively accessible, is not withdrawn from such use, and not already accounted for within commercial or noncommercial timberland.

**10.6 Woodland Cover Types.** The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) currently recognizes seven woodland cover types for project funding purposes. Additional woodland cover types may be recognized by the BIA Director upon request of the Regional Director.

**A.** The **Pinyon-Juniper** type accounts for the vast majority of the woodland acreage nationally. These stands are composed of varying mixes of pinyon pines and junipers throughout the Southwest and Great Basin. Woodlands end where timber crown cover is 5 percent or more (timberland status begins).

**B.** The **Juniper** type of the Northwest is a variant of pinyon-juniper. Rocky Mountain and western junipers predominate. This type is found in Idaho, Oregon and Northern California.

**C. Non-timber Oak** woodlands have been identified in California, Arizona, Oregon, Washington, Utah, New Mexico, Colorado and Oklahoma. They most often hold the niche between timberland and savanna that is quite droughty and harsh.

**D. Riparian** woodlands are found in most regions of the country. They are defined by their obligate tree species and are generally composed of cottonwood and willow forests, with alder, maple, elm, ash, and other associated species.

**E.** The **Mesquite** type is found in lower elevations of the Southwest, Southern California and Oklahoma with most of the acreage in Indian Country centering in Arizona. This most xeric of the woodland types includes honey, velvet, and screwbean mesquite and catclaw acacia. Mesquite grows best in flood plains, along dry washes and other intermittent drainages.

**F. Aspen** woodlands are found in the northern Rockies and intermountain regions. They exist as pure stands on moist sites, or in association with Rocky Mountain juniper and other species on the dry end of its range. Aspen woodlands tend to be climax to the site (whereas aspen timberlands are seral with conifers becoming later dominants to the area).

**G.** Indian holdings of the **Sabal Palm** type are found exclusively on the Seminole Indian Reservation in Florida. This woodland type is on the mesic end of the forest spectrum, where wetland pasture is below it and mixed stands of palm/hardwoods/conifers are above.

**10.7 Cultural Aspects.** For many Indian woodland owners, the most important and commonly practiced use of Woodland species centers on cultural uses. Proposed woodland management activities should enhance, protect or sustain these cultural uses.

**10.8 Project Proposals.** Proposals must include descriptions of the proposed project, desired results, and a project cost detail that includes personnel requirements, estimated salaries and wages, travel expenses, and equipment/supply costs. The proposal may also include a discussion of the potential economic spin-offs in terms of numbers of jobs created on and off the reservation, salaries and wages (Indian and non-Indian), expected tribal revenues, etc. A Tribal resolution or other authority supporting the woodland project is a required component of the proposal.

**10.9 Selection Criteria.** Selection criteria will vary somewhat from Region to Region. Important considerations for project selection are available budget, resource values, ability to complete the project, and tribal consensus for project necessity, among other considerations.

**10.10 Responsibilities.** In addition to the responsibilities identified in 53 IAM 1.7, the following are directly associated with woodland management.

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

- (1) Develop national woodland management policies.
- (2) Provide assistance in the implementation of regional woodland management program direction, oversight and guidance.
- (3) Maintain program budget and funding justification and procedures for efficient and effective program administration.
- (4) Establish reporting standards and requirements.

**B. Regional Director.**

- (1) Develop regional policies, standards and woodland management guidelines for program implementation.

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

(3) Receive, review, compile and approve woodland management project proposals and annual project planning reports.

(4) Review and retain current woodland management literature for distribution to Tribes and Agencies.

(5) Allocate available funds to field programs for approved woodland management activities. Reallocate funds when necessary.

(6) Receive, review, and compile woodland management accomplishments and expenditures reports from field offices and tribes for annual central office reporting requirements.

**C. Agency Superintendent.**

(1) In consultation with the tribe(s), prepare and implement woodland management projects consistent with woodland management plans, sound silvicultural principles, and woodland policy.

(2) Prepare and submit to the Regional Director an annual Woodland Management Accomplishment Report for each fiscal year that non-recurring funds are utilized.

(3) Maintain program funding accountability and establish a scope of work consistent with woodland funding intent.