

**USDA Forest Service
September 2008**



SUBJECT: Native Plant Materials Proposed Directive, Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2070

Background: The Forest Service issued FSM 2070 Vegetation Ecology effective February 13, 2008. FSM 2070 contains direction for the Forest Service's native plant materials policy. This new policy will provide for uniform direction service-wide and will require regions with native plant policies to ensure their policies are in compliance with the proposed FSM 2070.

Key Points: This policy ensures that native plant materials are given primary consideration for restoration, rehabilitation and revegetation projects where timely natural regeneration for native plant communities will not occur.

The policy restricts but does not prohibit the use of non-native, non-invasive species. The continued use of non-native, non-invasive plants for wildlife management purposes such as wildlife openings and other intensively managed wildlife areas is provided for in FSM 2070.3(2c).

- The use of non-natives is an interim process that will allow for the eventual reintroduction of native plant materials when called for in an approved revegetation plan.
- The use of annual cereal grains to be used as a nurse crop is an example.
- Prohibits the use of federally or state designated noxious weeds.
- Directs the forest Service to cooperate and coordinate with other federal agencies, state agencies, Tribes, non-governmental organizations and private industry in the development of native plant materials.
- A reliable source of native plant materials is essential for successful implementation of the native plant materials program.

Specific direction for commercial timber species and special forest products is contained in FSM 2470.

Contact: Janette Kaiser, Director, Rangeland Management, 202-205-1185

<http://www.fs.fed.us/wildflowers/nativeplantmaterials/policy.shtml>