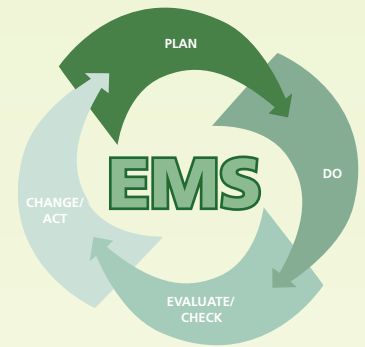


Environmental Management System

U.S. Forest Service
Rocky Mountain Region

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What is it?

A system to track and continually improve environmental controls.

An EMS includes principles to identify current activities, establish goals, implement plans to meet specific goals, determine progress, and make and assess improvements.

Why have it?

The 2005 Planning Rule 36 CFR Part 219 requires every forest to have an EMS by January 7, 2008. It is based on international standards (ISO).

Executive Order 13148 requires each federal agency to prepare and implement an EMS to meet ISO 14001 specifications. It mandates all federal agencies "to integrate environmental accountability into agency day-to-day decision making and long-term planning processes, across all agency missions, activities, and functions."

How does it work with the Plan?

An EMS and the land management plan (Plan) complement one another to reach objectives. EMS teams identify significant aspects (activities) that may have environmental effects. Significant aspects provide the EMS focus. Below are the 17 ISO 14001 elements required for an EMS.

- Environmental policy
- Environmental aspects
- Legal and other requirements
- Objectives and targets
- Environmental management program
- Structure and responsibility
- Training, awareness, and competence
- Communication
- EMS documentation
- Document control
- Operational control
- Emergency preparedness and response
- Monitoring and measurement
- Nonconformance and corrective and preventive actions
- Records
- EMS audit
- Management review

The Plan sets out desired conditions and its resources, objectives, and guidelines for the unit. These become boundaries for on-the-ground projects, which follow the NEPA process.

An EMS examines what happens—after you implement project decisions—to find out if desired outcomes were achieved as stated. The EMS puts a keener focus on immediate activities that need improvement.

The start of our second century begins a new planning era in the Forest Service. The 2005 Planning Rule is an idea whose time has come, and an environmental management system (EMS) is vital for success.

Our national forests and grasslands are vibrant systems always adapting to fires and beetles, droughts and floods, and society's changing demands. We need dynamic plans that fit these fluid systems and tackle future challenges.

An EMS is:

- focused.
- flexible.
- transparent.

Please talk with your Forest EMS team to find out more and get involved as much as you can!

What does it mean to me?

All FS employees will learn about their unit's environmental policy and how their work and staff contribute to reaching the EMS goals and objectives.

Who's doing what?

- **Forest EMS Teams:** Each Forest and Grassland undergoing plan revision is developing its own EMS. Each team collaborates with the R2 EMS Core Team and contractors.
- **R2 EMS Core Team:** Helps Forests develop their EMSs. They work with Module Teams, the Forest EMS Teams, and the WO.
- **Module Teams:** Cross-unit teams developed modules (several of the ISO-required EMS elements) for specific significant aspects. Units whose EMS includes that significant aspect can adapt these modules.
- **The WO:** EMS folks in the WO help with workshops, join conference calls, and provide advice and resources.
- **Contractors:** Contractors provide training, editing, examples, advice, and review for the Forest EMS, R2 EMS Core, and Module Teams.

R2 EMS Contacts

R2 EMS Core Team

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