

USDA FOREST SERVICE



Pike/San Isabel National Forests and Cimarron/Comanche National Grasslands ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM GUIDEBOOK

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4.4.6 OPERATIONAL CONTROL

ISO 14001 REQUIREMENTS

This element provides procedures controlling operations and activities associated with significant environmental aspects. The procedures provide work instructions required to ensure proper execution of activities necessary to attain the environmental policy, manage significant aspects, meet legal and other requirements, and achieve objectives and targets.

PURPOSE

These procedures establish the process used to identify operational controls, and to develop, implement, and maintain documented procedures for managing the PSICC significant environmental aspects.

SCOPE

The operational control procedures apply to all PSICC employees, contractors, permittees, partners and others who perform work, authorized by the Forest Service, related to the PSICC's significant aspects.

All EMS operational control procedures will be applied to projects approved for implementation after June 9, 2006. Projects approved for implementation prior to EMS approval will be administered in accordance with standard Forest Service procedures and processes.

DEFINITIONS

Operational Controls – Physical, engineering, or administrative measures implemented to reduce the impact of an aspect or reduce the probability that an impact will occur.

Operating Procedures – Step-by-step instructions that provide a detailed explanation of how a task is to be performed to mitigate its potential for impacting the environment or deviating from legal requirements.

Significant Environmental Aspect – An aspect with the greatest potential for having an environmental impact.

PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Identify, Develop, and Implement Operational Controls

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The EMS Management Representative is responsible for maintaining an updated list of significant environmental aspects as described in EMS Guide [4.3.1 – Environmental Aspects and Impacts](#). Program Managers ensure that administrative, physical, and/or engineering operational controls are in place for each of the identified significant environmental aspects.

In addition, Program Managers ensure that applicable procedures and requirements related to each of the identified significant environmental aspects are communicated to employees, contractors, permittees, partners, and others as appropriate.

The operational controls are developed to address significant environmental aspects identified in accordance with the [4.3.1.1 – Aspect Screening Process](#). The EMS Representative, Program Managers and Specialist (as needed) develop proposed Operational Control procedures designed to minimize impacts to the environmental aspects. The EMS Management Representative presents proposed Operational Control procedures to the FLT for their review. The Forest Supervisor approves Operational Controls for implementation.

PSICC Operational Controls are described at the following links:

Permitted Livestock Grazing ([4.4.6.1 Livestock Grazing Operational Controls](#)):

Category of Programs and Resources: Livestock Management
Aspect: Permitted Livestock Grazing
Environmental effects: Species of concern –
Vegetative Diversity –

Prescribed Fire ([4.4.6.2 Prescribed Fire Operational Controls](#))

Category of Programs and Resources: Fire Management
Aspect: Prescribed Fire
Environmental effects: Vegetative Diversity –



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2. Review, Revise, and Modify Existing Operational Controls

For each significant environmental aspect, existing key operational controls (physical, engineering, and documented work practices) are identified to assess if current operational controls are adequate or need modification. The assessment will be completed by the appropriate Specialist and/or Program Manager. These individuals will document findings related to:

- Are protective measures being implanted in accordance with Forest Service standards and specifications?
- Are protective measures performing as designed?

The Specialist and/or Program Manager will propose revisions to the Operational Control procedures through the EMS Representative and the Supervisor's Office Program Managers. The EMS Representative and the SO Program Managers review the proposed revisions to Operational Controls. A decision is then made whether or not to accept each proposal and move it forward to the FLT. The EMS Management Representative presents proposed Operational Control procedures revisions to Forest Leadership Team (FLT) for their review as part of the [4.6 Management Review](#) procedure. The Forest Supervisor approves the revised Operational Controls for implementation. Some changes in operational controls may need to be reviewed and or changed at regional and/or agency-wide levels and will be forwarded as appropriate.

3. Communication

Procedures to communicate operational control procedures to PSICC employees, contractors, permittees, partners and others are identified in [4.4.2 Competence, Training and Awareness](#) procedures.

4. Implementation and Training

Forest Leadership Team members ensure that all involved personnel are assigned to and understand their roles and responsibilities for executing operational controls. Roles, responsibilities and training is described in each individual operational controls procedures ([4.4.6.1 – Livestock Grazing Operational Controls](#) and [4.4.6.2 – Prescribed Fire Operational Controls](#)).