

USDA FOREST SERVICE



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

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4.3.3 – OBJECTIVES, TARGETS, AND PROGRAMS

ISO 14001 REQUIREMENTS

This element describes the Forest's objectives, targets, and programs. Environmental objectives are overall environmental goals that are consistent with the Forest's environmental policy. Environmental targets are detailed performance requirements, applicable to the organization or parts thereof, that arise from the environmental objectives and that needs to be set and met in order to achieve those objectives. Environmental programs include the designation of responsibility for achieving objectives and targets at relevant functions and levels of the organization, and the means and time frame by which they are to be achieved.

PURPOSE

This procedure identifies the process used to establish, document, implement, and achieve environmental objectives and targets. The environmental policy serves as the framework for setting and reviewing the Forest's objectives and targets. The purpose of setting objectives and targets is to continually improve environmental performance and/or address priority areas for PSICC management.

SCOPE

Objectives and targets are typically set on an annual basis by the Forest Leadership Team. The objectives and targets listed are for the Cimarron and Comanche National Grasslands. This list will be updated upon the Pike and San Isabel National Forest unit's completion of their EMS. Specific tasks and responsibilities for achieving approved objectives and targets are developed and approved by the FLT. These tasks and responsibilities are assigned to the applicable program areas that are accountable for achieving the established objectives and targets. However, it is the responsibility of PSICC employees to support achieving EMS objectives and targets

DEFINITIONS

Environmental Objective – Overall environmental goal, consistent with the environmental policy, that an organization sets itself to achieve.

Environmental Target – Detailed performance requirement applicable to the organization or parts thereof, that arises from the environmental objectives and that needs to be set and met in order to achieve those objectives.

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PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Establish Environmental Objectives and Targets

The Forest EMS Management Representative, Program Manager and EMS Team review existing objectives and targets, as well as identify potential changes to objectives and targets on a yearly basis. In developing or recommending changes to objectives and targets for the Forest Supervisor to consider, these individuals consider the following criteria:

- Are objectives consistent with the environmental policy, legal requirements and other requirements?
- Have identified significant environmental aspects been considered?
- Does the objective address an important and urgent need of the Forest Service, Region Two or the PSICC to demonstrate continuing progress in reducing environmental impacts?
- Is there strong public interest?
- Is there adequate technology and workforce to accomplish the objective?
- Have service-wide and/or regional budget prioritization processes identified the objective as one to fund and account for progress?
- Does the objective contribute to the adaptive management philosophy?
- Will objectives and targets improve performance by eliminating or reducing the impact?
- Is there strong support from PSICC leadership?

2. Obtain Approval of the Objectives and Targets

Once drafted, the EMS Management Representative presents the objectives and targets to the Forest Leadership Team and Forest Supervisor for review. The Forest Supervisor is responsible for approving the objectives and targets. This approval will be documented in meeting minutes.

Identified PSICC EMS objectives and related targets are displayed in the [4.3.3.1 Objectives Targets Tamarisk spreadsheet](#).

3. Develop the Environmental Management Program/Plan

The only official copy of this file is the one on the PSICC website. Before using a printed copy, verify that it is the most current version by checking the document issue date on the PSICC website.

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- Forest Supervisor approves the objectives and targets generally during September per the Forest budget process.
- Forest EMS Management Representative documents each objective in writing in September during development of Forest Work Plans.
- In September, the Forest Supervisor assigns responsibility for achieving objective and related target to appropriate District Rangers, representing the units, based on identified needs for treatment. The number of acres assigned each Grassland will vary by year to reflect Management Review findings and site specific unit needs. The total target will be met across the Grasslands and is not considered a district target.
- The District Ranger and/or program manager designates responsibilities for achieving the objective and targets to unit personnel. Ongoing, during NEPA,
 - Select site for tamarisk removal
 - Develop site map of alternative areas proposed for treatment
 - Identify treatment tool to be used
- Treat area for tamarisk prior to September 31st each year. Accomplishments are reported quarterly to EMS representative.
 - Program specialist will monitor the current year's treatment areas, prior to September 31, to determine if treatment has occurred.
 - Using the information developed by program specialist during accomplishment monitoring, the GIS specialist will update project maps and determine amount of tamarisk removal accomplished.
 - The GIS specialist will update Grassland maps to show current infestation versus previous infestation during the winter planning cycle.
 - The program specialist will determine if treatment has been effective in reducing infestation and maintain or revise treatment tools accordingly.
- The Forest Supervisor will develop and assign the next year's targets depending on the need for re-treatment identified during monitoring; the expansion of infestation indicated by updated site maps and anticipated budget and regional target assignment.

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4. Review and Modify the Objectives, Targets, and Action Plans

- The EMS Management Representative will obtain quarterly updates from the Grassland offices concerning progress related to Targets and Objectives. They will then be noted on the spreadsheet by the EMS Management Representative.
- The objectives and targets are also reviewed during the annual management review process (see EMS Guide 4.6 – Management Review) and, if necessary, revised to reflect changing conditions and operations of the PSICC. (4.3.3, Task 1)
- Meeting minutes from the Management Review are managed in accordance with [EMS Guide 4.5.4 – Control of Records](#).