

USDA FOREST SERVICE



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

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4.5.2 – EVALUATION OF COMPLIANCE

ISO 14001 REQUIREMENTS

This element provides procedures to evaluate and document compliance with applicable laws and other requirements.

PURPOSE

This procedure identifies a standardized process for evaluating environmental compliance with federal, state and local regulations as well as Forest Service policies applicable to the PSICC.

SCOPE

Legal requirements include: United States (US) environmental statutes, the US Code of Federal Regulations, State of Colorado environmental laws and regulations and Forest Service policies. Other requirements that may apply include Regional, State of Colorado or local area agreements. The list of applicable legal and other requirements can be found in [Table 4.3.2.1](#) of EMS Procedure 4.3.2 – Legal and Other Requirements.

DEFINITIONS

Audit Criteria – Set of policies, procedures or requirements. Audit criteria are used as reference against which audit evidence is compared.

Audit Evidence – Records, statements of fact or other information, which are relevant to the audit criteria and verifiable.

Audit Plan – Outlines required inspection locations based on input from Forest Supervisors and Regional Office staff as to what are the most significant forest environmental compliance requirements or issues.

Auditor – Person with the competence to conduct an audit.



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PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

4.5.2 – PROCEDURES

Evaluation of compliance with applicable laws and other requirements is an on-going process on the national forests and grasslands in the Region.

Procedures

The following procedures are used to ensure environmental compliance:

1. The Cimarron and Comanche EMS has revised and now maintains the Washington Office list of legal and other requirements to show only those applicable to the grasslands. [Table 4.3.2.1](#) provides this list of legal and other requirements.
2. The Grasslands/Supervisors Office Program managers (or contractors) are responsible for particular legal and other requirements and the year that the evaluation will be performed. This information is provided in Table 4.5.2.1.
3. The managers identify the methods and procedures that they use for monitoring and evaluations that address legal and other requirements (which may include directing district program managers to satisfy the requirements of this responsibility). Compliance documentation is recorded on specifically established forms (such as inspection forms) or using the EMS [General Monitoring Form](#).
4. The managers conduct monitoring checks, make observations and identify problem areas, and take corrective/preventive actions. Findings are documented and cc'd to the EMS representative.

Compliance checks occur as follows:

- a. Compliance checks are conducted during the activity implementation. Inspection reports, daily diaries, and other monitoring records (such as [general monitoring form](#)) are completed during this time. If non-compliances are identified, they are corrected as soon as possible within contract procedures or forest operations. Non-compliances and corrective actions are documented.
- b. Post-action compliance evaluations. Compliance evaluations may be done as a part of field inspections of activities, activity reviews, a compilation and evaluation of compliance checks, land management plan monitoring, or other means.