However, public comments are now implementing this Interim Directive to solicit public comment prior to programs of work, it was not practicable orderly adjustments in the local July 12, 2001, deadline, and the need for revisions or amendments adopted after July 12, 2001, must be informed by a roads analysis. Need for Revision Since adoption of the policy on January 12, 2001, the Forest Service has provided almost 1,000 employees in-depth training on how to conduct the roads analysis process and how to build the road atlas. Subsequently, many managers have informed the Chief’s office that the deadlines for compliance are unworkable considering the level of detail, the variety of information required, and the amount of training necessary before the analysis can begin. Moreover, conducting roads analysis is often not compatible with meeting routine seasonal workload demands, especially in light of the need for restoration work after last year’s devastating fire season. For these reasons, the Chief has determined that it is necessary to extend the deadline by which project and plan decisions must be informed by roads analysis from July 12, 2001, to January 12, 2002. The administrative direction in FSM 7710 also directs all Forest Service units to perform a comprehensive roads analysis on the transportation system within that unit and to document the forest transportation system in a transportation atlas. Concurrent with the rule, the Forest Service implemented an administrative policy that gives Forest Service employees more detailed instruction on building the road atlas and conducting road analyses. Issued as an amendment to Forest Service Manual Chapters 7700 Zero Code and 7710, the policy directs that decisions and final forest plan revisions or amendments adopted after July 12, 2001, must be informed by a roads analysis. Conclusion The Forest Service is committed to providing adequate opportunities for the public to comment on all administrative directives that are of substantial public interest or controversy. However, because of the impending July 12, 2001, deadline, it was important to provide Forest Service units with sufficient advance notice of the changes so that they can adjust their plans of work in an orderly way. Accordingly, the agency issued the Interim Directive and made it effective immediately. However, as provided for in 36 CFR 216.7, the Forest Service is also requesting public comment on the Interim Directive. All comments will be reviewed and considered in determining a final policy.


Dale N. Bosworth, Chief.

Note: The Forest Service organizes its directive system by alphanumeric codes and subject headings. Only those sections of the FSM that are the subject of this notice are set forth here. Those who wish to see the entire chart to which the Interim Direction (ID) applies may do so at http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives.

FSM 7700—Transportation System

Chapter 7710—Transportation Atlas, Records, and Analysis


Effective Date: May 31, 2001.
2. Forest-Scale Road Analyses. Every National Forest System administrative unit must have a forest-scale roads analysis completed by January 13, 2003, except as follows:

a. Those units that will complete a forest plan revision or amendment by January 12, 2002, do not need to complete a forest-scale roads analysis (FSM 7712.1) prior to adopting the plan revision or amendment. However, these units are still required to complete a forest-scale roads analysis by January 13, 2003.

b. Those units that have begun revision or amendment of their forest plans but will not adopt a final revision or final amendment by January 12, 2002, must complete a roads analysis prior to adoption of the final plan revision or amendment.

c. Where additional time is needed for completion of forest-scale roads analysis, a Forest Supervisor may request approval from the Regional Forester for an extension. In making such a request, the Forest Supervisor must provide a statement of the reason(s) the extension is needed.

3. There are no known regulatory alternatives which would accomplish the objectives of the Javits-Wagner-O’Day Act (41 U.S.C. 46–48c) in connection with the commodity proposed for addition to the Procurement List. Comments on this certification are invited. Commenters should identify the statement(s) underlying the certification on which they are providing additional information.

The following commodity is proposed for addition to the Procurement List for production by the nonprofit agencies listed:

Commodity

Strap, Chin

8475–01–142–7970

NPA: Cambria County Association f/t Blind & Handicapped, Johnstown, Pennsylvania.