USDA Forest Service National Best Management Practices (BMP’s) Program: Past, Present and Future

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Organic Administration Act of 1897

"No national forest shall be established, except to improve and protect the forest within the boundaries, or for the purpose of securing favorable conditions of water flows, and ... for the use and necessities of citizens of the United States..."
Forests cover 29% of U.S. and 53% of the fresh water originates on these lands.

Public and private forest lands together furnish water supplies for more than 180 million Americans.
Water from the National Forests

- Overall: 14% of annual water supply from 11% of land base
- Western States: 33% of the water from 19% of land base
- >900 cities and 3,400 public water systems serving more than 60 million people
What is the National BMP Program?

BMPs that address water quality & Clean Water Act objectives

- **Focus:** Nonpoint source pollutants (sediment; fuels and related chemical pollutants; other specific types of chemicals; trash, and human and domestic animal wastes)
National BMP Program

- Developed by broad spectrum of agency resource professionals
- Modeled after existing BMP program employed by Forest Service Region 5 and many states
- All land-disturbing and land-use activities that the FS engages in
  - i.e., beyond traditional forestry BMPs
National BMP Program Components

- National “Core” BMPs
- National BMP Monitoring Protocols
- Data Management System
- Corresponding National Direction
National Core BMPs

- BMPs for all resource activities
- 75 practices in 11 resource areas
  - Planning
  - Aquatic Ecosystem Improvements
  - Chemical Uses
  - Facilities Management
  - Fire Management
  - Minerals Management
  - Range (Grazing) Management
  - Recreation Management
  - Roads Management
  - Vegetation Management
  - Water Uses
National BMP Monitoring Protocols

- 42 protocols in 11 resource areas
- Purpose:
  - Identify resource areas that need improvement
  - ULTIMATELY – Adaptive Management on multiple scales (Local, Regional, and National)
## Present: Ongoing Data Collection

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting Period</th>
<th>Number of Sites Evaluated</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FY15/16</td>
<td>1,394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FY17/18</td>
<td>1,368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,762</td>
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</tbody>
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Present: Ongoing

- Data Analysis (Deep Dives)
- Field Training Development
- Updated Reporting Capabilities
Future:

- Integrate with states more fully (State/FS MOUs)
- Purposeful and appropriate Adaptive Management
- Want to verify that the monitoring reflects:
  - The work FS is doing
  - High priority resource activities
- Continued data analysis
Questions?

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