



FSM 2200 - RANGELAND MANAGEMENT

CHAPTER 2270 - INFORMATION MANAGEMENT AND REPORTS

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Effective Date:

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Approved:

Associate Deputy Chief

Date Approved:

Posting Instructions: Amendments are numbered consecutively by title and calendar year. Post by document; remove the entire document and replace it with this amendment. Retain this transmittal as the first page(s) of this document. The last amendment to this title was 2200-2019-6 to 2260.

New Document	2270	7 Pages
Superseded Document(s) by Issuance Number and Effective Date	2270 (Amendment 2200-2005-06, 07/19/2005) 2270 (Amendment 2200-2003-1, 01/24/2003)	5 Pages 4 Pages

Digest:

2270.4 - Establishes code, caption, and sets forth responsibilities for Director of Forest Management, Rangeland Management, and Vegetation Ecology; /grassland/prairie supervisors.

2271 - Changes caption from “Forest Service Range Information System” to “Reporting Requirements”. Removes obsolete references to Forest Service Range Management Information System (FSRAMIS), as this system is no longer in use, and replaces it with Rangeland Information Management System (RIMS).

2271.04a - 04c - Adds reporting requirement responsibilities for Regional Foresters, Forest/Grassland/Prairie Supervisors, and District Rangers.

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Digest--Continued:

2271.1 - Changes caption from “Forest Service Rangeland Management Information System Applications” to “Forest Service Rangeland Management Automated Systems” and sets forth direction, and expands discussion of system application responsibilities for all four organizational levels.

2272 - Changes code from 2271.1 to 2272 and sets forth direction on additional reports with upward reporting requirements and responsibilities.

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2270.1 - Authority

The general authority for current records and reports is the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act (RPA) of 1974 (16 U.S.C. 1600), as amended by the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 1600). This act requires the development and maintenance of a comprehensive and appropriately detailed inventory of all National Forest System (NFS) lands and renewable resources. This inventory must be kept current to reflect changes in conditions and identify new and emerging uses and values of resources.

The RPA also requires annual evaluation reports that show the progress of renewable resource programs, that provide information to aid Congress in its oversight responsibilities, and that improve accountability for expenditures and activities. Form FS-1900-C, Report of the Forest Service, is furnished to Congress annually when the fiscal budget is submitted. See FSM 3908 and FSH 1909.13, chapter 50.

Section 11 of the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act (Title 16, United States Code, chapter 30, sections 1331-1340) requires the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture to submit a biannual report to Congress on the administration of the wild horse and burro program.

2270.2 - Objectives

The primary objective of the Forest Service rangeland management automated systems is to provide a uniform, integrated electronic system for collection, storage, and retrieval of information used in the management of National Forest System (NFS) rangelands and related resources.

Prior to 1997 there was a single database of record that housed electronic data pertinent to rangeland management. The general term "Forest Service rangeland management automated systems" covers multiple databases which include Rangeland Information Management System (RIMS), Forest Activity Tracking System (FACTS) and Rangeland Inventory and Monitoring.

The rangeland management automated systems are also intended to:

1. Meet the legal requirement of developing and maintaining a comprehensive inventory of rangeland resources information that reflects changes in conditions.
2. Provide information about NFS rangeland resources to other government agencies, Congress, research and educational institutions, and the general public.

2270.3 - Policy

Statistical data about Forest Service rangeland resources for both internal use and public information is stored electronically (FSH 2209.15, Rangeland Management Annual Reports Handbook).

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Collect, store, and process rangeland management information for use in activities such as:

1. Vegetation and ecosystem inventory, monitoring, and mapping.
2. Forest land management planning.
3. Range allotment management planning.
4. Grazing and livestock use permit administration.
5. Range improvement inventory.
6. Wild and free-roaming horse and burro inventory and administration.
7. Presenting accomplishments and projections for program development and budgeting.
8. Reporting annual accomplishments to Congress on Form FS-1900-C, Report of the Forest Service.

Official hard copy records also exist for permittees, allotments, improvement inventories, and for rangeland inventory, analysis, and monitoring data.

2270.4 - Responsibility

2270.41 - Director of Forest Management, Rangeland Management, and Vegetation Ecology

The Director of Forest Management, Rangeland Management, and Vegetation Ecology shall coordinate data required by the Washington Office to ensure uniform data input, and compile results for the Chief for inclusion in the Annual Report of the Forest Service to Congress.

2270.42 - Regional Forester

The Regional Forester is responsible for management, control, and implementation of the rangeland management automated systems. The regional forester is also responsible for providing accurate and timely rangeland management data in the required formats (FSH 2209.15, Rangeland Management Annual Reports Handbook).

2270.43 - Forest/Grassland/Prairie Supervisor

Specific management and control of electronic information is the responsibility of the Forest/Grassland/Prairie Supervisor.

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2270.44 - District Ranger

Specific collection and management of electronic information is the responsibility of the district ranger.

2271 - REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

Direction for annual rangeland reporting information can be found in FSH 2209.15.

2271.04 - Responsibility

2271.04a - Regional Forester

The Regional Forester shall verify the accuracy of data submitted by the Forest/Grassland/Prairie Supervisor and submit the required data and reports to the Washington Office.

2271.04b - Forest/Grassland/Prairie Supervisor

The Forest/Grassland/Prairie Supervisor shall verify the accuracy of data submitted by the District Ranger and submit the required data and reports to the Regional Office.

2271.04c - District Ranger

The District Ranger shall collect, enter, and compile all annual reporting accomplishments for the district and submit the required data and reports to the Supervisors Office.

2271.1 - Forest Service Rangeland Management Automated Systems

The rangeland management automated systems are for forest/grassland and district level use. Ranger district personnel are the primary source of data collection and database input.

Forest/grassland/prairie personnel are primarily responsible for running database reports and collecting and verifying accuracy of data input. They are also responsible for compiling data to respond to Freedom of Information Act of 1967 requests from the general public.

Regional office personnel are responsible for running reports and evaluating data for annual upward reporting, responding to public requests for rangeland information and assisting with information for out-year budget requests to the Washington Office.

Data required by the Washington Office is stored in the corporate database system(s) and pulled electronically for reporting annual accomplishments, responding to requests from the general public for data at the national or regional levels, and for use in allocating

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congressionally appropriated funds to the regional foresters for annual program accomplishment.

2272 - REPORTING DATES

Data must be made available by each of the lower organizational levels to the Washington Office for consolidation into national reports.

1. The Annual Grazing Statistical Report and associated data are due annually by July 15.
2. The updated Range Allotment National Environmental Policy Act of 1970 (NEPA) Schedule is due annually by August 15.
3. Signed NEPA decisions must be recorded in the Planning Appeals and Litigation System (PALS) database as soon as practicable but no later than September 27, so that they are automatically available to be uploaded into the RIMS database NEPA tab by September 30.
4. The Range Allotment Management Status Report data are due annually by October 31.
5. The Rangeland Vegetation Improved acres (tabular and spatial) are reported in the geographic information system (GIS) and FACTS databases by October 31.
6. The Range Improvement Accomplishment Report is also entered in the GIS layers and FACTS database and is also due annually by October 31. Work plan RG-VEG-IMP accomplishment description lists projects to be reported and units of measure.
7. The Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros on Public Lands Report is due annually by October 31.