

4. Use an integrated approach to the prevention of animal damage and management of animal damage control programs. Consider a full range of methods, including physical barriers, repellents, habitat manipulation, biological controls, silvicultural methods (for example, fertilizing to improve soil fertility), pesticides, and hunting and trapping. Use licensed hunting, fishing, and trapping as a control technique where practicable.

5. Follow direction in FSM 2670, Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Plants and Animals, to determine whether proposed control measures conducted by the Forest Service are likely to have an effect on federally proposed, threatened, endangered, or sensitive species.

Additionally, the lead agency responsible for completing environmental documentation is also responsible for completion of all Endangered Species Act-mandated interagency consultations. However, the Forest Service will be a cooperating agency with APHIS during consultation under the Endangered Species Act where actions involve National Forest System resources or authorities.

*2650.4—Responsibility.*

*2650.41—Deputy Chief for National Forest System.* The Deputy Chief for the National Forest System is responsible for resolving any difficulties arising between Regions and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)—Animal Damage Control program that cannot be resolved by Regional Foresters under the Memorandum of Understanding (FSM 1543.14).

*2650.42—Regional Foresters.* Regional Foresters are responsible for:

1. Reviewing and approving all proposed pesticide uses for animal damage management on National Forest System lands (FSM 2151). Regional Foresters may redelegate this authority to Forest Supervisors, except that only Regional Foresters may approve animal damage management in wilderness (FSM 2323).

2. Establishing or amending existing Memorandums of Understanding between the Region and appropriate State and other federal agencies regarding animal damage management.

3. Reviewing all proposed Forest Service animal damage management activities within areas occupied by and habitat of federally proposed or listed threatened or endangered species and Regional Forester approved sensitive species. Regional Foresters may redelegate this authority to Forest Supervisors.

4. Meeting with or designating a representative to meet with State or regional representatives, such as the APHIS Regional Director, as needed to coordinate animal damage management operations.

5. Resolving any difficulties arising among APHIS personnel and Forest Supervisors under the Memorandum of Understanding (FSM 1543.14), or referring unresolved issues to the Deputy Chief, National Forest System, for resolution.

*2650.43—Forest Supervisors.* Forest Supervisors are responsible for:

1. Ensuring appropriate environmental analysis requirements are met for proposed non-predator control activities conducted by the Forest Service and ensuring consistency with forest plan direction.

2. Recommending changes in state hunting, fishing, or trapping regulations to accommodate animal damage management activities on National Forest System lands (FSM 2640).

3. Meeting with APHIS personnel and responsible state agencies to cooperate where proposed predator control is needed to ensure coordination of Forest Service resources or activities on National Forest Systems lands.

4. Cooperating with APHIS in preparation of environmental documentation for predator control or other animal damage management activities conducted by APHIS on National Forest System lands (40 CFR 1508.15).

5. As necessary, referring any difficulties arising from activities with APHIS under the Memorandum of Understanding (FSM 1543.14) for resolution by the Regional Forester.

6. When needed, requesting training from APHIS in animal damage management techniques.

7. Ensuring that licensing and certification of Forest Service personnel performing animal damage management activities comply with applicable federal and state regulations and that certified pesticide applicators use or supervise the use of restricted-use pesticides on National Forest Systems Lands (FSM 2150).

*2650.6—Cooperation in Animal Damage Management Activities.* Both the Forest Service and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)—Animal Damage Control program have a responsibility for limiting damage caused by wildlife, consistent with other wildlife values and resource management objectives. APHIS responsibilities are generally directed toward the management and control of animals causing damage to livestock, agriculture, wildlife, and human health

and safety. Trapping or shooting coyotes to prevent losses of sheep or cattle are examples of these activities.

Forest Service animal damage management activities are related to the management of National Forest System resources. Examples of Forest Service initiated activities include, but are not limited to, removing beavers that are damaging roads, reducing bear damage to tree regeneration and controlling mice and pocket gophers to protect seedlings. Pursuant to the delegation of authority to APHIS at section 2.51 (a)(41) of Title 7 of the code of Federal Regulations (7 CFR 2.51 (a)(41)), the 1993 Memorandum of Understanding between the Forest Service and APHIS for animal damage management activities (FSM 1543.14), the role of APHIS is as follows:

1. Evaluate animal damage management needs and conduct predator control in cooperation with the Forest Service, state agencies, and permittees.

2. Serve as lead agency for preparing environmental documentation on animal damage management activities initiated by APHIS on National Forest System lands.

3. Develop and update animal damage management work plans in cooperation with the Forest Service and appropriate state and federal agencies, and interested publics to ensure compliance with forest plans.

4. Inform the Forest Service about animal damage management requests, management activities, and results on a timely basis.

5. Provide the Forest Service with technical information on recommended animal damage management tools and techniques.

6. Conduct animal damage management training sessions for Forest Service personnel, when requested.

*2651—WILDLIFE AND FISH DAMAGE MANAGEMENT.*

*2651.1—Threatened and Endangered Species.* Follow specific species control plans for federally listed species (for example, grizzly bear and wolf) cleared through consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service.

*2651.2—Game and Furbearers.* Control damage caused by game animals and furbearers through hunting or trapping, where practicable, in cooperation and consultation with the State fish and wildlife agencies, and APHIS, where appropriate.

*2651.3—Nongame Species.* Control damage caused by nongame species on National Forest System lands in close cooperation with the State fish and