

CHAPTER 4 - FOREST SERVICE PEST SUPPRESSION ASSISTANCE AT CIVIL WORKS WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

4-1. Purpose. This chapter establishes the policy for consistent USACE (civil works) involvement under the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) for assistance in the conduct of forest insect and disease suppression on lands administered by the U.S. Department of Defense.

4-2. Policy. It is the policy of the Corps of Engineers that:

a. The requirements of this chapter are mandatory for those districts seeking pest suppression funding support from the USDA Forest Service. Program participation remains, however, voluntary.

b. In accordance with the MOA, MSC and district commanders shall cooperate fully with the USDA to prevent and suppress damaging forest insect and disease outbreaks. Specific program implementation guidance, sample reports, Forest Service technical assistance points of contact (POC) and an abbreviated list of pests applicable under this program are located in Chapter 4 of EP 1130-2-540.

(1) During initial program implementation, each participating district shall designate a POC to address all matters relating to forest pest surveillance and suppression on civil works projects. All MOA reports associated with forest pest surveillance and suppression programs at civil works projects shall be prepared and submitted in accordance with the MOA and Forest Service Form FS-3400-2 guidelines, which are also found in EP 1130-2-540.

(2) The district POC shall request assistance in a timely manner from the nearest Forest Service Regional Forest Pest Management (FPM) Office, if the need for forest pest or disease suppression under this program is anticipated in the up-coming year. The criteria outlined in section 4.b.(4) of the MOA shall determine whether suppression activity is appropriate. Suppression may consist of biological, chemical, or mechanical treatments or techniques, or combinations of these. Procedures for developing a "Pest Management Project Plan," using Forest Service Form FS-3400-2 are presented in Chapter 4 of EP 1130-2-540.

c. Training. Under the terms of the MOA, the USDA Forest Service is responsible for providing training opportunities for DoD personnel in techniques for the prevention, detection and suppression of destructive forest insects and diseases. Participating district POCs shall determine training needs on an annual basis and recommend personnel involved in managing forest resources at civil works projects for training. The district POC shall request such training from the Regional FPM Office of the Forest Service far enough in advance that it may be included in the District Annual Training Needs Survey. Guidance on requesting and funding of training is provided in EP 1130-2-540; general pest management program guidance is provided in Chapter 3 of this regulation.

4-3. Funding. The Cooperative Forestry Assistance Act of 1978, PL 95-313 authorizes the USDA Forest Service to allocate funds to other Federal land management agencies for suppression of forest insect infestation and disease epidemics.

a. Requests for Forest Service funding assistance shall comply with the milestones for

ER 1130-2-540
15 Nov 96

forest pest suppression projects established by the Armed Forces Pest Management Board (AFPMB), as provided in Chapter 4 of EP 1130-2-540.

b. Lack of USDA Forest Service funding for a particular Corps suppression project does not prohibit Corps funding of the project using Operation and Maintenance, General funds if good stewardship practices dictate. An example would be a sudden forest insect infestation or outbreak of disease requiring immediate suppression. In such cases, Operation and Maintenance, General funds may be used in lieu of USDA Forest Service funds.