

common way to organize and present information and make it more accessible.

This policy does not create any right or benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable by a party against the United States, its agencies or instrumentalities, its officers or employees, or any other person. This policy does not alter or amend any requirement under statute, regulation, Executive Order, or OMB or EPA guidance.

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Department of Agriculture

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Department of Commerce

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Department of Defense

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Department of Energy

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Department of the Interior

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Environmental Protection Agency

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Tennessee Valley Authority

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Army Corps of Engineers

#### Glossary of Terms

These definitions are intended only to help you understand the proposed policy better, and do not change the meanings of terms defined by law or regulation. If we define a term in the proposed policy that is not defined elsewhere by law or regulation, you should not consider any such definition to have the effect of a law or regulation. Also, if we use a definition in this proposed policy that is subsequently found to conflict with current laws or regulations, the current laws or regulations would apply. For example, "best management practices" and "total maximum daily load" are defined in the Environmental Protection Agency's regulations at 40 CFR 122.2 and 40 CFR 130.2(i), respectively.

**Adaptive management:** A type of natural resource management in which decisions are made as part of an ongoing science-based process. Adaptive management involves testing, monitoring, and evaluating applied strategies, and incorporating new knowledge into management approaches that are based on scientific findings and the needs of society. Results are used to modify management policy, strategies, and practices.

**Best management practices (BMPs):** Methods, measures, or practices to prevent or reduce water pollution, including, but not limited to:

1. Structural and nonstructural controls,

2. Operation and maintenance procedures, and

3. Other requirements and scheduling and distribution of activities.

Usually BMPs are applied as a system of practices rather than a single practice. BMPs are selected on the basis of site-specific conditions that reflect natural background conditions and political, social, economic, and technical feasibility.

**Hydrologic unit:** Watersheds which are classified into four types of units: regions, sub-regions, accounting units, and cataloging units. The hydrologic units are arranged within each other, from the smallest (cataloging units) to the largest (regions). Each hydrologic unit is identified by a unique hydrologic unit code (HUC) consisting of two to eight digits based on the four levels of classification in the hydrologic unit system.

**Priority watersheds:** Watersheds selected for the focussing of Federal budgetary and other resources for the purpose of accelerating improvements in water quality and watershed condition.

**Total maximum daily load:** An estimate of the total quantity of pollutants (from all sources—point, nonpoint, and natural) that may be allowed into waters without exceeding applicable water quality criteria.

**Unified Watershed Assessment:** The *Clean Water Action Plan* asked States and Tribes to assess their watersheds and identify all watersheds as being in one of four categories:

1. Not meeting, or facing an imminent threat of not meeting, clean water or other natural resource goals;
2. Meeting goals but needing action to sustain water quality;
3. Having pristine/sensitive aquatic system conditions on Federal, State, or Tribal lands; or
4. Needing more information to assess watershed condition.

**Watershed:** A geographic area of land, water, and biota within the confines of a drainage divide. The total area above a given point of a water body that contributes flow to that point.

**Watershed approach:** A framework that focuses public and private sector efforts to address the highest priority problems within a hydrologically defined geographical area, taking into consideration both ground and surface water flow.

**Watershed assessment:** An analysis and interpretation of the physical and landscape characteristics of a watershed using scientific principles to describe watershed conditions as they affect water quality and aquatic resources. Initial watershed assessments will be conducted using existing data, where available. Data gaps may suggest the collection of additional data.

**Watershed condition:** The state of the watershed based on physical characteristics

and processes (e.g., hydrologic, geomorphic, landscape, topographic, vegetative cover, and aquatic habitat), water flow characteristics and processes (e.g., volume and timing), and water quality characteristics and processes (e.g., chemical, physical, and biological), as it affects water quality and water resources.

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## DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

### Forest Service

#### Unified Federal Policy for Ensuring a Watershed Approach to Federal Land and Resource Management

**AGENCY:** Forest Service, USDA.

**ACTION:** Proposed policy; meetings.

**SUMMARY:** Elsewhere in this part of today's **Federal Register**, the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior have published a proposed unified Federal policy for ensuring a watershed approach to Federal land and resource management. The Departments of Agriculture and the Interior have scheduled four public meetings and four Tribal meetings to present information on the proposed policy.

**DATES:** The meetings are scheduled on March 7, 9, 14 and 16. Written comments must be received by April 24, 2000.

**ADDRESSES:** The meetings will be held at the locations and times listed in the table under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION**. You may send or hand deliver written comments to: USDA-Forest Service, Content Analysis Enterprise Team, Attn: UFP, Building 2, Suite 295, 5500 Amelia Earhart Drive, Salt Lake City, UT 84116. You may also fax comments to (801) 517-1021 or submit comments electronically to [cleanwater/wo\\_\\_caet-slc@fs.fed.us](mailto:cleanwater/wo__caet-slc@fs.fed.us).

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Eric Janes, Rangelands, Soil and Water Group, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior or Karen Solari, Watershed and Air Management Staff, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture at (801) 517-1037.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The four public meetings and the four Tribal meetings will be held at the locations and times listed in the following table:

Date	City	Location	Time
Tuesday, March 7 .....	Portland, OR .....	Oregon Convention Center, 777 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.	Tribal meeting 1 p.m.–4 p.m.; public meeting 6 p.m.–9 p.m.
Thursday, March 9 .....	Milwaukee, WI .....	Hyatt Regency Milwaukee, 333 West Kilbourn Avenue.	Tribal meeting 1 p.m.–4 p.m.; public meeting 6 p.m.–9 p.m.
Tuesday, March 14 .....	Atlanta, GA .....	Cobb Galleria Center, Two Galleria Parkway	Tribal meeting 1 p.m.–4 p.m.; public meeting 6 p.m.–9 p.m.
Thursday, March 16 ....	Denver, CO .....	Colorado Convention Center, 700 14th Street	Tribal meeting 1 p.m.–4 p.m.; public meeting 6 p.m.–9 p.m.

Dated: February 15, 2000.

**Hilda Diaz-Soltero,**

*Associate Chief for Natural Resources.*

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