

Department of the Interior Departmental Manual

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Part 517: Pesticides

Chapter 1: Integrated Pest Management Policy

Originating Office: Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance

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1.1 **Purpose.** The purpose of this document is to provide policy and requirements for Department of the Interior (DOI) bureaus and offices to incorporate Integrated Pest Management (IPM) into their pest management activities.

1.2 **Scope.** This chapter applies to all DOI bureau and office activities involving the prevention, detection, and management of native and nonnative pest species, including invasive species, on DOI properties.

1.3 **Definitions.** The following are commonly referenced statutory definitions. Specific definitions may vary by statute and by the operational needs and missions of each bureau.

A. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) - “Integrated Pest Management is a sustainable approach to managing pests by combining biological, cultural, physical, and chemical tools in a way that minimizes economic, health, and environmental risks [Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. 136r-1)].” Examples of tools listed in the IPM definition include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) Biological tools - predators, parasites, and pathogens;
- (2) Cultural tools - crop rotation, alterations in planting dates, and sanitation;
- (3) Physical tools - barriers, traps, hand-pulling, hoeing, mowing, and tilling;
- (4) Chemical tools - pesticides, such as herbicides, insecticides, or fungicides.

B. Invasive Species - Executive Order 13112 defines an invasive species as “an alien species whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.” In the Executive Summary of the National Invasive Species Management Plan the term invasive species is further clarified and defined as “a species that is non-native to the ecosystem under consideration and whose introduction causes or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.”

C. Pest - “(1) Any insect, rodent, nematode, fungus, weed, or (2) any other form of terrestrial or aquatic plant or animal life or virus, bacteria, or other microorganism (except viruses, bacteria, or other microorganisms on or in living man or other living animals) which the [Environmental Protection Agency] Administrator declares to be a pest under section 136w (c)(1) of this title [FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. 136(t)].”

Further, within this policy, pests are living organisms that may interfere with the site-specific purposes, operations, or management objectives or that jeopardize human health or safety.

1.4 **Authorities.**

A. FIFRA directs federal agencies to use an IPM approach to manage pests. FIFRA states, “*The Secretary of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Administrator, shall implement research, demonstration, and education programs to support adoption of Integrated Pest Management. . . The Secretary of Agriculture and the Administrator shall make information on Integrated Pest Management widely available to pesticide users, including Federal agencies. Federal agencies shall use Integrated Pest Management techniques in carrying out pest management activities and shall promote Integrated Pest Management through procurement and regulatory policies and other activities* (FIFRA, 7 U.S.C. 136r-1).”

B. Public Contracts and Property Management, Facility Management, 2006, 41 CFR, Section 102.74.35

C. Each bureau should review and incorporate, as appropriate, additional legislation and authorities applicable to regulate pest management actions when addressing pest issues on Federal lands and properties.

D. Other authorities, as appropriate, that are pertinent to bureaus’ IPM activities include the following:

(1) Noxious Weed Control and Eradication Act of 2004, 7 U.S.C. 7781-7786, Subtitle E

(2) Executive Order 13148 Section 601(a), April 21, 2000, Greening the Government Through Leadership in Environmental Management

(3) Plant Protection Act of 2000, 7 U.S.C. 7701 *et seq.* (supersedes the Federal Noxious Weed Act of 1974, except Sections 1 and 15)

(4) Executive Order 13112 of February 3, 1999, on Invasive Species

(5) Food Quality Protection Act of 1996, 7 U.S.C.136 (amends both the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act and the Federal Food Drug, and Cosmetic Act)

(6) Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) 1947, 7 U.S.C. 136-136y

- (7) National Invasive Species Act of 1996, 16 U.S.C. 4701
- (8) Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990, 16 U.S.C. 4701
- (9) Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*
- (10) Occupational Health and Safety Act of 1970, 29 U.S.C. 651-678
- (11) The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4321-4370f
- (12) The National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, 16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*
- (13) Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1948, 33 U.S.C. 1251 – 1376, Chapter 758, P.L. 845, June 30, 1948, 62 Stat. 1155 (also known as Clean Water Act)
- (14) Animal Damage Control Act of 1931, 7 U.S.C. 426-426c, 46 Stat. 1468
- (15) Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, 16 U.S.C. 701 *et seq.*

1.5 **Policy.** The Department's policy is to manage pests and use IPM principles in a manner that reduces risks from both the pests and associated pest management activities. IPM is a science-based, decision-making process. IPM incorporates management goals, consensus building, research, pest biology, environmental factors, pest detection, monitoring, and the selection of the best available technology to prevent unacceptable levels of pest damage. Bureaus will accomplish pest management through cost-effective means that pose the least risk to humans, natural and cultural resources, and the environment. Further, it is the Department's policy to:

- A. Conduct all pest management activities in full compliance with applicable laws and other authorities including the National Environmental Policy Act; the Endangered Species Act; Migratory Bird Treaty Act; Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act; Food Quality Protection Act; and the National Historic Preservation Act. Bureaus will complete the necessary environmental documentation before conducting pest management activities.
- B. Give full consideration at all times to the safety and protection of humans and other non-target organisms and resources.
- C. Establish site management objectives and then choose the lowest risk, most effective approach that is feasible for each pest management project. The methods can include, but are not limited to, one or more of the following: no action, cultural, physical, biological, and chemical management. Bureau planning will incorporate IPM methods into short and long term planning documents to establish methods for implementing low risk, effective pest management practices. While management costs are important, they are not the primary deciding factor in selecting a

management approach. At times, it may be appropriate to select a more expensive management approach if that method is effective and reduces risks to humans and other non-target resources.

D. Conserve and promote beneficial organisms and natural processes that would inherently suppress potential pest populations.

E. Design and maintain the stability of structures, developed landscapes, and natural areas to prevent and reduce conditions conducive to pests.

F. Utilize and promote pest management research, methods, education, and technical and financial assistance programs to develop, support, and implement IPM strategies.

G. Conduct appropriate and applicable pest detection, environmental surveillance, and monitoring before, during, and after any management activity to determine whether pest management goals are achieved and whether the activity caused any significant unanticipated effects.

H. Incorporate this policy into procurement activities, contracts, leases, and agreements to ensure compliance by bureaus, offices, and outside parties conducting activities such as farming, construction, habitat management, grazing, forestry, operation and maintenance of irrigation systems and dams, concessions management, roads, rights-of-way, public health, and animal and vegetation management on Departmental properties.

1.6 Responsibilities.

A. The Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management and Budget is responsible for:

(1) Overseeing the Department's compliance with this policy and associated requirements of the applicable authorities in conducting pest management on Departmental properties in accordance with the principles of IPM.

(2) Coordinating and resolving conflicts among the Program Assistant Secretaries.

B. The Program Assistant Secretaries are responsible for ensuring that their subordinate bureaus and offices comply with the policy and requirements in this chapter.

C. The Heads of Bureaus and Offices are responsible for:

(1) Ensuring that their organizations comply with this policy.

(2) Ensuring that their organization's IPM activities and management strategies are evaluated, implemented, and monitored for compliance with the applicable authorities and for their utilization of IPM principles.

(3) Providing technical support for Departmental reviews of IPM activities and associated policies when requested.

(4) Reviewing and approving pest management plans, Pesticide Use Proposals (PUPs), release of biological control agents, and other applicable actions for utilization of IPM principles. Heads of bureaus may delegate the review and approval authority as necessary and as appropriate.

(5) Appointing an employee with appropriate technical expertise in IPM to represent the bureau or office on the Department IPM Coordination Committee. Representatives are required for the following bureaus and offices: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance, and Geological Survey. Heads of other bureaus and offices are encouraged, but not required, to appoint a representative to the Department IPM Coordination Committee.

(6) Ensuring that persons applying pesticides, releasing biological control agents, and conducting other IPM activities have the appropriate training and equipment necessary to ensure their safety and health and to act in full conformance with this policy.

(7) Developing policy and guidance to address IPM as it relates to bureau-specific missions and organic legislation. Among other topics, the policy and guidance should address the use of pesticides, release of biological control agents, and other IPM practices as appropriate.

D. The Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC) is responsible for:

(1) Serving as the lead Office for revising this IPM Policy when warranted by changes in technical information, federal statutes, regulations, or other conditions. Any bureau or office can initiate changes by contacting the OEPC.

(2) Soliciting and considering the views of all interested Departmental offices and bureaus when the Department contemplates changes in the IPM Policy. In recommending revisions to this policy, bureaus and offices will provide OEPC with appropriate supporting information.

E. The Department IPM Coordination Committee (Committee) is responsible for:

(1) Providing coordination, oversight, training, research, and technical assistance to bureaus on IPM programs.

(2) Developing a charter to direct the operations of the Committee.

(3) Electing a rotating Chair position elected from among its members. The Chair will serve a term of two calendar years.