

**Proposed Priorities for Improvement of USFS Administrative Processes
Affecting BMP Implementation**

	Priority	Proposed Improvement
General	VH	Improve coordination between watershed staff and CORs/FPRs for road and vegetation management projects.
	VH	Clarify that "road maintenance" includes actions needed to ensure that drainage from the road prism is hydrologically disconnected from streams and lakes.
	H	Assign targets for water-quality protection to national forests, with incentives for good performance on achieving targets.
	H	Better define the various steps in the USFS administrative process, the personnel performing those step, the mechanisms used to link between steps (e.g. planning to implementation to evaluation), and the timelines for performing steps and moving the information through the organization.
	H	Post all technical reference documents related to BMPs online in readily accessible format and location.
	H	Provide regular periodic cross training and calibration between hydrologists, engineering, and timber sale administrator to improve connection between engineering and technical units.
	M	Automatic notification of new projects on Schedule of Proposed Actions to Water Boards.
	L	Expedite USFS Regional Office review and approval of nonrecurring special C clauses in Timber Sale Contracts for WQ protection.
NEPA Process	VH	Improve map quality and detail in environmental documents (or online); provide larger-scale (i.e., 1:24,000) maps that show what will be done, how, and where.
	VH	Improve and make consistent the specificity of BMP provisions in environmental documents, particularly where risk of water quality impact is higher, value is high, and/or condition is deteriorating.
	VH	Eliminate circular references between WQMP BMPs and environmental documents.
	H	Better document on-the-ground issues (e.g. active controllable sediment discharge sources) in the environmental documents and/or make documentation more readily available for Water Board review.
	H	Include roads used to access a project area or hauling as part of the project area, and address related problems in environmental documents and Categorical Exemption Decision memos.
	L-H	Need erosion control plans (with maps).
	L-H	Incorporate BMPs into Decision memos for activities conducted under Categorical Exemptions, so they can be reviewed by Water Boards.
	L	Better document the expertise of the personnel on project ID teams.
Contracts Leases, etc	VH	Ensure effective transfer of BMPs from NEPA documents to contracts, permits, and force-account specifications.
	VH	Ensure degree of BMP <u>specificity</u> in NEPA documents is transferred to these documents for Water Board, operator, contract administrator, and/or BMP inspectors.
On the Ground	VH	Expedite processes for remediating problems found during post-project inspections.
	H	Expand ID team (including hydrologists) into implementation and evaluation phases.
	H	Improve connection between engineering staff and technical staff (e.g., earth scientists, hydrologists).
	H	Establish definite inspection schedule to ensure that project BMPs (for example, pre-winter period erosion control BMPs) have been properly implemented.
	M/H	Ensure that change orders are immediately incorporated into project files.