United States Department of Agriculture

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FORESTRY/WOODLAND TECHNICAL NOTE NO. NM-44

SUBJECT: ECS – Forest Management Clipboard Table

Purpose: To provide a one-page, field-handy guide sheet for forest management projects.

Effective Date: Effective when received.

Filing Instructions: Forestry/Woodland Technical Notes are accessible online at the NRCS New Mexico Technical Resources website: http://www.nm.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/tech-notes/forestry_wood.html

Background: The technical note is based on a template provided by the West Region Technical Service Center and has been updated for New Mexico. It includes the following basic steps to assess, plan, design, and implement a forest management project:

1. Discuss landowner objectives and potential need for a management plan. Gather field inventory data for all forest stand strata using fixed or variable radius plots and forest stand improvement inventory forms. Determine if a harvest permit is required.
2. Compute correlations between average Trees/Acre, spacing, Basal Area, and diameter-at-breast-height or diameter-at-root-collar. Consider landowner objectives.
3. Complete an environmental evaluation of all benchmark conditions.
4. Discuss management options and conservation treatment alternatives based on current conditions, forest ecology, and landowner goals.
5. Consider and select a slash treatment method.
6. Return to the unit and mark/flag "leave" trees to demonstrate desired spacing.

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