

# Planning constraints to IPM adoption by National Forests in California

Philip Brownsey

[pb3@airpost.net](mailto:pb3@airpost.net)

California Invasive Plant Council Symposium

Palm Springs, California

25 October 2017

# Two Main Questions

To what degree have Forests been able to adopt herbicide as a tool to use as part of an integrated pest management strategy or an early detection-rapid response program?

How can Cal-IPC better facilitate adoption of herbicide as part of the larger tool chest?

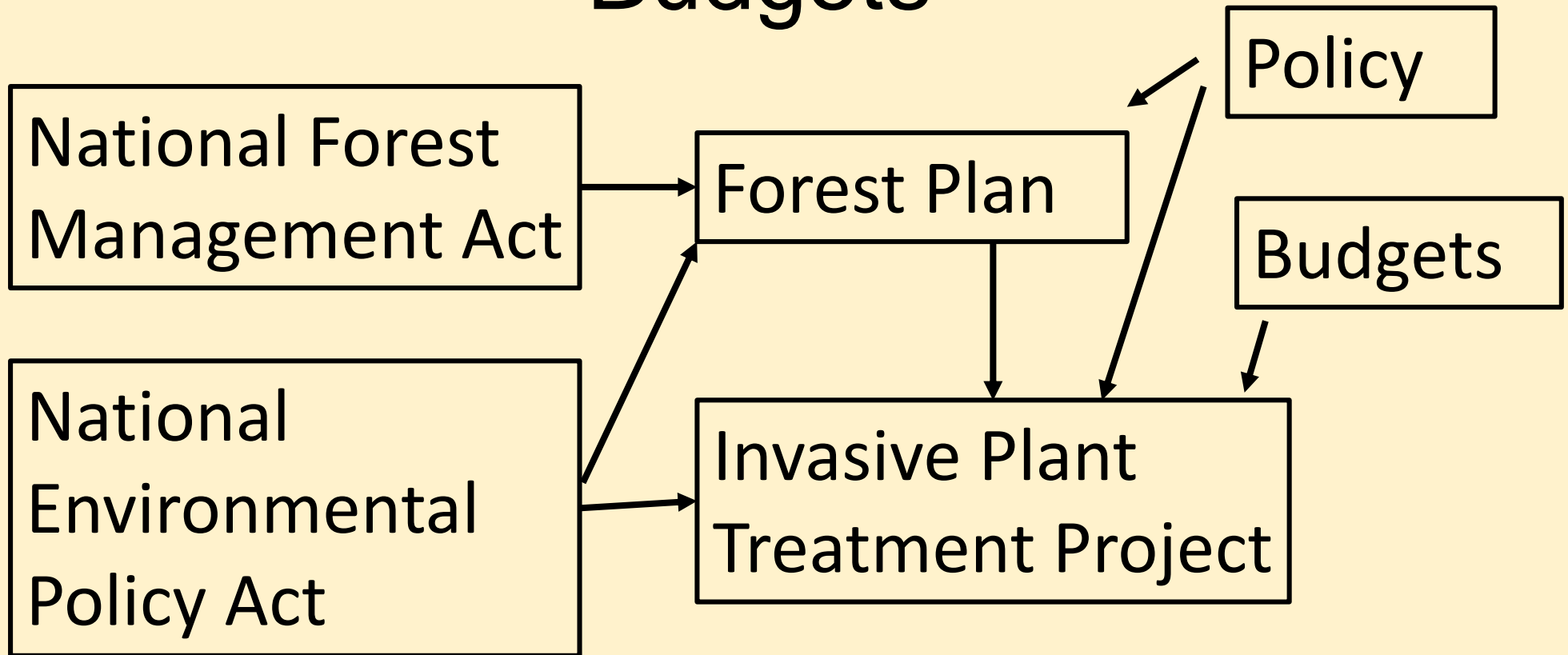
A map of California with various regions shaded in different colors to represent National Forest System units. The colors include shades of green, blue, purple, pink, orange, and yellow. The map shows the state's outline and county boundaries.

# National Forest System

Across US: 113 National Forest administrative units covering about 236 million acres.

In California: all or parts of 20 National Forest units covering about 21 million acres, or about 19 percent of California.

# Hierarchy of Laws, Plans, and Budgets



Plus, other laws such as the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, National Historic Preservation Act

# Process

Reviewed planning documents and policy.

Spoke with a variety of Forest Service staff from across the state.

Reviewed more planning documents.

I am presenting my opinions and they should not be construed as reflecting the views of any Forest Service employee I spoke with.

Any errors are my own! (let me know what they are)

# Pacific Southwest Region

Progress is being made!

- 4 Forest-wide NEPA projects authorizing herbicide as part of an EDRR strategy, with 2 additional forests in process.
- Another 5 forests have watershed or project-level authorization for herbicide use, with another 3 forests with projects under analysis.
- 6 Forests have very limited or no herbicide use, primarily in the northwest.

# Pacific Southwest Region: Constraints

- Funding for NEPA analysis.
- Explicit lack of support/interest from (some) Forest leadership.
- Concerns regarding resource effects:
  - Amphibians,
  - Water Quality, and
  - Materials used by traditional forest users.
- Lack of Forest Plan direction.

# Pacific Southwest Region: Opportunities once NEPA authorization for EDRR is achieved:

- Grants become available.
- BAER funding becomes available.
- Partners are available to help with implementation.
- Actual Early Detection-Rapid Response is possible.



# Pacific Northwest Region Approach

- Herbicide program was subject to a lawsuit over silvicultural uses of herbicide.
- Performed a region-wide Forest Plan Amendment specifying desired conditions and standards and guidelines for herbicide use.
- Followed through with Regional Office-supported forest-wide NEPA analysis for invasive plant treatments with IPM approaches, including herbicide.

# Action Items

- Add relevant language to Forest Plans through the revision process:
  - Vision/Desired Condition,
  - Strategy (including IPM and EDRR), and
  - Standards and Guidelines for prevention and implementation.
  - Eradication targets as a Forest Plan goal
- Push leadership to engage in forest-wide NEPA planning that authorizes herbicide use as part of an IPM strategy.
- Work with relevant staff and stakeholders to create better understanding of how IPM will work: traditional forest users, wildlife biologists.
- Include Cal-IPC in lists of interested public for supportive and constructive comments: we want to see productive and successful projects!

This work has been funded by the California Invasive Plant Council and benefited tremendously from the Forest Service staff that took the time to speak with me.

If you want to discuss this more, have questions, or want to correct any information here, contact me at [pb3@airpost.net](mailto:pb3@airpost.net).