

# Federal Contradictions Map

A visual explanation of where hemp, marijuana, FDA, USDA, banking, commerce, and reimbursement rules currently clash.



Whole-Plant Federal Framework • Audience: Public / Staff / Partner • Draft v2.1 • whole-plant framework

**What this resource does:** *Maps the primary federal contradictions that WRCL aims to resolve so readers can understand why a comprehensive plant-based framework is essential.*

## At a glance

The United States does not face just one Cannabis policy problem. Instead, it has overlapping contradictions across criminal law, agriculture, food and drug law, finance, commerce, medical access, and international law. The table below aims to make these contradictions clear in one place.

Current contradiction	Why it matters	WRCL fix
<b>One plant, two federal categories.</b> "Hemp" and "marijuana" remain separate legal pathways for the same species.	Encourages exploiting loopholes, undermines consistency, and causes businesses and regulators to operate based on conflicting assumptions.	Remove the plant from schedule and control finished products based on their intended use and risk.
<b>USDA cultivation rules versus FDA product rules.</b> A lawful crop does not automatically create a lawful finished product.	Growers, manufacturers, and consumers experience instability, especially with cannabinoid products.	Maintain agricultural standards for industrial hemp while establishing clear rules for finished cannabinoid products.
<b>CBD/THC market confusion.</b> FDA allows certain hemp seed ingredients in food, but THC/CBD still do not fit normal food or supplement pathways.	The result is an unpredictable national market with inconsistent enforcement and consumer confusion.	Develop a specific cannabinoid-product framework rather than assuming existing food and supplement regulations are sufficient.
<b>Adult-use legality without normal commerce.</b> State markets can exist while interstate trade, cards, and financing remain constrained.	That creates a fragmented, high-friction economy and maintains advantages in the illicit market.	Authorize interstate commerce, standard payment systems, and lawful tax and trade regulation.
<b>Medical use without a full access pathway.</b> Patients and clinicians operate in a patchwork between state programs, limited FDA approvals, and narrow coverage rules.	Cancer and palliative patients are especially harmed by the disconnect between legality and accessible options.	Create a dedicated medical lane focused on research, product categories, clinician protection, and coverage strategy.
<b>Treaty silence in domestic reform plans.</b> Domestic law can move faster than treaty strategy.	That creates a predictable vulnerability for opponents and implementers.	Require a treaty-alignment plan with inter se as the preferred pathway.
<b>Seed-to-sale overdesign versus too-little traceability.</b> States often use heavy plant-level tracking while federal analogs trace risk at the package or batch level.	A future federal system should have recalls and accountability without adding unnecessary burdens.	Implement risk-based traceability for lots, batches, and packages with enhanced tracking for higher-risk products.

## What the map implies

- A comprehensive framework must address agriculture, product safety, commerce, medical access, and treaty issues simultaneously.
- Hemp fits into the architecture because it clearly exemplifies today's source-based contradictions.
- Ordinary commerce cannot be considered an afterthought if the goal is a fully legal economy.
- The medical pathway must be explicit if WRCL aims to achieve patient access and eventual reimbursement outcomes.

## Selected source basis

**FDA regulation of Cannabis and cannabis-derived products** — Current FDA baseline for THC/CBD in foods, supplements, cosmetics, and approved drugs. <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/public-health-focus/fda-regulation-cannabis-and-cannabis-derived-products-including-cannabidiol-cbd>

**USDA hemp program overview** — Current USDA cultivation, sampling, testing, and licensing baseline. <https://www.usda.gov/farming-and-ranching/plants-and-crops/plant-breeding/hemp>

**CANNRA: Considerations for federal hemp regulation** — State-regulator view on hemp-derived cannabinoid gaps and needed federal floor standards. <https://www.cann-ra.org/s/Considerations-for-Federal-Hemp-Regulation-April-2023.pdf>

**FDA Drug Supply Chain Security Act (DSCSA)** — Package-level digital traceability model relevant to cannabis product tracking design. <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/drug-supply-chain-integrity/drug-supply-chain-security-act-dscsa>

**CMS Medicare Part D Manual, Chapter 6** — Current Part D coverage rules for prescription drugs used for medically accepted indications. <https://www.cms.gov/medicare/prescription-drug-coverage/prescriptiondrugcovcontra/downloads/part-d-benefits-manual-chapter-6.pdf>

**Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961, as amended** — Treaty baseline, including Article 28(2) industrial-hemp carveout. <https://treaties.un.org/doc/Publication/UNTS/Volume%20976/volume-976-I-14152-English.pdf>