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United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

201 14th & Independence, SW
Post Office Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1910-1

Date: **MAY 15 2000**

The Honorable Benjamin J. Cayetano
Governor of Hawaii
Chairman
Western Governors' Association
600 17th Street
Suite 1705 South Tower
Denver, Colorado 80202-5452

FILE

Dear Governor Cayetano:

As a follow-up to our earlier discussions with the Western Governor's Association, I want to let you know that the Forest Service has just released the Roadless Area Conservation Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Rule. We are accepting public comment on these documents through July 17.

I am enclosing a copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Rule for consideration by your Association. The Forest Service is providing copies to each State directly as well.

As Jim Lyons and I indicated in our March 14, 2000, letter to you, the Forest Service is prepared to meet with State officials in one or two coordinated work sessions to answer technical questions as States develop comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Rule. If you choose to accept this offer, please notify Randy Phillips, Deputy Chief, Programs and Legislation, as soon as possible so that he may coordinate our participation.

Thank you again for your continued interest in the national forests and grasslands.

Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

Enclosure: *Roadless Area Conservation Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Rule*, Volumes 1 and 2





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O.Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-
6090

File Code: 2300-1

Date: **MAR 16 2000**

Mr. Derrick Crandall
Executive Director, American Recreation Coalition
1225 New York Avenue, NW #450
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mr. Crandall:

Thank you for your constructive letter of February 14, 2000, expressing concerns of the American Recreation Coalition's (ARC) Board of Directors. In subsequent conversations and meetings between you, Jim Furnish, Denny Bschor, and me, I feel we have made some positive steps in addressing those concerns. Much more needs to be done, however, and we remain committed to actions that will enable a continued positive relationship with ARC.

As you pointed out in your letter, the Forest Service is dealing with a number of long-standing and significant issues. It is my belief that only by resolution of roadless, planning, and access issues can we really move recreation to the forefront, where it needs to be. At the same time we are addressing these broad issues, it is also important to me that we continue to build momentum for the recreation program as one of the four elements of the Natural Resource Agenda. You and other key constituents have been instrumental in positioning us to move to the level of recreation program you envision in your letter. The October 1999 Recreation Summit was a landmark step. Regional summits are occurring now in all regions. We appreciate your support in using Great Outdoors Week to reconvene a national group and launch our agenda.

Denny Bschor has discussed with you the new strategic approach for Phase II of the Recreation Fee Demonstration Project. In order to implement it, I have made available Trish Aspland from my staff to improve coordination with external parties and Congress. Recreation fees are an essential part of the "toolbox" you have framed so well for us; we cannot afford to lose this tool.

It is my understanding that Denny and his staff have made significant progress in fully understanding and addressing your concerns with cost recovery, outfitter and guides, concessions, and the National Recreation Reservation Service. I expect Denny to continue to communicate with you regarding the specifics of your input. I have asked Vaughn Stokes, Director of Engineering, and Denny to look at their staffing relative to TEA-21 and National Forest Scenic Byways. We will soon be reshaping the Recreation, Heritage, and Wilderness Resources Staff.



Mr. Derrick Crandall

2

It is a new day for recreation in the Forest Service, and I remain personally committed to working with you to make sure that day is a bright one.

Sincerely,

Mike Dombek

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

Derrick:

*I believe it is very
important that we meet
and maintain a positive working
relationship.*

Thanks

Mike



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 2600/1550/2500/3000/4000
Route To:

Date: MAR 17 2000

Subject: TAKING WING Award Recipients

To: Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, and IITF Director

It is with great pleasure that we announce the 1999 TAKING WING Award recipients. We selected five award recipients from the nominations received. The projects and programs represented by these nominations make genuine contributions to achieving the goals of the Natural Resource Agenda. Through TAKING WING we work with partners across the landscape to achieve healthy wetlands and watersheds. This valuable work provides wildlife and fish habitat, while at the same time lessens the impacts of floods, contributes to ground water recharge, and purifies water supplies. We gratefully acknowledge the support of our many partners. It is through collaboration and partnerships with others that we meet our stewardship responsibilities.

We also thank the TAKING WING Awards Committee for reviewing and recommending award recipients. This thorough review by several of our partners allows them to see the outstanding wetland habitat work by all branches of the Forest Service and their recommendations greatly increase the prestige of the awards.

These awards will be presented Saturday, March 25, 2000, at the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Rosemont, Illinois (near Chicago). The awards ceremony will be in the American/Braniff Room of the Hyatt Regency O'Hare. The ceremony is scheduled to begin at 5:00 p.m., with a reception to follow.

Congratulations to the 1999 TAKING WING Award winners, nominees, and all involved in the projects listed in the enclosure for a job well done!

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

Enclosure

cc:
Director, IP
Deputy Chief, Research
Deputy Chief, SPF
Deputy Chief, NFS
Len Ugarenko, IAFWA



1999 TAKING WING AWARD RECIPIENTS

CATEGORY: Habitat

PROJECT: Tibwin Managed Wetlands Complex

The Tibwin Wetland Complex, located in Charleston County, South Carolina, is part of the Francis Marion National Forest. Tibwin is also in the Santee River Focus Area of the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture, and adjacent to the Cape Romain Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network site. Over 190 species of birds have been recorded at Tibwin, including threatened and endangered species and high priority Partners in Flight species such as wood stork, painted bunting, glossy and white ibis, American avocet, and black-necked stilt. Tibwin overwinters hundreds of waterfowl, and it is not unusual to observe hundreds of shorebirds of many species during spring and fall migration. Faced with threat of residential development, the Forest Service began permanent protection for this property in 1992 with the acquisition of southern portion of the historic Tibwin rice plantation. The northern portion of the plantation was acquired in 1995, consolidating approximately 1,100 acres of managed wetlands, maritime forest, and estuarine intertidal marsh providing habitat protection for a multitude of wildlife, as well as recreation and education benefits for the public.

With the Tibwin area becoming the stewardship responsibility of the Francis Marion National Forest, a collaborative partnership for restoration and enhancement was quickly established. Primary activities include replacement and upgrading of water control structures, refurbishing and stabilizing dikes, and re-establishing a water management system for the former rice impoundments. This restoration affords managers the capacity to provide a variety of wetland habitats with the flexibility to coordinate habitat needs with avian migrations. Through this management, Tibwin has become a major birding area on the Atlantic Coast, contributing valuable data to several avian monitoring programs in the United States. Key events taking place at Tibwin are: International Migratory Bird Day Walks/Spring Migration Count (7 yrs), Fall Migration Count (3 years), Hawk Migration Survey (6 yrs), Christmas Bird Count (8 yrs). In cooperation with South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Tibwin hosted several special hunting events unique to National Forests in South Carolina: Impaired Sportsmen's Hunt (6 yrs), Adult/Child Dove Hunt (2 yrs), and one Youth Deer Hunt (1999). The Francis Marion National Forest and the East Cooper Chapter of Ducks Unlimited annually sponsor a Greenwing Event at Tibwin. Last year's event hosted 175 youth.

CATEGORY: Investigations

PROJECT: Iatt Creek Ecosystem Research Site

Located in the Red River basin of central Louisiana on the Winn Ranger District of the Kisatchie National Forest, the Iatt Creek Study is part of the inter-agency regional comparison of forested wetland functions, known as the Southern Forested Wetland Initiative. The study began in 1995, under the leadership of the Southern Research Station – Center for Bottomland Hardwoods Research. Iatt Creek is a minor alluvial bottomland forest community chosen to represent the more than 60 percent of the remaining bottomland forest acreage in minor bottomlands. The primary objective was to quantify the physical, chemical, and biological functions of representative mature bottomland forest communities. Flooding regime, soils, fluvial

geomorphology and landscape environment of minor bottoms varies dramatically from major bottomlands. Minor bottoms generally have more frequent, shorter duration flood events than major bottoms, with greater influence of surrounding uplands on soil and vegetation characteristics due to the relatively narrow width and local sources of alluvium.

To provide the information and organization needed for multiple studies, closed base, perimeter, and transect line surveys were installed. Permanent points (elevation and location) were located at 61-m intervals and where survey lines crossed incised channels. A separate point grid was also established for avian studies. Existing GIS themes were refined by extensive use of GPS to map sloughs, stream channels, and mounds within the study area. Hydrological monitoring (surface and subsurface water) is ongoing. Results to date highlight how these systems differ substantially from popular conceptions of forested wetland functions, which are taken largely from research on deepwater swamps. Repeated winter and summer avian counts have revealed more than 75 bird species. Of these species, 23 were Neotropical migrants and 17 were north temperate or short distance migrants. Aboveground net primary productivity measurements place the study area among the highest reported for Southeast wetland forests.

Iatt Creek is currently being established as a long-term ecological research site. Recent additions include construction of a 90 ft. tall tower to access the upper canopies of mature trees in support of Global Climate Change research. Evaluation of nutrient and carbon storage within the study area is ongoing. Publications and technology transfer activity continue to provide managers with a firm understanding of major ecological processes in minor bottom, floodplain forests.

CATEGORY: Public Awareness & Community Involvement **PROJECT: Copper River Delta Symposium**

The Copper River Delta Symposium, "*Where the River Rests ...*" pulled together active researchers from many applied disciplines including geology, hydrology, forestry, plant ecology, fisheries, mammalogy, ornithology, and human interactions with the environment, to present a complex picture of the Copper River Delta watershed and current challenges. The symposium, held May 2-6, 1999, in Cordova, Alaska, was co-chaired by Dr. John Gordon, Yale School of Forestry & Environmental Studies and Dr. Mike Dombeck, Chief of the Forest Service. Over 100 individuals participated in the symposium. In addition to Forest Service personnel, eight federal and state agencies were represented, as well as 12 universities, Eyak First Nations Corporation, The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, Inc., Ducks Unlimited – Canada, and the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network. The range of topics, from continued tectonic activity, to Dusky Canada goose population dynamics, inspired land managers to reconsider inter-relationships of natural forces. By considering the entire Copper River and its habitats, this effort reinforced the Forest Service mandate of solving land challenges across entire watersheds. The organizers of this symposium were able to attract all of the principal researchers who worked on the Copper River Delta over the last 30 years, with the exception of two principles. This unique opportunity allowed many researchers to meet colleagues for the first time, many of whom they had cited in their manuscripts for decades. This symposium greatly benefited the current understanding of waterbird use on the Delta and inspired several researchers to expand their efforts.

CATEGORY: Capacity Building**PROJECT: Ironton Wetlands Restoration**

The Ironton Wetlands Restoration project, located in Gallia and Scioto Counties, Ohio, on the Wayne National Forest, is within the Upper Mississippi River/Great Lakes Joint Venture area. Initiated in 1995, the project restores rare and valuable wetland habitat in southeast Ohio; a State that has lost 90 percent of the wetlands known to be in existence prior to European settlement. The restored sites were large fields bordering Pine and Sand Fork creeks that were farmed for many years prior to Forest Service acquisition. A network of surface drainage ditches, plus several underground tiles, provided evidence of past efforts to drain the fields. The sites were nearly level, and the soil consisted of mostly poorly drained silt loam, with a high clay content.

The Ironton Wetlands restoration involved reestablishing the natural berm, which was present along the creeks, before the adjacent fields were repeatedly plowed for farming. The construction of 8,500 feet of levees or berms also plugged the surface drainage ditches and broke the underground tiles. This created 100 acres of shallow wetlands, in seven pools in three complexes. The water depth fluctuates from 6 inches to 5 feet, resulting in a variety of wetland habitats, typical of the wetlands that occurred historically in southeast Ohio.

The Ironton Ranger District and partners were able to pool resources and leverage funds to effectively address resource needs. Ducks Unlimited Inc., contributed the talents of their wetland engineers for project design as well as funds for delivery. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources - Division of Wildlife provided funding, technical assistance, and substantive labor. Additional funding was provided by the National Forest Foundation, and inmates from the Federal Correctional Institution in Ashland, Kentucky, helped with seeding and mulching, and spillway rock placement. Staff from the Daniel Boone National Forest also provided technical assistance, and local volunteers assisted in all aspects this wetland restoration project.

CATEGORY: Leadership**PROJECT: Wetland Wildlife Program
Management – Southern Region
Steve Rickerson**

Serving as Wildlife Program Manager for the Forest Service's Southern Region from 1989 to 1999, Steve Rickerson provided constant support and advocacy necessary to outline fundamental restoration needs, develop partnerships, and secure funding for waterfowl and wetland wildlife habitat restoration and enhancement on the region's forests. Under Steve's leadership, the Southern Region developed strong partnerships with Ducks Unlimited's Southern Regional Office, the Lower Mississippi Valley Joint Venture, and the Atlantic Coast Joint Venture. These relationships led to the development of a series of wetland assessments prepared by Ducks Unlimited biologists and wetland engineers working with national forest managers on 6 national forests in the Lower Mississippi Valley and 4 national forests in the Atlantic Coast. The original assessments in the Lower Mississippi Valley provided the foundation for the TAKING WING Collaborative Stewardship Pilot Program. This program stimulated partnerships to address the restoration needs identified by the assessments. Specifically, over 4,500 acres of wetland habitats on the Delta National Forest were restored or enhanced through this program. As testimony to the strong foundation established through Steve's leadership and personal involvement, this program continues today delivering key habitat restoration through expanded capacity and increased private-sector involvement.



United States
Department
of Agriculture

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Service

Washington Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 6140
Route To: 7100

Date: MAR 20 2000

Subject: Engineers of the Year

To: Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director, and WO Staff

The Director of Engineering has completed judging the Forest Service Engineers of the Year competition and reports that we had excellent candidates. I am particularly proud to congratulate and announce this year's winners:

Managerial: Jack Callahan, Region 8, Cherokee National Forest

Technical: Charles F. (Fred) Cammack, San Dimas Technology and Development Center

Technician: Diane Kunes, Region 5, Six Rivers National Forest

The award winners will be presented with their awards at an Engineering-sponsored program to be held April 6, 2000, in the Secretary's Dining Room in the Whitten Building. They will be introduced at the Management Committee and National Forest System Staff Directors Meetings. The January-June 2000 issue of *Engineering Field Notes* will feature an article describing their achievements.

All questions or requests for assistance should be directed to Vivian Shreve at (202) 205-1400 or via vshreve/wo.

We appreciate your support and look forward to another fine slate of candidates next year.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief





United States
Department
of Agriculture

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Service

Washington Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1580

Date: MAR 20 2000

Route To:

Subject: Sawmill Creek Research Natural Area Restoration Project

To: Rodd Richardson, Forest Supervisor, Bitterroot National Forest

Thank you for sharing the results of the restoration and monitoring project on the Sawmill Creek Research Natural Area. The partnership you have fostered with the Stevensville Ranger District, the Rocky Mountain Research Station and the University of Montana is an important testimony to the value of shared expertise and objectives when attempting to restore rare ecosystems in our Research Natural Areas. Best wishes for continued success in meeting the restoration goals at Sawmill Creek RNA.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

cc:

Nan Christiansen, Stevensville Ranger District, Bitterroot NF
Mick Harrington, Rocky Mountain Station, Fire Sciences Lab
Steve Shelly, Northern Region, Regional Office
Peter Rice, University of Montana
Cathy Stewart, Lolo NF
Mitch Kearns, Stevensville Ranger District, Bitterroot NF
Tom Andrews, Rocky Mountain Research Station

Rodd:

*Hope all is well with
you. Take Care!*

Mike





United States
Department
of Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1580
Route To:

Date: MAR 20 2000

Subject: San Lucas Meadow Study and Spudpatch/Venado Meadow Rehabilitation

To: Liz Agpaoa, Forest Supervisor, Cibola National Forest, Southwestern Region

Thank you for sharing the results from the meadow study and rehabilitation project on the Mt. Taylor Ranger District. Based on a review of your findings, it appears the project has yielded much information to assist in further restoration efforts in grazed meadows.

Congratulations to Rita and Russell Suminski for successfully using partnerships to help meet long-term stewardship goals for the Cibola National Forest. Best wishes for further success in restoration efforts on the Forest and keep up the great work!

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

cc:
District Ranger, Mt. Taylor Ranger District

Liz

*Hope all is well with
you Take Care!*

Mike





United States
Department
of Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 4000
Route To:

Date: MAR 20 2000

Subject: Chief's Grant - Alternatives to Clearcutting in Boreal Forests

To: Tricia L. Wurtz, Pacific Northwest Research Station, Fairbanks, AK

Thank you for sharing the initial results from your Chief's Grant project that is examining alternatives to clearcutting in Boreal forests. You and John Zasada are addressing an important research need for management of this expansive forest type. I am particularly impressed with the partnership you have harnessed for the project. It is a testimony to the value of joining resources to address issues that are shared across the landscape by many interests. Keep up the excellent work and best wishes to you and your partners as the study continues.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

cc:
Station Director, PNW



ca. MARCH 21, 2000



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 6520

Date:

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
127 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510-6033

Dear Senator Robert:

The Forest Service seeks your concurrence in transferring \$75,000 from the National Forest Appropriation to the State and Private Forestry Appropriation.

These funds are contained in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2000 Appropriations Act for a feasibility study regarding the Sacajewea Interpretive and Education Center near Salmon, Idaho. This funding is more appropriate from Rural Community Assistance grant funding in the State and Private Forestry Appropriation, since this project will in all likelihood not be on National Forest System lands. The focus of this study is linked to the community of Salmon and the tourism benefits to the area.

In an effect statement submitted during the FY 2000 Appropriations Act (see pages 6 and 8 of the enclosed), we notified you of the need to include these funds in the State and Private Appropriation in order to properly allocate these funds. Apparently in the press of business, this adjustment did not occur.

Similar letters are being sent to Congressmen Regula and Dicks and Senator Gorton.

Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

Enclosure





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 6520

Date: MAR 21 2000

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Interior
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515-6023

Dear Congressman Norm:

The Forest Service seeks your concurrence in transferring \$75,000 from the National Forest Appropriation to the State and Private Forestry Appropriation.

These funds are contained in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2000 Appropriations Act for a feasibility study regarding the Sacajewea Interpretive and Education Center near Salmon, Idaho. This funding is more appropriate from Rural Community Assistance grant funding in the State and Private Forestry Appropriation, since this project will in all likelihood not be on National Forest System lands. The focus of this study is linked to the community of Salmon and the tourism benefits to the area.

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Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

Enclosure





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 6520

Date: **MAR 21 2000**

The Honorable Slade Gorton
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
127 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington DC 20510-6033

Dear Senator Slade:

The Forest Service seeks your concurrence in transferring \$75,000 from the National Forest Appropriation to the State and Private Forestry Appropriation.

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Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

Enclosure





United States
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Service

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Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 6520

Date: MAR 21 2000

The Honorable Ralph Regula
Chairman
Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
B-308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington DC 20515-6023

Dear Congressman Regula:

The Forest Service seeks your concurrence in transferring \$75,000 from the National Forest Appropriation to the State and Private Forestry Appropriation.

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Similar letters are being sent to Congressman Dicks and Senators Byrd and Gorton.

Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

Enclosure





United States
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Agriculture

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Washington
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14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1500/1510

Date:

MAR 21 2000

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Room 331, Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20519

Dear Senator Feinstein:

Thank you for your December 30, 1999, letter regarding the high risk of catastrophic wildfire that currently exists in national forests in California and other western national forests. We share your concerns and appreciate your support of our hazardous fuel treatment program. We agree with the basic finding of the GAO report that the health of our forests is threatened by the buildup of hazardous fuel, particularly in the west. As a result of the GAO recommendations, we have developed a cohesive strategy and are implementing key steps to address the backlog of hazardous fuels.

At our current level of funding, our two highest priorities are to prevent the buildup of additional hazardous fuels in those forest areas that are not currently at high risk from catastrophic wildfire, and to reduce the backlog of fuels buildup in high-risk areas. We have developed objectives and priorities across many program areas, including fire management, forest management, forest health protection, and watershed so that prescribed fire and other treatments such as thinning would all help contribute toward the goal of reducing fuels.

In fiscal year 1999, the Forest Service requested and received reprogramming authority for an additional \$7 million over the original appropriated budget level of \$65 million for fuels management, and we accomplished 1,379,960 acres of hazardous fuel treatment. For fiscal year 2000, we were appropriated \$70 million, and we are developing an emergency supplemental budget request of approximately \$50 million to further address our hazardous fuels situation. If approved, these funds would also help address your concerns regarding treatment of hazardous fuels in California and other western national forests. The President's budget request for fiscal year 2001 includes \$75 million for hazardous fuels treatment, which is an increase over fiscal year 2000 levels.

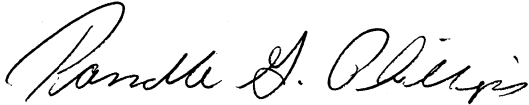


The Honorable Dianne Feinstein

2

I believe that we are moving forward with a program to address your concerns, and look forward to working with you in the future as we continue to address the serious issue of hazardous fuels buildup in our national forests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Randle G. Phillips".

RANDLE G. PHILLIPS
Deputy Chief for
Programs and Legislation



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1500/1510

Date: MAR 21 2000

The Honorable Wally Herger
United States House of Representatives
Room 2433, Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Herger:

Thank you for your December 30, 1999, letter regarding the high risk of catastrophic wildfire that currently exists in national forests in California and other western national forests. We share your concerns and appreciate your support of our hazardous fuel treatment program. We agree with the basic finding of the GAO report that the health of our forests is threatened by the buildup of hazardous fuel, particularly in the west. As a result of the GAO recommendations, we have developed a cohesive strategy and are implementing key steps to address the backlog of hazardous fuels.

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The Honorable Wally Herger

2

I believe that we are moving forward with a program to address your concerns, and look forward to working with you in the future as we continue to address the serious issue of hazardous fuels buildup in our national forests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Randle G. Phillips".

RANDLE G. PHILLIPS
Deputy Chief for
Programs and Legislation



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1000

Date:

MAR 29 2000

The Honorable Max Baucus
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Baucus:

Thank you for your letter regarding Forest Service public involvement efforts in conjunction with the roadless area rulemaking. Like you, I think it vitally important that the public be thoroughly involved in the roadless rulemaking process and wanted to explain to you our public involvement efforts to date and those we will move forward with when we release the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) and proposed rule in the spring.

We published a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register on October 19, 1999. Although not required by law or regulation, we held 190 meetings across the country, including meetings in Washington, D.C., and every region of the country. As you know, we held eight scoping meetings in your home state of Montana. Over 16,000 people attended scoping meetings nationally, and more than 500,000 people have participated in the scoping process to date. To our knowledge, this is one of the most extensive public involvement processes ever conducted for scoping on a public land issue.

Even with this extensive outreach, it is important to remember that the Forest Service is only beginning the public involvement process. We have not yet even identified alternatives for the public's consideration. The identification of various alternatives, explanations of effects analysis, and identification of a proposed action will follow publication of the DEIS and proposed rule.

Given the extraordinary public interest in roadless areas, we are contemplating publication of more than 100,000 executive summaries and 50,000 full copies of the DEIS and proposed rule. We will make the DEIS and proposed rule available on our website, and publicly distribute more than 10,000 CD-Roms containing the DEIS. Additionally, we will distribute copies to county and municipal libraries throughout the country. The printed copies of the DEIS, the website, and the CD-Rom will contain complete and detailed maps of all of the inventoried roadless areas.

We also plan to have at least two additional public meetings on every national forest and grassland once the DEIS and proposed rule are released - one to describe the alternatives, effects analysis, and proposed action and another specifically to receive public comment from interested citizens. We will also ask our regional offices to hold public meetings. In other words, we will likely have more than 300 meetings across the nation to discuss the roadless initiative. Of



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course, people will also have an opportunity to submit written and electronic comments for the Forest Service to evaluate and consider. In Montana, with eight National Forests and Grasslands, that means that we will hold at least eight meetings to explain our environmental analysis and proposed action, and another eight meetings to gather public input.

I am firmly committed to seeing this process through to completion so that we can finally resolve the question of roadless area management - an issue that has bedeviled the Forest Service for decades. The plain fact is that we spend so many human and financial resources on intractable issues such as roadless that it impedes our ability to act on other priorities such as getting ahead of our maintenance backlog and providing jobs through forest and grassland restoration.

I think it fair to say that our efforts are unprecedented in terms of making information available to people and providing opportunities for public involvement. Thank you for your continued support and interest in management of the National Forests.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike Dombeck". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, prominent "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief



File Code: 1700
Route To:

Date: MAR 29 2000

Subject: Continuous Improvement Process 1999 Summary of Survey Results Update

To: All Employees

Enclosed is a summary of the 1999 Continuous Improvement Survey results. The Continuous Improvement model is helping the Forest Service achieve organizational goals and effectively manage diversity. The survey you participated in last summer provides an assessment of your perspectives on how well agency practices, procedures and policies are working. It is also a tool that allows your units to improve its work environment. Your manager or supervisor has additional information to answer any questions you may have.

Survey findings identify critical skills, diversity, and technology to help improve employee effectiveness and customer service. Used with the results from the benchmark 1997 Continuous Improvement Process (CIP) survey, we now have a means to measure progress. The 1999 survey results will be used to create a national plan for Service-wide action to address organizational issues. A team of representatives from the National Leadership Team, National CIP Team, Partnership Council, Office of Personnel Management, and International Computer and Technology, Inc. met on February 22-23, to begin development of the National Plan. The Plan will help translate what we've heard into action.

Preparing the Forest Service to meet the customer service and stewardship goals of the Natural Resource Agenda requires us to use proven techniques, such as the Continuous Improvement, to help guide our course. Your active involvement in this process is key to making positive change.

Thank you for your past support. I encourage you to remain involved in maintaining and improving the areas identified in the survey. Our goal is to institutionalize a practice of measurable continuous improvement. Aldo Leopold once said, "no important change in ethics was ever accomplished without an internal change in our intellect, emphasis, loyalties, affection, and convictions." Let's foster an ever-improving way of doing business and become "a high performing organization that provides an efficient and professional work environment for its employees and a service provider of choice for its customers."

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

Enclosure

cc:
Chief Operating Officer
Deputy Chief for Business Operations
Thelma Floyd, Acting CR Director
Joyce Quintana, National CIP Manager
Toni Davila, National CIP Coordinator





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P. O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1000

Date: MAR 30 2000

Roberta Skelton
Chairman
Elko County Board of County Commissioners
569 Court Street
Elko, NV 89801

Dear Chairman Skelton:

Thank you for your January 25th letter to Secretary Glickman and myself. I appreciated being able to meet with you last month to discuss how to improve relationships and resolve issues between Elko County and the Forest Service. I believe the recommendations made by the fact-finding team are an important first step, along with shared commitment to search for solutions for the South Canyon road. I am hopeful that both the Forest Service, led by Supervisor Bob Vaught, and the Elko County Commissioners can build a strong and productive working relationship. Such a relationship will help to capitalize on positive opportunities and to work through the challenging community and land management issues facing the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest.

Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

*Roberta: I hope you are
having a good
spring.*





United States
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Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P. O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 2320

Date: APR 3 2000

Jamie Clark, Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Main Interior
1849 C Street, N.W., Mail Stop 3012
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Ms. Clark:

Jamie

The Wilderness Summit that I called for at the 75th anniversary of the administrative designation of the Gila Wilderness last June is being scheduled for May 17, 2000, in Washington, D.C. This Summit "will bring together Government and non-Government participation to build trust among players and identify issues that can be successfully addressed through collaborative efforts."

With us jointly managing the 105 million acre National Wilderness Preservation System on Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lands, it is imperative that we join in common cause in ensuring the long-term sustainability of the wilderness system. To that end, our agencies have been working with the Gifford Pinchot Institute for Conservation in planning this Wilderness Summit. Please join me on May 17 to help draft our blueprint for future management of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Sincerely,

Mike

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P. O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 2320

Date: APR 3 2000

Tom Fry, Acting Director
Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W., 5660 MIB
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Fry:

The Wilderness Summit that I called for at the 75th anniversary of the administrative designation of the Gila Wilderness last June is being scheduled for May 17, 2000, in Washington, D.C. This Summit " will bring together Government and non-Government participation to build trust among players and identify issues that can be successfully addressed through collaborative efforts."

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Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P. O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 2320

Date: APR 3 2000

Robert Stanton, Director
National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Mr. Stanton:

Bob

The Wilderness Summit that I called for at the 75th anniversary of the administrative designation of the Gila Wilderness last June is being scheduled for May 17, 2000, in Washington, D.C. This Summit " will bring together Government and non-Government participation to build trust among players and identify issues that can be successfully addressed through collaborative efforts."

With us jointly managing the 105 million acre National Wilderness Preservation System on Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lands, it is imperative that we join in common cause in ensuring the long-term sustainability of the wilderness system. To that end, our agencies have been working with the Gifford Pinchot Institute for Conservation in planning this Wilderness Summit. Please join me on May 17 to help draft our blueprint for future management of the National Wilderness Preservation System.

Sincerely,

Mike

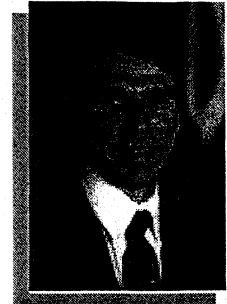
MIKE DOMBECK
Chief



ca. APRIL 12, 2000



The Chief
of the Forest Service
Washington, D.C. 20250



Welcome to the Fifth Annual Hispanic Environmental Council Conference

The USDA Forest Service is pleased to continue its sponsorship and participation in the Fifth Annual Hispanic Environmental Council Conference. This conference promotes Hispanic involvement in natural resources issues, initiatives, and programs. We salute and support your efforts.

This event provides Hispanic environmental/natural resource professionals and approximately 300 senior and graduate Hispanic and other diverse groups with the latest information in their educational fields. It will increase awareness of environmental and natural resource issues and opportunities. It will also strengthen relationships between the Forest Service and the Hispanic community involved with natural resources and environment.

The 1998, Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the National Hispanic Environment Council, USDA Forest Service and the Natural Resources Conservation Service states three primary purposes: (1) to provide a framework for cooperation to promote outreach opportunities, (2) provide environmental education in forestry, soil and natural resource conservation programs to Hispanic and other diverse groups, and (3) encourage youth to consider career in the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The unity and commitment of all stakeholders is the foundation for the MOU's three primary purposes. Together, we can help chart a new course for conservation that will benefit our communities, our country's natural resources and the children who will inherit the results of our stewardship.

Once again it is with honor and pleasure that the Forest Service participates in this conference. I look forward to continuing our collaboration with the Hispanic community.

Mike Dombeck



United States
Department
of Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 6140
Route To:

Date: APR 12 2000

Subject: Completion of Training Courses

To: Kenneth Jacobs, Coconino National Forest
Thru: Regional Forester, R-3

Congratulations, Kenneth, on your completion of all courses within the Lands Series offered through the Distance Learning Program at George Mason University.

Your diligence mirrors my desire to see continuing education and training become more interdisciplinary, rigorous, and multi-organizational. I appreciate the hundreds of hours you have committed over several years to complete this critical training. More importantly, your tenacity shows a deep, personal commitment toward enhancing competencies vital in sustaining our ability to provide quality management of this Nation's natural resources.

I have signed and enclosed a Certificate of Completion recognizing your mastery of this training. I encourage you to highlight this outstanding accomplishment when competing for new challenges in your career. I also ask that you share the skills and knowledge learned, expand your networking, and continue to enhance your performance through specialized training.

To succeed at our mission, we must have intelligent, innovative, and highly competent people at all levels. Again, thank you for your personal commitment and congratulations on a job well done!

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

Enclosure





United States
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Service

Washington
Office

201 14th & Independence, SW
Post Office Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1510

Date: APR 12 2000

Dear Governor:

I am pleased to present, for your review, the Roadless Area Conservation Proposed Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Forest Service has put a tremendous amount of effort into this project since October 1999.

The enclosed documents outline various management alternatives for approximately 54 million acres of inventoried roadless areas located on National Forest System lands. The cover letter bound into Volume 1 outlines the process for submitting review comments.

Meetings will be held nationwide during the comment period to provide you and your constituents with opportunities to obtain information and comment on the proposal, alternatives, and potential impacts.

The Forest Service expects this rulemaking and environmental analysis to be completed by December 2000. Your interest and participation in the Roadless Area Conservation Proposed Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement are appreciated. I look forward to your continued participation in this rulemaking.

Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

Enclosures (2):

1. *Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 1*
2. *Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 2*





United States
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Washington
Office

201 14th & Independence, SW
Post Office Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1670

Date: APR 12 2000

Dear Librarian:

The enclosed Roadless Area Conservation Proposed Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement were produced by the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. Please make these documents available for public review at your facility.

To assure adequate public access to the information contained in these documents, the Forest Service is providing them to approximately 11,000 county and municipal libraries nationwide. The agency is taking this extraordinary measure in response to the large amount of public interest expressed about the Roadless Area Conservation Project. Thus far, more than 500,000 citizens have contacted the Forest Service with opinions about this rulemaking and environmental analysis.

The documents may also be accessed electronically at <http://www.roadless.fs.fed.us> via the Roadless Project Internet website. If your facility provides public computer access to the Internet, please remind patrons that they may view and download any portion of these documents that is of interest to them.

The cover letter bound inside Volume 1 and the Summary document contain important information about the process the Forest Service will use to collect comments about the proposal and information about upcoming public meetings that will occur during the comment period.

Your assistance in facilitating wide distribution and public availability to these documents is appreciated. If you have questions regarding distribution of these documents, please contact the National Roadless Team at (703) 605-5113.

Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

Enclosures (2):

1. *Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 1*
2. *Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 2*



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201 14th & Independence, SW
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File Code: 1510

Date: APR 12 2000

Dear Senator:

I am pleased to present, for your review, the Roadless Area Conservation Proposed Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Forest Service has put a tremendous amount of effort into this project since October 1999.

The enclosed documents outline various management alternatives for approximately 54 million acres of inventoried roadless areas located on National Forest System lands. The cover letter bound into Volume 1 outlines the process for submitting review comments.

Meetings will be held nationwide during the comment period to provide you and your constituents with opportunities to obtain information and comment on the proposal, alternatives, and potential impacts.

The Forest Service expects this rulemaking and environmental analysis to be completed by December 2000. Your interest and participation in the Roadless Area Conservation Proposed Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement are appreciated. I look forward to your continued participation in this rulemaking.

Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

Enclosures (2):

1. *Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 1*
2. *Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 2*





United States
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Agriculture

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Service

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Office

201 14th & Independence, SW
Post Office Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1950-3

Date: APR 12 2000

Dear Citizen:

I am pleased to present for your review the Roadless Area Conservation Proposed Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Forest Service has put tremendous effort into development of the proposed rule, alternatives, and environmental analysis. While our ongoing dialogue with you has assisted us in the development of this proposal, the time has come to formally solicit your comments about this rulemaking. Your comments will be used to identify needed changes and refinements in the proposal and environmental analysis. We expect the rulemaking process to be completed by December 2000.

The publication and release of these documents initiates a 60-day comment period. Review comments may be submitted via any of the following methods:

Send written comments via postal mail to:	USDA Forest Service Post Office Box 221090 Attn: Roadless DEIS Salt Lake City, Utah 84122
Electronic mail may be sent by accessing the Roadless Area Conservation Project website:	http://www.roadless.fs.fed.us
Send comments via telefax to:	(877) 703-2494

I invite you to attend the public meetings the agency will host to give you a time to ask questions and obtain information about this proposal. Some meetings will provide an overview of the proposal and environmental analysis, including information about how it interacts with the recently released Forest Service Transportation Policy and Planning Rule. Others will be formal comment forums during which a court recorder will transcribe your comments. The meeting schedule is available at your local Forest Service office, our Internet website at <http://www.roadless.fs.fed.us>, or by calling toll-free to (888) 608-5976.

I am confident that taking action now to conserve roadless areas through this national effort will result in these lands providing lasting values for future generations. I appreciate your participation in the achievement of this goal.

Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

Enclosures (2):

1. Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 1
2. Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 2



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File Code: 1510

Date: APR 12 2000

Dear Representative:

I am pleased to present, for your review, the Roadless Area Conservation Proposed Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Forest Service has put a tremendous amount of effort into this project since October 1999.

The enclosed documents outline various management alternatives for approximately 54 million acres of inventoried roadless areas located on National Forest System lands. The cover letter bound into Volume 1 outlines the process for submitting review comments.

Meetings will be held nationwide during the comment period to provide you and your constituents with opportunities to obtain information and comment on the proposal, alternatives, and potential impacts.

The Forest Service expects this rulemaking and environmental analysis to be completed by December 2000. Your interest and participation in the Roadless Area Conservation Proposed Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement are appreciated. I look forward to your continued participation in this rulemaking.

Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

Enclosures (2):

1. *Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 1*
2. *Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 2*





United States
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Service

Washington
Office

201 14th & Independence, SW
Post Office Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1510

Date: APR 12 2000

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am pleased to present, for your review, the Roadless Area Conservation Proposed Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Forest Service has put a tremendous amount of effort into this project since October 1999. The enclosed documents outline various management alternatives for approximately 54 million acres of inventoried roadless areas located on National Forest System lands.

I invite you to review and comment on this proposal. I have directed my Leadership Team across the country to ensure they personally contact tribes with whom they have relationships and have asked them to be sure you, your representatives, and your tribal members are provided with an adequate opportunity to consider and comment on these documents. In addition to your discussions with my Leadership Team, you may also submit comments on the documents using the process described in the cover letter bound in Volume 1 of the document package.

Additional meetings will be held nationwide during the comment period to provide the public with opportunities to obtain information and comment on the proposal, alternatives, and potential impacts. I cordially invite you, your representatives, and your tribal members to also attend the meetings in your area if you so choose.

The Forest Service expects this rulemaking and environmental analysis to be completed by December 2000. Your interest and participation in the Roadless Area Conservation Proposed Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement are appreciated. I look forward to your continued participation in this rulemaking.

Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

Enclosures (2):

1. *Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 1*
2. *Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 2*



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Post Office Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1910-1

Date:

APR 12 2000

The Honorable Michael B. Enzi
United States Senate
290 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-5004

FILE

Dear Senator Enzi:

Thank you for your letter of January 10, 2000, regarding the Forest Service's Roadless Area Conservation Project. We appreciate your concern and acknowledge your request to designate counties and States encompassing federal lands as cooperating agencies in this environmental analysis.

In a March 14, 2000, letter, I jointly responded to a similar request from the Western Governor's Association with Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and the Environment, Jim Lyons. The Under Secretary and I agree that adjacent State and county landowners play an essential role in the environmental analysis for the Roadless Area Conservation Project. We support the establishment and maintenance of collaborative stewardship with our non-Federal government partners. To facilitate collaborative involvement of State and local governments, we developed the procedures detailed in our letter to the Western Governor's Association. A copy of the letter is enclosed for your reference.

As also noted in that letter, I appointed Randy Phillips, Deputy Chief for Programs and Legislation, as a personal contact point for State and local officials. I invite any interested State and local government officials to contact Deputy Chief Phillips for additional information about how they can most effectively participate at the national and local scales.

Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

Enclosure: Letter, file designation 1500, dated March 14, 2000





United States
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Washington
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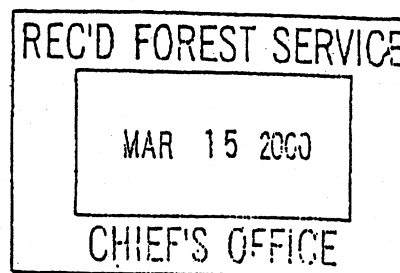
14th & Independence SW
P. O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1500

COPY

Date: MAR 14 2000

The Honorable Benjamin J. Cayetano
Chairman
Western Governors' Association
600 17th Street
Suite 1705, South Tower
Denver, Colorado 80202-5452



Dear Governor Cayetano:

We appreciated meeting with Governors Geringer, Kempthorne, Racicot, Knowles, and the staffs of the other western Governors on Saturday, February, 25, 2000, to discuss the participation of the western Governors in our roadless area rulemaking. We agree that the State agencies possess important information that may be of use to the Forest Service in conducting its social and environmental analyses associated with the roadless rulemaking.

Working together in a collaborative manner can help to expedite and improve our environmental analysis. We would like to improve the information flow and exchange of ideas between the States and the Forest Service relative to roadless areas. To that end, we propose the following procedures to maximize cooperation with interested western Governors' offices and State agencies:

- The Governors of the western States could designate representatives to serve as a conduit to solicit, collect, and synthesize input from those Governors' offices and State agencies and to serve as a forum for communication between the States and the Forest Service. The Forest Service will, in turn, use the Governors' designees as their principal communications vehicle for seeking information, asking questions, or communicating updated progress reports to the western States and State agencies. The Governors or their representatives will assist in expediting and making this communication more efficient and effective, running both ways.
- Randy Phillips, Deputy Chief for Programs and Legislation, will serve as our liaison to the Governors and with other intergovernmental organizations to ensure open communication and coordination on this and other issues. Jim Furnish, Deputy Chief of the National Forest System, and Chris Wood, Chief's Office, will meet, with the western Governors and their designated representatives specifically on this issue, to be scheduled by mutual agreement.
- The States will assist the Forest Service in identifying locations and other potential forums for public involvement during the public comment phase of the rulemaking.
- Forest Service can be available to answer technical questions at one or two coordinated State work session(s) as the States develop input on the DEIS and proposed rule.



The Honorable Benjamin J. Cayetano

2

To give you a sense of our public involvement process, when the proposed rule and draft EIS are published, we are contemplating distribution of 100,000 executive summaries and up to 50,000 full copies of the DEIS, making available 10,000 CD-Roms containing the DEIS, and making it available on our website. The printed copies, CD-Roms, and website will all contain (as the website does now) complete detailed maps of every inventoried roadless area. Over 200 additional community meetings are anticipated. In addition, we foresee distributing copies to every public library in the country; around 16,000 in total. We would welcome additional suggestions for communicating directly with the public.

As you know, we believe very strongly in the tenets of collaborative stewardship. We also believe that given the thousands of comments we have received and the years of debate surrounding the roadless area issue, it is clear that this is an issue of both national and local significance. In the Notice of Intent, we outlined a strategy to deal with the issue at both national and local scales. We would like very much to work with you in the manner described above as we address the national aspects of this issue. In addition, there will be a variety of opportunities for the States and their many agencies to participate in future planning efforts that address the significant local aspects of the roadless area issue.


We value our partnership very much and look forward to working with you on the roadless area rulemaking and other pressing problems such as water quality, forest health, rural jobs, and our growing maintenance backlog. I am sending copies of this to the other western Governors.

Thank you for your continued interest in national forests and grasslands.

Sincerely,



JAMES R. LYONS
Under Secretary, NRE



MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

OFFICES:

Gillette 307-682-6268
Cheyenne 307-772-2477
Casper 307-261-6572
Cody 307-527-9444
Jackson 307-739-9507
D.C. 202-224-3424
email senator@enzi.senate.gov
website www.senate.gov/~enzi

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-5004

Roadless
MICHAEL ENZI
WYOMING

COMMITTEES:

Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Labor and Human Resources
Small Business
Special Committee on Aging

January 10, 2000

The Honorable Michael P. Dombeck
Chief, United States Forest Service
201 14th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20250

FEB - 4

Dear Mike:

The United States Forest Service (USFS) has begun developing a national Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) as an effort to resolve the debate over lands designated as roadless and unroaded by the USFS. Regardless of the final outcome of this process the greatest impact of this issue will be felt by those local counties and states that encompass the federal lands in question.

At the same time, these communities also have shared jurisdiction and a unique perspective and expertise for many of the issues that must be reviewed by your agency in developing this document. I therefore request your agency extend an invitation to all effected counties and states to participate with the status of Cooperating Agency pursuant to 40 CFR 1501.6.

While it is evident that these communities will have the opportunity to comment on the completed draft, I am deeply concerned that their comments will not receive adequate attention and that many of the critical elements they could provide to the EIS process will be absent from any draft document they would otherwise be commenting on. No other party can provide your agency the kind of necessary information you will need to develop the many important elements that must be included in such an overwhelming environmental document. The social and economic impact analysis alone should merit direct consultation with each community that will be impacted by this EIS.

In addition, the inclusion of state and local communities in the development of management plans like the proposed EIS is a proven model and is one I hope will be greater utilized in the future.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,


Michael B. Enzi
United States Senator

Received in FS/CCU

Initial: KH

Control No: 4146365



United States
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Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P. O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 4810

Date: **APR 13** 2000

Stanford M. Adams, President
National Association of State Foresters
444 North Capitol Street, NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear President Adams:

Thank you for your letter of February 24, 2000, regarding the Signing Ceremony for our memorandum of understanding regarding the Forest Inventory and Analysis program. Thank you also for the kind words about Andy Gillespie's performance.

We have recently recognized Andy and Brad Smith for their extra efforts in preparing the memorandum and in publicizing the event through the April issue of SAF's Forestry Source newspaper.

I look forward to continuing to work with you and the National Association of State Foresters as we jointly implement the FIA Strategic Plan in the coming years.

Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief





United States
Department
of Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 6730
Route To:

Date: APR 13 2000.

Subject: Washington Office Team Leader Accident Investigation Roster

To: Deputy Chiefs, Associate Deputy Chiefs, Regional Foresters, Station Directors
Area Director, and IITF Director

In the event of a multiple fatality or other serious accident, a Chief's office accident investigation team may be convened. The purpose of the investigation is to determine the conditions and circumstances that caused or contributed to the accident, not to place blame. During last year's fire season, finding an available team leader was extremely challenging. In several instances, we lost valuable time trying to convene a team. This year, we have standardized the procedures for selecting the team leader.

Enclosed you will find a listing of team leaders for Chief's office investigations. As you know, a decision was made some time ago to have Deputy Chiefs, Associate Deputy Chiefs, Regional Foresters and Station Directors serve as team leaders for Chief's Office Investigations.

You are responsible for serving as a team leader during your assigned 2 weeks. If you are unable to serve as the team leader, it is your responsibility to find a replacement **only** from this list and within **4 hours** after being notified. A representative from the Chief's office will contact you with accident details and can assist you in determining the other members of the team. The team leader has overall responsibility for organizing and ensuring the conduct and completion of the investigation.

Human Resources Management, Safety, Health and Uniforms Office will be sponsoring several Team Leader training sessions in the next few weeks. Information will be forthcoming on the exact dates and locations. You must attend one of these training sessions unless you have been previously certified as a team leader via another natural resource agency training session.

As I have said before, "No job is so important that we cannot take the time to work safely." I hope you never have to be a team leader for an accident investigation.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

Enclosures





United States
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Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1500/1510

Date: *April 13, 2000*

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
Room 331, Senate Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-0504

Dear Senator Feinstein:

As requested, attached is a brief summary of information related to the Secretary of Agriculture's recommendation to the President for creation of a Giant Sequoia National Monument on the Sequoia National Forest.

Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

Enclosure



USDA FOREST SERVICE***Giant Sequoia National Monument*****Location:**

The proposed monument recommended by the Secretary of Agriculture is located in the southern Sierra Nevada mountain range in central California. It consists of two distinct management units separated by Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park. The overall proposed monument area is bounded by the Kings River on the north and Speas Ridge, a major ridgeline on the south. The Golden Trout Wilderness and the North fork of the Kern River form the eastern boundary. The western boundary is generally contiguous with the forest administrative boundary. The total acreage, excluding state and private inholdings, is about 328,000 acres.

Interim Management:

The federal lands within the proposed monument are managed by the Department of Agriculture through the U.S. Forest Service Sequoia National Forest. The Sequoia National Forest will continue to manage the area; the primary purpose of the monument would be to preserve, protect and restore giant sequoias and their associated ecosystem, as well as protection of all of the objects of scientific interest within the monument boundary.

All land within the proposed monument will be removed from the commercial timber base. Previously sold timber sales may continue, as may proposed sales with a decision notice signed between January 1, 1999 and December 31, 1999. This provides a two and one half year transition timber supply without adversely affecting the giant sequoias or other values.

Currently permitted livestock grazing, hunting, fishing, and organizational camps will generally not be affected, nor will designation affect state, tribal, private property or other valid existing rights. Motorized and mechanized travel would be confined to existing roads and trails. Other forms of recreation use and access would be generally unaffected by monument designation.

A science advisory board will be appointed to assist in development of a management plan for the monument. This will allow current scientific thinking to guide the appropriate choice and mix of ecological management actions, including mechanical treatment, prescribed burning, and other techniques necessary to protect the giant sequoia groves from catastrophic fire and other threats.

Interim management for fire risk and threat, using either mechanical treatment or prescribed fire, would be very limited until the science advisory board can provide its recommendations and the forest incorporates that thinking into the monument management plan. (Vegetation treatment, including timber sales and prescribed fire,

would continue according to existing management direction outside of the proposed monument boundary.) As stated above, other uses would be managed as per the existing management guidance, except for motorized and mechanized use, which would be confined to existing roads and trails.

Economic Assistance

The Forest Service would provide a transitional supply of timber for two and one-half years using commercial sales currently under contract and sales approved during calendar year 1999.

USDA will also use the full range of rural economic assistance and rural development programs to assist affected local communities. The Administration has also proposed legislation in its FY 2001 Budget called "Healthy Investments in Rural Economies" (HIRE), which would direct as much as \$315 million to forest dependent communities nationwide to create skilled local jobs.

Additional economic measures will be developed within the next thirty days to assist the local economy through any economic adjustment caused by the proposed monument designation.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 6520

Date:

APR 21 2000

Ms. Pat Kowalewyz
District Ranger
Gauley Ranger District
Monongahela National Forest
HC80 Box 1170
Richwood, VA 26261

Dear Pat:

I would like to personally thank you and the staff for your hospitality during my recent visit to the Gauley Ranger District and the Cranberry Mountain Nature Center. Traveling as much as I do, it was a real treat to have home cooking while on the road. I especially remember that the desserts were a real hit with my sweet-tooth.

I also appreciated the fact that virtually your entire staff participated in our discussions at the Nature Center. Our Senate appropriations hearing went very well, in part because of my first hand knowledge of issues in West Virginia. Again, thank you for your time and a job well done.

Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

*Have a great spring & summer
I hope I can spend a weekend
with my family around Cranberry
Mountain.*

Take Care

Mike





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P. O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 3400

Date:

APR 21 2000

Mr. Stanley F. Hamilton
Idaho Department of Lands
954 West Jefferson Street
Post Office Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0050

Dear Mr. Hamilton:

Thank you for your letter of March 13, 2000, concerning the Douglas-fir beetle outbreak in and around the Idaho Panhandle National Forests.

I too, read the February 9, 2000, Spokesman-Review newspaper article titled "Bark Beetle Outbreak Not Present" by staff reporter Zaz Hollander and was surprised by it. The fact that an outbreak was, and continues to be, present on the Idaho Panhandle National Forests land has been well documented by aerial and ground surveys, and in numerous reports.

Many Forest Service people worked nights, weekends, and over the holidays to respond to this outbreak, to involve the public in the response, to prepare an environmental impact statement and other plans, and to respond to appeals and lawsuits in order to help protect forest resources and adjacent private lands. When beetle populations failed to materialize in some areas, our close monitoring of the situation allowed us to drop these areas from being treated. I also am aware that Idaho Department of Lands people worked closely with our local Forest Service people in using an environmentally benign pheromone to help manage the beetle populations.

I sympathize with your concern about the length of time it takes for us to respond to unanticipated and rapidly developing situations like the Douglas-fir beetle outbreak. The laws and administrative procedures under which we operate can sometimes be cumbersome and time consuming, but they are designed to ensure that our decisions are carefully made and that the public's input is obtained. Our response can also be constrained by available funding.

I really appreciate your taking time to personally share your thoughts with me on this matter. I thank you for your letter, and am passing your commendation for a job well done on to the Colville and Idaho Panhandle National Forests.

Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 7740

Date:

APR 21 2000

The Honorable Bud Shuster
Chairman on Committee on Transportation
and Infrastructure
U. S. House of Representatives
2165 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6256

I want to thank you and Congressmen Oberstar, Rahall, and Petri for the February 14, 2000, letter to Mr. Kenneth Wykle, Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration, and me requesting information concerning the subset of Forest Service roads we are proposing as public roads to be managed under Title 23 of the United States Code, Public Forest Service Road (PFSR) Program. A copy of this letter will also be sent to the other Congressmen.

We are currently in the process of inventorying the Forest Service transportation system for roads that are eligible to be public roads and funded under Title 23. The ability to designate and fund these roads as public roads will improve safe access to the national forests, enhance rural economic development and correct chronic environmental problems. Latest estimates indicate that national forests contribute over \$134 billion to the National Gross Domestic Product and this value is rapidly increasing. The development of this subset of roads for public use is a major component for implementing the Forest Service's Natural Resource Agenda.

The Federal Highway Administration is a major partner in helping implement the PFSR program and we are identifying roads and developing the program in conjunction with them. The detailed information you requested will be sent to you this summer. If you have questions concerning the PFSR Program, please contact Vaughn Stokes, Director of Engineering, at (202) 205-1400.

Thank you for your interest in the PFSR Program and we will send you more information this summer.

Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief



6. **Miscellaneous**

Nothing in this agreement is intended to diminish or otherwise affect the authority of either agency to execute its respective statutory functions.

This agreement is not intended, and should not be construed, to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by a party against the United States, its agencies, its offices, or its employees.

The FS regional, and FHWA field personnel are encouraged to consult together and agree on such matters that fall within their scope of responsibility. Matters which cannot be resolved at the field level should be submitted to the FS Director of Engineering and the FHWA Federal Lands Highway Program Manager for resolution.


Each agency is encouraged to find ways to improve the administration of the ERFO program and to make mutually agreeable changes to effect improvements in the ERFO program.

This agreement is not intended to fix the procedures to be followed so rigidly as to prevent logical, practical, and responsible actions by the FS or FHWA, but rather to outline the responsibilities, procedures, or actions for most projects and activities.

This agreement does not abrogate, amend, or modify any other existing agreements between the FS and FHWA.

This agreement shall become effective on the date of the last approving signature and will continue in effect until termination by either party upon giving a 60-day written notice.

Renegotiation of any part of this agreement can be initiated at any time by either party.



Chief
U.S. Forest Service

Date: April 21, 2008

Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

Date: _____



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 6520

Date:

APR 21 2000

Mr. Spenser Lennard
Wildlife Issues Coordinator
Oregon Sierra Club
3701 SE Milwaukee, Suite E
Portland, OR 97202

Dear Mr. Spenser:

Thank you for your October 12, 1999, letter to President Clinton regarding the fiscal year 2000 appropriations process. The White House referred your letter to the USDA Forest Service for response because your questions directly relate to Forest Service funding. First, let me say that I sincerely apologize for the time it has taken to respond. There is no excuse.

Today, our public lands and forests are in better condition than ever, due to the decades of work by Congress, Federal and state agencies, and the American public in protecting public wild lands and species. I agree with you that public debate is an integral part in determining the management strategy for these valuable resources. As I am sure you are aware by now, the fiscal year 2000 Appropriations Act for the Department of the Interior and related agencies (which includes the Forest Service) was signed into law *without* the section that you opposed.

If you have any questions, please contact Mark Davis at (202) 205-1046.

Thank you for your interest in the Nation's public lands.

Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence, SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, D.C. 20090

File Code: 1950

Date: APR 27 2000

The Honorable Conrad Burns
United States Senate
187 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4103

Dear Senator Burns:

Thank you for your March 24, 2000 letter requesting that we reestablish a categorical exclusion for small timber sales. I understand and agree with the need to expedite small timber sales that are environmentally beneficial or benign. Like you, I am concerned that these projects are important to the livelihood of many small operators, contractors the Forest Service depends on to accomplish much of our restoration and thinning work.

Given the Illinois District Court decision, we remain committed to expediting these projects through a streamlined environmental analysis process. We believe the timeframes for categorical exclusions and expedited environmental assessments are about the same. I have asked the Regional Foresters to closely monitor our progress on these small sales to be sure there are no unnecessary delays, and to affirm that the timeframes are in fact similar.

We will seek public comment regarding the development of a new categorical exclusion for small timber sales. This will allow people to express their views on whether a new categorical exclusion is needed. This will also give us time to assess the effectiveness of an expedited environmental assessment process.

Thank you again for your interest and request on this important issue. We will keep you apprised of the results of our effort.

Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief



ca. APRIL 2000

JUSTIFICATION FOR EXCEPTION
FROM 100% REIMBURSEMENT REQUIREMENT

The Honorable F. Whitten Peters
Acting Secretary of the Air Force
1670 Air Force Pentagon
Washington, DC 20330-1670

I am writing in reference to the desire of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service, to acquire land at the March Air Force Base, Riverside, California, for the purpose of establishing the Southern California Emergency Operations Coordination Center.

The USDA, Forest Service requests an exception to 101-47.203-7 of the Federal Property Management Regulations requiring payment of full fair market value for the transfer of excess property.

The property requested for transfer is a 43.752-acre parcel, identified as Parcel C-1, of the March Air Force Base in Riverside County, California. The parcel would be used for an Operations Coordination Center (OCC), which provides emergency support for the southern half of California. The Forest Service's Southern California Geographical Coordination Center, the California Department of Forestry & Fire Protection, and the State Office of Emergency Services jointly operate the center. The center provides support for 8 National Forests, 10 CDF Ranger Units, 2 Bureau of Land Management Districts, and 5 National Parks. In addition, a Federal Emergency Management Agency Tasking Center provides emergency support to the State of Hawaii, and the Commonwealth and Trust Territories of the Western Pacific. It also responds to requests from local agencies for emergency support. Services include providing emergency personnel, equipment and supplies for events such as major fires, floods, and earthquakes.

The current OCC facility is being displaced by the reconstruction of a freeway interchange. Within the next two years, the facility needs to be established on a new site. The most logical site in the area that appears to be available is the March Air Force Base, which was realigned into an Air Force Reserve Base in 1996. Portions of the Base have been determined to be excess to Air Force needs, and portions of the Base are being transferred out of government ownership using Government Excess Property Regulations. Relocating to the March Air Force Base site would increase the efficiency of the operation because of the proximity to the large airstrip.

The public will benefit in the use of the 43.752-acre parcel because of the emergency support activities that occur at the OCC. These are activities that are dedicated to protecting human life and property.

An Environmental Impact Statement has been completed for the Base Conversion. A Supplemental Record of Decision has been completed by the Air Force identifying parcel C-1 as suitable for transfer to the Forest Service. The Supplemental Record of Decision was completed and released on August 1, 1998 (Page 3, B, Federal Transfers).

I certify that the Forest Service cannot furnish reimbursement for the 43.752-acres of land and improvements without obtaining an additional appropriation for that specific purpose.

Based on the foregoing, I request an exception to the 100 percent reimbursement requirement in order that the March Air Force Base excess property be transferred to the USDA, Forest Service without reimbursement.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Dombek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "Dombek" clearly distinguishable.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence, SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, D.C. 20090

File Code: 1950

Date: **MAY 1** 2000

The Honorable Conrad Burns
United States Senate
187 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4103

Dear Senator Burns:

Thank you for your March 24, 2000 letter requesting that we reestablish a categorical exclusion for small timber sales. I understand and agree with the need to expedite small timber sales that are environmentally beneficial or benign. Like you, I am concerned that these projects are important to the livelihood of many small operators, contractors the Forest Service depends on to accomplish much of our restoration and thinning work.

We will seek public comment regarding the development of a new categorical exclusion for small timber sales. This will allow people to express their views on whether a new categorical exclusion is needed.

In the interim, we remain committed to expediting these projects through a streamlined environmental analysis process. We believe the timeframes for categorical exclusions and expedited environmental assessments are about the same. I have asked the Regional Foresters to closely monitor our progress on these small sales to be sure there are no unnecessary delays, to affirm that the timeframes are in fact similar and to ensure that they are effective.

Thank you again for your interest and request on this important issue. We will keep you apprised of the results of our effort.

Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence, SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, D.C. 20090

File Code: 1950

Date: **MAY** 1 2000

The Honorable Max Baucus
United States Senate
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4103

Dear Senator Baucus:

Thank you for your February 8, 2000, letter jointly signed with Senator Daschle, requesting that we reestablish a categorical exclusion for small timber sales. I understand and agree with the need to expedite small timber sales that are environmentally beneficial or benign. Like you, I am concerned that these projects are important to the livelihood of many small operators, contractors the Forest Service depends on to accomplish much of our restoration and thinning work.

We will seek public comment regarding the development of a new categorical exclusion for small timber sales. This will allow people to express their views on whether a new categorical exclusion is needed.

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Thank you again for your interest and request on this important issue. We will keep you apprised of the results of our effort.

Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief





United States
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Service

Washington
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14th & Independence, SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, D.C. 20090

File Code: 1950

Date: MAY 1 2000

The Honorable Thomas A. Daschle
United States Senate
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4103

Dear Senator Daschle:

Thank you for your February 8, 2000, letter jointly signed with Senator Baucus, requesting that we reestablish a categorical exclusion for small timber sales. I understand and agree with the need to expedite small timber sales that are environmentally beneficial or benign. Like you, I am concerned that these projects are important to the livelihood of many small operators, contractors the Forest Service depends on to accomplish much of our restoration and thinning work.

We will seek public comment regarding the development of a new categorical exclusion for small timber sales. This will allow people to express their views on whether a new categorical exclusion is needed.

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Thank you again for your interest and request on this important issue. We will keep you apprised of the results of our effort.

Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P. O. Box 96090
Washington, D.C. 20090-6090

File Code: 1900-1

Date: MAY 2 2000

The Honorable Jim Geringer
Governor
State of Wyoming
State Capitol
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82002

Dear Governor Geringer:

I am responding to your February 1, 2000, letter which conveyed serious concerns regarding the Northern Great Plains planning process and plan revision for the Thunder Basin National Grasslands. Rocky Mountain Regional Forester Lyle Laverty has responded in detail to your concerns in his April 17, 2000, letter to you. In his letter, Lyle provided the background regarding how this very complex planning process is structured, how it has unfolded, and the opportunities yet ahead for working together to resolve the concerns you raised. You can be assured that Lyle and his staff at the forest level are fully committed, as I am, to working with you, your agencies, and other interested constituents to address and resolve land management concerns in an open and collaborative manner that is grounded in mutual trust and understanding.

Thank you for sharing your concerns and your willingness to work with us on behalf of the citizens we all serve.

Sincerely,

Mike

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

*Sorry I can't attend your Kitchen
Table. I hope you have a productive
session.*



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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

MEMORANDUM

TO: Marty Raphael, Tom Spies, Fred Samson, Jim Sedell, Tom Quigley, Gordie Reeves
Curtis Flather, Bruce Marcot, Robert Cunningham

FROM: James R. Lyons
Under Secretary
Natural Resources and Environment

Mike Dombeck
Chief
U.S. Forest Service

MAY - 4 2000

SUBJECT: Forest Planning Rule Review

We would like you to review the ecological sustainability provisions of the May 3 draft of the proposed planning rule. We do not want you to revisit the concept of ecological sustainability itself. We do, however, want you to take a look at provisions in the May 3 version of the rule and review how the sustainability criteria, land performance measures, analytical requirements, sustainability requirements, and monitoring provisions work together. We are especially interested in your reviewing the provisions for focal species, demand species, monitoring, ecosystem diversity, and viability. We would also like you to consider the concept of ecosystem integrity.

Please address the following questions:

- Are the species and ecosystem diversity and related monitoring provisions of the May 3 rule consistent with the prevailing scientific literature? Does the rule as published in the Federal Register come closer? What changes would you recommend to improve consistency with the prevailing scientific literature?
- Should the concept of ecological integrity be included in the final rule? It was included in the rule as published in the Federal Register but deleted in the May 3 version. If the concept is sound, how should it be used? Should it be an analytical or performance requirement?
- The May 3 version of the rule appears to place less emphasis on an ecosystem approach than the rule as published in the Federal Register. What scientifically sound and implementable options exist for placing greater emphasis on an ecosystem approach?
- Are there ways to improve the clarity, scientific soundness, practicality, or implementability of the above provisions?

In making any recommendations, please consider the Committee of Scientists' report, the prevailing scientific literature, the proposed rule as published in the Federal Register, and any past drafts of the rule that may be helpful.

Please work together as a group and report your findings to us no later than Friday afternoon, May 12. Bob Cunningham from the Washington Office will be in touch soon with logistical details of where and when we would like you to meet.

The planning rule will shape national forest stewardship for more than a generation. We appreciate your help in making sure it is absolutely sound and achievable.



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1300

Date: May 5, 2000

Route To:

Subject: Letter from Mike Dombeck, Chief

To: All Employees

I want to share with all of you my remarks to Forest Service employees here in Washington as we celebrate Public Service Recognition Week. This is an extremely busy time for us and I am pleased with the progress we are making on some of the most persistent and challenging issues facing the agency. Our accomplishments, on the land and in the labs, make life better for the American people. Yes, we are busy but it is good and important work.

Like you, I have had a busy spring. The highlight of the month of April for me was participating with the President and the Secretary in the designation of the 328,000 acre Giant Sequoia National Monument on the Sequoia National Forest. I want to thank Sequoia Supervisor Art Gaffrey and his staff, Al Ferlo of my Washington staff, and others for their work on the Monument. It is the stewardship of the generations of Forest Service employees who have managed the Giant Sequoias that enabled the Nation to highlight the remaining Giant Sequoia Groves with a Presidential Proclamation. The President's determination that the Forest Service should manage the Giant Sequoia National Monument is a reaffirmation of the confidence the President, the Secretary, and the American people have in Forest Service stewardship.

I spent Sunday following the Presidential event on the Sequoia's Hume Lake District with District Ranger John Mincks. We had a wonderful day in the rain and the snow, hiking and discussing a variety of issues. The highlight for me was seeing the Boole Tree which John told me is the largest tree in the world. Regional Forester Brad Powell and I met with the leadership of the Sequoia and Sierra National Forests. From California I traveled to Arizona, met with employees on the Tonto National Forest, then on to the Coronado and met with the Region 3 District Rangers in Tucson. I was very impressed with the Coronado's approach to work planning, budget management, and accountability – a truly forward thinking business approach. Next, I went to Portland to meet with the leadership of the Pacific Northwest Region where we discussed a wide variety of issues.

I have been in the office the last couple of weeks focusing on our Planning Regulations and draft roadless proposal and meeting with members of Congress as they approach markup of our 2001 appropriations bill.



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It looks like we are in for a beautiful spring weekend here in the Washington area. My wife Pat and I will be camping on the Jefferson National Forest. I encourage each of you to spend some leisure time with friends and family and just enjoying life. Again, in celebration of Public Service Recognition Week, thank you for what you do and have a wonderful weekend.

/s/ Mike Dombeck

MIKE DOMBECK

Chief

Enclosure



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P. O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

Date: MAY 8 2000

Mr. Morley A. Winograd
Senior Policy Advisor to the Vice President
and Director, National Partnership for Reinventing Government
750 17th Street SW Suite 200
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Morley:

I welcome and look forward to the opportunity to discuss with you the progress we have made on our reinvention goals. Since the meeting with the Vice President in December 1998, we've made some important strides toward creating a more cost-effective and customer-driven Forest Service. I have enclosed short profiles of a few of our key reinvention efforts to respond directly to some of the areas you highlighted in your letter.

As our reinvention efforts proceeded, I have personally stressed the need for follow-through and accountability. To this end, I have tasked our Customer Service Team to visit every region and station over the next 3 months to determine how well we have really adopted the principles of customer service at the frontline, and how well we are following through with promises to our customers. At the same time, the General Accounting Office is completing an audit on the impacts of the Service First Program, our joint venture with the Bureau of Land Management, to improve service to our common customers. These results will combine to provide us with a realistic assessment of our progress in reinvention, and help steer our course for the future.

Donna Janisch in my office will work with Sophia Jackson to arrange a meeting time with you. In the meantime, we will work on updating the progress report we provided last year to meet our reinvention goals by September 30. Thanks very much for the opportunity to provide you with our successes and progress on reinvention, and for your continued leadership at the NPR.

Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

Enclosures





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1300

Date: May 9, 2000

Route To:

Subject: Letter from Mike Dombeck, Chief

To: All Employees

Today, the Forest Service proposed to end road construction in nearly one quarter of the 192 million acre National Forest System. Over 25 years of local planning, lawsuits, and controversy have failed to resolve the roadless area issue. New leadership and new direction are needed. The fact that we may even contemplate protection of roadless lands that total about one quarter of the National Forest System is testament to our proud legacy of conservation.

Our proposal would ensure that the greatest threat to roadless lands, road construction, is removed and that the important characteristics of these areas are evaluated and considered to determine through forest planning if they should receive additional protection in the future.

As more and more private lands, forests, open space, wetlands, and farmland are developed the social and ecological values of roadless areas become increasingly important. Our largely undeveloped roadless areas provide:

- Refuges for rare plant, wildlife and fish species;
- Clean, pure drinking water for thousands of communities;
- Opportunities for dispersed recreation;
- Reference areas for research and study; and
- Places of solitude and spiritual renewal where families may reconnect with the lands and waters that sustain them.

This proposal responds to President Clinton's direction to develop options for conserving for future generations "some of the last, best, unprotected wildland anywhere in our nation." Another President, Theodore Roosevelt, once described conservation as "applying common sense to common problems for the common good." I think this is an apt description of our proposal.

The Forest Service backlog on maintenance and reconstruction of our existing road system is well over \$8 billion dollars per year. We currently receive about 20% of the funding that we need to take care of our existing road system. It makes little sense to build new roads in valuable roadless areas when we can afford to maintain so little of our existing road system.

Many have charged that protecting roadless areas will block public access to their public lands. This proposal proves them wrong. Not a single authorized road will be closed as a result of our roadless proposal. All existing and legal access would be preserved.



We are at a major milestone in the public process. I ask you to help people understand the nature and content of this straightforward proposal. We will hold over 330 public meetings in communities large and small to explain this proposal and garner public input. Our proposal can, and will, be improved based on public involvement and review.

Many will argue this proposal does not go far enough. Others will say it goes too far. At its root, it is a measured and common sense proposal that ensures that the very values that draw hundreds of millions of Americans to their forests will be protected and conserved for the use and benefit of future generations.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

201 14th & Independence, SW
Post Office Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1510

Date: May 11, 2000

Dear Senator:

I am pleased to present, for your review, the Roadless Area Conservation Proposed Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Forest Service has put a tremendous amount of effort into this project since October 1999.

The enclosed documents outline various management alternatives for approximately 54 million acres of inventoried roadless areas and other unroaded areas located on National Forest System lands. The cover letter bound into Volume 1 describes the process for submitting review comments.

The Forest Service will hold an unprecedented number of public meetings throughout the nation during the comment period to provide you and your constituents additional opportunities to obtain information and comment on the proposal, alternatives, and potential impacts. In addition, if you or your staff would like a briefing please contact Tom Tidwell at (202) 205-0970 or Gene Blankenbaker at (202) 205-1216 of my Legislative Affairs staff.

The Forest Service expects this rulemaking and environmental analysis to be completed by December 2000. Your interest and participation in the Roadless Area Conservation Proposed Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement are appreciated. I look forward to your continued participation in this rulemaking.

Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

Enclosures (2):

1. *Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 1*
2. *Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 2*





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

201 14th & Independence, SW
Post Office Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1510

Date: May 11, 2000

Dear Representative:

I am pleased to present, for your review, the Roadless Area Conservation Proposed Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Forest Service has put a tremendous amount of effort into this project since October 1999.

The enclosed documents outline various management alternatives for approximately 54 million acres of inventoried roadless areas located on National Forest System lands. The cover letter bound into Volume 1 describes the process for submitting review comments.

The Forest Service will hold an unprecedented number of public meetings throughout the nation during the comment period to provide you and your constituents additional opportunities to obtain information and comment on the proposal, alternatives, and potential impacts. In addition, if you or your staff would like a briefing please contact Tom Tidwell at (202) 205-0970 or Gene Blankenbaker at (202) 205-1216 of my Legislative Affairs staff.

The Forest Service expects this rulemaking and environmental analysis to be completed by December 2000. Your interest and participation in the Roadless Area Conservation Proposed Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement are appreciated. I look forward to your continued participation in this rulemaking.

Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

Enclosures (2):

1. *Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 1*
2. *Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 2*





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

201 14th & Independence, SW
Post Office Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1510

Date: May 11, 2000

Dear Governor:

I am pleased to present, for your review, the Roadless Area Conservation Proposed Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Forest Service has put a tremendous amount of effort into this project since October 1999.

The enclosed documents outline various management alternatives for approximately 54 million acres of inventoried roadless areas and other unroaded areas located on National Forest System lands. The cover letter bound into Volume 1 describes the process for submitting review comments.

The Forest Service will hold an unprecedented number of public meetings throughout the nation during the comment period to provide additional opportunities to obtain information and comment on the proposal, alternatives, and potential impacts. I have asked the Regional Foresters to contact Governors' offices to schedule briefings for you and your staffs.

The Forest Service expects this rulemaking and environmental analysis to be completed by December 2000. Your interest and participation in the Roadless Area Conservation Proposed Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement are appreciated. I look forward to your continued participation in this rulemaking.

Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

Enclosures (2):

1. *Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 1*
2. *Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 2*





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

201 14th & Independence, SW
Post Office Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1670

Date: May 11, 2000

Dear Librarian:

The enclosed Roadless Area Conservation Proposed Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement were produced by the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. Please make these documents available for public review at your facility.

To assure adequate public access to the information contained in these documents, the Forest Service is providing them to approximately 11,000 county and municipal libraries nationwide. The agency is taking this extraordinary measure in response to the large amount of public interest expressed about the Roadless Area Conservation Project. Thus far, about 365,000 citizens have contacted the Forest Service with opinions about this rulemaking and environmental analysis.

The documents may also be accessed electronically at roadless.fs.fed.us via the Roadless Area Conservation Project website. If your facility provides public computer access to the Internet, please remind patrons that they may view and download any portion of these documents that is of interest to them.

The cover letter bound inside Volume 1 and the Summary document describes the process the Forest Service will use to collect comments about the proposal and information about upcoming public meetings that will occur during the comment period.

Your assistance in facilitating wide distribution and public availability of these documents is appreciated. If you have questions regarding distribution of these documents, please contact the National Roadless Team at (703) 605-5113.

Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

Enclosures (2):

1. *Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 1*
2. *Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 2*





File Code: 1510

Date: May 11, 2000

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am pleased to present, for your review, the Roadless Area Conservation Proposed Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The Forest Service has put a tremendous amount of effort into this project since October 1999. The enclosed documents outline various management alternatives for approximately 54 million acres of inventoried roadless areas and other unroaded areas located on National Forest System lands.

I invite you to review and comment on this proposal. I have directed my Leadership Team across the country to ensure they personally contact tribes with whom they have relationships and have asked them to be sure you, your representatives, and your tribal members are provided with an adequate opportunity to consider and comment on these documents. In addition to your discussions with my Leadership Team, you may also submit comments on the documents using the process described in the cover letter bound in Volume 1 of the document package.

The Forest Service will hold an unprecedented number of additional public meetings throughout the nation during the comment period to provide opportunities to obtain information and comment on the proposal, alternatives, and potential impacts. I cordially invite you, your representatives, and your tribal members to attend the meetings in your area if you so choose.

The Forest Service expects this rulemaking and environmental analysis to be completed by December 2000. Your interest and participation in the Roadless Area Conservation Proposed Rule and Draft Environmental Impact Statement are appreciated. I look forward to your continued participation in this rulemaking.

Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

Enclosures (2):

1. *Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 1*
2. *Forest Service Roadless Area Conservation Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 2*



File Code: 1340

Date: May 12, 2000

Route To:

Subject: Land Between The Lakes - Demonstration Laboratory Designation

To: Chief

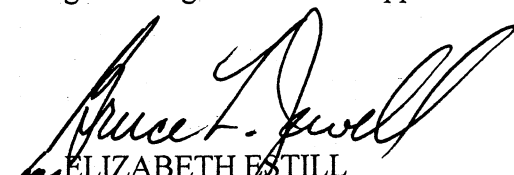
This is to request that Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area be recognized as a demonstration laboratory, thereby promoting agency support for the unit's efforts to explore innovative approaches to management. The reasons I am requesting this designation include:

1. Statutory Direction - The Land Between The Lakes Protection Act, which transferred LBL to the Forest Service, directs that one of the roles of LBL is to "authorize, research, test, and demonstrate innovative programs and cost-effective management of the Recreation Area."

2. Assuring a Smooth Transition - The LBL Protection Act directs that there is to be a "smooth and equitable transfer of jurisdiction." During the course of the transition, it has become apparent TVA was able to operate LBL with considerable flexibility. Without agency support to explore and adopt ways to maintain some of the flexibility used by TVA management, day-to-day operations at LBL may be substantially affected. We have a critical need not to allow public service levels to drop during the transition period. Therefore, our ability to assure a smooth transition, avoid adverse public reactions, and protect employees from risks associated with new and innovative approaches is dependent upon internal agency support to recognize LBL as a demonstration laboratory.

3. Long-Term Benefits - The Forest Service has an opportunity to learn from the many differing ways LBL has done business and assess whether we want to continue those ways or not. By having demonstration lab status, the unit will have more flexibility to assess the long-term value of different ways of operating rather than having to quickly revert to traditional practices due to agency restraints. Similarly, there can be a more systematic means of monitoring changes that do occur and testing new ideas not previously implemented.

Enclosed is a brief paper outlining a few of the areas where innovative approaches are needed and beneficial. Your endorsement of demonstration lab status would be a significant step towards generating the internal support needed to achieve LBL's tremendous potential for innovation.



ELIZABETH ESTILL
Regional Forester

Enclosure

Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area

Examples of Opportunities for Innovation

Financial

LBL has excelled at activity-based cost accounting and financial tracking. This has been a cornerstone of their business approach to management and integral to continuing the monitoring and financial trend data they have developed over time. LBL can serve as a demonstration area for designing ways to effectively use agency financial systems to generate the type of data needed to continue financial tracking at LBL and which can be beneficial for other NFS units as the agency shifts to a more business-like approach to management.

Cash Handling

Due to the large sums of cash handled at LBL facilities, cash handling has proven to be a major issue. Current agency guidelines weren't designed for the circumstances found at LBL. The LBL staff is committed to proper safeguards both for accountability of funds and employee safety. Innovations developed at LBL are expected to be applicable at other NFS units which handle sizable amounts of cash.

Personal Services Contracts

LBL has traditionally had a blended workforce with sizable numbers of personal services contractors working closely with employees and serving a wide variety of functions. There is a good opportunity at LBL to explore some innovative ways to meet short-term staff needs.

Use of Fleet Vehicles

Under TVA management, the LBL staff has had a great deal of flexibility in the use of fleet vehicles. For example, much of the workforce has consisted of contractors who could drive vehicles; additionally, some highly popular environmental education programs have involved transporting the public in fleet vehicles. There is an opportunity at LBL to review use of the fleet.



Demonstration Laboratory

Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area (LBL) is hereby designated


a demonstration laboratory to research, test, and demonstrate innovative programs and cost-effective management.

Goals of the Demonstration Laboratory:

- 1. To provide a smooth and equitable transfer of LBL from the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to the U.S. Forest Service.**
- 2. To assess the benefits and applicability of innovations implemented by TVA at LBL and to retain and export those innovations which provide value to the U.S. Forest Service.**
- 3. To provide an opportunity to test new ideas and procedures in response to the needs of other units of the National Forest System.**
- 4. To assure that a spirit of creativity and innovation is nurtured and valued within the agency, thereby promoting changes that will improve customer service, cost-effectiveness, and operational efficiency.**
- 5. To provide a work environment for employees which promotes a sense of enthusiasm, pride, and value in exploring new ways of doing business.**
- 6. To create a cooperative spirit with regional and national staff specialists in order to achieve a shared goal of reducing bureaucracy and improving agency processes and procedures.**

In this pursuit,

all employees of the Chief's Office and the Regional Office, Southern Region, are hereby directed to support the demonstration laboratory role of Land Between The Lakes National Recreation Area. Every effort will be made to provide the maximum amount of flexibility possible to support the objectives of the demonstration laboratory.


Mike Dombeck, Chief

MAY 17 2000

Date


**Elizabeth Estill,
Regional Forester, R8**

MAY 17 2000

Date



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

201 14th & Independence, SW
Post Office Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1910-1

Date: MAY 15 2000

The Honorable Benjamin J. Cayetano
Governor of Hawaii
Chairman
Western Governors' Association
600 17th Street
Suite 1705 South Tower
Denver, Colorado 80202-5452

Dear Governor Cayetano:

As a follow-up to our earlier discussions with the Western Governor's Association, I want to let you know that the Forest Service has just released the Roadless Area Conservation Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Rule. We are accepting public comment on these documents through July 17.

I am enclosing a copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Rule for consideration by your Association. The Forest Service is providing copies to each State directly as well.

As Jim Lyons and I indicated in our March 14, 2000, letter to you, the Forest Service is prepared to meet with State officials in one or two coordinated work sessions to answer technical questions as States develop comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Rule. If you choose to accept this offer, please notify Randy Phillips, Deputy Chief, Programs and Legislation, as soon as possible so that he may coordinate our participation.

Thank you again for your continued interest in the national forests and grasslands.

Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

Enclosure: *Roadless Area Conservation Draft Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed Rule*, Volumes 1 and 2





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1500

Date: MAY 15 2000

The Honorable David Obey
2314 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2201

Dear Congressman Obey:

Thank you for your call on May 11, 2000, expressing concern about the tone conveyed in that portion of the draft roadless area rulemaking environmental impact statement (DEIS) that addresses social effects related to timber harvest.

Having grown up in northern Wisconsin's Chequamegon National Forest, I know first-hand the importance of timber jobs to rural communities across the Nation. Many friends, family members, and I in my younger years made a living from logging, guiding and recreation and tourism. In fact, I believe that we ought to strengthen this connection using timber harvest to accomplish land health objectives, where appropriate.

Like you, I have a great deal of respect and admiration for those who make their living logging and from other forest resources. If there is anything in the roadless DEIS that implies otherwise, I apologize and will ensure it is corrected in the final roadless area environmental impact statement.

Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1500

Date: **MAY 15 2000**

The Honorable Bart Stupak
2348 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2201

Dear Congressman Stupak:

Thank you for your letter of May 11, 2000, expressing concern about the tone conveyed in that portion of the draft roadless area rulemaking environmental impact statement (DEIS) that addresses social effects related to timber harvest.

Having grown up in northern Wisconsin's Chequamegon National Forest, I know first-hand the importance of timber jobs to rural communities across the Nation. Many friends, family members, and I in my younger years made a living from logging, guiding and recreation and tourism. In fact, I believe that we ought to strengthen this connection using timber harvest to accomplish land health objectives, where appropriate.

Like you, I have a great deal of respect and admiration for those who make their living logging and from other forest resources. If there is anything in the roadless DEIS that implies otherwise, I apologize and will ensure it is corrected in the final roadless area environmental impact statement.

Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 7720

Date: MAY 15 2000

The Honorable Larry E. Craig
United States Senate
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-1203

Dear Senator Craig:

Thank you for your May 1, 2000, letter requesting an extension for public comment on our road management proposal published in the March 3, 2000, *Federal Register* at 65 FR 11676-11693.

We appreciate your concern about exposing the proposed road management policy to legal challenges. We are confident that we have followed the relevant laws and regulations in proposing this policy and we do not believe that a 60-day extension for public comment is necessary.

Your request for a 60-day extension after the planning and roadless rules are adopted appears to rest on the notion that the proposed road management initiative is dependent on changes in our current planning rules at 36 CFR Part 217. The proposed road management rule and policy are offered in the context of the existing planning regulations. The preamble in the proposed rule also indicated that when a new final planning rule is adopted, we will revise the administrative road management directives to conform as needed. The proposed changes build on planning direction already in place in our Forest Service Manual Title 7700.

I wholeheartedly agree with the need to ensure integration of the proposed road management policy, roadless area conservation regulation, and the planning regulations. We believe that these rules and associated policies will provide a comprehensive and consistent strategy for managing National Forest System lands. The proposed roadless area conservation rule, if adopted, would likely replace the road management policy's transition language regarding inventoried roadless areas and other unroaded areas. The proposed planning rule would ensure greater citizen involvement and integration of science and new information in managing sustainable forests.

We have already extended the comment period in the proposed road policy once, and I do not believe a future extension is needed.

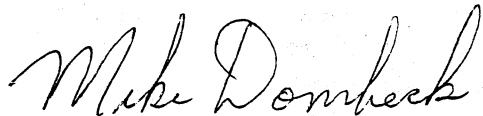


The Honorable Larry E. Craig

2

Again, we appreciate your interest in national forest management and look forward to working with you as we continue through the public process to developing a new road management policy for the Forest Service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Dombeck". The signature is fluid and written in dark ink.

Mike Dombeck
Chief



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 7720

Date: MAY 15 2000

The Honorable Frank Murkowski
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-0202

Dear Senator Murkowski:

Thank you for your May 1, 2000, letter requesting an extension for public comment on our road management proposal published in the March 3, 2000, *Federal Register* at 65 FR 11676-11693.

We appreciate your concern about exposing the proposed road management policy to legal challenges. We are confident that we have followed the relevant laws and regulations in proposing this policy and we do not believe that a 60-day extension for public comment is necessary.

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The Honorable Frank Murkowski

2

Again, we appreciate your interest in national forest management and look forward to working with you as we continue through the public process to developing a new road management policy for the Forest Service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mike Dombeck". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Mike Dombeck
Chief



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 7720

Date: MAY 15 2000

The Honorable Craig Thomas
United States Senate
109 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-5003

Dear Senator Thomas:

Thank you for your May 1, 2000, letter requesting an extension for public comment on our road management proposal published in the March 3, 2000, *Federal Register* at 65 FR 11676-11693.

We appreciate your concern about exposing the proposed road management policy to legal challenges. We are confident that we have followed the relevant laws and regulations in proposing this policy and we do not believe that a 60-day extension for public comment is necessary.

Your request for a 60-day extension after the planning and roadless rules are adopted appears to rest on the notion that the proposed road management initiative is dependent on changes in our current planning rules at 36 CFR Part 217. The proposed road management rule and policy are offered in the context of the existing planning regulations. The preamble in the proposed rule also indicated that when a new final planning rule is adopted, we will revise the administrative road management directives to conform as needed. The proposed changes build on planning direction already in place in our Forest Service Manual Title 7700.

I wholeheartedly agree with the need to ensure integration of the proposed road management policy, roadless area conservation regulation, and the planning regulations. We believe that these rules and associated policies will provide a comprehensive and consistent strategy for managing National Forest System lands. The proposed roadless area conservation rule, if adopted, would likely replace the road management policy's transition language regarding inventoried roadless areas and other unroaded areas. The proposed planning rule would ensure greater citizen involvement and integration of science and new information in managing sustainable forests.

We have already extended the comment period in the proposed road policy once, and I do not believe a future extension is needed.



The Honorable Craig Thomas

2

Again, we appreciate your interest in national forest management and look forward to working with you as we continue through the public process to developing a new road management policy for the Forest Service.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Dombeck". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mike" and last name "Dombeck" clearly distinguishable.

Mike Dombeck
Chief



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY

THROUGH: James R. Lyons
Under Secretary, NRE

FROM: Mike Dombeck
Chief

MAY 15 2000

SUBJECT: Response to Reestablishment of the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board

ISSUE:

The Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board's term expired on January 28, 2000. The reestablishment of the Board would be for a period of two years from the effective date of the action.

DISCUSSION:

The Forest Service would be pleased to join the Secretary of the Department of the Interior in reestablishing the Wild Horse and Burro Advisory Board.

Nine letters of selection have been prepared to be sent out for qualified members to serve on the Board.





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1300

Date: May 16, 2000

Route To:

Subject: Wildland Fire Season

To: All Employees

We take this opportunity to extend our sincere gratitude to all Forest Service firefighters who continually dedicate themselves to the wildland firefighting organization. The 2000 wildland fire season is off to an early and tragic start. We assure you, the work you are doing in protecting human life, property and the natural resource is not unnoticed.

We understand there is a lot of confusion, on all fronts, regarding the events surrounding the National Park Service ignition of the Cerro Grande fire May 4. We appreciate your understanding and call for your patience during this trying period. The outcome of the ongoing review of this incident will answer the many necessary questions for those interested and involved.

The National Park Service has established an investigation team to review the action on the prescribed fire. They will issue a final report by the end of the week. An independent management team will review the report. The Forest Service is participating in the investigation and independent review.

A fixed wing aircraft working on the Lincoln Zone near Alamogordo, New Mexico crashed Monday. Both the pilot, 49-year old Leo Kupomen of Columbia, California, and Forest Service employee Sam Tobias, 47, of Ruidoso, New Mexico were killed. We extend condolences to the family and friends. We encourage everyone to continue being careful, and placing safety of the public and fellow firefighters as the highest priority.

/s/ Phil Janik
PHIL JANIK
Chief Operating Officer

/s/ Janice McDougale
JANICE MCDOUGLE
Deputy Chief, State and
Private Forestry

/s/ Harry Croft
HARRY CROFT
Deputy Director
Fire and Aviation





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1600
Route To:

Date: MAY 16 2000

Subject: Nomination of Capitol Holiday Tree 2003-2007

To: Forest Supervisors
Thru: Regional Foresters

REPLY DUE JUNE 15, 2000

How would you like to increase your Forest visibility, develop new partnerships, and strengthen community relationships? By winning the honor of providing the Capitol Holiday Tree. It is time to solicit nominations for the years 2003-2007.

The Capitol Holiday Tree, sometimes referred to as the "People's Tree," started as a tradition in 1965. Since 1970, the Forest Service has been donating a tree to Congress from a Forest Service unit with the support of State and local communities at a minimal cost to taxpayers. A community committee raises the money for transporting the tree to Washington, DC, and handles the publicity, cards, ornaments and any other items and costs. The Forest Service unit provides a 60-80 foot tree, coordinates events, assists with national publicity and sends a detailer to Washington to help with preparations during the final weeks prior to the lighting. The selected unit also sends additional trees to the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives, the Department of Agriculture offices and other public areas. This amounts to approximately 60 trees of various shapes and sizes.

The Capitol Architect, members of Congress, and the Speaker of the House hold an elaborate tree lighting ceremony in early December. Members from the local community sponsoring the tree usually pay their way to come to Washington, D.C. to attend the celebration. I will host an afternoon reception prior to the lighting, then all proceed to the Capitol ceremony. This is followed by an evening reception given by the hosting State's congressional officials.

Please include the following criteria in your nomination packet:

1. What year (2003-2007) your unit would like to provide the tree and why?
2. Special events, celebrations, or anniversaries coinciding with the selection of the Forest for that year.
3. Geographical location and nearness to public transportation facilities.
4. Interest and support by the local community, elected officials, and other organizations in your State.

The year 2005 will have major significance to us as an Agency. On February 1, 1905, management of the forest reserves passed from the General Land Office in the Department of the Interior to the Bureau of Forestry in the Department of the Agriculture. Also, our name was changed from the Bureau of Forestry to the USDA Forest Service on July 1, 1905.



Page 2

The Forest Service will be celebrating these two events in 2005, much like the 1991 Centennial celebration of the National Forest System. It should be an eventful year with the national holiday tree as the symbol of the historic series of events.

I will designate a committee to review the nominations and recommend the selections for 2003-2007. If you need additional information about what is involved in providing the tree, please contact the National Coordinator of the Capitol Holiday Tree, Beverly Carroll, in the Office of Communication at 202-205-6208 or email at beverly.carroll@fs.fed.us. Enclosed is some background information for your use.

Completed nominations should be received in the WO Office of Communication, attn: Beverly Carroll, by June 15, 2000.



MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

Enclosure

cc:
Deputy Chiefs
Station Directors
Area Director
IITF Director



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1300

Date: MAY 17, 2000

Grant Gregory, Chairman
National Forest Foundation
1050 17th Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Grant:

Recently you forwarded a letter to me dated April 28, 2000, which submitted a list of qualified nominees for Secretary Glickman's consideration. I have some issues with that letter which I believe should be clarified. The Foundation characterized the list of qualified individuals as the only nominees to be considered by Secretary Glickman. This misstates my understanding of the list of qualified individuals. While I concur that the list of nominees is well qualified, it limits the Secretary's decision space. We have forwarded your recommendations and all other nominees that were considered in this process.

I want to take this opportunity to thank you and the President for your assistance, commitment and guidance in this process. If you would like to further discuss this issue please call me at my office.

Sincerely,

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

cc: William Possiel, President
National Forest Foundation





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 6140-5
Route To:

Date:

MAY 18 2000

Subject: Chief's Ecosystem Management Award

To: Forest Supervisor, Tonto National Forest

Congratulations on your selection to receive the Ecosystem Management Chief's Award for 2000 for your project, "Tonto Creek Riparian Unit."

This project is not only an outstanding example of the development of new approaches for meeting management challenges in ecosystem management, but it is an outstanding example of excellent collaboration among managers, permittees, communities, private organizations, and scientists.

The Chief's Award is \$36,000, which will be transferred to the Forest. The award presentation will be held in Arlington, VA, on the evening of June 5. More details about the transfer of the award money and the presentation will follow.

Again, my congratulations on your selection.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

cc: Regional Forester, Region 3





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 6140-5

Date: MAY 18 2000

Route To:

Subject: Chief's Ecosystem Management Award

To: Forest Supervisor, Fishlake National Forest

Thank you for nominating "Monroe Mountain Ecosystem Restoration Project Analysis" for the Ecosystem Management Award. This project is an outstanding example of ecosystem management, and a nomination for a national award is an honor.

The award will be presented this year to the Tonto National Forest for their "Tonto Creek Riparian Unit" project.

I encourage you and your staff to continue your excellent work in ecosystem management and to nominate additional projects for this award in the future.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

cc: Regional Forester, R-4





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 6140-5

Date: **MAY 18 2000**

Route To:

Subject: Chief's Ecosystem Management Award

To: Forest Supervisor, Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit

Thank you for nominating "Lake Tahoe Watershed Assessment" for the Ecosystem Management Award. This project is an outstanding example of ecosystem management, and a nomination for a national award is an honor.

The award will be presented this year to the Tonto National Forest for their "Tonto Creek Riparian Unit" project.

I encourage you and your staff to continue your excellent work in ecosystem management and to nominate additional projects for this award in the future.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

cc: Regional Forester, R-5





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 6140-5

Date: MAY 18 2000

Route To:

Subject: Chief's Ecosystem Management Award

To: Area Director, Northeastern Area, State and Private Forestry

Thank you for nominating "Northeastern Area Initiative on Sustainable Forest Management" for the Ecosystem Management Award. This project is an outstanding example of ecosystem management, and a nomination for a national award is an honor.

The award will be presented this year to the Tonto National Forest for their "Tonto Creek Riparian Unit" project.

I encourage you and your staff to continue your excellent work in ecosystem management and to nominate additional projects for this award in the future.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 6140-5

Date: MAY 18 2000

Route To:

Subject: Chief's Ecosystem Management Award

To: Director, Southern Research Station

Thank you for nominating "Science-based Management of the Southeastern Aquatic Ecosystems" for the Ecosystem Management Award. This project is an outstanding example of ecosystem management, and a nomination for a national award is an honor.

The award will be presented this year to the Tonto National Forest for their "Tonto Creek Riparian Unit" project.

I encourage you and your staff to continue your excellent work in ecosystem management and to nominate additional projects for this award in the future.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief





United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 6140-5
Route To:

Date: **MAY 18** 2000

Subject: Chief's Ecosystem Management Award

To: Director, Vegetation Management and Protection Research

Thank you for nominating "The Sustainable Development Issues Team (SDIT)" for the Ecosystem Management Award. This project is an outstanding example of ecosystem management, and a nomination for a national award is an honor.

The award will be presented this year to the Tonto National Forest for their "Tonto Creek Riparian Unit" project.

I encourage you and your staff to continue your excellent work in ecosystem management and to nominate additional projects for this award in the future.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief





DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Don Young
Chairman, Committee on Resources
U.S. House of Representatives
1324 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6201

Dear Chairman Young:

This letter represents the views and recommendations of the Department of Agriculture on S. 430, a bill to provide for a land conveyance to Kake Tribal Corporation (Kake Tribal) and for other purposes. I am concerned about the Federal government giving up subsurface mineral estates without just compensation to the American people and creating complex management situations where the Federal government owns the surface estate and other parties own the subsurface estate. I am also concerned about the source of funding for a conservation easement to Kake Corporation.

The Administration has worked diligently with Congress and representatives of the Kake Tribal and the City to prepare legislation that most parties may support. The current reported bill reflects this positive effort. The Department strongly opposes the inclusion of any language into S. 430 that will provide further subsurface interests to Sealaska at the expense of the Federal government and create unacceptable complex mineral estates within the Tongass National Forest.

We believe that Sealaska's mineral interests have been addressed in the current legislation. Sealaska will receive the subsurface interests to the 1389 acres to be conveyed to Kake Tribal. Because the legislation does not count such surface interests against the Kake Tribal's entitlement under Section 16(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), Sealaska will thereby receive additional subsurface interests beyond what it would normally receive pursuant to ANCSA. Additionally, there is no need to convey the subsurface estate held by Sealaska to the lands retained by the Kake Tribal or conveyed to the City. Development of the surface estate can occur by the City and management and protection of the watershed by the Kake Tribal and the City can occur while Sealaska remains the owner of the subsurface estate.

Finally, the Department strongly opposes funding for a conservation easement that would be allotted from any present or future national forest budget allocation, including funding appropriated from Land and Water Conservation Funds. However, if alternative funding is found, the Department would not oppose the purchase of mineral estates from Sealaska with title going to Southeast Alaska Lands Trust.

The Honorable Don Young

2


In summary, the proposed amendments to S. 430 violate the spirit of cooperation in which this Administration has worked with Congress to resolve issues related to watershed protection for the City. I strongly urge that no amendments be passed to S. 430 that would compromise this trust.

Sincerely,

DAN GLICKMAN
Secretary

CLEARANCE SIGNATURES

KAKE TRIBAL CORPORATION LANDS ACT (S. 430)


FS

5/19/00
DATE

OGC

DATE

OBPA

DATE

UNDERSECRETARY NR&E

DATE

OCIR

DATE

OES

DATE

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

DATE

DEPUTY SECRETARY

DATE

SECRETARY

DATE



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1700

Date: MAY 19 2000

Subject: 2000 Chief's Multicultural Organization Award

To: Larry Dawson

Thru: Dale Bosworth
Regional Forester, R1

Congratulations for being selected as the recipient of the 2000 Chief's Multicultural Organization Individual Award. You were nominated along with seven other outstanding groups and/or individuals for this award.

You are invited to attend the awards ceremony scheduled for Monday, June 5, 2000. A pre-reception is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by the awards program, which will include the Chief's Awards as well as the Secretary's Honor Awards for Forest Service recipients.

Although Forest Service funds may not be used for travel costs for guests, they are welcome to attend the ceremony. Please let Brenda Cannon know the name(s) of your invited guests as soon as possible. Brenda can be reached at (202) 205-0838 or via e-mail at bcannon@fs.fed.us. Feel free to call her with any questions you may have about the event.

Building a diverse, multicultural Forest Service organization for the 21st century continues to be one of my top priorities. The work you've accomplished will go a long way in helping me reach this goal. Again, congratulations and I'm looking forward to seeing you at the awards ceremony.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief





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P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1700

Date: MAY 19 2000

Subject: 2000 Chief's Multicultural Organization Group Award

To: Curt Peterson
Director, Human Resource Management

Thru: Jack A. Blackwell
Regional Forester, R4

Congratulations to the Haskell Recruitment Initiative Team for being selected as the recipient of the 2000 Chief's Multicultural Organization Group Award. Your team was nominated along with seven other outstanding groups and/or individuals for this award.

The Team Leader is invited to attend the awards ceremony scheduled for Monday, June 5, 2000. A pre-reception is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m., followed by the awards program, which will include the Chief's Awards as well as the Secretary's Honor Awards for Forest Service recipients.

Although Forest Service funds may not be used for travel costs for guests, they are welcome to attend the ceremony. Please let Brenda Cannon know the name(s) of your invited guests as soon as possible. Brenda can be reached at (202) 205-0838 or via e-mail at bcannon@fs.fed.us. Feel free to call her with any questions you may have about the event.

Building a diverse, multicultural Forest Service organization for the 21st century continues to be one of my top priorities. The work the Haskell Recruitment Initiative Team has accomplished will go a long way in helping me reach this goal. Again, congratulations and I'm looking forward to seeing you at the awards ceremony.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief





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P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1700
Route to:

Date: MAY 19 2000

Subject: 2000 Chief's Multicultural Organization Award

To: Helen Butalla

Thru: Michael T. Rains
Northeastern Area Director

Congratulations on being nominated for the 2000 Chief's Multicultural Organization Award. You were nominated along with seven other outstanding individuals and groups.

Although you were not selected to receive the award, I want you to know that I value your civil rights contributions and the many activities in which you have participated while representing the Forest Service.

Building a diverse, multicultural Agency for the 21st century continues to be one of my top priorities. The work you have done will go a long way in helping me accomplish this goal.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief





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P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1700

Route to:

Date: MAY 19 2000

Subject: 2000 Chief's Multicultural Organization Award

To: Hilliard Gibbs, Jr.

Thru: Peter J. Roussopoulos
Southern Research Station Director

Congratulations on being nominated for the 2000 Chief's Multicultural Organization Award. You were nominated along with seven other outstanding individuals and groups.

Although you were not selected to receive the award, I want you to know that I value your civil rights contributions and the many activities in which you have participated while representing the Forest Service.

Building a diverse, multicultural Agency for the 21st century continues to be one of my top priorities. The work you have done will go a long way in helping me accomplish this goal.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief





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P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1700

Date: MAY 19 2000

Route to:

Subject: 2000 Chief's Multicultural Organization Award

To: Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry Team

Thru: Hal Salwasser
Station Director, Pacific Southwest Research Station

Congratulations on being nominated for the 2000 Chief's Multicultural Organization Award. You were nominated along with seven other outstanding individuals and groups.

Although you were not selected to receive the award, I want you to know that I value your civil rights contributions and the many activities in which you have participated while representing the Forest Service.

Building a diverse, multicultural Agency for the 21st century continues to be one of my top priorities. The work you have done will go a long way in helping me accomplish this goal.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

Hal

*I hope all is well as
your thoughts transition
to Oregon State.*

Mike





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Forest
Service

Washington
Office

14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1700
Route to:

Date: MAY 19 2000

Subject: 2000 Chief's Multicultural Organization Award

To: Tim Quinn

Thru: Jack B. Arthur
IRM Director, WO

Congratulations on being nominated for the 2000 Chief's Multicultural Organization Award. You were nominated along with seven other outstanding individuals and groups.

Although you were not selected to receive the award, I want you to know that I value your civil rights contributions and the many activities in which you have participated while representing the Forest Service.

Building a diverse, multicultural Agency for the 21st century continues to be one of my top priorities. The work you have done will go a long way in helping me accomplish this goal.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief





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P.O. Box 96090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 1700
Route to:

Date: MAY 19 2000

Subject: 2000 Chief's Multicultural Organization Award

To: Law Enforcement & Investigations
Multicultural Advisory Group (MAG)

Thru: William Wasley
Director, Law Enforcement & Investigations, WO

Congratulations on being nominated for the 2000 Chief's Multicultural Organization Award. You were nominated along with seven other outstanding individuals and groups.

Although you were not selected to receive the award, I want you to know that I value your civil rights contributions and the many activities in which you have participated while representing the Forest Service.

Building a diverse, multicultural Agency for the 21st century continues to be one of my top priorities. The work you have done will go a long way in helping me accomplish this goal.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief





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14th & Independence SW
P.O. Box 6090
Washington, DC 20090-6090

File Code: 6100
Route To:

Date: MAY 19 2000

Subject: 2000 Secretary's Honor Awards Program

To: Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Northeastern Area Director, IITF Director
and WO Staff

We are pleased to announce the Forest Service recipients for the 2000 Secretary's Honor Awards. A total of 20 nominations were submitted to the Department and 11 were selected. We can all take pride in these most prestigious awards presented by USDA. The awards were received in the following categories: promoting sensible management of natural resources; outstanding customer service; equal opportunity; emergency response and heroism; and public service.

Forest Service employees were included in three Outstanding Customer Service group awards which were intra-agency:

Y2K Millennium Rollover Team
USDA Workplace Violence Prevention Steering Committee
Continuity of Operations Plan

Secretary Dan Glickman will present the awards at a ceremony which will be held on June 5, 2000, at 1 p.m., at the Ronald Reagan International Trade Center, located at 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C.

The Forest Service will host a reception for the recipients, their family members, and friends, on June 5, 2000, 5:30 p.m., at the Hyatt Arlington, in Rosslyn, Virginia. It is permissible for the local unit to pay for the travel and per diem cost for awardees to come to Washington to accept their award. We encourage family members to accompany awardees; however, field units are not authorized to pay travel expenses for the spouse or family members. For group and team awards, only the group or team leader is authorized to travel at government expense.

Please join me in congratulating our recipients on their dedication to public service and commitment to excellence.

MIKE DOMBECK
Chief

Enclosure

USDA Secretary's Honor Awards 2000



Caring for the Land and Serving People

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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

May 19, 2000

Dr. Michael Dombeck, Chief
Forest Service
United States Department of Agriculture
Washington, DC 20250

Dear Mike:

As you know, fires in New Mexico over the past week have burned more than 65,000 acres in New Mexico and destroyed well over 400 homes. While we commend Forest Service efforts to assist in protecting the lives of New Mexico's citizens, their property, and the public's resources, we are deeply concerned about the potential for future, unnaturally intense, catastrophic fires and their impact on communities in New Mexico and throughout the West.

The events of the past two weeks in New Mexico demonstrate that we cannot simply allow "nature to take its course." The risks to our communities, Native American resources, and public resources are too great. We must take action to protect our communities and the forest resources upon which they depend. Inaction is not an option.

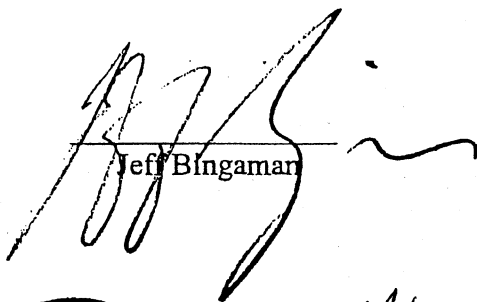
In order to provide adequate, or potentially additional, funding to assist the Forest Service in proactively addressing the risk of catastrophic wildland fires that can threaten communities in the West, as well as the health of our lands and waters, we need your assistance. A good first step in providing us with the information we need is the release of the Forest Service report on the subject currently under review by OMB.

In addition, we would like you to address what actions the Forest Service can undertake to minimize catastrophic fire in the wildland-urban interface; identify appropriate size limitations for thinning of trees; and provide information about specific contractual arrangements that should be employed to most effectively address the risk of wildland fire in the urban-wildland interface.

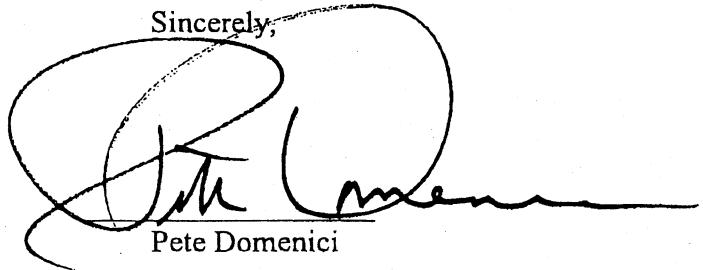
Chief Dombek
May 19, 2000
Page 2

Thank you for your continued interest in the safety of communities and the health of our lands and waters. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



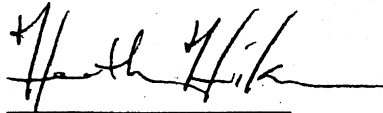
Jeff Bingaman



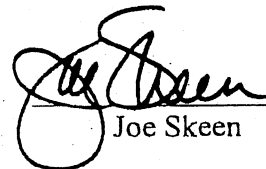
Pete Domenici



Tom Udall



Heather Wilson



Joe Skeen