



File Code: 1230
Route To:

Date: OCT 16 2009

Subject: Activities in Inventoried Roadless Areas

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

REPLY DUE OCTOBER 30, 2009

On May 28, 2009, Secretary Thomas J. Vilsack reserved final decision authority over certain forest management and road construction projects in inventoried roadless areas. The Secretary's Memorandum 1042-154 is intended to assure the careful evaluation of actions in inventoried roadless areas while long term roadless policy is developed and relevant court cases move forward.

On August 3, 2009, I informed you the Forest Service has received re-delegation of authority from the Secretary to authorize –

- a) Approval of any necessary timber cutting or removal or any road construction/reconstruction in emergency situations involving wildfire suppression, search and rescue operations, or other imminent threats to public health and safety in inventoried roadless areas. The local line officer is delegated authority to make these decisions.
- b) Approval of any timber cutting, sale, or removal in inventoried roadless areas incidental to the implementation of an existing special use authorization. Road construction/reconstruction is not authorized through this re-delegation without further project specific review. The local line officer is delegated authority to make these decisions.

On October 2, 2009, the Secretary re-delegated authority to the Forest Service for the cutting, sale, or removal of generally small diameter timber when needed for one of the following purposes:

- c) To improve threatened, endangered, proposed, or sensitive species habitat; or
- d) To maintain or restore the characteristics of ecosystem composition and structure, such as to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire effects within the range of variability that would be expected to occur under natural disturbance regimes of the current climatic period; or
- e) For administrative and personal use, as provided for in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations 223, where personal use includes activities such as Christmas trees and

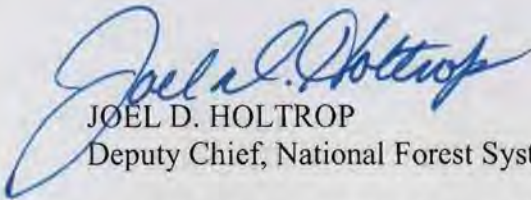


firewood cutting and where administrative use includes providing materials for activities such as construction of trails, footbridges, and fences.

Please be sure that your staff and especially your line officers are made aware of the existing Secretary's Memorandum and the above re-delegations. Advance communication and coordination with this office on all activities associated with roadless projects is essential.

Please review the list of projects you have submitted for Secretarial approval, and remove any project where the authority has been fully re-delegated back to the Forest Service. For those proposed projects still requiring Secretarial approval, please narrow your list to those projects that are urgent in nature and require consideration for approval within the next 90 days. I remind you that our intent is to protect and conserve roadless areas while permitting important restoration and management activities to go forward. It is my continued expectation that you review and approve all requests prior to submission. You will have the opportunity to submit additional projects on a quarterly basis.

Continue to coordinate your submissions and requests for instructions or clarifications regarding activities in inventoried roadless areas through Planning Specialist Bill Supulski of the Ecosystem Management Coordination staff at (202) 205-0948. The Secretary's Memorandum and my August 3, 2009 letter are available at <http://roadless.fs.fed.us>. Final decisions to forward these projects to the Secretary will be made through the Deputy Chief, National Forest System.



JOEL D. HOLTROP
Deputy Chief, National Forest System

cc: Greg Smith, Richard Sowa, Gloria Manning

