



File Code: 3200/1560

Date: October 20, 2010

Various
Various
Various, AK 99801

Dear [Tribal Member]:

I would like to inform you of a new authority known as the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program (CFP). This authority authorizes the Forest Service to provide financial assistance grants directly to Tribal Governments, local governments, and qualified nonprofits so that they may establish, through the purchase of private forest lands, community forests. The community forests created under this authority must provide continuing and accessible community benefits. The proposed rule for implementing this authority is being developed by the Cooperative Forestry Staff, State and Private Forestry. The Forest Service has established a 120-day consultation period, which will conclude February 20, 2011.

A briefing paper describing the Community Forest and Open Space Conservation Program is attached. The proposed rule will be codified as 36 CFR230, Subpart A, and can be viewed at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/>. The authorizing language, Section 8003 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-234), is also available at this site. Two subject experts are available to respond to questions about the proposed rule. Dr. Charles Krebs, Region 10's Director for State & Private Forestry, may be reached at (503) 808-2340 or at ckrebs@fs.fed.us or James Geiger, Region 5, 6, & 10's Forest Legacy Program Manager, may be reached at (503) 759-1746 or at jgeiger@fs.fed.us. Federally Recognized Tribes may also contact their local district ranger to request consultation on the proposed rule. Please send your comments to the following address by February 20, 2011:

Jim Geiger
Forest Legacy Program Manager
Regions 5, 6 & 10
US Forest Service
1731 Research Park Dr., #203
Davis, CA 95618
Fax: 530-756-4324

The Forest Service welcomes your input on this new authority related to Community Forests and Open Space.

Sincerely,

/s/ Beth G. Pendleton
BETH G. PENDLETON
Regional Forester

Enclosure

