



**File Code:** 1230

**Date:** June 10, 2011

**Route To:**

**Subject:** Secretary's Re-delegation of Authority for Certain Activities in Inventoried Roadless Area

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

On May 30, 2011, Secretary Thomas J. Vilsack renewed his reservation of final decision authority over certain forest management and road construction projects in inventoried roadless areas. The Secretary's Memorandum 1042-156 affects only the process by which such activities are authorized. It does not alter or prescribe any substantive standards for the management of such areas. Any project authorized through the process established by this Secretary's Memorandum must comply with all applicable laws, including, but not limited to, the National Environmental Policy Act. The Secretary wants to assure the careful evaluation of actions in inventoried roadless areas while long term roadless policy is developed and relevant court cases move forward. His memorandum is enclosed.

As clarification, the Chief has not reserved any of the re-delegations granted by the Secretary in the memorandum to himself. The appropriate responsible official may make the decision covered by the re-delegated authorizations to the Chief in the memorandum.

Additionally, the Secretary's May 30, 2011, re-delegation provides for personal free use decisions under Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 223.10 to Alaskan settlers, miners, residents, and prospectors. These free use authorizations should only be issued in inventoried roadless areas when needs cannot be met in the roaded land base on the Chugach and Tongass National Forests. When personal use timber is collected from inventoried roadless areas, it shall be done in a way that maximizes the protection of roadless character, wildlife habitat, recreation, and other values associated with roadless areas.

Please be sure that your staff and especially your line officers are made aware of the renewed Secretary's Memorandum. Advance communication and coordination with this office on all activities associated with projects in inventoried roadless areas is essential and should continue as currently conducted.

Contact the Roadless Area Coordinator Steve Cossette at (202) 205-1791 if you need further clarification.

*/s/ James M. Peña (for)*

JOEL D. HOLTROP

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Enclosure

