



Forest  
Service

Eastern Region

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File Code: 2450  
Date: October 1, 2025

To: Timber Sale Purchasers and Bidders  
Subject: Electronic Funds Transfer

This letter is to inform you of [Executive Order #14247](#), "Modernizing Payments to and from America's Bank Account," signed March 25, 2025, which mandates the transition from paper-based payments to electronic payment methods for federal disbursements, effective September 30, 2025.

Executive Order #14247 aims to modernize how the federal government handles financial transactions. The order looks to:

- Enhance security: Reduce risks associated with paper payments, such as fraud and theft.
- Increase efficiency: Streamline payment processes to save time and costs associated with paper checks.
- Promote digital payments: Transition to electronic funds transfers (EFT) for all disbursements including benefits payments, vendor payments, and tax refunds.

The key provision of the order is to phase out paper checks. Effective September 30, 2025, federal agencies must cease issuing paper checks for all disbursements, transitioning to electronic payment methods such as direct deposits and electronic funds transfer (EFT). While the order emphasizes a digital first approach, it recognizes that not everyone has equal access to banking services and exceptions may be granted. Individuals may request a waiver from the EFT requirement if the payment by EFT would impose a hardship. As an individual payment recipient, you may claim a hardship for one of the following:

- (1) the individual's inability to manage an account at a financial institution or a Treasury-sponsored account due to mental impairment, or
- (2) Due to the individual living in a remote geographic location lacking the infrastructure to support EFT payments.

Hardship requests need directed to the U.S. Treasury Electronic Payment Solution Center at 1-877-874-6347. If you obtain approval from the Department of Treasury, you must provide the documentation to your local agency contact so that it can be documented in our system.



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The United States Department of Agriculture will require that you provide the Forest Service your current bank routing and bank account information to receive any future contract refunds so that the system can be updated and transition from paper checks. Bidders and Purchasers can contact their local timber contracting officer for methods of providing EFT information. This can be done through the following methods:

- (1) Registration in the System for Award Management (SAM). Registration is currently voluntary for sale of property contracts but provides a secure method of transmission of EFT information. This information is not passed on to the Forest Service directly but is linked through the Department of Agriculture's financial system to the U.S. Department of the Treasury. No further action is required for contract holders who are already registered in SAM. Instructions for SAM registration can be found at <https://usfcr.com/registrations/about-sam/>.
- (2) Contract holders not registered in SAM will provide EFT information directly to the Forest Service via email to the ASC CFO B&F Billings Timber Sale Accounting staff at [sm.fs.asc\\_tsa@usda.gov](mailto:sm.fs.asc_tsa@usda.gov).

To submit information through the ASC CFO B&F Billings Timber Sale Accounting staff, use the email address listed above and include the following information:

- (1) Business name – ensure it is the official business name.
- (2) Account routing number
- (3) Account number

In addition, if you do not expect to have multiple payments within a one-year period on a regular, recurring basis, a waiver request does not need to be made. However, Treasury will monitor the number of checks being disbursed across agencies for vendors and request that we confirm the payments are single non-regular and non-recurring. If it appears that a vendor is in non-compliance with the one-time payment exception, future payments will need to be EFT.

It is important to note the methods for Purchasers to make payments to the Forest Service have not changed. If you have any questions regarding this enclosure, please contact me at 218-214-1801 or [natha.cochran@usda.gov](mailto:natha.cochran@usda.gov).

Sincerely,

*Nathan K Cochran*

NATHAN K COCHRAN  
Contracting Officer