

**File Code:** 2430**Date:** January 15, 2026**Route To:****Subject:** Notice of Decision for 5 Year Recomputation**To:** Bitterroot National Forest Timber Purchasers and Interested Parties

In my letter of December 1, 2025, you were notified of the proposed small business share for the Bitterroot Market Area of the Bitterroot National Forest as the result of the regularly scheduled five-year recomputation. The share was recomputed after consultation with the Small Business Administration and in accordance with procedures governing the SBA program as outlined in Forest Service Handbook 2409.18, Chapter 90. Comments were solicited from qualifying timber sale purchasers and interested parties. A thirty-day review and comment period was provided to give you an opportunity to address the proposed share and the information used in the recomputation analysis.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Small Business Timber Sale Set-Aside Program, I have considered the comments received and have made my decision for the final share percentage.

DECISION:

It is my decision to establish the small business share of 79 percent for the Bitterroot Market Area of the Bitterroot National Forest as a result of the regularly scheduled five-year recomputation. In addition, zero ccf volume will be carried forward. This decision is effective for the period beginning October 1, 2025.

ISSUES IDENTIFIED and RESPONSE:

Contacts were made by letter with individuals, firms and associations that might have been affected by the recomputation of small business shares. One written comment was received from small business. The comment received was in support of the market share increase to 79 percent, stating that small businesses play a vital role in maintaining a competitive market for timber sales.

APPEAL OPPORTUNITY:

Small business share decisions may be appealed under 36 CFR 223.118 which governs the appeal process for small business timber sale program share recomputations. As defined in 36 CFR 223.118(c), only those timber sale purchasers, or their representatives, who are affected by the recomputation of the small business share of timber sales **and** who submitted pre-decisional written comments may appeal the final decision made by the Forest Supervisor. If comments were submitted only through an association but not by the individual member, the individual may be ineligible to appeal the decision or file comments on an appeal.



This decision may be appealed pursuant to 36 CFR 223.118 by filing a written or electronic notice of appeal to:

Regional Forester, Northern Region
Attn: Dave Clay
david.clay@usda.gov
26 Fort Missoula Rd
Missoula, MT 59804

Any written Notice of Appeal of this decision must be fully consistent with 36 CFR 223.118(f), Content of Notice of Appeal, must include reasons for appeal and must be postmarked by February 4, 2026 which is 20 days from the date of this notice of decision.

The Forest Service administers the Small Business Timber Sale Program under provisions outlined in Forest Service Manual FSM 2439 and Forest Service Handbook FSH 2409.18, Chapter 90. You may obtain information on the share recomputation and appeal procedures from the Forest Supervisor's Office or the Small Business Administration Representative:

Contracting Officer, Bitterroot National Forest Attn: Jarret Winningham 1801 North First Street Hamilton, MT 59840 william.winningham@usda.gov 406.303.1802	SBA Timber Program timber@sba.gov
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MATTHEW D. ANDERSON
Forest Supervisor

cc: Jarret Winningham