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

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

On May 28, 2010, Secretary Thomas J. Vilsack renewed his reservation of final decision authority over certain forest management and road construction projects in inventoried roadless areas. The new Secretary's Memorandum 1042-155 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 24, 2010, re-delegation for personal free use decisions under 36 CFR §223.10 to Alaskan settlers, miners, residents, and prospectors remains in effect. 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 manner 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 Planning Specialist Bill Supulski on the Ecosystem Management Coordination Staff at (202) 205-0948 if you need further clarification.

Gloria Manning

for JOEL D. HOLTROP
Deputy Chief, National Forest System

cc: Tony Tooke, Tom Peterson, Gloria Manning, Bill Supulski

