



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Washington
Office

1400 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20250

File Code: 6220

Date:

Ms. Esther H. Vassar
National Ombudsman and Assistant Administrator for
Regulatory Enforcement Fairness
Office of the National Ombudsman
409 3rd Street, SW
MC 2120
Washington, DC 20416-0005

MAR 26 2013

Dear Ombudsman Vassar:

This letter is in response to your inquiry dated December 11, 2012, on behalf of Mr. Al Kington, owner of Kington Management Systems, regarding Forest Service proposed policy changes to the Small Business Timber Sale Set-aside Program.

As you are aware, on August 1, 2006, the Forest Service issued a notice of proposed policy directive; request for public comment regarding the Small Business Timber Sale Set-Aside Program Share Recomputation (71 FR 43435; with corrections issued 71 FR 45519 and 71 FR 57462). The final policy directive was never issued.

A new proposed policy directive is being developed. It will be made available for public review and comment, and it will include the proposed 2006 changes. Specifically, this new proposed policy directive will:

1. Include volumes sold or disposed of via stewardship contracting in the volumes used to calculate market shares pursuant to the small business timber sale set-aside program;
2. Remove structural change recomputation direction as one of the means of recomputing timber sale set-aside market share allocation to small business mills within a market area; and
3. Change the appraisal point (location) for Small Business Administration set-aside sales.

We do not have a publication date for the new proposed policy directive, but expect it to be sometime this year.

Sincerely,

ANDRIA WEEKS
Director, Office of Regulatory and Management Services