



UNITED STATES OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT  
Washington, DC 20415

Human Capital Leadership  
and Merit System  
Accountability Division

Ms. Roberta Purcell  
Director, Office of Human Capital Management  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Ave, SW  
Washington, DC 20250-0103

Dear Ms. Purcell:

The U. S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM) has approved your August 2, 2007, request for an exception to waive the 1040-hour limitation for approximately 2500 employees of the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), that are engaged in meeting critical wildland fire suppression needs on lands and forests owned and administered by the USDA. This waiver is valid through December 31, 2007, and will enable these employees to work more than 1040 hours in a service year and continue to be excluded from time limits in 5 CFR 213.104(b)(1) and 316.401(c).

OPM is approving this request under 5 CFR 213.104(b)(3)(i) and 5 CFR 316.401(d)(2) based on the critical nature of the work that is being carried out during the 2007 fire season, which has been particularly severe, especially in the Western United States. This approval will enable these agencies to continue providing critical support for firefighting activities to meet the expectations and needs of the American public.

A copy of this letter should be placed in the Official Personnel Folder of each affected employee. If you have any questions, please contact Lynn Matherly, your Human Capital Officer, at (214) 880-4989 or by email at [Lynn.Matherly@opm.gov](mailto:Lynn.Matherly@opm.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kevin E. Mahoney".

Kevin E. Mahoney  
Associate Director  
Human Capital Leadership  
and Merit System Accountability