



File Code: 1300/1900-1

Date: May 22, 2003

Rene Voss
John Muir Project/Earth Island Institute
P.O. Box 11236
Takoma Park, MD 20912

Dear Mr. Voss:

We received your request of March 10, 2003, "Request for Correction of Information Contained in the Initial Data Set for Timber Harvest Effects Monitoring", related to the Forest Service's proposed limited timber categorical exclusions. Your request was submitted under the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Information Quality Guidelines. You filed this Request for Correction along with the Sierra Club and Heartwood. Your comments were directed at the January 8, 2003, Federal Register Notice at pages 1026-1030. You also provided this request concurrently with your comments submitted in response to the Federal Register Notice.

You requested "the correction of data and information used to monitor timber sales and suggested that the technique of 'measurements' must be used in place of 'observation' to comply with the USDA Information Quality Guidelines." The USDA guidelines regarding request for correction when there has been a public comment process provide: "Requests for correction of information shall be made during the comment period for that action and, the agency's response will normally be incorporated in the next document it issues concerning the matter". The Forest Service is in the process of considering all responses received on the notice of proposed Categorical Exclusions. The Forest Service response to your petition will be forthcoming in the Federal Register with publication of the final agency National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) procedures expected by the end of July. The thorough consideration provided by the public comment process serves the purpose of the Information Quality Guidelines. This process also has the advantage of placing our response in the context of other comments in a venue that is familiar and accessible to the public.

If, after publication of the final agency NEPA procedures, you are dissatisfied with this decision, you may file a request for reconsideration within 45 days by overnight delivery service, letter, fax, or email to:

USDA Forest Service
Data Quality Team Leader, ORMS Staff
Mail Stop 2030 1S Yates Building
14th & Independence Avenue SW
Washington D.C. 20250-2030

Phone 202 205 2938
FAX 202 260 6539
Email gcontreras@fs.fed.us



Persons requesting reconsideration should submit written material to support their case for reconsideration, as well as a copy of the information originally submitted to support the request for correction and a copy of the Forest Service response. Requests for Reconsideration filed after the 45-day deadline may be denied as untimely.

Details on how to file a request for reconsideration can be found on the USDA website: http://www.ocio.usda.gov/irm/qi_guide/index/html. The request for reconsideration should reference this letter and follow the “Procedures for Requesting Reconsideration of USDA’s Decision”.

If you should have additional questions please contact Glen Contreras, Data Quality Team Leader at (202) 205-2938, gcontreras@fs.fed.us, or Sharon Friedman, Ecosystem Management Staff at (202) 205-0939, sfriedman@fs.fed.us. We appreciate your continued interest in Forest Service activities.

Sincerely,

/s/ Frederick Norbury
FREDERICK NORBURY
Director, Ecosystem Management Coordination

cc: Data Quality Team Leader