



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Southwestern Region
Regional Office

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File Code: 6270-1-1

Date: June 25, 2009

Scott C. Addison
Coordinator
Free Assembly Project
9858 Rivermont Dr.
St. Louis, MO 63137

Freedom of Information Request Control No. 338 – Request for Expedited Processing

Dear Mr. Scott Addison:

This letter is to respond to your request for expedited processing, which was received on June 18, 2009 by the Santa Fe National Forest FOIA Request Center. You requested expedited processing of your FOIA request “Due to ongoing events and the timely nature of this information....” Expedited processing is granted to requesters primarily engaged in disseminating information who show a “compelling need” for such. Under the FOIA and agency regulations, such requesters can show a “compelling need” by establishing that there is “an urgency to inform the public about an actual or alleged federal government activity.” Ordinarily this means a breaking news story of general public interest. A news media publication or broadcast deadline unrelated to the news breaking nature of the information does not meet the test of urgency. Because the Rainbow Gathering is only of interest to the public in a limited geographic area, we have determined that your request for expedited processing meets neither the criteria nor the requirements for expedited treatment.

The FOIA provides you the right to appeal my decision to deny your request for expedited processing. Any appeal must be made in writing to the Chief, USDA, Forest Service, Mail Stop 1143, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-1143, and be received by the Chief within 45 days of the date of this letter. The term "FOIA APPEAL" should be placed in capital letters on the front of the envelope or on the subject line of an email to wo_foia@fs.fed.us. To facilitate the processing of your appeal, please include a copy of this letter and/or reference the FOIA control number 338.



To check on the status of your FOIA request, please contact Sara Campney, Santa Fe National Forest, FOIA Public Liaison, at (505) 438-5445 or scampney@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

/s/ Faye L. Krueger (for)
CORBIN L. NEWMAN, JR.
Regional Forester

cc: Daniel Jiron
Erin Connelly