

PCU_/\ Free Assembly Project*St. Louis, Missouri* *www.FREE-ASSEMBLY.ORG**~ an Association of Volunteers*

24 March 2022

USDA Office of Information Affairs
Washington, DC

Alexis Graves, OIA Director

Email: USDAFOIA@usda.gov

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST ~**re: Proceedings on CFR Petition per 5 U.S.C. §553(e)**

Ms. Graves & FOIA Staff:

This is a Request under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. §552, concerning our [Petition to Amend a National Forest Regulation](#), as resubmitted to the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment (NRE) by [letter dated 12 September 2021](#), and related proceedings in conjunction with the Office of the USFS Chief. Please provide the following documents:

- 1) *NRE & USFS staff notifications & memos upon and after receipt of the Petition package via certified mail and in digital format via email in mid-September 2021.*
- 2) *Meeting requests received and related correspondence on the scope and scheduling of virtual meetings with stakeholders; agency communications and directives delegating such meetings and the preliminary review of the proposed rulemaking to selected USDA-FS staff.*
- 3) *Reports on this matter from the designated USFS staff under the direction of Deputy Chief Christopher French, and recommendations received at NRE after the March 1 meeting concerning the assessment and disposition of this proposal.*
- 4) *Deliberations in the Office of the Secretary and NRE on the legal & policy substance of the Petition, decision memos on the prospective review & rulemaking process, and the requisite "Workplan" pursuant to Departmental Regulation 1512-1, §3d.*

This FOIA Request is directed to the Office of Information Affairs (OIA) because this is a USDA regulatory matter within the purview of the Office of the Secretary and NRE. The items requested involve current discussions & staff and should be readily available, posing no problems in search.

Please expedite this Request because it is time-sensitive, with a pending appeal for policy relief now before the agency. The Petition & conveyance letter are safely linked above for your reference.

We affirm that this information is sought "for the general use and benefit of the public", qualifying for waiver of FOIA fees. The Forest Service has long recognized **PCU_/\ Free Assembly Project** in these purposes, and in the past has granted exemption from fees under FOIA provisions.

Please confirm receipt of this Request and assign a tracking number promptly. It is conveyed via email as instructed, attached in clean PDF format... responsive documents may be

Page 2 of 2

provided in the same way, with care to keep scanned documents to modest resolution and file size, for ease of handling and archiving as public information.

You can contact me by phone for fast clarification on the scope of this Request, and I can identify key staff involved in this matter to date, if that is helpful.

Please advise on your most efficient timeframe for this information.

Thank you for your assistance.

Respectfully,



scottie addison, Coordinator

██████████ - St. Louis, MO 63137

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