

§ 223.136

a contract term adjustment, an existing timber sale contract with these purchasers, unless the Chief of the Forest Service or authorized representative determines, in writing, that there is a compelling reason for such action.

(b) In addition to the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section, persons debarred pursuant to § 223.137(g) shall be prohibited from entering into any contract to purchase unprocessed timber from Federal lands and shall also be precluded from taking delivery of Federal timber purchased by another person for the period of debarment.

[60 FR 46921, Sept. 8, 1995]

§ 223.136 Debarment.

(a) *General.* In accordance with the procedures in § 223.138, the debarring official may in the public interest, debar a purchaser for any of the causes listed in § 223.137. However, the existence of a cause for debarment does not necessarily require that the purchaser be debarred. In making any debarment decision, the debarring official shall consider the seriousness of the purchaser's acts or omissions and any mitigating factors.

(b) *Effect of proposed debarment.* (1) Upon issuance of a notice of proposed debarment by the debarring official and until the final debarment decision is rendered, the Forest Service shall not solicit or consider bids from, award contracts to, approve a third party agreement with, renew or otherwise extend, except pursuant to the terms of a contract term adjustment, any contract with that purchaser. The Chief of the Forest Service or authorized representative may waive this exclusion upon a written determination identifying compelling reasons to continue doing business with that purchaser pending completion of debarment proceedings.

(2) In addition to paragraph (b)(1) of this section, issuance of a notice of proposed debarment under § 223.137(g) shall preclude such person from entering into any contract to purchase unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands, and from taking delivery of unprocessed Federal timber from any

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other party who purchased such timber.

[52 FR 43329, Nov. 12, 1987, as amended at 60 FR 46921, Sept. 8, 1995]

§ 223.137 Causes for debarment.

The debarring official may debar a purchaser for any of the following causes:

(a) Conviction of or civil judgment for:

(1) Theft, forgery, bribery, embezzlement, falsification or destruction of records, making false statements, or receiving stolen property;

(2) Fraud, a criminal offense, or violation of Federal or State antitrust laws, any of which occurred in connection with obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public contract or subcontract.

(3) Any other offense indicating a lack of business integrity or honesty that seriously and directly affects the present responsibility of the purchaser.

(b) A purchaser's debarment from the purchase of timber by another Federal agency which sells timber.

(c) Cutting and/or removal of more than incidental volumes of timber not designated for the purchaser's cutting from a national forest.

(d) Substantial violation of the terms of one or more Forest Service timber sale contracts so serious as to justify debarment, such as:

(1) Willful failure to perform in accordance with contract; or

(2) A history of failure to perform contract terms; or of unsatisfactory performance of contract terms.

(e) Among actions the Forest Service regards as so serious as to justify debarment under paragraph (d) of this section are willful violation or repeated failure to perform National Forest System timber sale contract provisions relating to the following:

(1) Fire suppression, fire prevention, and the disposal of slash;

(2) Protection of soil, water, wildlife, range, cultural, and timber resources and protection of improvements when such failure causes significant environmental, resource, or improvements damage;

(3) Removal of designated timber when such failure causes substantial