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AUTHORITY: 90 Stat. 2958, 16 U.S.C. 472a; 98 Stat. 2213, 16 U.S.C. 618, 104 Stat. 714-726, 16 U.S.C. 620-620j, 113 Stat. 1501a, 16 U.S.C. 528 note; unless otherwise noted.

SOURCE: 42 FR 28252, June 2, 1977, unless otherwise noted. Redesignated at 49 FR 2760, Jan. 23, 1984.

Subpart A—General Provisions

§ 223.1 Authority to sell timber.

Trees, portions of trees, and other forest products on National Forest System lands may be sold for the purpose of achieving the policies set forth in the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960, as amended (74 Stat. 215; 16 U.S.C. 528-531), and the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended (88 Stat. 476; as amended, 16 U.S.C. 1600-1614), and the Program thereunder.

§ 223.2 Disposal of timber for administrative use.

Trees, portions of trees, or other forest products in any amount on National Forest System lands may be disposed of for administrative use, by sale or without charge, as may be most advantageous to the United States, subject to the maximum cut fixed in accordance with established policies for management of the National Forests. Such administrative use shall be limited to the following conditions and purposes:

(a) For construction, maintenance or repair of roads, bridges, trails, telephone lines, fences, recreation areas or other improvements of value for the protection or the administration of Federal lands.

(b) For fuel in Federal camps, buildings and recreation areas.

(c) For research and demonstration projects.

(d) For use in disaster relief work conducted by public agencies.

(e) For disposal when removal is desirable to protect or enhance multiple-use values in a particular area.

§ 223.3 Sale of seized material.

Seized material (trees, portions of trees or other forest products cut in trespass from National Forest System lands) may be sold to the highest bidder under specific authorization from the Regional Forester. If advertisement is impractical, sales of material with an appraised value of less than \$10,000 will be made on informal bids.

§ 223.4 Exchange of trees or portions of trees.

Trees or portions of trees may be exchanged for land under laws authorizing the exchange of National Forest timber. Cutting of exchange timber must comply with the purposes cited in § 223.1.

(42 Stat. 465, 16 U.S.C. 485; 43 Stat. 1215, 16 U.S.C. 516)

§ 223.5 Scope of free use granted to individuals.

(a) Free use may be granted to individuals for firewood for personal use, except that such use may be limited to bona fide settlers, miners, residents

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and prospectors living within or immediately adjacent to the National Forest when the available supply is insufficient to meet the total demand. Free use may be granted to such bona fide settlers, miners, residents and prospectors for minerals, for fencing, building, mining, prospecting and domestic purposes.

(Sec. 1, 30 Stat. 35, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 477, 551)

(b) Free use will be granted individuals primarily to aid in the protection and silvicultural improvement of the forests. Except in unusual cases, the material will be restricted to dead, insect-infested, or diseased timber, logging debris, and thinnings. Other material may be granted in unusual cases where its refusal would cause unwarranted hardship. Where limited supply or other conditions justify such action, the free use of green material may be refused.

§ 223.6 Cutting and removal of timber in free-use areas.

Supervisors may designate portions or all of a National Forest as free-use areas where such action is compatible with land management plans and shall give public notice of their action. Within such free-use areas, any dead timber or any green timber previously marked or designated by forest officers may be cut and removed for personal use for domestic purposes. Cutting and removal of timber in free-use areas shall be in accordance with such rules as may be prescribed by the district ranger to prevent fires, minimize damage to uncut trees and other resources, and to avoid confusion among users.

[42 FR 28252, June 2, 1977, as amended at 44 FR 73029, Dec. 17, 1979. Redesignated at 49 FR 2760, Jan. 23, 1984]

§ 223.7 Permission for free use of timber outside free-use areas.

Similar material may be cut outside of a free-use area without permit in cases of emergency, but the person taking such material shall promptly notify the district ranger. Small quantities of material needed by transients while in the forest may also be taken without permit; subject to such rules as may be prescribed pursuant to

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§ 261.70. In all other cases permits will be required for green material.

§ 223.8 Delegations of authority to approve free use by individuals.

(a) Forest officers whom the supervisor may designate are authorized to grant free use of timber to individuals up to \$200 in value in any one fiscal year. Supervisors may grant permits for material not exceeding \$5,000 in value. Regional Foresters may approve permits for larger amounts, and in times of emergency may delegate authority to supervisors for not over \$10,000 in value. Prior review by the Chief of the Forest Service will be given if the amount involved exceeds \$10,000 in value.

(b) Regional Foresters may authorize supervisors to permit the removal of specific classes of material without scaling or measurement.

[42 FR 28252, June 2, 1977. Redesignated at 49 FR 2760, Jan. 23, 1984, as amended at 71 FR 525, Jan. 4, 2006]

§ 223.9 Free use to owners of certain mining claims.

Free use will be granted to an owner of a mining claim located subsequent to July 23, 1955, or of a mining claim which is otherwise subject to Section 4 of the Act of July 23, 1955 (69 Stat. 367), if at any time said claim owner requires more timber for his mining operations, in connection with that claim, than is available on that claim because of Forest Service timber disposal therefrom subsequent to location of that claim. He will be granted, free of charge, timber from the nearest National Forest land which is ready for harvesting under the applicable management plan, substantially equivalent in kind and quantity to that estimated by the Forest Service to have been cut under Forest Service authorization from the claim subsequent to its location. Forest officers may be delegated authority to grant amounts of timber not in excess of those which these officers are authorized to sell in commercial sales.

(Sec. 4, 69 Stat. 368, 16 U.S.C. 612)

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§ 223.10 Free use to Alaskan settlers, miners, residents, and prospectors.

Bona fide settlers, miners, residents, and prospectors for minerals in Alaska may take free of charge green or dried timber from the National Forests in Alaska for personal use but not for sale. Permits will be required for green saw timber. Other material may be taken without permit. The amount of material granted to any one person in 1 year shall not exceed 10,000 board feet of saw timber and 25 cords of wood, or an equivalent volume in other forms. Persons obtaining materials shall, on demand, forward to the supervisor a statement of the quantity taken and the location from which it was removed.

(Sec. 1, 30 Stat. 35, 16 U.S.C. 477)

§ 223.11 Free use to other Federal agencies.

(a) National Forest timber will be granted free of charge to other branches of the Federal Government when authorized by law. Permits may be approved by forest officers for amounts not greater than they are otherwise authorized to sell.

(b) Permits for timber issued hereunder shall be in accordance with the conditions prescribed in § 223.30. The permittee may be required to report to the supervisor the amount of timber, by species, actually cut or may be required to furnish scalers for work under the direction of the forest officers in charge or, if authorized, to provide funds for the employment by the Forest Service of scalers to scale or measure the timber cut. The permittee may be required to dispose of the slash as cutting proceeds, or to employ people to work under the direction of a forest officer in disposing of the slash, or, if authorized, to provide funds for the employment of people for slash disposal under the direction of a forest officer.

(38 Stat. 1100, as amended; 16 U.S.C. 492)

§ 223.12 Permission to cut, damage, or destroy trees without advertisement.

Permission may be granted to cut, damage, or destroy trees, portions of trees, or other forest products on Na-

tional Forest System lands without advertisement when necessary for the occupancy of a right-of-way or other authorized use of National Forest System land. Payment for timber of merchantable size and quality will be required at its appraised value, but at not less than applicable minimum prices established by Regional Foresters, and payment will be required for young growth timber below merchantable size at its damage appraisal value. Payment will not be required:

(a) For timber necessarily killed or cut in connection with land uses which are of substantial benefit to the National Forests;

(b) For timber necessarily killed or cut and used by the permittee which would have been granted free under other applicable regulations; or

(c) For timber which will be cut by the permittee which the Forest Service retains for sale in log or other product form.

(Sec. 1, 30 Stat. 35, as amended, 16 U.S.C. 551)

§ 223.13 Compliance.

Forest officers authorizing free use shall ensure that such use is in compliance with applicable land management plans and is conducted in a manner which protects National Forest System resource values.

(92 Stat. 1301, Pub. L. 95-465)

§ 223.14 Where timber may be cut.

(a) The cutting of trees, portions of trees or other forest products may be authorized on any National Forest System lands, except for:

(1) Timber reserved by a grantor of land, during the life of such reservation.

(2) Timber reserved from cutting under other regulations.

(3) Timber on unpatented mining claims located prior to July 23, 1955, unless the claimant has executed a waiver pursuant to section 6 of the Act of July 23, 1955 (69 Stat. 367), or unless pursuant to a proceeding under Section 5 of that Act, the claimant has failed to file a verified statement or has failed to establish the validity and effectiveness of his asserted rights.

(4) Timber on lands identified in land management plans as not suited for

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timber production, except that salvage sales or sales necessitated to protect other multiple-use values may be made.

(b) The cutting of timber on mining claims shall be conducted in such manner as not to endanger or materially interfere with prospecting, mining or processing operations.

(c) Timber on an unpatented claim to which the United States does not otherwise have disposal rights may be disposed of with the written consent of the claimant, or, in emergencies without the consent of the claimant.

(d) Timber on an unpatented claim may be cut by the claimant only for the actual development of the claim or for uses consistent with the purposes for which the claim was entered. Any severance or removal of timber, other than severance or removal to provide clearance, shall be in accordance with plan of operations required by Part 252 of this chapter, and with sound principles of forest management.

(e) With prior approval by the Regional Forester, timber on lands under option by the United States or on offered lands included in an approved land exchange agreement may be sold. Before the sale is made, a cooperative agreement must be made with the owner of the land authorizing the Forest Service to conduct the sale and providing for return of stumpage receipts to the owner if title to the land is not accepted by the United States.

(f) With prior approval by the Regional Forester, cutting of exchange timber described in § 223.4 may be authorized in advance of the acceptance of title to the non-Federal land offered in exchange.

§ 223.15 Provision of trees, portions of trees, or forest products to Indian tribes for traditional and cultural purposes.

(a) Pursuant to section 8105 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Pub. L. 110–246, 122 Stat. 1651) [hereinafter the “2008 Farm Bill”], Regional Foresters or designated Forest Officers may, at their discretion, provide trees, portions of trees, or forest products to Indian tribes free of charge for traditional and cultural purposes provided that:

(1) The trees, portions of trees, or forest products are provided to tribal officials on behalf of an Indian tribe for traditional and cultural purposes; and

(2) The trees, portions of trees, or forest products will not be used for commercial purposes.

(b) The following definitions apply to this section:

Indian tribe. The term “Indian tribe” means any Indian or Alaska Native tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, or other community the name of which is included on a list published by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to section 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 479a–1).

Traditional and cultural purpose. The term “traditional and cultural purpose,” with respect to a definable use, area, or practice, means that the use, area, or practice is identified by an Indian tribe as traditional or cultural because of the long-established significance or ceremonial nature of the use, area, or practice to the Indian tribe.

Tribal officials: The term “tribal officials” means elected or duly appointed officials of Indian tribal governments.

(c) Requests for trees, portions of trees, or forest products made under this section must be submitted to the local Forest Service District Ranger’s Office(s) in writing. Requests may be made:

(1) Directly by a tribal official(s) who has been authorized by the Indian tribe to make such requests; or

(2) By providing a copy of a formal resolution approved by the tribal council or other governing body of the Indian tribe.

(d) Requests for trees, portions of trees, and forest products made under this section must be directed to the appropriate Forest Service District Ranger(s)’ Office from which the items are being requested. Tribal officials are encouraged to explain their requests to the Regional Forester or designated Forest Officer and, if necessary, describe how the request fits a traditional and cultural purpose. When an Indian tribe requests forest products located on two or more National Forests, authorized tribal officials should

notify each of the affected Forest Service District Ranger's Offices of the requests made on other forests.

(e) Agency Line Officers and managers (who have been authorized by name through official Forest Service correspondence) are authorized to provide trees, portions of trees, and forest products under this section subject to the following limitations:

(1) District Rangers and Forest Officers may provide material not exceeding \$25,000 in value in any one fiscal year to an Indian tribe;

(2) Forest Supervisors may provide material not exceeding \$50,000 in value in any one fiscal year to an Indian tribe;

(3) Regional Foresters may provide material not exceeding \$100,000 in value in any one fiscal year to an Indian tribe; and

(4) The Chief of the Forest Service may provide material exceeding \$100,000 in value to an Indian tribe.

(f) A request for trees, portions of trees, or forest products under this section may be conditioned or denied for reasons including, but not limited to the following:

(1) Protecting public health and safety;

(2) Preventing interference with Forest Service and/or commercial operations;

(3) Complying with Federal and State laws and regulations;

(4) Ensuring sustainability; or

(5) Otherwise protecting National Forest System land and resources.

(g) All decisions made under this section must comply with the National Forest Management Act, relevant land management plans, the National Environmental Policy Act, the Endangered Species Act, all other applicable laws and regulations, and are subject to tribal treaty and other reserved rights and the savings provisions of the Cultural and Heritage Cooperation Authority (25 U.S.C. 3057(b)).

[81 FR 65896, Sept. 26, 2016]

Subpart B—Timber Sale Contracts

CONTRACT CONDITIONS AND PROVISIONS

§ 223.30 Consistency with plans, environmental standards, and other management requirements.

The approving officer will insure that each timber sale contract, permit or other authorized form of National Forest timber disposal is consistent with applicable land and resource management plans and environmental quality standards and includes, as appropriate, requirements for:

(a) Fire protection and suppression;

(b) Protection of residual timber;

(c) Regeneration of timber as may be made necessary by harvesting operations;

(d) Minimizing increases in soil erosion;

(e) Providing favorable conditions of water flow and quality;

(f) Utilization of the timber resource to provide for the optimum practical use of the wood material as may be obtained with available technology, considering opportunities to promote more efficient wood utilization, regional conditions and species characteristics;

(g) Reduction of the likelihood of loss to destructive agencies; and

(h) Minimizing adverse effects on, or providing protection for and enhancing other National Forest resources, uses and improvements.

§ 223.31 Duration of contracts.

Sale contracts shall not exceed 10 years in duration, unless there is a finding by the Chief, Forest Service, that better utilization of the various forest resources (consistent with the provisions of the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960) will result.

§ 223.32 Timber sale operating plan.

Sale contracts with a term of 2 years or more shall provide for the filing of an operating plan as soon as practicable after execution of the contract, such plan shall be a part of the contract. The plan of operation shall be general in nature, outlining the expected timing and order of sale development, including such major operations as road construction, felling and

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removal of timber, distribution of timber, and contractual requirements for erosion prevention and slash disposal. The plan of operation and revisions thereto shall be subject to concurrence by the Forest Service.

§ 223.33 Redetermination of stumpage rates and deposits.

Sale contracts exceeding 7 years in duration, and those of shorter duration to the extent found desirable by the approving officer, will provide for the redetermination of rates for stumpage and for required deposits at intervals of not more than 5 years, exclusive of any period allowed for the construction of improvements.

§ 223.34 Advance payment.

Sale contracts shall provide that timber and forest products be paid for in advance of cutting, unless the contract authorizes the purchaser to furnish a payment guarantee satisfactory to the Forest Service. Advance payments found to be in excess of amounts due the United States shall be refunded to the current holder of the contract or to successors in interest. (90 Stat. 2959; 16 U.S.C. 472a.)

[43 FR 38008, Aug. 25, 1978. Redesignated at 49 FR 2761, Jan. 23, 1984]

§ 223.35 Performance bond.

Timber sale contracts may require the purchaser to furnish a performance bond for satisfactory compliance with its terms.

§ 223.36 Volume determination.

(a) Timber sale contracts may provide for volume determination by scaling, measuring, weighing, or counting the logs or other products, or by measuring the trees before cutting. If the contract or permit provides for the determination of volume by tree measurement and the timber has been paid for, the marking or otherwise designating of the tree authorizes cutting and removal. Otherwise no timber cut under any contract shall be removed from the place designated until it has been scaled, measured or counted as provided in the timber sale contract, unless such removal is specifically authorized in the contract.

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(b) National Forest timber sold on board foot scale shall be scaled by the Scribner Decimal C Log Rule, or if the advertisement and contract or permit so state, by the International ¼-inch log rule or by the International ¼-inch Decimal log rule. National Forest timber may also be sold by the cubic volume rule or by cords, each as used by the Forest Service.

§ 223.37 Revegetation of temporary roads.

Timber sale contracts, permits and other documents authorizing the cutting or removal of timber or forest products shall require the purchaser to treat temporary roads constructed or used thereunder so as to permit the reestablishment by artificial or natural means, or vegetative cover on the roadway and areas where the vegetative cover was disturbed by the construction or use of the road, as necessary to minimize erosion from the disturbed area. Such treatment shall be designed to reestablish vegetative cover as soon as practicable, but at least within 10 years after the termination of the contract.

§ 223.38 Standards for road design and construction.

Road construction authorized under timber sale contracts, permits and other documents authorizing the cutting or removal of timber or forest products shall be designed to standards appropriate for the intended uses, considering safety, cost of transportation, and impacts on land and resources. If the sale contract provides for road design standards in excess of those needed for the harvest and removal of timber from that sale, including measures to protect adjacent resource values, provision shall be made in the contract for compensating the purchaser for the additional costs, unless the purchaser elects Government construction under section 14(i) of the National Forest Management Act of 1976.

§ 223.39 [Reserved]

§ 223.40 Cancellation for environmental protection or inconsistency with plans.

Timber sale contracts, permits, and other such instruments, authorizing

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the harvesting of trees or other forest products, with terms of longer than 2 years, shall provide for cancellation in order to prevent serious environmental damage or when they are significantly inconsistent with land management plans adopted or revised in accordance with section 6 of the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended. Such provision shall provide for reasonable compensation to the purchaser for unrecovered costs incurred under the contract and for the difference between the current contract value and the average value of comparable National Forest timber sold during the preceding 6-month period.

§ 223.41 Payment when purchaser elects government road construction.

Each contract having a provision for construction of specified roads with total estimated construction costs of \$50,000 or more shall include a provision to ensure that if the purchaser elects government road construction, the purchaser shall pay, in addition to the price paid for the timber or other forest products, an amount equal to the estimated cost of the roads.

[71 FR 11510, Mar. 8, 2006]

§ 223.42 Transfer of effective purchaser credits.

The Forest Service may permit transfer of unused effective purchaser credit earned after December 16, 1975, from one timber sale account to another timber sale account of the same purchaser within the same National Forest, provided the sale contracts provide procedures for the use of purchaser credit. Approval for transfer shall not be granted for amounts needed to satisfy unfulfilled payment obligations or claims for damages due the United States. Purchaser credit transferred under this paragraph is subject to such additional restrictions as may be necessary for its orderly use.

(Pub. L. 94-154, 89 Stat. 823 (16 U.S.C. 535))

[42 FR 63777, Dec. 20, 1977. Redesignated at 49 FR 2761, Jan. 23, 1984]

§ 223.43 Limitation on amounts of transferred purchaser credit.

(a) The amount of purchaser credit which may be transferred into a given sale shall be limited to the difference between remaining current contract value and the total of:

- (1) Remaining base rate value needs,
- (2) Salvage sale fund needs plus sale area improvement needs in excess of base rate value needs, and
- (3) Total purchaser credit limit on the given sale.

(b) This calculation shall be made as of the date of sale award for sales made on or after January 1, 1978. For sales made prior to January 1, 1978, the calculation shall be made as of December 31, 1977, except that if the amount actually transferred in as of December 31, 1977, exceeds the calculated limit, the actual transfers as of that date shall be the established limit. Purchaser credit earned on a sale and subsequently transferred out may be replaced without regard to the transfer in limit. Sale area improvement needs shall be based on the original sale area betterment plan or revisions thereto approved prior to July 1, 1976. Salvage sale fund needs shall be based on the original salvage sale fund plan.

(Pub. L. 94-154, 89 Stat. 823 (16 U.S.C. 535))

[42 FR 63777, Dec. 20, 1977. Redesignated at 49 FR 2761, Jan. 23, 1984]

§ 223.44 Collection rights on contracts involved in transfer of purchase credit.

To assure protection of the United States in connection with the implementation of this regulation, contract provisions shall not prevent the Forest Service from carrying out collection rights, authorized by the Federal Claims Collection Act of 1966 (80 Stat. 309), between contracts involved in the transfer of purchaser credit. Such claims against the contract receiving the transferred purchaser credit shall be limited to the amount transferred.

(Pub. L. 94-154, 89 Stat. 823 (16 U.S.C. 535))

[42 FR 63777, Dec. 20, 1977. Redesignated at 49 FR 2761, Jan. 23, 1984]

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§ 223.45 Definitions applicable to transfer of purchaser credit.

As used in §§ 223.42 and 223.43, the term *Purchaser* includes any single individual, corporation, company, firm, partnership, joint venture, or other business entity or the successor in interest of any of the foregoing business entities having timber sale contracts on the same National Forest. The term *National Forest* shall be considered as a unit of the National Forest System, regardless of how it was established, which maintains a separate identity with respect to the distribution of receipts earned thereon to the States and counties. The term *Effective Purchaser Credit* means unused purchaser credit which does not exceed current contract value minus base rate value. The term *base rate value* is the sum of the products of base rates and estimated remaining unscaled (unreported on tree measurement contracts) volumes by species of timber included in a timber sale contract.

(Pub. L. 94-154, 89 Stat. 823 (16 U.S.C. 535))

[42 FR 63777, Dec. 20, 1977. Redesignated at 49 FR 2761, Jan. 23, 1984]

§ 223.46 Adjustment of contract termination date.

Timber sale contracts may provide for adjustment of the termination date to provide additional time to compensate for delays in road construction and timber removal due to those causes beyond the purchaser's control, which may include but are not limited to acts of God, acts of the public enemy, acts of the Government, labor disputes, fires, insurrections or floods.

§ 223.47 Date of completion of permanent road construction.

(a) The date of completion of permanent road construction obligations as set forth in the Notice of Sale shall be incorporated into the timber sale contract.

(b) This date is applicable to construction by both the Forest Service and the timber purchaser.

(c) The date is not applicable to roads not needed by the purchaser for timber removal.

(d) The date for completion may be revised, if additional time is needed,

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under guidelines provided by the Chief, Forest Service, including but not limited to (1) default of contractors or (2) design changes, physical changes, or catastrophic damages which necessitate modification of specified road construction work.

(e) If Forest Service failure to perform results in delay in road completion, the termination date shall be adjusted in accordance with the contract term adjustment provisions of the timber sale contract. If there is substantial delay in performance by the Forest Service, the contract shall provide that rates of payment may be redetermined, at the request of the purchaser, in accordance with guidelines established by the Chief, Forest Service.

(f) If the purchaser retains responsibility for road construction, the date of completion for permanent roads may be modified to conform to the approved plan of operation.

§ 223.48 Restrictions on export and substitution of unprocessed timber.

(a) Contracts for the sale of unprocessed timber from National Forest System lands located west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States and Alaska, awarded before August 20, 1990, shall include provisions implementing the Secretary's timber export and substitution regulations at subpart D of this part in effect prior to that date. Such contracts shall also require purchasers to:

(1) Submit annually, until all unprocessed timber is accounted for, a certified report on the disposition of any unprocessed timber harvested from the sale including a description of unprocessed timber which is sold, exchanged or otherwise disposed of to another person and a description of the relationship with the other person;

(2) Submit annually, until all unprocessed timber from the sale is accounted for, a certified report on the sale of any unprocessed timber from private lands in the tributary area which is exported or sold for export; and

(3) Maintain records of all such transactions involving unprocessed timber and to make such records available for inspection and verification by the Forest Service for up to three (3) years after the sale is terminated.

(b) Contracts for the sale of unprocessed timber from National Forest System lands located west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States, awarded on or after August 20, 1990, shall include provisions implementing the requirements of the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 620 *et seq.*).

(c) The reporting and recordkeeping procedures in this section constitute information collection requirements as defined in 5 CFR part 1320. These requirements have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget and assigned clearance number 0596-0021.

[56 FR 65842, Dec. 19, 1991]

§ 223.49 Downpayments.

(a) For the purposes of this section, the terms listed in this paragraph shall have the following meaning:

(1) *Total bid value* is the sum of the products obtained by multiplying the rate the purchaser bid for each species by the estimated volume listed in the contract.

(2) *Bid premium* is the amount in excess of the advertised value that a purchaser bids for timber offered.

(3) *Lump sum timber sales* are premeasured sales where the entire value of the sale is paid in one payment at time of release for cutting.

(4) *Affiliate*. Concerns or individuals are affiliates if directly or indirectly, either one controls or has the power to control the other, or a third party controls or has the power to control both. In determining whether or not affiliation exists, the Forest Service shall consider all appropriate factors, including, but not limited to, common ownership, common management, and contractual relationships.

(b) Timber sale contracts shall include provisions that require purchasers to make a downpayment in cash at the time a timber sale contract is executed, except that a downpayment is not required for stewardship contracts unless the contracting officer determines that a downpayment is needed to ensure the government's financial security.

(c) The minimum downpayment shall be equivalent to 10 percent of the total advertised value of each sale, plus 20 percent of the bid premium, except in

those geographic areas where the Chief of the Forest Service determines that it is necessary to increase the amount of the downpayment in order to deter speculation. The amount of the downpayment shall be redetermined when contract rates for timber are redetermined under the terms of the contract for environmental modification; catastrophic damage; market change; or an emergency rate redetermination. For the purpose of recalculating the minimum downpayment, total advertised value shall be replaced with total redetermined value.

(d) A purchaser cannot apply the amount deposited as a downpayment to cover other obligations due on that sale until:

(1) On scaled sales, stumpage value representing 25 percent of the total bid value of the sale has been charged and paid for, or the estimated value of unscaled timber is equal to or less than the amount of the downpayment; or

(2) On tree measurement sales, stumpage value representing 25 percent of the total bid value of the sale is shown on the timber sale statement of account to have been cut, removed, and paid for, or the estimated value of timber remaining to be cut, removed and paid for as shown on the timber sale statement of account is equal to or less than the amount of the downpayment. On lump sum sales, the downpayment amount may be applied to payment for release of the single payment unit.

(e) A purchaser or any affiliate of that purchaser awarded a Forest Service timber sale contract must meet the additional downpayment requirements of paragraph (g) of this section under the following circumstances:

(1) The purchaser or its affiliate after September 29, 1988, has failed to perform in accordance with the terms of a Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management timber sale contract and is notified by a Contracting Officer that a contract has expired uncompleted or is terminated for cause; and

(2) The estimated value of the unscaled timber on scaled sales, or the estimated value of the timber outstanding on tree measurement sales, included in those terminated or expired contracts exceeds \$100,000; and

(3) Unpaid damages claimed by the Government remain outstanding prior to award of the new sale at issue and corrective action has not been taken to avoid future deficient performance.

(f) A subsequent final determination by the Contracting Officer or by a court of competent jurisdiction that a contract was improperly classified under the criteria in paragraph (e) of this section will result in the refund or credit of any unobligated portion of the amount of downpayment exceeding that required by paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section and the limitations of paragraph (h) of this section on application of downpayment shall no longer apply.

(g) Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section, a purchaser meeting the criteria of paragraph (e) of this section must make a minimum downpayment equal to 20 percent of the total advertised value of that sale, plus 40 percent of the total bid premium. This higher downpayment requirement applies throughout the National Forest System, except in those areas where the Chief of the Forest Service determines, before advertisement of the sale, that another downpayment rate is necessary to achieve the management objectives of the National Forest System. The amount of the downpayment shall be redetermined in accordance with this paragraph when contract rates for timber are redetermined under the terms of the contract for environmental modification; catastrophic damage; market change; or an emergency rate redetermination. For the purpose of redetermining the downpayment, total advertised value shall be replaced with total redetermined value.

(h) A purchaser subject to the additional downpayment requirements of paragraph (g) of this section cannot apply the amount deposited as a downpayment to other uses until:

(1) On scaled sales, the estimated value of the unscaled timber is equal to or less than the amount of the downpayment; or

(2) On tree measurement sales, the estimated value remaining to be cut and removed as shown on the timber sale statement of account is equal to or

less than the amount of the downpayment.

(i) For the purpose of releasing funds deposited as downpayment by a purchaser subject to paragraph (f) of this section, the Forest Service shall compute the estimated value of timber as follows:

(1) On scaled sales, the estimated value of the unscaled timber is the sum of the products obtained by multiplying the current contract rate for each species by the difference between the advertised volume and the volume that has been scaled of that species.

(2) On tree measurement sales, the estimated value of the timber outstanding (*i.e.*, not shown on the timber sale statement of account as cut and removed) is the sum of the products obtained by multiplying the current contract rate for each species by the difference between the advertised volume and the volume that has been shown on the timber sale statement to have been cut and removed of the species. The current contract rate for each species is that specified in the Forest Service timber sale contract.

(j) In order to deter speculation, the Chief of the Forest Service may increase the period for retention of the downpayment and/or preclude temporary reduction of the downpayment under paragraphs (k)(2) and (k)(3) of this section for future contracts subject to such criteria as the Chief may adopt after giving the public notice and opportunity to comment.

(k) The Forest Service may temporarily reduce the downpayment when a purchaser's scheduled operations are delayed, interrupted, or extended for 30 or more consecutive days for any of the following reasons:

(1) Forest Service requests or orders purchaser to delay or interrupt operations for reasons other than breach;

(2) A contract term addition pursuant to purchaser shifting operations to a sale designated by the Forest Service as in urgent need of harvesting; or

(3) An extension of the contract term authorized upon a determination of substantial overriding public interest, including a market-related contract term addition, or an urgent removal contract term extension under 36 CFR 223.53.

(1) When purchaser is not cutting or removing timber under contract during a qualifying period of delay, interruption, or extension listed in paragraph (k) of this section, the downpayment may be reduced to \$1000 or 2 percent of the downpayment amount stated in the contract, whichever is greater. The purchaser must restore the downpayment to the full amount stated in the contract within 15 days from receipt of the bill for collection and written notice from the contracting officer that the basis for temporarily reducing the downpayment no longer exists. Purchaser shall not cut or remove timber on a contract where the downpayment has been temporarily reduced until the downpayment amount stated in the contract is fully restored.

[74 FR 40743, Aug. 13, 2009]

§ 223.50 Periodic payments.

(a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the meaning given:

(1) *Total contract value* is the product of the estimated volume of the sale multiplied by the rates bid by the purchaser. Total contract value excludes required deposits and is determined at bid date.

(2) *Current contract value* is the sum of the products of the current contract rates and, in a scaled sale, estimated remaining unscaled volume or, in a tree measurement sale, the estimated remaining quantities by species of included timber meeting utilization standards.

(3) *Normal operating season* is the period so specified in a timber sale contract.

(4) *Periodic payment(s)* is/are amount(s) specified in a timber sale contract that a purchaser must pay by the periodic payment determination date(s) unless reduced by amounts paid as stumpage for volume removed.

(5) *A periodic payment determination date* is a date specified in a timber sale contract upon which the Forest Service will compare the payments made by the timber sale purchaser for timber charges (stumpage), exclusive of required deposits, with the periodic payment amount required as of that date in the contract.

(b) Except for lump sum sales, each timber sale contract of more than one full normal operating season shall provide for periodic payments. The number of periodic payments required will be dependent upon the number of normal operating seasons within the contract, but shall not exceed two such payments during the course of the contract. Periodic payments must be made by the periodic payment determination date, except that the amount of the periodic payment shall be reduced to the extent that timber has been removed and paid for by the periodic payment determination date. Should the payment fall due on a date other than normal billing dates, the contract shall provide that the payment date will be extended to coincide with the next timber sale statement of account billing date.

(1) At a minimum, each such contract shall require an initial periodic payment at the midpoint between the specified road completion date and the termination date. If there is no road construction requirement, payment shall be due at the midpoint between award date and the termination date.

(2) Contracts exceeding 2 full operating seasons shall require an additional periodic payment to be due no later than the midpoint of the last normal operating season or 12 months from the initial periodic payment whichever date is first.

(3) Notwithstanding this paragraph (b), periodic payments are not required for stewardship contracts unless the contracting officer determines that periodic payments are needed to ensure the Government's financial security.

(c) Each timber sale contract shall require the initial periodic payment to equal 35 percent of the total contract value or 50 percent of the bid premium, whichever is greater. The amount of this periodic payment will be reduced if the payment would result in the purchaser's credit balance for timber charges exceeding the current contract value.

(d) Where an additional periodic payment is required by the timber sale contract, this payment will equal 75 percent of the total contract value. The amount of this periodic payment will be reduced if the payment would

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result in the purchaser's credit balance for timber charges exceeding the current contract value.

(e) Dates for determining future periodic payments shall be adjusted as follows:

(1) When contract term adjustments are granted under § 223.46,

(2) When market-related contract term additions are granted under § 223.52,

(3) When urgent removal extensions are granted under § 223.53, or

(4) When extensions in the substantial overriding public interest are granted under § 223.115(b). Periodic payment determination dates shall not be adjusted when a contract term extension is granted under the general authority of § 223.115(a).

(f) The amount of any periodic payment(s) not yet reached shall be revised when rates are redetermined under the contract. The revised periodic payment amounts shall be based on a recalculated total contract value using the same procedures described in (c) and (d) of this section. The recalculated total contract value is the current contract value following the rate redetermination plus:

(1) The total value of timber scaled prior to establishing redetermined rates in a scaled sale; or

(2) The total value of timber shown on the timber sale statement of account as having been cut, removed and paid for.

[56 FR 36104, July 31, 1991, as amended at 56 FR 55822, Oct. 30, 1991; 67 FR 70169, Nov. 21, 2002; 74 FR 40744, Aug. 13, 2009]

§ 223.51 Bid monitoring.

Each Regional Forester shall monitor bidding patterns on timber sales to determine if speculative bidding is occurring or if Purchasers are bidding in such a way that they would be unable to perform their obligations under the timber sale contract. A Regional Forester shall propose to the Chief changes in service wide timber sale procedures, as they appear necessary, to discourage speculative bidding.

[50 FR 41500, Oct. 11, 1985]

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§ 223.52 Market-related contract term additions.

(a) *Contract provision.* (1) Except as provided in paragraph (a)(3) of this section, each timber sale contract exceeding 1 year in length shall contain a provision for the addition of time to the contract term, under the following conditions:

(i) The Chief of the Forest Service has determined that adverse wood products market conditions have resulted in a drastic reduction in wood product prices applicable to the sale; and

(ii) The purchaser makes a written request for additional time to perform the contract.

(2) The contract term addition provision of the contract must specify the index to be applied to each sale. The Forest Supervisor shall determine and select from paragraph (b) of this section, the index to be used for each sale based on the species and product characteristics, by volume, being harvested on the sale. The index specified shall represent more than one-half of the advertised volume. If none of the indices in paragraph (b) of this section represent more than one-half of the advertised volume, the index specified shall represent the species product combination representing the highest percentage of volume for which there is an index. When the Forest Supervisor determines that the species and potential product characteristics are such that more than one index could be used, the prospectus will state that the Contracting Officer may, upon the purchaser's written request, select an alternative index from paragraph (b) of this section, and may modify the contract by mutual agreement, at time of contract execution, to include an alternative index that the Contracting Officer has determined represents the highest percentage of products the purchaser intends to produce or have produced from the sale. Purchasers seeking a change of index at time of award must substantiate the need for an alternative index by providing the Contracting Officer with a written request that includes a list of products by volume the purchaser intends to produce or expects will be produced from the

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timber on that sale. In the event a mutual agreement to modify a contract to include an alternative index is not reached at time of contract execution, the index specified in the sample contract shall apply.

(3) A market-related contract term addition provision shall not be included in contracts where the primary management objective requires prompt removal of the timber, such as, timber is subject to rapid deterioration, timber is in a wildland-urban interface area, or hazard trees adjacent to developed sites.

(b) *Determination of drastic wood product price reductions.* (1) The Forest Service shall monitor and use Producer Price Indices, as prepared by the Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), adjusted to a constant dollar base, to determine if market-related contract term additions are warranted.

(i) The Forest Service shall monitor and use only the following indices:

BLS producer price index	Index series	Index code
Hardwood Lumber	Commodity	0812
Softwood Lumber	Commodity	0811
Wood Chips	Industry	3211135

(ii) Preliminary index values will be revised when final index values become available, however, determination of a qualifying quarter will not be revised when final index values become available.

(2) For PPI index codes 0811 and 0812, the Chief of the Forest Service shall determine that a drastic reduction in wood prices has occurred when, for any 2 or more consecutive qualifying quarters, the applicable adjusted price index is less than 88.5 percent of the average of such index for the 4 highest of the 8 calendar quarters immediately prior to the qualifying quarter. A qualifying quarter is a quarter, following the contract award date, where the applicable adjusted index is more than 11.5 percent below the average of such index for the 4 highest of the previous 8 calendar quarters. For PPI index code 3211135, the Chief of the Forest Service shall determine that a drastic reduction in wood prices has occurred when, for any 2 or more consecutive qualifying quarters, the ad-

justed price index is less than 85 percent of the average of such index for the 4 highest of the 8 calendar quarters immediately prior to the qualifying quarter. A qualifying quarter is a quarter, following the contract award date, where the adjusted index is more than 15 percent below the average of such index for the 4 highest of the previous eight calendar quarters. Qualifying quarter determinations will be made using the Producer Price Indices for the months of March, June, September, and December.

(3) A determination, made pursuant to paragraph (b)(2) of this section, that a drastic reduction in wood product prices has occurred, shall constitute a finding that the substantial overriding public interest justifies the contract term addition.

(c) *Granting market-related contract term additions.* When the Chief of the Forest Service determines, pursuant to this section, that a drastic reduction in wood product prices has occurred, the Forest Service is to notify affected timber sale purchasers. For any contract which has been awarded and has not been terminated, the Forest Service, upon a purchaser's written request, will add 1 year to the contract's terms, except as provided in paragraphs (c)(1) through (4) of this section. This 1-year addition includes time outside of the normal operating season.

(1) Additional contract time may not be granted for those portions of the contract:

- (i) With a required completion date;
- (ii) Where the Forest Service determines that the timber is in need of urgent removal;
- (iii) Where timber deterioration or resource damage may result from delay; or
- (iv) Where included timber is designated by diameter and delay may change the treatment as a result of trees growing into or out of the specified diameter range(s).

(2) For each additional consecutive quarter in which a contract qualifies for market-related contract term addition, the Forest Service will, upon the purchaser's written request, add an additional 3 months during the normal operating season to the contract, except that no single 3-month addition

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shall extend the term of a contract by more than 1 year.

(3) No more than 3 years shall be added to a contract's term by market-related contract term addition unless the following conditions are met:

(i) The sale was awarded after December 31, 2006;

(ii) A drastic reduction in wood product prices occurred in at least ten of twelve consecutive quarters during the contract term, but not including the quarter in which the contract was awarded; and

(4) For each qualifying quarter meeting the criteria in paragraph (c)(3)(ii) of this section, the Forest Service will, upon the purchaser's written request, add an additional 3 months during the normal operating season to the contract, except no single 3-month addition shall extend the term of a contract by more than 1 year.

(5) In no event shall a revised contract term exceed 10 years as a result of market-related contract term addition.

(d) *Recalculation of periodic payments.* Where a contract is lengthened as a result of market conditions, any subsequent periodic payment dates shall be delayed 1 month for each month added to the contract's term.

[63 FR 24114, May 1, 1998, as amended at 70 FR 37269, June 29, 2005; 71 FR 3411, Jan. 23, 2006; 73 FR 65551, Nov. 4, 2008]

§ 223.53 Urgent removal contract extensions.

(a) *Finding.* There is substantial, overriding public interest in extending National Forest System timber sale contracts for undamaged (green) timber not requiring expeditious removal in order to facilitate the rapid harvest of catastrophically damaged timber requiring expeditious removal on private or other non-National Forest System lands. Such an extension may be granted when a specific catastrophic event beyond the control of the landowner occurs on non-National Forest System lands that poses a threat to general forest health, public safety, and property. Catastrophic events include, but are not limited to, severe wildfire, wind, floods, insects and disease infestation, and drought.

(b) *Regional Forester determination.* If the Regional Forester determines that adequate cause for urgent removal extensions exists, Contracting Officers may extend National Forest System timber sale contracts, up to a maximum of 1 year, for the estimated amount of time required to harvest and process the damaged timber on non-National Forest System lands. Contracting Officers may grant urgent removal extensions only when the Regional Forester verifies in writing that:

(1) A specific catastrophe occurred for which urgent removal extensions should be granted;

(2) The manufacturing facilities or logging equipment capacity available to purchasers are insufficient to provide for both the rapid harvest of damaged non-National Forest System timber in need of expeditious removal and the continued harvest of undamaged (green) timber under contract with the Forest Service; and

(3) Failure to harvest the damaged non-National Forest System timber promptly could result in the following:

(i) Pose a threat to public safety,

(ii) Create a threat of an insect or disease epidemic to National Forest System or other lands or resources, or

(iii) Significant private or other public resource loss.

(c) *Purchaser request.* To obtain an urgent removal extension on a National Forest System timber sale contract, a purchaser must make a written request to the Contracting Officer, which includes the following:

(1) An explanation of why the harvest of undamaged (green) National Forest System timber within the term of the existing National Forest System contract(s) will prevent or otherwise impede the removal of damaged non-National Forest System timber in need of expeditious removal; and

(2) Documentation that the manufacturing facilities or logging equipment capacity available to a purchaser would be insufficient to provide for both the rapid salvage of damaged non-National Forest System timber in need of expeditious removal and continued harvest of undamaged (green) National Forest System timber under contract with the Forest Service.

(d) *Contracting Officer determination.* To grant an urgent removal extension, the timber sale Contracting Officer must verify the following:

(1) That it is likely that the undamaged (green) timber from National Forest System land would be delivered to the same manufacturing facilities as are needed to process the damaged non-National Forest System timber or the National Forest System timber sale contract would require the use of the same logging equipment as is needed to remove the damaged non-National Forest System timber from the area affected by the catastrophe;

(2) That extension of the National Forest System contract will not be injurious to the United States and will protect, to the extent possible, the health of the National Forest System lands, including:

(i) That urgent removal extension does not adversely affect other resource management objectives to be implemented by the National Forest System timber sale being extended; and

(ii) That the National Forest System timber sale contract to be extended is not a sale containing damaged, dead, or dying timber subject to rapid deterioration.

(3) That the purchaser has not been granted a previous urgent removal extension on the same National Forest System timber sale contract based on the current catastrophic event. Subsequent urgent removal extensions may be granted if there are subsequent Regional Forester determinations on other catastrophic events.

(4) That the revised National Forest System timber sale contract term will not exceed 10 years from the date the National Forest System contract was awarded; and

(5) That the purchaser is not in breach of the National Forest System contract, and all work items, payments, and deposits are current.

(e) *Execution of contract extension.* An urgent removal extension of a National Forest System timber sale contract is executed through a mutual agreement contract modification pursuant to § 223.112, which must include specific contract provisions. An agreement to modify a contract must identify the

specific provision(s) of the contract being modified and must include the requirement that purchasers make cash payment to cover the costs of remarking timber on the sale area or re-establishing cutting unit boundaries if the Contracting Officer determines such work is necessary.

(f) *Information collection.* The information required of a purchaser to request an extension of an National Forest System timber sale contract, as outlined in paragraph (c) of this section, to facilitate expeditious removal of timber from non-National Forest System lands constitutes an information collection requirement as defined in 5 CFR Part 1320 and has been assigned Office of Management and Budget control number 0596-0167.

[67 FR 70169, Nov. 21, 2002, as amended at 69 FR 33, Jan. 2, 2004]

APPRAISAL AND PRICING

§ 223.60 Determining fair market value.

The objective of Forest Service timber appraisals is to determine fair market value. Fair market value is estimated by such methods as are authorized by the Chief, Forest Service, through issuance of agency directives (36 CFR 200.4). Valid methods to determine fair market value include, but are not limited to, transaction evidence appraisals, analytical appraisals, comparison appraisals, and independent estimates based on average investments. Pertinent factors affecting market value also considered include, but are not limited to, prices paid and valuations established for comparable timber, selling value of products produced, estimated operating costs, operating difficulties, and quality of timber. Considerations and valuations may recognize and adjust for factors which are not normal market influences.

[61 FR 5685, Feb. 14, 1996]

§ 223.61 Establishing minimum stumpage rates.

The Chief, Forest Service, shall establish minimum stumpage rates, i.e., "base rates," for species and products on individual National Forests, or groups of National Forests. Timber shall be sold for appraised value or

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minimum stumpage rates, whichever is higher. No timber may be sold or cut under timber sale contracts for less than minimum stumpage rates except to provide for the removal of insect-infested, diseased, dead or distressed timber or in accordance with contract provisions specifically providing for catastrophically-affected timber and incidental amounts of material not meeting utilization standards of the timber sale contract. For any timber sale offering where deposits are to be required for reforestation under the Act of June 9, 1930, as amended (46 Stat. 527; 16 U.S.C. 576-576b) which exceed the value of the established minimum stumpage rates, the minimum rates may be increased by the approving officer as necessary to the amount of such required reforestation deposits and a minimum deposit to the Treasury. Minimum rates in timber sale contracts will not be set higher than established minimum rates for purposes other than assuring adequate funds for reforestation.

§ 223.62 Timber purchaser road construction credit.

Appraisal may also establish stumpage value as if unconstructed roads or other developments needed by the purchaser for removal of the timber were in place. When timber is appraised and sold on such basis, *purchaser credit* for road construction, not to exceed the estimated construction cost of such roads or other developments specified in the timber sale contract, shall, when such construction is accomplished by purchaser, be deducted from stumpage payments made by or due from purchaser under the timber sale contract for other than minimum stumpage rates and required deposits for slash disposal and road maintenance. As used in this section *estimated construction costs* means the total cost of constructing all permanent roads specified in the timber sale contract, estimated as if construction is to be accomplished by an independent contractor who is not the timber purchaser. In determining the purchaser credit amount applicable against timber payments, the estimated construction cost may be reduced for the effect of differences in applicable wage rates.

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§ 223.63 Advertised rates.

Timber shall be advertised for sale at its appraised value. The road construction cost used to develop appraised value means the total estimated cost of constructing all permanent roads specified in the timber sale contract, estimated as if construction is to be accomplished by the timber purchaser. The advertised rates shall be not less than minimum stumpage rates, except that sales of insect-infested, diseased, dead, or distressed timber may be sold at less than minimum rates when harvest of such timber is necessary to protect or improve the forest or prevent waste of usable wood fiber.

[71 FR 11510, Mar. 8, 2006]

§ 223.64 Appraisal on a lump-sum value or rate per unit of measure basis.

Timber may be appraised and sold at a lump-sum value or at a rate per unit of measure which rate may be adjusted during the period of the contract and as therein specified in accordance with formulas or other equivalent specifications for the following reasons:

(a) Variations in lumber or other product value indices between the price index base specified in the contract and the price index actually experienced during the cutting of the timber;

(b) Variance between advertised rates and rates redetermined by appraisal at dates specified in the contract;

(c) Variance between redetermined rates and rates appropriate for changes in costs or selling values subsequent to the rate redetermination which reduce conversion value to less than such redetermined rates; and

(d) Substantial loss of value due to physical deterioration of green timber or other physical damage to the sale area or access to the timber.

§ 223.65 Appraisal of timber for land exchange; right-of-way, or other authorized use.

The value of timber in land exchange or the value of timber required to be cut for occupancy of a right-of-way or other authorized use of National Forest System land for which payment will be

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made is to be determined by the appraisal methods in § 223.60 of this part.

[61 FR 48625, Sept. 16, 1996]

§ 223.66 [Reserved]

ADVERTISEMENT AND BIDS

§ 223.80 When advertisement is required.

Except as otherwise provided in this part each sale in which the appraised value of the timber or other forest products exceeds \$10,000 will be made only after advertisement for a period of 30 days or, if in the opinion of the officer authorizing the sale, the quantity, value or other conditions justify, a longer period; and any sale of smaller appraised value will be advertised or informal bids solicited from potential purchasers if, in the judgment of the officer authorizing the sale, such action is deemed advisable.

§ 223.81 Shorter advertising periods in emergencies.

In emergency situations where prompt removal of timber included in a sale is essential to avoid deterioration or to minimize the likelihood of the spread of insects, the approving officer may authorize shortening the formal advertising period to not less than 7 days. In other emergency situations, or for timber sold under 36 CFR 223.2 the Regional Forester or Chief may authorize shortening the formal advertising period to not less than 7 days.

[44 FR 73029, Dec. 17, 1979. Redesignated at 49 FR 2761, Jan. 23, 1984]

§ 223.82 Contents of advertisement.

(a) A timber sale advertisement shall include the following information:

(1) The location and estimated quantities of timber or other forest products offered for sale.

(2) The time and place at which sealed bids will be opened in public or at which sealed bids will be opened in public followed by an oral auction.

(3) A provision asserting the agency's right to reject any and all bids.

(4) The place where complete information on the offering may be obtained.

(5) Notice that a prospectus is available to the public and to interested potential bidders.

(b) For each timber sale which includes specified road construction with total estimated construction costs of \$50,000 or more, the advertisement shall also include:

(1) The total estimated construction cost of the permanent roads.

(2) A statement extending to small business concerns qualified for preferential bidding on timber sales, under the Small Business Act, as amended, and the regulations issued thereunder, the option to elect, when submitting a bid, to have all permanent roads constructed by the Forest Service.

(3) Notice that the prospectus referred to in paragraph (a)(5) of this section contains additional information concerning the options to have all permanent roads constructed by the Forest Service.

(c) When timber or other forest products are offered for preferential bidding in accordance with the Small Business Act, as amended, the advertisement shall state that the offering is set-aside for competitive bidding by small business concerns.

[50 FR 32696, Aug. 14, 1985, as amended at 71 FR 523, Jan. 4, 2006; 71 FR 11510, Mar. 8, 2006]

§ 223.83 Contents of prospectus.

(a) A timber sale prospectus shall specify, as a minimum:

(1) The minimum acceptable stumpage or other unit prices and the amount or rate of any additional required deposits.

(2) The amount of bid guarantee which must accompany each bid.

(3) The amount of cash deposit or down payment to be made promptly by the successful bidder.

(4) The location and area of the sale, including harvest acreage.

(5) The estimated volumes, quality, size or age class of timber.

(6) A description of special logging requirements for the sale.

(7) The status of marking at time of advertisement.

(8) The method of bidding which will be used.

(9) The contract form to be used.

(10) The estimated deposits for reforestation and stand improvement work.

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(11) The contract termination date and normal operating period.

(12) The date and amount of periodic payments which are to be made.

(13) The discount of payment rates for early harvest, if appropriate.

(14) The amount of performance bond required.

(15) The road standards for specified roads to be constructed.

(16) The estimated road construction cost and the estimated public works construction cost.

(17) For deficit sales:

(i) An estimate of the difference between fair market value and advertised value, that is, the amount by which the advertised value exceeds the appraised value.

(ii) The amount of Forest Service funds or materials to be used to offset the deficit.

(18) Status of financial assistance available to small business purchasers.

(19) Notification of preferential award to small business firms and certification requirements for set-aside sales.

(20) Notification of log export and substitution restrictions.

(21) Notification of Equal Employment Opportunity compliance review requirements.

(22) General or special information concerning the sale which are deemed appropriate to furnish sufficient information to prospective purchasers to warrant further investigation.

(b) For each advertisement which extends to small concerns the option to have all permanent roads constructed by the Forest Service, the prospectus shall also include:

(1) The road standards applicable to construction of permanent roads or a reference to the source of such information.

(2) The date of final completion for all permanent roads.

(3) A statement explaining how the Forest Service intends to perform road construction by force account or contract, if the high bidder elects Forest Service construction.

(4) The maximum period for which timber sale contract award will be delayed while the Forest Service seeks a satisfactory construction bid. The period stated shall not exceed 120 days

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unless the Regional Forester approves a longer period.

[50 FR 32696, Aug. 14, 1985, as amended at 71 FR 523, Jan. 4, 2006; 71 FR 11510, Mar. 8, 2006]

§ 223.84 Small business bid form provisions on sales with specified road construction.

For each sale described in § 223.82(b), the bid form must include provision for a small business concern:

(a) To elect road construction by the Forest Service and where such election is made;

(b) To certify as to small business status, and

(c) To indicate knowledge—

(1) Of the road construction completion date,

(2) That the Forest Service expects to contract for road construction with a third party,

(3) That the timber sale contract will not be awarded unless a satisfactory road construction bid is received or, if the Forest Service fails to receive such a bid within a maximum period stated in the advertisement, the bidder agrees to perform road construction,

(4) That the Forest Service may extend the maximum award delay time by the amount of time needed to confirm the bidder's size status or by any time in excess of 40 days from timber sale bid opening needed to begin solicitation of construction bids, and

(5) That if the Forest Service extends the maximum award delay period because solicitation of the road contract is delayed, the bidder may withdraw his bid without penalty.

[42 FR 28252, June 2, 1977. Redesignated at 49 FR 2761, Jan. 23, 1984. Redesignated and amended at 50 FR 32696, Aug. 14, 1985]

§ 223.85 Noncompetitive sale of timber.

(a) Forest officers may sell, within their authorization, without further advertisement, at not less than appraised value, any timber previously advertised for competitive bids but not sold because of lack of bids and any timber on uncut areas included in a contract which has been terminated by abandonment, cancellation, contract period expiration, or otherwise if such timber would have been cut under the contract. This authority shall not be

utilized if there is evidence of competitive interest in the product.

(b) Extraordinary conditions, as provided for in 16 U.S.C. 472a(d), are defined to include the potential harm to natural resources, including fish and wildlife, and related circumstances arising as a result of the award or release of timber sale contracts pursuant to section 2001(k) of Public Law 104-19 (109 Stat. 246). Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section or any other regulation in this part, for timber sale contracts that have been or will be awarded or released pursuant to section 2001(k) of Public Law 104-19 (109 Stat. 246), the Secretary of Agriculture may allow forest officers to, without advertisement, modify those timber sale contracts by substituting timber from outside the sale area specified in the contract for timber within the timber sale contract area.

(c) Extraordinary conditions, as provided for in 16 U.S.C. 472a(d), includes those conditions under which contracts for the sale or exchange of timber or other forest products must be suspended, modified, or terminated under the terms of such contracts to prevent environmental degradation or resource damage, or as the result of administrative appeals, litigation, or court orders. Notwithstanding the provisions of paragraph (a) of this section or any other regulation in this part, when such extraordinary conditions exist on sales not addressed in paragraph (b) of this section, the Secretary of Agriculture may allow forest officers to, without advertisement, modify those contracts by substituting timber or other forest products from outside the contract area specified in the contract for timber or forest products within the area specified in the contract. When such extraordinary conditions exist, the Forest Service and the purchaser shall make good faith efforts to identify replacement timber or forest products of similar volume, quality, value, access, and topography. When replacement timber or forest products agreeable to both parties is identified, the contract will be modified to reflect the changes associated with the substitution, including a rate redetermination. Concurrently, both parties will

sign an agreement waiving any future claims for damages associated with the deleted timber or forest products, except those specifically provided for under the contract up to the time of the modification. If the Forest Service and the purchaser cannot reach agreement on satisfactory replacement timber or forest products, or the proper value of such material, either party may opt to end the search. Replacement timber or forest products must come from the same National Forest as the original contract. The term National Forest in this paragraph refers to an administrative unit headed by a single Forest Supervisor. Only timber or forest products for which a decision authorizing its harvest has been made and for which any applicable appeals or objection process has been completed may be considered for replacement pursuant to this paragraph. The value of replacement timber or forest products may not exceed the value of the material it is replacing by more than \$10,000, as determined by standard Forest Service appraisal methods.

[61 FR 14621, Apr. 3, 1996, as amended at 71 FR 34826, June 16, 2006; 72 FR 59190, Oct. 19, 2007]

§ 223.86 Bid restriction on resale of noncompleted contract.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, no bid will be considered in the resale of timber remaining from any uncompleted timber sale contract from any person, or from an affiliate of such person, who failed to complete the original contract:

(1) Because of termination for purchaser's branch or; or

(2) Through failure to cut designated timber on portions of the sale area by the termination date, unless acceptance of such bid is determined to be in the public interest.

(b) The no bid restriction in the preceding paragraph:

(1) Shall only apply when 50 percent or more of the timber included in the resale is timber remaining from the uncompleted contract and the resale is advertised within 3 years of the date the uncompleted contract terminated;

(2) When imposed because of failure to cut designated timber on portions of the sale area by the termination date,

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shall not apply to resales of timber for which the original contract was awarded prior to April 30, 1972, unless the contract is extended thereafter; and

(3) Shall not apply to:

(i) Resales of timber within a sustained yield unit unless competition may be invited under the policy statement for the unit,

(ii) Resales of timber on contract which would ordinarily have been awarded prior to April 30, 1972, if award was delayed through no fault of the purchaser, and

(iii) Resales of timber on contracts not extended because of environmental considerations.

(c) Where a third-party agreement has been approved in accordance with § 223.114; the original purchaser shall not be affected by this section unless such purchaser is an affiliate of the third party.

(d) As used in this section, *person* includes any individual, corporation, company, association, firm, partnership, society, joint stock company, or other business entity or the successor in interest of any of the foregoing business entities. A person is an *affiliate* when either directly or indirectly:

(1) A person controls or has the power to control the other, or

(2) A third person or persons control or has the power to control both.

[42 FR 28252, June 2, 1977. Redesignated at 49 FR 2761, Jan. 23, 1984 and 50 FR 32696, Aug. 14, 1985]

§ 223.87 Requirements of bidders concerning exports.

In order to have a bid considered responsive for a sale of timber from National Forest System lands, each bidder must certify that the bidder is eligible to purchase timber from National Forest System lands consistent with the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR part 223, and that the bidder's timber purchase and export activities are in compliance with the timber export and substitution provisions of the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*) and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR part 223.

[60 FR 46920, Sept. 8, 1995]

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§ 223.88 Bidding methods.

(a) Competitive sales of National Forest timber shall be offered through either sealed or oral auction bidding. The method chosen for each sale will:

(1) Insure open and fair competition,

(2) Insure that the Federal Government receives not less than fair market value for the public resource,

(3) Consider the economic stability of communities whose economies are dependent upon National Forest timber, and

(4) Be consistent with the objectives of the National Forest Management Act of 1976, as amended, and other Federal Statutes.

(b) As a prerequisite to participation in an oral auction, bidders shall submit a written sealed bid at least equal to the minimum acceptable bid prices specified in the prospectus. No price subsequently bid at oral auction shall be accepted if it is less than the written sealed bid.

(c) The Chief, Forest Service, shall specify the use of sealed bids or a mix of bidding methods in areas where he has reasonable belief that collusive bidding may be occurring or where he determines that less than normal competitive bidding is occurring.

(d) Sealed bids shall be used for sales within Federal Sustained Yield Units, except where the policy statement for the Unit restricts purchasers of timber within the Unit from buying National Forest timber outside the Unit and the Chief determines that oral bidding will protect individual communities within the Unit.

(e) The Chief, Forest Service, may authorize departures from the requirements of paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section when he determines that departures are necessary to protect the public interest.

(f) The Chief, Forest Service, may authorize the testing and evaluation of alternative bidding methods for National Forest timber.

[43 FR 21882, May 22, 1978. Redesignated at 49 FR 2761, Jan. 23, 1984. Further redesignated and amended at 50 FR 32696, Aug. 14, 1985]

§ 223.89 Relation to other bidders.

Any bidder or applicant for a sale may be required to furnish a statement

of his relation to other bidders or operators, including, if desired by the supervisor or Regional Forester, a certified statement of stockholders or members of the firm, and the holders of bonds, notes or other evidences of indebtedness, so far as known, so that the statement will show the extent of the interest of each in the bidder or applicant.

[44 FR 73029, Dec. 17, 1979. Redesignated at 49 FR 2761, Jan. 23, 1984 and 50 FR 32696, Aug. 14, 1985]

AWARD OF CONTRACTS

§ 223.100 Award to highest bidder.

The sale of advertised timber shall be awarded to the responsible bidder submitting the highest bid that conforms to the conditions of the sale as stated in the prospectus unless:

(a) Determination is made to reject all bids.

(b) Two or more bidders, all of whom meet the requirements, submit equal bids which are the highest bids, in which case award may be by the drawing of lots. Equal bids from parties having direct or indirect common control or association in logging, processing or marketing may be consolidated to the extent deemed necessary by the awarding officer in order to give to any others who have bid the same amount an equitable opportunity in the drawing of lots.

(c) The highest bidder is notoriously or habitually careless with fire.

(d) Monopoly, injurious to the public welfare, would result from the control of large amounts of public or of public and private timber.

(e) The high bidder has elected Forest Service road construction in response to an advertisement extending such an option, the Forest Service cannot perform the construction and in response to solicitation has not received a satisfactory bid for such construction within the period stated in the prospectus and the high timber sale bidder is unwilling to perform the construction.

[44 FR 73029, Dec. 17, 1979. Redesignated at 49 FR 2761, Jan. 23, 1984, and amended at 50 FR 32696, Aug. 14, 1985; 53 FR 33132, Aug. 30, 1988]

§ 223.101 Determination of purchaser responsibility.

(a) A Contracting Officer shall not award a timber sale contract unless that officer makes an affirmative determination of purchaser responsibility. In the absence of information clearly indicating that the prospective purchaser is responsible, the Contracting Officer shall conclude that the prospective purchaser does not qualify as a responsible purchaser.

(b) To determine a purchaser to be responsible, a Contracting Officer must find that:

(1) The purchaser has adequate financial resources to perform the contract or the ability to obtain them;

(2) The purchaser is able to perform the contract within the contract term taking into consideration all existing commercial and governmental business commitments;

(3) The purchaser has a satisfactory performance record on timber sale contracts. A prospective purchaser that is or recently has been seriously deficient in contract performance shall be presumed not to be responsible, unless the Contracting Officer determines that the circumstances were beyond the purchaser's control and were not created through improper actions by the purchaser or affiliate, or that the purchaser has taken appropriate corrective action. Past failure to apply sufficient tenacity and perseverance to perform acceptably under a contract is strong evidence that a purchaser is not a responsible contractor. The Contracting Officer shall consider the number of contracts involved and extent of deficiency of each in making this evaluation;

(4) The purchaser has a satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics;

(5) The purchaser has or is able to obtain equipment and supplies suitable for logging the timber and for meeting the resource protection provisions of the contract;

(6) The purchaser is otherwise qualified and eligible to receive an award under applicable laws and regulations.

(c) If the prospective purchaser is a small business concern and the Contracting Officer determines that the

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purchaser does not qualify as a responsible purchaser on an otherwise acceptable bid, the Contracting Officer shall refer the matter to the Small Business Administration which will decide whether or not to issue a Certificate of Competency.

(d) Affiliated concerns, as defined in § 223.49(a)(5) of this subpart are normally considered separate entities in determining whether the concern that is to perform the contract meets the applicable standards for responsibility. However, the Contracting Officer shall consider an affiliate's past performance and integrity when they may adversely affect the prospective purchaser's responsibility.

[53 FR 33132, Aug. 30, 1988]

§ 223.102 Procedures when sale is not awarded to highest bidder.

If the highest bid is not accepted and the sale is still deemed desirable, all bids may be rejected and the timber re-advertised; or, if the highest bidder cannot meet the requirements under which the timber was advertised or the withholding of award to him is based on one or more of paragraphs (c), (d), and (e) of § 223.100, award at the highest price bid may be offered to the next highest qualified bidder or to the other qualified bidders in order of their bids until the award is accepted by one or refused by all of the qualified bidders.

(92 Stat. 1301, Pub. L. 95-465)

[44 FR 73029, Dec. 17, 1979. Redesignated at 49 FR 2761, Jan. 23, 1984, and 53 FR 33132, Aug. 30, 1988]

§ 223.103 Award of small business set-aside sales.

If timber is advertised as set aside for competitive bidding by small business concerns, award will be made to the highest bidder who qualifies as a small business concern and who has not been determined by the Small Business Administration to be ineligible for preferential award of set-aside sales. If there are no qualified small business bidders any readvertisement shall be

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without restriction on the size of bidders.

(92 Stat. 1301, Pub. L. 95-465)

[44 FR 73029, Dec. 17, 1979. Redesignated at 49 FR 2761, Jan. 23, 1984, and 53 FR 33132, Aug. 30, 1988]

CONTRACT ADMINISTRATION

§ 223.110 Delegation to regional forester.

The Chief, Forest Service, after approval of conditions of sale, may authorize Regional Foresters formally to execute timber sale contracts and related papers in sales exceeding the volume which the Regional Forester has been authorized to sell.

§ 223.111 Administration of contracts in designated disaster areas.

This section is to implement the provisions of section 242 (a), (b), and (c) of the Disaster Relief Act of 1970 (84 Stat. 1956) which relate to contracts for the sale of National Forest timber in connection with areas damaged by major disaster as designated by the President pursuant to the Act.

(a) Where an existing contract for the sale of National Forest timber does not provide relief from major physical change not due to purchaser's negligence prior to approval of construction of any section of specified road or other specified development facility and, as a result of a major disaster in a designated area a major physical change results in additional construction work by the purchaser in connection with such a road or facility, the United States shall bear such increased construction cost if, as determined by the Chief, Forest Service, the estimated cost is—

(1) More than \$1,000 for sales under 1 million board feet, or

(2) More than \$1 per thousand board feet for sales of 1 to 3 million board feet, or

(3) More than \$3,000 for sales over 3 million board feet.

(b) Where the Chief, Forest Service, determines that damages are so great that restoration, reconstruction, or construction is not practical under the cost-sharing arrangement in paragraph

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(a) of this section, he may allow cancellation of the contract notwithstanding provisions therein or in § 223.116.

(c) The Chief, Forest Service, is authorized to reduce to 7 days the minimum time to advertise the sale of National Forest timber whenever he determines that—

(1) The sale of such timber will assist in the construction of any area of a State damaged by a major disaster,

(2) The sale of such timber will assist in sustaining the economy of such area, or

(3) The sale of such timber is necessary to salvage the value of timber damaged in such major disaster or to protect undamaged timber.

(d) Any request for relief under paragraph (a) or (b) of this section shall be made in writing to the Forest Supervisor having administrative responsibility for the land involved.

(Sec. 242 (a), (b), and (c), 84 Stat. 1756, 42 U.S.C. 4461)

§ 223.112 Modification of contracts.

(a) Timber sale contracts may be modified only when the modification will apply to unexecuted portions of the contract and will not be injurious to the United States. Modifications may be made by the officer approving the sale, by his successor, or by his superior, except as provided in § 223.110.

(b) Timber sale contracts awarded after October 1, 1995, that have been suspended for more than 90 days, during the normal operating season, at no fault of the purchaser, because of administrative appeals or litigation, that did not include contract provisions for rate redeterminations may be modified at the request of the timber sale purchaser to include a rate redetermination for the remaining unharvested volume to reflect significant decreases in market value during the period of delay. Rates in effect at the time of the suspension will be redetermined in accordance with the standard Forest Service methods in effect 45 days prior to the rate redetermination.

[42 FR 28252, June 2, 1977. Redesignated at 49 FR 2760, Jan. 23, 1984, as amended at 69 FR 18814, Apr. 9, 2004]

§ 223.113 Modification of contracts to prevent environmental damage or to conform to forest plans.

Timber sale contract, permits, and other such instruments may be modified to prevent environmental damage or to make them consistent with amendments or revisions of land and resource management plans adopted subsequent to award or issuance of a timber sale contract, permit, or other such instrument. Compensation to the purchaser, if any, for modifications to a contract shall be made in accordance with provisions set forth in the timber sale contract. When determining compensation under a contract, timber payment rates shall be redetermined in accordance with appraisal methods in § 223.60 of this subpart.

[61 FR 64816, Dec. 9, 1996]

§ 223.114 Acquisition by third party.

No agreement permitting a third party to acquire the rights of a purchaser under a timber sale contract may be recognized and approved by the Forest Service except in writing, signed by the officer approving the sale, his successor, or superior officer. Such approval shall not relieve the purchaser of his responsibilities or liabilities under the timber sale contract and may be given only if—

(a) The third party is acceptable to the Forest Service as a purchaser of timber under the conditions and requirements then in effect for similar timber sales and assumes in writing all of the obligations to the Forest Service under the terms of the timber sale contract as to the uncompleted portion thereof, or

(b) The rights are acquired in trust as security and subject to such conditions as may be necessary for the protection of the public interests.

§ 223.115 Contract extensions.

The term of any contract or permit shall not be extended unless the approving officer finds:

(a) That the purchaser has diligently performed in accordance with contract provisions and an approved plan of operation; or

(b) That the substantial overriding public interest justifies the extension.

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§ 223.116 Cancellation.

(a) Timber sale contracts and permits may be canceled:

(1) For serious or continued violation of their terms.

(2) Upon application, or with the consent of the purchaser, when such action is of advantage to the United States or not prejudicial to its interests.

(3) Upon application of the purchaser if the value of the timber remaining to be cut is diminished materially because of catastrophic damage caused by forces beyond the control of the purchaser resulting in (i) physical change in the sale area or access to it, or (ii) damage to timber remaining to be cut.

(4) For conviction of violation of criminal statutes or, following final agency or judicial determination, of violation of civil standards, orders, permits, or others regulations for the protection of environmental quality issued by a Federal agency, State agency, or political subdivision thereof, in the conduct of operations thereunder, on National Forest System land, unless compliance with such laws or regulations would preclude performance of other contractual requirements.

(5) Upon determination by the Chief, Forest Service, that operations thereunder would result in serious environmental degradation or resource damage and with reasonable compensation to the purchaser for unrecovered costs incurred under the contract and the difference between the current contract value and the average value of comparable National Forest timber sold during the preceding 6-month period.

(b) Cancellation will be by the Chief, Forest Service. Authority to cancel contracts under paragraph (a)(1) through (4) of this section may be delegated to Regional Foresters for sales within their authorization. All contract cancellations under paragraph (a)(5) of this section shall be by the Chief, Forest Service, whose decision shall be the final agency decision.

[42 FR 28252, June 2, 1977, as amended at 48 FR 23819, May 27, 1983. Redesignated at 49 FR 2761, Jan. 23, 1984]

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§ 223.117 Administration of cooperative or Federal sustained yield units.

With respect to sustained yield units established pursuant to the provisions of the Act of March 29, 1944 (58 Stat. 132; 16 U.S.C. 583-5831), the Chief, Forest Service, with authority to delegate to other officers and employees of the Forest Service:

(a) Shall provide that National Forest timber in any sustained yield unit shall be available in sufficient amounts to meet the needs of bona fide farmers, settlers, miners, residents and prospectors for minerals for personal and domestic use as provided by law and by regulation.

(b) May offer for sale to cooperators, without competition but at not less than appraised value, timber on National Forest lands within an approved cooperative sustained yield unit; or, if the approved sustained yield unit consists entirely of federally owned or administered forest land and if necessary for the maintenance of a stable community or communities, may offer National Forest timber for sale to responsible operators within such community or communities, at not less than appraised value but without competition or with competition restricted to responsible operators who will manufacture the timber to at least a stated degree within the community or communities to be maintained. Each such sale which involves more than \$500 in stumpage value may be made only after notice has been given in advance by such means as may be deemed effective in informing the public of the proposed action, including in any event, publication, once weekly for four consecutive weeks and with additional insertions if needed, in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the vicinity of the place where the timber is located, of a notice of the proposed sale stating at least:

(1) The location, estimated quantity and appraised value of the timber to be cut;

(2) The name and address of the proposed purchaser or those of the operators among whom bidding is to be restricted;

(3) The time and place of a public advisory hearing on the proposed sale, to

be held not earlier than 30 days after the first publication of said notice, if requested by the State or county where the timber is located or by any other person deemed to have a reasonable interest in the proposed sale or in its terms; and

(4) The title and address of the officer of the Forest Service to whom any request for such hearing should be made. Such requests need be considered only if received at the place designated in the notice not later than 15 days after the first publication of such notice. If a public advisory hearing is to be held, notice of it shall be published in the same newspaper or newspapers as the original notice, stating the place where it will be held and the time, which shall not be earlier than 10 days after the first publication of the said notice of hearing, and shall appear once each week, but not for more than four successive weeks in any event, until the date set for the hearing. Any such hearing shall be conducted by the Chief or by any officer designated by him as his representative, except that if the amount of the proposed sale is not in excess of that which the Regional Forester has been authorized to sell without prior approval of the Chief the hearing may be held by the Regional Forester concerned or by his representative and decision may be by the Regional Forester. At any such hearing, opportunity shall be given to those having a reasonable interest to make oral statements or to file written statements discussing the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed sale; and the officer holding the hearing may, in his discretion, permit the filing of such statements within a reasonable period after the close of the hearing to become part of the record for consideration before a decision is made.

(c) Shall keep available for public inspection,

(1) During the life of any sustained yield unit, the minutes or other record of the hearing held on the establishment thereof, and the determination of action taken following the hearing including any modification of the proposals as submitted at the hearing; and

(2) During the life of any cooperative agreement for coordinated manage-

ment the similar record of the hearings and actions determined upon; and

(3) During the life of any sustained yield unit the similar record of any public hearing which may be held on a sale made without competition or with restricted competition and the action determined upon. Such records of any case may be kept in any office of the Forest Service designated by the Chief as being suitable and convenient of access for probably interested persons.

(d) Shall make provision, in any contract for the purchase of timber without competition or with restricted competition, if that contract is of more than 7 years' duration and in his discretion in any case of shorter duration, for the redetermination of rates for stumpage and for required deposits to be paid by the purchasers, such redetermination to be effective at intervals or dates stated in the contract; but the sum of such redetermined rates for stumpage and sale area betterment shall not be less than the base rates in the published notice of the proposed sale.

(e) May modify and revise existing cooperative agreements entered into under said act after taking appropriate action.

§ 223.118 Appeal process for small business timber sale set-aside program share recomputation decisions.

(a) *Decisions subject to appeal.* The rules of this section govern appeal of recomputation decisions related to structural, special, or market changes or the scheduled 5-year recomputations of the small business share of National Forest System timber sales. Certain decisions related to recomputation of shares, such as structural change and carryover volume, may require two decisions, one to determine that a recomputation is needed and the other to recompute the shares. Decisions made both at the earlier stage as well as the later stage are appealable.

(b) *Manner of giving notice—*(1) *Predecisional notice and comment.* The Responsible Official shall provide qualifying timber sale purchasers, as defined in paragraph (c)(1) of this section, 30 days for predecisional review and comment on any draft decision to

reallocate shares, including the data used in making the proposed recomputation decision.

(2) *Notice of decision.* Upon close of the 30-day predecisional review period, the Responsible Official shall consider any comments received. Within 15 days of the end of the comment period, the Responsible Official shall make a decision on the small business shares and shall give prompt written notice to all parties on the national forest timber sale bidders list for the affected area. The notice of decision must identify the name of the Appeal Deciding Officer, the address, the date by which an appeal must be filed, and a source for obtaining the appeal procedures information.

(c) *Who may appeal or file written comments as an interested party.* (1) Only timber sale purchasers, or their representatives, who are affected by recomputations of the small business share of timber sales as described in paragraph (a) of this section and who have submitted predecisional comments pursuant to paragraph (b)(1) of this section, may appeal recomputation decisions under this section or may file written comments as an interested party.

(2) Interested parties are defined as the Small Business Administration and those timber sale purchasers, or their representatives, who are affected by recomputations of the small business share of timber sales as described in paragraph (a) of this section and who have individually, or through an association to which they belong, submitted predecisional comments pursuant to paragraph (b)(1) of this section.

(i) A timber sale purchaser may submit comments on an appeal as an interested party if an association to which the purchaser belongs filed predecisional comment but later decides not to appeal or not to file comments as an interested party.

(ii) A timber sale purchaser, who is a member of an association that appeals a decision, may not file a separate appeal unless that purchaser filed separate predecisional comment under paragraph (b)(1).

(3) Interested parties who submit written comments on an appeal filed by another party may not continue an ap-

peal if the appellant withdraws the appeal.

(d) *Level of appeal.* Only one level of review is available for appeal of decisions pertaining to recomputations under the Small Business Timber Sale Set-aside Program. The Appeal Deciding Officer is the official one level above the level of the Responsible Official who made the recomputation of shares decision. The Responsible Official is normally the Forest Supervisor; thus, the Appeal Deciding Officer is normally the Regional Forester. However, when the Regional Forester makes recomputation decisions, the Appeal Deciding Officer is the Chief or such officer at the National headquarters level as the Chief may designate.

(e) *Filing procedures.* In order to file an appeal under this section, an appellant must file a notice of appeal, as specified in the notice of decision, with the Appeal Deciding Officer within 20 days of the date on the notice of the decision. This date must be specified in the notice of decision given pursuant to paragraph (b)(2) of this section. Written comments filed by an interested party in response to an appeal must be filed within 15 days after the close of the appeal filing period.

(f) *Content of notice of appeal.* (1) It is the responsibility of the appellant to provide sufficient narrative evidence and argument to show why a recomputation decision by the Responsible Official should be reversed or changed.

(2) An appellant must include the following information in a notice of appeal:

(i) The appellant's name, mailing address, and daytime telephone number;

(ii) The title or type of recomputation decision involved, the date of the decision, and the name of the Responsible Official;

(iii) A brief description and date of the decision being appealed;

(iv) A statement of how the appellant is adversely affected by the decision being appealed;

(v) A statement of the facts in dispute regarding the issue(s) raised by the appeal;

(vi) If relevant, any specific references to any law, regulation, or policy that the appellant believes to have

been violated and the basis for such an allegation;

(vii) A statement as to whether and how the appellant has tried to resolve with the Responsible Official the issue(s) being appealed, including evidence of submission of written comments at the predecisional stage as provided by paragraph (a) of this section, the date of any discussion, and the outcome of that meeting or contact; and

(viii) A statement of the relief the appellant seeks.

(g) *Time periods and timeliness.* (1) All time periods applicable to this section will begin on the first day following a decision or action related to the appeal.

(2) Time periods applicable to this section are computed using calendar days. Saturdays, Sundays, or Federal holidays are included in computing the time allowed for filing an appeal; however, when the filing period would expire on a Saturday, Sunday, or Federal holiday, the filing time is automatically extended to the end of the next Federal working day.

(3) It is the responsibility of those filing an appeal to file the notice of appeal by the end of the filing period. In the event of questions, legible postmarks on a mailed appeal or the time and date imprint on a facsimile appeal will be considered evidence of timely filing. Where postmarks or facsimile imprints are illegible, the Appeal Deciding Officer shall rule on the timeliness of the notice of appeal.

(4) The time period for filing a notice of appeal is not extendable.

(h) *Dismissal without decision.* The Appeal Deciding Officer shall dismiss an appeal and close the record without a decision in any of the following circumstances:

(1) The appellant is not on the timber sale bidders list for the area affected by the recomputation decision;

(2) The appellant's notice of appeal is not filed within the required time period;

(3) The appellant's notice of appeal does not contain responses required by paragraphs (f)(2)(i) through (f)(2)(viii) of this section; or

(4) The appellant did not submit written comments on the proposed decision

of the new recomputed shares as described in paragraph (c) of this section.

(i) *Appeal record.* The appeal record consists of the written decision being appealed, any predecisional comments received, any written comments submitted by interested parties, any other supporting data used to make the decision, the notice of appeal, and, if prepared, a responsive statement by the Responsible Official which addresses the issues raised in the notice of appeal. The Responsible Official must forward the record to the Appeal Deciding Officer within 7 days of the date the notice of appeal is received. A copy of the appeal record must be sent to the appellant at the same time.

(j) *Appeal decision—(1) Responsive statement for appeal decision.* The Appeal Deciding Officer may request the Responsible Official to prepare a responsive statement. However, if the information in the files clearly demonstrates the rationale for the Responsible Official's decision, then a responsive statement addressing the points of the appeal is not necessary.

(2) *Appeal issue clarification.* For clarification of issues raised in the appeal, the Appeal Deciding Officer may request additional information from either the Responsible Official, the appellant, or an interested party who has submitted comments on the appeal. At the discretion of the Appeal Deciding Officer, an appellant or interested party may be invited to discuss data relevant to the appeal. Information provided to clarify issues or facts in the appeal must be based upon information previously documented in the file or appeal. Any information provided as a result of the Appeal Deciding Officer's request for more information must be made available to all parties, that is, to the Responsible Official, the appellant, and interested parties who have submitted comments on the appeal. All parties will have 5 days after the Appeal Deciding Officer receives the additional information to review and comment on the information, and the appeal decision period will be extended 5 additional days.

(3) *Issuance of final decision.* The Appeal Deciding Officer shall review the decision and appeal record and issue a written appeal decision to the parties

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within 30 days of the close of the appeal period except that this period must be extended to 35 days when additional information is requested by the Appeal Deciding Officer. The Appeal Officer may affirm or reverse the Responsible Official's decision, in whole or in part. There is no extension of the time period for rendering an appeal decision.

(k) *Implementation of decisions during pendency of appeal.* Recomputation of shares arising from a scheduled 5-year recomputation are effective on April 1 following the end of the 5-year period being considered. If an appeal that may affect the shares for the next 5-year period is not resolved by the April 1 date, the share decision announced by the Responsible Official must be implemented. If an appeal decision results in a change in the shares, the revised total share of the Small Business Timber Sale Set-aside Program must be accomplished during the remaining portion of the 5-year period.

(l) *Timber sale set-aside policy changes.* Timber purchasers shall receive an opportunity, in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, to review and comment on significant changes in the Small Business Timber Sale Set-aside Program or policy prior to adoption and implementation.

(m) *Information collection requirements.* The provisions of paragraph (f) of this section specify the information that appellants must provide when appealing decisions pertaining to recomputation of shares. As such, these rules contain information requirements as defined in 5 CFR Part 1320. These information requirements have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget and assigned control number 0596-0141.

[64 FR 411, Jan. 5, 1999]

Subpart C—Suspension and Debarment of Timber Purchasers

SOURCE: 52 FR 43329, Nov. 12, 1987, unless otherwise noted.

§ 223.130 Scope.

(a) This subpart prescribes policies and procedures governing the debarment and suspension of purchasers of

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National Forest System timber. This subpart further prescribes policies and procedures governing those persons who violate the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*).

(b) It provides for the listing of debarred and suspended purchasers.

(c) It sets forth the causes and procedures for debarment and suspension and for determining the scope, duration, and treatment to be accorded to purchasers listed as debarred or suspended.

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

§ 223.131 Applicability.

These regulations apply to purchasers of National Forest System timber as well as to those persons who violate the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*). These regulations do not apply to Forest Service procurement contracts which are governed by regulations at 41 CFR 4-1.6.

[60 FR 46921, Sept. 8, 1995]

§ 223.132 Policy.

(a) The Forest Service shall solicit and consider timber sale bids from and award contracts only to responsible business concerns and individuals. Debarment and suspension by the Forest Service are discretionary actions that, taken in accordance with these regulations, are appropriate means to effectuate this policy.

(b) Debarment and suspension shall be imposed only for the causes and in accordance with the procedures set forth in this subpart. The serious nature of debarment and suspension requires that these actions be imposed only in the public interest, for the Government's protection, and not for the purpose of punishment.

(c) Debarment and suspension actions taken under this subpart shall be based on the administrative record, including any submissions and argument made by the purchaser or named affiliate in accordance with this subpart, and shall be limited in scope and duration to that necessary to protect the Government's interest.

§ 223.133 Definitions.

As used in this subpart, the following terms shall have the meanings set forth below:

Adequate evidence means information sufficient to support the reasonable belief that a particular act or omission has occurred.

Affiliates are business concerns or persons, whose relationship entails the following:

(a) Either party directly or indirectly controls or has the power to control the other; or

(b) A third party directly or indirectly controls or has the power to control both. In determining whether affiliation exists, the Forest Service shall consider all appropriate factors, including, but not limited to, common ownership, common management, common facilities, and contractual relationships. Further guidelines to be used in determining affiliation are found in the Small Business Administration regulation in 13 CFR 121.401.

Civil judgment means a judgment or finding of a civil offense by any court of competent jurisdiction.

Control means the power to exercise, directly or indirectly, a controlling influence over the management, policies, or activities of an individual or business concern, whether through ownership of voting securities, through one or more intermediary individuals or business concerns, or otherwise.

Conviction means a judgment or conviction of a criminal offense by any court of competent jurisdiction, whether entered upon a verdict or a plea, and includes a conviction entered upon a plea of *nolo contendere*.

Debarment means action taken by a debarment official under §§ 223.136 through 223.140 to exclude a purchaser from Forest Service timber sale contracts for a reasonable, specified period of time. A purchaser so excluded is "debarred." Debarment pursuant to the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*) means action taken by a debarment official under §§ 223.136–223.140 to exclude persons from entering into any contract for the purchase of unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands and from taking delivery of unprocessed Federal timber purchased

by another party for the period of debarment.

Debarment official means the Chief of the Forest Service or the Deputy Chief, National Forest System, or the Associate Deputy Chief, Resources Divisions, National Forest System.

Federal lands means, for the purposes of the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*), lands that are owned by the United States, but does not include any lands the title to which is:

(a) Held in trust by the United States for the benefit of any Indian tribe or individual,

(b) Held by any Indian tribe or individual subject to a restriction by the United States against alienation, or

(c) Held by any Native Corporation as defined in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602).

Indictment means indictment for a criminal offense. An information or other filing by competent authority charging a criminal offense shall be given the same effect as an indictment.

Legal proceedings means any civil judicial proceeding to which the Government is a party or any criminal proceeding. The term includes appeals from such proceedings.

Notice means a written communication served in person or sent by certified mail, return receipt requested, or its equivalent, to the last known address of a party, its identified counsel, or agent for service of process. In the case of an organization, such notice may be sent to any partner, principal officer, director, owner or co-owner, or joint venturer.

Person means any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity, and includes any subsidiary, subcontractor, parent company, and business affiliates.

Preponderance of the evidence means proof by information that, compared with that opposing it, leads to the conclusion that the fact at issue is more probably true than not.

Purchaser means any person, who:

(a) Submits bids for, is awarded, or reasonably may be expected to submit bids for or be awarded, a Forest Service timber sale contract;

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(b) Conducts business with the Forest Service as an agent or representative of another timber sale purchaser; or

(c) For the purposes of the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*) (Act), any person who violates the Act or any regulation or contract issued under the Act, or any person who may reasonably be expected to enter into a contract to purchase or receive delivery of unprocessed Federal timber in violation of the Act or its implementing regulations.

Suspending official means the Chief of the Forest Service or the Deputy Chief, National Forest System or the Associate Deputy Chief, Resources Divisions, National Forest System.

Suspension means action taken by a suspending official under §§ 223.141 through 223.145 to immediately exclude a purchaser from bidding on or purchasing National Forest System timber for a temporary period of time pending completion of an investigation and such legal or debarment proceedings as may ensue; a purchaser so excluded is *suspended*.

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

§ 223.134 List of debarred and suspended purchasers.

(a) The Deputy Chief, National Forest System, shall compile and maintain a current list of National Forest System timber purchasers and affiliates who are debarred, suspended, or proposed for debarment. This list shall be distributed to all Regional Foresters and Forest Supervisors, the General Services Administration, the General Accounting Office, the Bureau of Land Management and other Federal agencies requesting said list.

(b) The Forest Service list shall contain the following information:

(1) The purchaser's name and address, and the name and address of any affiliate of the purchaser included pursuant to §§ 223.140(a) or § 223.145.

(2) The cause(s) for the action (see §§ 223.137 and 223.142).

(3) Any limitations to or deviations from the normal effect of debarment or suspension.

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(4) The effective date of the action and, in the case of debarment, the expiration date.

(5) The name and telephone number of the point of contact in the Forest Service regarding the action.

§ 223.135 Effect of listing.

(a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph (b) of this section, purchasers debarred or suspended in accordance with this subpart shall be excluded from bidding on or award of Forest Service timber sale contracts. The Forest Service shall not knowingly solicit or consider bids from, award contracts to, approve a third party agreement with, or renew or otherwise extend, except pursuant to the terms of 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 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 product deterioration or conditions favorable to insect epidemics;

(4) Observance of restrictions on exportation of timber;

(5) Observance of restrictions on the disposal of timber from small business set-aside sales;

(6) Providing access to the Forest Service upon its request to purchaser's books and accounts;

(7) Payment of monies due under terms of a Forest Service timber sale contract, including payment of damages relating to failure to cut designated timber by the contract termination date;

(8) Performance of contract by the contract termination date.

(f) Any other cause so serious or compelling that it affects the present responsibility of a purchaser of Government timber.

(g) Violation of the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*) (Act) or any regulation or contract issued under the Act.

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

§ 223.138 Procedures for debarment.

(a) *Investigation and referral.* Information which may be sufficient cause for debarment of a timber sale purchaser and affiliates shall be reported to the Forest Service Debarring Official. Generally, such information should be referred through the Forest Supervisor and the Regional Forester. The referral shall be accompanied by a complete

statement of the facts supported by appropriate exhibits and a recommendation for action. Where the statement of facts indicates a possible criminal offense, except possible antitrust violations, the debarring official shall notify the Office of Inspector General, USDA. Where the statement of facts indicates a possible antitrust violation, the debarring official shall notify the Antitrust Division, Department of Justice.

(b) *Decisionmaking process*—(1) *Notice of proposal to debar*. The debarring official shall initiate debarment by advising the purchaser and any specifically named affiliate, by certified mail, return receipt requested. The notice document shall include the following information:

(i) That debarment is being considered.

(ii) The reasons for the proposed debarment in terms sufficient to put the recipient on notice of the conduct or transaction(s) upon which it is based.

(iii) The cause(s) relied upon under § 223.137 for proposing debarment.

(iv) The specific procedures governing debarment decisionmaking in § 223.138 (b)(1) through (b)(8).

(v) The effect of the issuance of the notice of proposed debarment pending a final debarment decision (see § 223.136(b)).

(vi) The potential effect of a debarment.

(2) *Submission in opposition*. Within 30 calendar days after receipt of the notice of proposed debarment, the respondent may submit, in person, in writing, or through a representative, information and argument in opposition to and/or in mitigation of the proposed debarment, including any additional specific information that raises a genuine dispute over the material facts.

(3) *Informal hearing*. Pursuant to paragraph (b)(2) of this section, a respondent may request an informal hearing with the debarring official. The informal hearing shall be held within 20 calendar days from the date the request is received. The debarring official may postpone the date of the hearing if the respondent requests a postponement in writing. At the hearing, the respondent, appearing personally or through an attorney or other author-

ized representative, may informally present and explain evidence that causes for debarment do not exist, evidence of any mitigating factors, and arguments concerning the imposition, scope, duration or effects of proposed debarment or debarment. A transcript of the informal hearing shall not be required.

(4) *Additional proceedings as to disputed material facts*. In actions not based upon a conviction or civil judgment, if the debarring official finds that and gives notice that the submission in opposition raises a genuine dispute over facts material to the proposed debarment, respondent(s) may request a fact-finding conference on those disputed material facts. Such a conference shall be held within 20 calendar days from the date the request is received unless mutually agreed otherwise. The fact-finding conference shall conform with the following requirements:

(i) At least 10 days before the fact-finding conference, the debarring official shall send the respondent a copy of all documents in the administrative record as of the date of transmittal and not objected to by the Department of Justice.

(ii) At the conference, the respondent shall have the opportunity to appear with counsel, submit documentary evidence, present witnesses, and confront any person the Forest Service presents.

(iii) A transcribed record of any additional proceedings shall be made available at cost to the respondent upon request, unless the respondent and the Forest Service, by mutual agreement, waive the requirement for a transcript.

(5) *Debarring official's decision*—(i) *No additional proceedings necessary*. In actions based upon a conviction or civil judgement or in which there is no genuine dispute over material facts, the debarring official shall make a decision on the basis of all the information in the administrative record, including any submission made by the purchaser or any specifically named affiliate. The decision shall be made within 30 working days after receipt of any information and argument submitted, unless the debarring official extends this period for good cause.

(ii) *Additional proceedings necessary.*

(A) In actions in which additional proceedings are necessary to determine disputed material facts, the debarring official shall promptly prepare written findings of fact. The debarring official shall base the decision on the facts as found, together with any information and argument submitted by the purchaser or any specifically named affiliate and any other information in the administrative record.

(B) The debarring official may refer matters involving disputed material facts to another official for findings of fact. The debarring official may reject any such findings, in whole or in part, only after specifically determining them to be arbitrary and capricious or clearly erroneous.

(C) The debarring official's decision shall be made after the conclusion of the proceedings with respect to disputed facts.

(6) *Standard of evidence.* In any action in which the proposed debarment is not based upon a conviction or civil judgment, the cause for debarment must be established by a preponderance of the evidence. In any action in which the proposed debarment is based upon a conviction or civil judgment, the standard shall be deemed to have been met.

(7) *Notice of debarring official's decision.* (i) The purchaser and any affiliates involved shall be given prompt notice of the debarring official's decision by certified mail, return receipt requested. If the debarring official decides to impose debarment, the notice shall:

(A) Refer to the notice of proposed debarment;

(B) Specify the reasons for debarment;

(C) State the period of debarment, including effective dates (see § 223.139); and

(D) Specify any limitations on the terms of the debarment.

(ii) The debarring official shall also promptly notify Regional Foresters and Forest Supervisors of the decision.

[52 FR 43329, Nov. 12, 1987, as amended at 72 FR 31438, June 7, 2007]

§ 223.139 Period of debarment.

(a) Debarment shall be for a period commensurate with the seriousness of the cause(s):

(1) The debarring official shall consider any suspension period or period since issuance of the notice of proposed debarment in determining the debarment period.

(2) Generally, a debarment for those causes listed at § 223.137 (a)–(f) of this subpart should not exceed three (3) years, except as otherwise provided by law.

(3) A debarment for the causes listed at § 223.137(g) shall not exceed five (5) years.

(b) The debarring official may extend the debarment for those causes listed at § 223.137 (a)–(f) of this subpart for an additional period if that official determines that an extension is necessary to protect the Government's interest. However:

(1) A debarment may not be extended solely on the basis of the facts and circumstances upon which the initial debarment action was based;

(2) If debarment for an additional period is necessary, the debarring official shall initiate and follow the procedures in § 223.138 to extend the debarment.

(c) The debarring official may consider terminating the debarment or reducing the period or extent of debarment, upon the purchaser's request, supported by documentation, for reasons such as:

(1) Newly discovered material evidence;

(2) Reversal of the conviction or judgment upon which the debarment was based;

(3) Bona fide change in ownership or management;

(4) Elimination of other causes for which the debarment was imposed; or

(5) Other reasons the debarring official deems appropriate.

(d) The debarring official shall make final disposition of a reconsideration request under paragraph (c) of this section in writing within 30 working days of receipt of the reconsideration request and supporting documentation, unless the debarring official extends this period for good cause. The notice

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of the decision shall set forth the reasons for granting or denying the request.

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

§ 223.140 Scope of debarment.

(a) *Scope in general.* (1) Debarment of a purchaser constitutes debarment of all divisions or other organizational elements of the purchaser, unless the debarment decision is limited by its terms to specific divisions, organizational elements, or classes of sales.

(2) The debarring official may extend a debarment decision to include any affiliates of the purchaser, if they are—

(i) Specifically named and

(ii) Given written notice of the proposed debarment and provided an opportunity to respond (see § 223.138(b)).

(b) *Imputing conduct.* For purposes of determining the scope of debarment, conduct may be imputed as follows:

(1) The fraudulent, criminal, or other seriously improper conduct of any officer, director, shareholder, partner, employee, or other individual associated with a purchaser may be imputed to a purchaser when the conduct occurred in connection with the individual's performance of duties for or on behalf of the purchaser, or with the purchaser's knowledge, approval, or acquiescence. The purchaser's acceptance of the benefits derived from the conduct shall be evidence of such knowledge, approval, or acquiescence.

(2) The fraudulent, criminal, or other seriously improper conduct of a purchaser may be imputed to any officer, director, shareholder, partner, employee, or other individual associated with the purchaser who participated in, knew of, or has reason to know of the purchaser's conduct.

(3) The fraudulent, criminal, or other seriously improper conduct of one purchaser participating in a joint venture or similar arrangement may be imputed to other participating purchasers if the conduct occurred for or on behalf of the joint venture or similar arrangement or with the knowledge, approval, or acquiescence of those purchasers. Acceptance of the benefits derived from the conduct shall be evidence of such knowledge, approval or acquiescence.

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§ 223.141 Suspension.

(a) The suspending official may, in the public interest, suspend a purchaser on the basis of adequate evidence for any of the causes in § 223.142, using the procedures in § 223.143. However, the existence of a cause for suspension does not necessarily require that the purchaser be suspended. In making any suspension decision, the suspending official shall consider the seriousness of the purchaser's acts or omissions and any mitigating factors.

(b) Suspension is a serious action to be imposed, pending the completion of investigation or legal proceedings, when it has been determined that immediate action is necessary to protect the Government's interest. In assessing the adequacy of the evidence, consideration shall be given to how much information is available, how credible it is given the circumstances, whether or not important allegations are corroborated and what inferences can reasonably be drawn as a result. This assessment shall include an examination of basic documents such as contracts, bids, awards, inspection reports, and correspondence, as appropriate.

§ 223.142 Causes for suspension.

(a) The suspending official may suspend a purchaser suspected, upon adequate evidence, of the following:

(1) Commission of:

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

(ii) 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; or

(iii) Any other offense indicating a lack of business integrity or business honesty that seriously and directly affects the present responsibility of a purchase of Government timber.

(2) Indictment for any of the causes listed in paragraph (a) of this section constitutes adequate evidence for suspension.

(3) A purchaser's suspension from the purchaser of timber by another Federal agency which sells timber.

(b) The suspending official may, upon adequate evidence, also suspend a purchaser for any other cause so serious or compelling that it affects the present responsibility or a purchaser of Government timber.

§ 223.143 Procedures for suspension.

(a) *Investigation and referral.* Information which may be sufficient cause for suspension under § 223.142 shall be reported to the Forest Service Suspending Official. Generally, such information should be referred through the Forest Supervisor and the Regional Forester. The referral shall be accompanied by a complete statement of the facts supported by appropriate exhibits and a recommendation for action. Where the statement of facts indicates a possible criminal offense, except possible antitrust violations, the suspending official shall notify the Office of Inspector General, USDA. Where the statement of facts indicates a possible antitrust violation, the suspending official shall notify the Antitrust Division, Department of Justice.

(b) *Decisionmaking process*—(1) *Notice of suspension.* When a purchaser and any specifically named affiliates are suspended, the suspending official shall so advise the purchaser and any specifically named affiliate immediately by certified mail, return receipt requested. Such notice shall specify:

(i) That they have been suspended as of the date of the notice;

(ii) That the suspension is based on an indictment or other adequate evidence that the purchaser has committed irregularities,

(A) Of a serious nature in business dealings with the Government, or

(B) Seriously reflecting on the propriety of further Government dealings with the recipient;

(iii) Any such irregularities shall be described in terms sufficient to place the recipient on notice without disclosing the Government's evidence;

(iv) That the suspension is for a temporary period of time pending the completion of an investigation and such legal proceedings as may ensue;

(v) The cause(s) relied upon under § 223.142 for imposing suspension;

(vi) The effect of the suspension (see § 223.135);

(vii) The specific procedures governing suspension decisionmaking in § 223.143 (b)(1) through (b)(6).

(2) *Submission in opposition.* Within 30 calendar days after receipt of the notice of suspension, the purchaser or any specifically named affiliate may submit, in person, in writing, or through a representative, information and argument in opposition to the suspension, including any additional specific information that raises a genuine dispute over material facts.

(3) *Informal hearing.* Pursuant to paragraph (b)(2) of this section, respondent may request an informal hearing with the suspending official. The informal hearing shall be held within 20 calendar days from the date the request is received. The suspending official may postpone the date of the hearing if the respondent requests a postponement in writing. At the hearing, the respondent, appearing personally or through an attorney or other authorized representative, may informally present and explain evidence that causes for suspension do not exist, evidence of any mitigating factors, and arguments concerning the imposition, scope, duration or effects of suspension. A transcript of the informal hearing shall not be required.

(4) *Additional proceedings as to disputed material facts.* (i) If the suspending official finds that there exists a genuine dispute over facts material to the suspension, respondent(s) shall be afforded an opportunity to appear with counsel, submit documentary evidence, present witnesses, and confront any person the Forest Service presents, unless—

(A) The action is based on an indictment; or

(B) A determination is made, on the basis of Department of Justice advice, that the substantial interests of the Government in pending or contemplated legal proceedings based on the same facts as the suspension would be prejudiced.

(ii) If appropriate, the respondent may request a fact-finding conference on disputed material facts. Such a conference shall be held within 20 calendar days from the date the request is received unless mutually agreed otherwise. The fact-finding conference shall

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conform with the following requirements:

(A) At least 10 days before the fact-finding conference, the suspending official shall send the respondent a copy of all documents in the administrative record as of the date of transmittal and not objected to by the Department of Justice.

(B) At the conference, the respondent shall have the opportunity to appear with counsel, submit documentary evidence, present witnesses, and confront any person the Forest Service presents.

(iii) A transcribed record of any additional proceedings shall be prepared and made available at cost to the respondent upon request, unless the respondent and the Forest Service, by mutual agreement, waive the requirement for a transcript.

(5) *Suspending official's decision.* The suspending official may modify or terminate the suspension or leave it in force for the same reasons as for terminating or reducing the period or extent of debarment (see § 223.139(c)). The decision shall be made in accordance with the following provisions:

(i) *No additional proceedings necessary.* In actions based on an indictment, in which the respondent's submission does not raise a genuine dispute over material facts; or in which additional proceedings to determine disputed material facts have been denied on the basis of Department of Justice advice, the suspending official's decision shall be based on all the information in the administrative record, including any submissions and argument made by the respondent. The decision shall be made within 30 working days after receipt of any information and argument submitted by the respondent, unless the suspending official extends this period for good cause.

(ii) *Additional proceedings necessary.* (A) In actions in which additional proceedings are necessary as to disputed material facts, written findings of fact shall be promptly prepared. The suspending official shall base the decision on the facts as found, together with any information and argument submitted by the respondent and any other information in the administrative record.

(B) The suspending official may refer matters involving disputed material facts to another official for findings of fact. The suspending official may reject any such findings, in whole or in part, only after specifically determining them to be arbitrary and capricious or clearly erroneous.

(C) The suspending official's decision shall be made only after the conclusion of any proceedings with respect to disputed facts.

(6) *Notice of suspending official's decision.* The purchaser and any affiliates involved shall be given prompt written notice of the suspending officer's decision to continue or not continue the suspension by certified mail, return receipt requested.

§ 223.144 Period of suspension.

(a) Suspension shall be for a temporary period pending the completion of investigation and any ensuing legal proceedings unless sooner terminated by the suspending official or as provided in paragraph (b) of this section.

(b) If legal proceedings are not initiated within 12 months after the date of the suspension notice, the suspension shall be terminated unless an Assistant Attorney General requests its extension, in which case it may be extended for an additional 6 months. In no event may a suspension extend beyond 18 months, unless legal proceedings have been initiated within that period.

(c) The suspending official shall notify the Department of Justice of the proposed termination of any suspension, at least 30 days before the 12-month period expires, to give the Department an opportunity to request an extension.

§ 223.145 Scope of suspension.

The scope of suspension shall be the same as that for debarment (see § 223.140), except that the procedures in § 223.143 shall be used in imposing suspension.

Subpart D—Timber Export and Substitution Restrictions

§ 223.159 Scope and applicability.

The rules of this subpart apply to all timber sale contracts awarded before August 20, 1990, the date of enactment

of the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*). The rules at § 223.162 shall remain in effect for all contracts awarded on or after August 20, 1990, until September 8, 1995. Contracts awarded on or after August 20, 1990 are subject to the rules of subpart F of this part, unless otherwise noted. Contracts awarded on or after September 8, 1995 are governed in full by subpart F.

[60 FR 46922, Sept. 8, 1995]

§ 223.160 Definitions.

The following definitions apply to the provisions of this section:

(a) *Export* means either direct or indirect export to a foreign country and occurs on the date that a person enters into a contract or other binding transaction for the export of unprocessed timber or, if that date cannot be established, when unprocessed timber is found in an export yard or pond, bundled or otherwise prepared for shipment, or aboard an ocean-going vessel. An *export yard or pond* is an area where sorting and/or bundling of logs for shipment outside the United States is accomplished. Unprocessed timber, whether from National Forest System or private lands, is exported directly when exported by the National Forest timber purchaser. Timber is exported indirectly when export occurs as a result of a sale to another person or as a consequence of any subsequent transaction.

(b) *Historic level* means the average annual volume of unprocessed timber purchased or exported in calendar years 1971, 1972, and 1973.

(c) *Private lands* mean lands held or owned by a private person. *Nonprivate lands* include, but are not limited to, lands held or owned by the United States, a State or political subdivision thereof, or any other public agency, or lands held in trust by the United States for Indians.

(d) *Substitution* means the purchase of unprocessed timber from National Forest System lands to be used as replacement for unprocessed timber from private lands which is exported by the purchaser. Substitution occurs when (1) a person increases purchases of National Forest timber in any Calendar year more than 10 percent above their

historic level and in the same calendar year exports unprocessed timber from private land in the tributary area; or (2) a person increases exports of unprocessed timber from private land in any tributary area more than 10 percent above their historic level in any calendar year while they have National Forest timber under contract.

(e) *Tributary area* means the geographic area from which unprocessed timber is delivered to a specific processing facility or complex. A tributary area is expanded when timber outside an established tributary area is hauled to the processing facility or complex.

(f) *Unprocessed timber, except western red cedar in the contiguous 48 States*, means trees or portions of trees having a net scale content not less than 33⅓ percent of the gross volume, or the minimum piece specification set forth in the timber sale contract, in material meeting the peeler and sawmill log grade requirements published in the January 1, 1980—Official Log Scaling and Grading Rules used by Log Scaling and Grading Bureaus on the West Coast; cants to be subsequently remanufactured exceeding 8¾ inches in thickness; cants of any thickness reassembled into logs; and split or round bolts, except for aspen, or other roundwood not processed to standards and specifications suitable for end-product use. Unprocessed timber shall not mean pulp (utility) grade logs and Douglas-fir special cull logs or timber processed into the following:

- (1) Lumber and construction timbers, regardless of size, sawn on four sides;
- (2) Chips, pulp, and pulp products;
- (3) Green veneer and plywood;
- (4) Poles, posts, or piling cut or treated for use as such;
- (5) Cants cut for remanufacture, 8¾ inches in thickness or less;
- (6) Aspen bolts, not exceeding 4 feet in length.

(g) *Unprocessed western red cedar timber in the contiguous 48 States* means trees or portions of trees of that species which have not been processed into—

- (1) Lumber of American Lumber Standards Grades of Number 3 dimension or better, or Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau Export R-List Grades of Number 3 Common or better;

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- (2) Chips, pulp, and pulp products;
- (3) Veneer and plywood;
- (4) Poles, posts, or piling cut or treated with preservatives for use as such and not intended to be further processed; or
- (5) Shakes and shingles; provided that lumber from private lands manufactured to the standards established in the lumber grading rules of the American Lumber Standards Association or the Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau and manufactured lumber authorized to be exported under license by the Department of Commerce shall be considered processed.

(h) *Person* means an individual, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity and includes any subsidiary, subcontractor, parent company, or other affiliate. Business entities are considered affiliates for the entire calendar year when one controls or has the power to control the other or when both are controlled directly or indirectly by a third person during any part of the calendar year.

(i) *Purchase* occurs when a person is awarded a contract to cut National Forest timber or through the approval of a third party agreement by the Forest Service.

(j) *Purchaser* means a person that has purchased a National Forest timber sale.

(Sec. 14, Pub. L. 95-588, 90 Stat. 2958, as amended (16 U.S.C. 472a); sec. 301, Pub. L. 96-126, 93 Stat. 979; sec. 1, 30 Stat. 35, as amended (16 U.S.C. 55.1); sec. 301, 90 Stat. 1063, Pub. L. 94-373; sec. 1, 30 Stat. 35, as amended (16 U.S.C. 551))

[45 FR 80528, Dec. 5, 1980, as amended at 46 FR 2611, Jan. 12, 1981; 46 FR 22581, Apr. 20, 1981; 47 FR 746, Jan. 7, 1982. Redesignated at 49 FR 2761, Jan. 23, 1984]

§ 223.161 [Reserved]

§ 223.162 Limitations on timber harvested from all other states.

Unprocessed timber from National Forest System lands west of the 100th Meridian in the contiguous 48 States may not:

- (a) Be exported from the United States;
- (b) Be used in substitution for unprocessed timber from private lands which is exported by the purchaser; or

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(c) Be sold, traded, exchanged, or otherwise given to any person who does not agree to manufacture it to meet the processing requirements of this section and/or require such a processing agreement in any subsequent resale or other transaction. This limitation on export or substitution does not apply to species of timber previously found to be surplus to domestic needs or to any additional species, grades, or quantities of timber which may be found by the Secretary to be surplus to domestic needs.

(Sec. 14, Pub. L. 95-588, 90 Stat. 2958, as amended (16 U.S.C. 472a); sec. 301, Pub. L. 96-126, 93 Stat. 979; sec. 1, 30 Stat. 35, as amended (16 U.S.C. 55.1); sec. 301, 90 Stat. 1063, Pub. L. 94-373; sec. 1, 30 Stat. 35, as amended (16 U.S.C. 551))

[45 FR 80528, Dec. 5, 1980, as amended at 46 FR 2611, Jan. 12, 1981; 47 FR 746, Jan. 7, 1982. Redesignated at 49 FR 2761, Jan. 23, 1984]

§ 223.163 [Reserved]

§ 223.164 Penalty for falsification.

For false certification of documents relating to export or substitution and/or other violations of export and substitution requirements by the purchaser of timber from National Forest System lands, the Forest Service may cancel the subject contract, debar the involved person or persons from bidding on National Forest timber, or initiate other action as may be provided by law or regulation.

(Sec. 14, Pub. L. 94-588, 90 Stat. 2958, as amended (16 U.S.C. 472a); Sec. 301, Pub. L. 96-126, 93 Stat. 979; Sec. 1, 30 Stat. 35, as amended (16 U.S.C. 55.1); Sec. 301, 90 Stat. 1063, Pub. L. 94-373; Sec. 1, 30 Stat. 35, as amended (16 U.S.C. 551); (44 U.S.C. 3506))

[45 FR 80528, Dec. 5, 1980. Redesignated at 49 FR 2761, Jan. 23, 1984, and amended at 51 FR 40316, Nov. 6, 1986]

Subpart E [Reserved]

Subpart F—The Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 Program

SOURCE: 60 FR 46922, Sept. 8, 1995, unless otherwise noted.

§ 223.185 Scope and applicability.

This subpart implements provisions of the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*) that became effective upon enactment or as otherwise specified in the Act. As of September 8, 1995, this subpart applies to unprocessed timber originating from private lands west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States that requires domestic processing. Except as provided later in this paragraph, this subpart applies to all unprocessed timber originating from National Forest System lands west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States acquired from timber sale contracts awarded on or after August 20, 1990. The rules regarding substitution at § 223.162 of subpart D apply to unprocessed timber acquired from timber sale contracts awarded between August 20, 1990, and September 8, 1995, as provided in § 490(a)(2)(A) of the Act. The rules regarding reporting the acquisition and disposition of unprocessed Federal timber at § 223.193 of this subpart apply to all transfers of unprocessed Federal timber originating from National Forest System lands west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States regardless of timber sale contract award date.

§ 223.186 Definitions.

The following definitions apply to the provisions of this subpart:

Acquire means to come into possession of, whether directly or indirectly, through a sale, trade, exchange, or other transaction. The term “acquisition” means the act of acquiring. The terms “acquire” and “purchase” are synonymous and are used interchangeably.

Act means the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (Pub. L. No. 101-382, 104 Stat. 714-726; 16 U.S.C. 620-620j).

Area of operations refers to the geographic area within which logs from any origin have neither been exported nor transported to an area where export occurs. The area of operations will be determined for individual Forest Service Administrative Units or groups of Administrative Units by the Regional Foresters of Regions 1, 2, 3, and 4 on an as-needed basis, and used as

part of the criteria for evaluating requests to waive the identifying and marking requirements for unprocessed Federal logs.

Cants or *Flitches* are synonymous, and mean trees or portions of trees, sawn on one or more sides, intended for remanufacture into other products elsewhere.

Civil penalties:

Willful disregard means a person knew or showed reckless disregard for the matter of whether the person’s conduct is prohibited by the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990, 16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.* with regard to the prohibition against exporting unprocessed Federal timber (including causing unprocessed timber to be exported).

Willfully means a person knew or showed reckless disregard for the matter of whether the person’s conduct is prohibited by the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990, 16 U.S.C. *et seq.*, or regulations issued under the Act, even though such violation may not have caused the export of unprocessed Federal timber in violation of the Act.

Disregard means to ignore, overlook, or fail to observe any provision of the Act or a regulation issued under this Act, even though such violation may not have caused the export of unprocessed Federal timber in violation of the Act.

Should have known means committing an act that a reasonable person in the timber industry would have known violates a provision of the Act or regulations issued under the Act, even though the violation may not have caused the export of unprocessed Federal timber in violation of the Act.

Each violation refers to any violation under the Act or its implementing regulations with regard to a single act, which includes but is not limited to a single marking (or lack thereof) on a single log, the export of a single log, or a single entry on a document.

Export means transporting, or causing to be transported, either directly or through another party, unprocessed timber to a foreign country. Export occurs:

(1) On the date that a person enters into an agreement to sell, trade, exchange or otherwise convey such timber to a person for delivery to a foreign country;

(2) When unprocessed timber is placed in an export facility in preparation (sorting, bundling, container loading etc.) for shipment outside the United States; or,

(3) When unprocessed timber is placed on board an ocean-going vessel, rail car, or other conveyance destined for a foreign country.

Federal lands means lands that are owned by the United States west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States, but do not include any land the title to which is;

(1) Held in trust by the United States for the benefit of any Indian tribe or individual;

(2) Held by any Indian tribe or individual subject to a restriction by the United States against alienation; or

(3) Held by any Native Corporation as defined in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602).

Finished products means products from trees, portions of trees or other roundwood products processed to standards and specifications intended for end product use.

Fiscal year means the Federal fiscal year beginning October 1, and ending the following September 30.

Gross value means the total value a person received from the transfer of unprocessed Federal timber involved in a violation, before production, delivery, agent fees, overhead, or other costs are removed.

Hammer brand refers to an identifying mark or brand composed of numbers, letters, characters, or a combination of numbers, letters, or characters permanently attached to a hammer, or other similar striking tool. The hammer brand must make a legible imprint of the brand in the end of a log when struck.

Highway yellow paint refers to an oil base or equivalent yellow paint of lasting quality comparable to the yellow paint used to mark highways.

Log refers to an unprocessed portion of a tree that is transported to a manufacturing facility or other location for

processing, transferring to another person, or exporting. “Logs” is synonymous with “timber”.

Manufacturing facility means a permanently located processing plant used to convert unprocessed timber into products.

Non-manufacturer means a person who does not own or operate a manufacturing facility.

Person means any individual, partnership, corporation, association, or other legal entity and includes any subsidiary, subcontractor, parent company, and business affiliates. Persons are affiliates of each other when either directly or indirectly, one person controls or has the power to control the other or a third party or parties control or have the power to control both. In determining whether or not affiliation exists, consideration shall be given to all appropriate factors, including but not limited to common ownership, common management, common facilities, and contractual relationships.

Private lands means lands, located west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States held or owned by a person. Such term does not include Federal lands or public lands, or any land the title to which is;

(1) Held in trust by the United States for the benefit of any Indian tribe or individual;

(2) Held by any Indian tribe or individual subject to a restriction by the United States against alienation; or

(3) Held by any Native Corporation as defined in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602).

Processed means timber processed into products listed in § 223.187 of these regulations.

Purchase has the same meaning as *acquire*. The terms are used interchangeably.

Same geographic and economic area means the land within the boundaries of an approved sourcing area.

Sourcing area means the geographic area approved by the Secretary which

includes a person's timber manufacturing facility and the private and Federal lands from which the person acquires or intends to acquire unprocessed timber to supply such manufacturing facility; a sourcing area must be geographically and economically separate from any area from which that person harvests for export any unprocessed timber originating from private lands.

Substitution occurs when:

(1) A person acquires, directly or indirectly, unprocessed timber from Federal lands west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States and engages in exporting or selling for export, unprocessed timber originating from private lands within the same geographic and economic area; or

(2) A person acquires, directly or indirectly, unprocessed timber from Federal lands west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States and, during the preceding 24-month period, exported unprocessed timber originating from private lands; or

(3) A person exports or sells for export, unprocessed timber originating from private lands within the same geographic and economic area in the same calendar year that the person has unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands in the person's possession or under contract; or

(4) A person purchases, directly or indirectly, unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands if such person sells or otherwise transfers unprocessed timber that originates from private lands west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States and that requires domestic processing, to a third party if that third party or successive parties export that unprocessed private timber. A third party or successive parties who acquire such unprocessed timber that originates from private lands west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States and that requires domestic processing may not export such timber.

Transaction means an arrangement involving the transfer of unprocessed timber.

Transaction statement is a signed copy of one of the transaction reporting forms in 36 CFR 223.193 and 223.194.

Transfer means to pass title, sell, trade, exchange, or otherwise convey unprocessed timber to another person.

Unprocessed timber means trees or portions of trees or other roundwood not processed to standards and specifications suitable for end product use and intended for remanufacture. Unprocessed timber does not include products intended for remanufacture that meet the criteria listed in §223.187(a) (2) or (3). For the purposes of reporting and identifying under §§223.193, 223.194 and 223.195, unprocessed timber also means timber products listed in §223.187 of these regulations, and other timber products including house logs that are part of a structure kit, that are indistinguishable from other unprocessed timber.

§ 223.187 Determinations of unprocessed timber.

(a) *All species except western red cedar.* Unprocessed timber, as defined in §223.186 of this Subpart, does not include timber processed into any one of the following:

(1) Lumber or construction timbers, except western red cedar, meeting current American Lumber Standards Grades or Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau Export R or N list grades, sawn on 4 sides, not intended for remanufacture. To determine whether such lumber or construction timbers meet this grade and intended use standard, the shipper of record must have in its possession for each shipment or order, and available for inspection upon the request of the Forest Service:

(i) A legible copy of a lumber inspection certificate certified by a lumber inspection/grading organization generally recognized by the industry as setting a selling standard; and,

(ii) A statement by the manufacturer certifying under the penalties provided in section 492 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 620d) and the False Statements Act (18 U.S.C. 1001) that the products in the shipment or order are intended to be used as shipped, are manufactured into products, or processed into pulp, and are not to be manufactured into other products. The certification statements shall be made in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section. The certification statements in paragraph (b) of

this section are not required if the lumber or construction timbers described in paragraph (a)(1) of this section or the pulpwood bolts described in paragraph (a)(8) of this section otherwise may be exported without regard to an intent to remanufacture or process into pulp. For instance, because the timber originates from private land from which timber may be exported.

(2) Lumber, construction timbers, or cants for remanufacture, except western red cedar, meeting current American Lumber Standards Grades or Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau Export R or N list clear grades, sawn on 4 sides, not to exceed 12 inches (30.5 cm) thick. To determine whether such lumber, timbers, or cants meet this grading standard, the shipper of record must have in its possession for each shipment or order and available for inspection, upon the request of the Forest Service, a legible copy of a lumber inspection certificate certified by a lumber inspection/grading organization generally recognized by the industry as setting a selling standard.

(3) Lumber, construction timbers, or cants for remanufacture, except western red cedar, that do not meet the grades referred to in paragraph (a)(2) of this section and are sawn on 4 sides, with wane less than $\frac{1}{4}$ of any face, not exceeding $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches (22.2 cm) thick.

(4) Chips, pulp, or pulp products.

(5) Veneer or plywood.

(6) Poles, posts, or piling cut or treated with preservatives for use as such.

(7) Shakes or shingles.

(8) Aspen or other pulpwood bolts, not exceeding 100 inches in length, exported for processing into pulp. Shippers of record of such pulpwood bolts must have in their possession, and available for inspection upon request of the Forest Service, in accordance with paragraph (b) of this section, a manufacturer's certificate that such bolts are intended for processing into pulp.

(9) Pulp logs or cull logs processed at domestic pulp mills, domestic chip plants, or other domestic operations for the purpose of conversion of logs into chips.

(b) *Export product certifications.* (1) Manufacturers of lumber or construction timbers described in paragraph (a)(1) of this section and pulpwood

bolts described in paragraph (a)(8) of this section, shall certify to the following statements:

(2) *Lumber or construction timbers;* "I certify that the products in the shipment identified by my shipping order number ___ dated ___, are manufactured in accordance with the attached order from (*buyer*) of (*address*), numbered ___ and dated ___, are intended to be used as shipped and are not to be remanufactured into other products. I make this certification with full knowledge and understanding of the export and substitution restrictions of the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 620 *et seq.*) (Act) and its implementing regulations. I fully understand that exporting unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands or unprocessed timber from private lands which is required to be processed domestically is a violation of this Act, its implementing regulations, and the False Statements Act (18 U.S.C. 1001), and may subject me to the penalties and remedies provided for such violations."

(3) *Pulpwood bolts.* "I certify that the pulpwood bolts in the shipment identified by my shipping order number ___ dated ___, are manufactured in accordance with the attached order from (*buyer*) of (*address*), numbered ___ and dated ___, are intended to be processed into pulp and are not to be remanufactured into other products. I make this certification with full knowledge and understanding of the export and substitution restrictions of the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*) (Act) and its implementing regulations. I fully understand that exporting unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands or unprocessed timber from private lands which is required to be processed domestically is a violation of this Act, its implementing regulations, and the False Statements Act (18 U.S.C. 1001), and may subject me to the penalties and remedies provided for such violations."

(4) *Signatory procedures.* Certificates shall be on company letterhead, and signed by the person manufacturing the shipment. In the case of a corporation, the certificates must be signed by a person authorized, in writing, by the

Chief Executive Officer pursuant to 36 CFR 223.187(b)(4), to sign the certificates in 36 CFR 223.187(b) on behalf of the corporation.

(5) *Chief Executive Officer Authorization.* The authorization by the Chief Executive Officer shall be on company letterhead, shall be notarized, and shall read as follows:

“I authorize ___ to sign the certificates in 36 CFR 223.187(b) on behalf of (*name of corporation*). I make this authorization with full knowledge and understanding of the export and substitution restrictions of the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 620 *et seq.*) (Act) and its implementing regulations. I fully understand that exporting unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands or unprocessed timber originating from private lands which is required to be processed domestically is a violation of this Act, its implementing regulations, and the False Statements Act (18 U.S.C. 1001), and may subject me to the penalties and remedies provided for such violation.”

(6) Exporters of other timber products originating from Federal lands not specifically listed in §223.187 which may develop export markets in the future may also require similar certification statements. Such statements will be provided by the Forest Service.

(c) *Western red cedar.* Unprocessed western red cedar timber does not include manufactured lumber authorized for export under license by the Department of Commerce, and lumber from private lands processed to standards established in the lumber grading rules of the American Lumber Standards Association or the Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau, or timber processed into any of the following products:

(1) Lumber of American Lumber Standards Grades of Number 3 dimension or better, or Pacific Lumber Inspection Bureau Export R-List Grades of Number 3 common or better, with a maximum cross section of 2,000 square centimeters (310 square inches) for any individual piece of processed western red cedar, regardless of grade. To determine whether such lumber meets these established standards, grades and size restrictions, the shipper of record must have in its possession for each shipment, and available for inspection upon the request of the Forest Service, a legible copy of a lumber inspection certifi-

cate certified by a lumber inspection/grading organization generally recognized by the industry as setting a selling standard. Export restrictions governing western red cedar timber harvested from Federal, State or other public lands are found in 7(i) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 as amended (50 U.S.C. appendix 2406(i)), and implementing regulations at 15 CFR 777.7.

(2) Chips, pulp, and pulp products;

(3) Veneer and plywood;

(4) Poles, posts, pilings cut or treated with preservatives for use as such and not intended to be further processed; and

(5) Shakes and shingles.

(d) *Finished Products.* Shippers of record of products manufactured from unprocessed western red cedar originating from Federal lands, acquired by the manufacturer under the exemption from the prohibition against indirect substitution at §223.189(e)(1), must have in their possession for each shipment a certificate from the manufacturer that such products are *finished products* as defined in §223.186 of this subpart. The certification statement shall read as follows:

(1) “I certify that the products in the shipment identified by my shipping order number __, dated __, are manufactured in accordance with the attached order from __ (buyer) __ of __ (address) __, numbered __ and dated __, are intended for end product use. I understand that only western red cedar products that are *finished products* are exempt from the prohibition against indirect substitution in the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 620b(b)(1)) and its implementing regulations. I make this certification with full knowledge and understanding of the export and substitution restrictions of the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*) (Act) and its implementing regulations. I fully acknowledge and understand that to acquire western red cedar under the indirect substitution exemption in 16 U.S.C. 620b(b)(1) for purposes other than domestic processing into finished products will be a violation of this Act, its implementing regulations, and the False Statements Act (18

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U.S.C. 1001) and may subject me to the penalties and remedies provided for such violation.”

(2) *Signatory procedures.* Certificates shall be on company letterhead, and signed by the person manufacturing the shipment. In the case of a corporation, the certificate must be signed by a person authorized, in writing, by the Chief Executive Officer, pursuant to 36 CFR 223.187(d)(3), to sign the certificate in 36 CFR 223.187(d)(1) on behalf of the corporation.

(3) *Chief Executive Officer Authorization.* The authorization by the Chief Executive Officer shall be on company letterhead, shall be notarized, and shall read as follows:

“I authorize ___ to sign the certificate in 36 CFR 223.187(d)(1) on behalf of (name of corporation). I make this authorization with full knowledge and understanding of the export and substitution restrictions of the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*) (Act) and its implementing regulations. I fully understand that exporting unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands or unprocessed timber originating from private lands which is required to be processed domestically is a violation of this Act, its implementing regulations, and the False Statements Act (18 U.S.C. 1001), and may subject me to the penalties and remedies provided for such violation.”

§ 223.188 Prohibitions against exporting unprocessed Federal timber.

No person who acquires unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States may export such timber from the United States, or sell, trade, exchange, or otherwise convey such timber to any other person for the purpose of exporting such timber from the United States. This prohibition does not apply to specific quantities of grades and species of such unprocessed Federal timber that the Secretary of Agriculture determines to be surplus to domestic manufacturing needs.

§ 223.189 Prohibitions against substitution.

(a) *Direct substitution prohibition.* Except as otherwise provided by this section:

(1) No person may purchase directly from any department or agency of the United States unprocessed timber orig-

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inating from Federal lands west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States if:

(i) Such person acquires unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States and engages in exporting or selling for export, unprocessed timber originating from private lands within the same geographic and economic area; or

(ii) Such person has, during the preceding 24-month period, exported unprocessed timber originating from private lands.

(2) No person may export or sell for export, unprocessed timber originating from private lands within the same geographic and economic area in the same calendar year that the person has unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands in the person's possession or under contract.

(3) No person may purchase unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands if such person sells or otherwise transfers unprocessed timber that originates from private lands west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States and that requires domestic processing, to a third party if that third party or successive parties export that unprocessed private timber. A third party or successive parties who acquire such unprocessed timber that originates from private lands west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States and that requires domestic processing may not export such timber.

(4) The prohibitions in paragraphs (a) (1)–(3) of this section shall not apply to specific quantities of grades and species of unprocessed timber which the Secretary of Agriculture has determined to be surplus to domestic manufacturing needs.

(b) *Exemptions.* (1) Pursuant to section 490(c) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 620b), all persons who applied for a sourcing area by December 20, 1990, in accordance with § 223.190 of this subpart, were exempt from the prohibitions against substitution, in accordance with § 223.189(a)(1) of this subpart, until such time that the approving official approved or disapproved the application.

(2) Pursuant to Section 490(a) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 620b), an exemption to

the prohibition in § 223.189(a)(1)(B) of this subpart is provided to:

(i) A person with a historic export quota who submitted a certification in accordance with § 223.189 (c) and (d) of this subpart; and

(ii) A non-manufacturer who submitted a certification in accordance with § 223.192 of this subpart.

(3) Pursuant to § 490(c) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 620b), the prohibitions against direct substitution in § 223.189(a) (1) and (2) of this subpart do not apply to a person who acquires unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands within an approved sourcing area, does not export unprocessed timber originating from private lands within the approved sourcing area while the approval is in effect, and, if applicable, received a waiver of the prohibition against exporting unprocessed timber originating from private lands within the sourcing area during the preceding 24 months, in accordance with § 223.189 (f) and (g) of this subpart.

(c) *Historic export quota exemption.* The prohibition against the purchase of Federal timber for a person who has exported unprocessed timber originating from private lands, within the preceding 24-month period, shall not apply to a person with a historic export quota approved by the Secretary and who has been exporting unprocessed private timber in accordance with the log export and substitution regulations of the Secretary of Agriculture at 36 CFR part 223, subpart D, in effect before August 20, 1990, if:

(1) That person certified in writing to the Regional Forester of the Region administering the historic export quota, on or before November 20, 1990, that the person would cease exporting unprocessed timber originating from private lands on or before February 20, 1991, and

(2) The exporting ceased in accordance with such certification.

(d) *Application for historic export quota exemption.* To obtain an exemption from the prohibition against export within the preceding 24-month period for purchasing Federal timber based on an approved historic export quota described in paragraph (c) of this section, a person must have applied in writing to the applicable Regional Forester on

or before November 20, 1990. The certificate must have been notarized. The application was required to be on company letterhead and must have included:

(1) An agreement to retain records of all transactions involving acquisition and disposition of unprocessed timber from both private and Federal lands within the area(s) involved in the certification, for a period of three (3) years beginning November 20, 1990, and to make such records available for inspection upon the request of the Regional Forester, or other official to whom such authority has been delegated.

(2) A signed certification which reads as follows:

"I have purchased, under an historic export quota approved by the Secretary of Agriculture, unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands located west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States during the preceding 24 months in direct substitution for exported unprocessed timber originating from private lands. I desire to purchase directly from a Department or agency of the United States, unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands located in such area of the United States. I make this certification for the exemption from the prohibition against export within the preceding 24-month period for purchasing Federal timber required by the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990, (Pub. L. No. 101-382, August 20, 1990, 16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*) (Act). I hereby certify that I will cease all exporting of such unprocessed private timber from lands west of the 100th meridian in the 48 contiguous States of the United States by February 20, 1991. I make this certification with full knowledge and understanding of the requirements of this Act and do fully understand that failure to cease such exporting as certified will be a violation of this Act (16 U.S.C. 620d) and the False Statements Act (18 U.S.C. 1001), and may subject me to the penalties and remedies provided from such violation."

(3) The certification must have been signed by the person making such certification or, in the case of a corporation, by its Chief Executive Officer.

(e) *Indirect substitution prohibition.* No person may purchase from any other person unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States if such person would be prohibited by paragraph (a) of this section from purchasing such timber directly from a

Department or agency of the United States, pursuant to § 490(b) of the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*). The prohibition in this paragraph does not apply to the following:

(1) To the acquisition of western red cedar, which is domestically processed into finished products.

(2) To a person who acquires unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands within an approved sourcing area, does not export unprocessed timber originating from private lands within the approved sourcing area while the approval is in effect, and, if applicable, receives a waiver of the prohibition against exporting unprocessed timber originating from private lands within the sourcing area during the preceding 24 months in accordance with § 223.189 (f) and (g) of this subpart.

(3) To the limited amount of unprocessed National Forest System timber within Washington State that is exempt from the prohibition against indirect substitution, pursuant to § 223.203.

(f) *Waiver within a sourcing area.* The prohibitions in § 223.189(a) (1) and (2) against direct and indirect acquisition of unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands do not apply if:

(1) A person acquires such timber from within an approved sourcing area located west of the 100th meridian in the 48 contiguous States;

(2) Has not exported unprocessed timber originating from private lands located within the approved sourcing area during the preceding 24 months;

(3) Does not export such private timber from within the approved sourcing area during the period the sourcing area is in effect; and

(4) Does not export such private timber during any calendar year in the same geographic and economic area that unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States is under contract or in possession, if the sourcing area is no longer in effect, pursuant to the definition of substitution in 36 CFR 223.186.

(5) The appropriate Regional Forester could waive, in writing, the prohibition against export within the preceding 24-month period for any person who certified in writing, on or before Novem-

ber 20, 1990, that on or before February 20, 1991, that person would cease exporting unprocessed timber originating from private lands within the approved sourcing area for a period of not less than three (3) years. Signatories of this certificate who received an approved sourcing area, like all holders of sourcing areas, are subject to the prohibition against exporting unprocessed timber originating from private lands within the sourcing area boundaries, pursuant to this paragraph.

(g) *Application for waiver within a sourcing area.* To obtain a waiver of the prohibition against export within the preceding 24-month period for purchasing Federal timber described in paragraph (f) of this section, a person must have submitted a request for waiver, in writing, to the Regional Forester of the region in which the manufacturing facility being sourced is located, which must have been received by the Regional Forester on or before November 20, 1990, and which must have been signed by the person making such request or, in the case of a corporation, by its Chief Executive Officer. The request for waiver must be notarized and, in the case of a corporation, with its corporate seal affixed. The request shall be on company letterhead with its corporate seal affixed and must include:

(1) An agreement to retain records of all transactions involving acquisition and disposition of unprocessed timber from both private and Federal lands within the area(s) involved in the waiver request, for a period of three (3) years beginning November 20, 1990, and to make such records available for inspection upon the request of the Regional Forester, or other official to whom such authority has been delegated.

(2) A signed certification statement which reads as follows:

"I have engaged in exporting of unprocessed timber originating from private land located within the sourcing area for which I am applying. I desire to purchase directly from a department or agency of the United States unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands located within the desired sourcing area. I hereby request waiver of the prohibition against export within the preceding 24-month period for purchasing Federal timber required by the forest Resources

Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (Pub. L. No. 101-382, August 20, 1990, 16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*) (Act). I hereby certify that I will cease all exporting of such unprocessed private timber from within the desired sourcing area by February 20, 1991, and will not resume such exporting for a period of not less than three (3) years. I make this certification with full knowledge and understanding of the requirements of this Act and do fully understand that failure to cease such exporting as certified will be a violation of Section 492 of this Act (16 U.S.C. 620d) and the False Statements Act (18 U.S.C. 1001), and may subject me to the penalties and remedies provided for such violation.”

§ 223.190 Sourcing area application procedures.

(a) Subject to the restrictions described in §223.189 of this subpart and, except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section, a person who owns or operates a manufacturing facility and who exports unprocessed timber originating from private lands may apply for a sourcing area in accordance with the procedures of this section. However, an owner/operator of a manufacturing facility who exports unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands may not possess or acquire unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands unless the acquisition is within an approved sourcing area. A person who intends to acquire or become affiliated with a manufacturing facility that processes Federal timber and who is an exporter may apply for a sourcing area. Written proof of the intent to acquire or affiliate must be included in the sourcing area application, signed by the applicant and the person or, in the case of a corporation, the Chief Executive Officer, whose company the applicant intends to acquire or affiliate with. This certification must be on letterhead and must be notarized. A sourcing area application that the Secretary determines would be approved will be granted tentative approval pending final notification by the applicant of acquisition of or affiliation with the manufacturing facility. The tentative approval of the sourcing area will lapse unless the acquisition or affiliation occurs within 30 days of the tentative approval of the sourcing area. A sourcing area is not valid until final approval of the sourcing area. The direct substitution prohibition did not

apply to a person who applied for a sourcing area on or before December 20, 1990. A request for modification of an existing sourcing area shall trigger a review pursuant to the procedures and restrictions in §223.191(e).

(b) As provided in the Act, a person who has requested an exemption or waiver of the prohibition against export within the preceding 24-month period, pursuant to §223.189 of this subpart, must have applied for the desired sourcing area on or before December 20, 1990.

(c) *Applications.* Sourcing area applications shall include:

(1) A map of sufficient scale and detail to clearly show:

(i) The applicant's desired sourcing area boundary. This boundary will include both the private and Federal lands from which the applicant intends to acquire unprocessed timber for sourcing its manufacturing facilities;

(ii) The location of the timber manufacturing facilities owned or operated by the applicant within the proposed sourcing area where the person intends to process timber originating from Federal land;

(iii) The location of private lands within and outside the desired sourcing area where the person has, within the 24 months immediately preceding the date of the application, acquired unprocessed timber originating from private land which was exported, sold, traded, exchanged, or otherwise conveyed to another person for the purpose of exporting such timber;

(2) A list of other persons with timber manufacturing facilities located within the same general vicinity as the applicant's facilities;

(3) Any other information the applicant may believe is appropriate to support approval of the requested sourcing area; and

(4) A statement signed by the person certifying under the penalties provided in Section 492 of this Act (16 U.S.C. 620d) and the False Statements Act (18 U.S.C. 1001) that the information provided in support of the application is true, complete, and accurate to the best of the applicant's knowledge. The statement shall read as follows:

“I certify under penalties of 16 U.S.C. 620d and 18 U.S.C. 1001, that the information provided in support of this application, is true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge concerning my timber purchasing and export patterns. I certify that the information provided concerning my timber purchasing and export patterns fully and accurately reflects, to the best of my knowledge, the boundaries of the sourcing area for which I am applying. I make this certification with full knowledge and understanding of the export and substitution restrictions of the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*) (Act) and its implementing regulations. I certify that I have not exported unprocessed timber originating from private lands within the boundaries of the sourcing area that is the subject of this application in the previous 24 months. I fully understand that, if this application is approved, exporting unprocessed private timber originating from within the approved sourcing area will be a violation of this Act (16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*) its implementing regulations, and the False Statements Act (18 U.S.C. 1001), and may subject me to the penalties and remedies provided for such violation.”

(d) *Confidential information.* Applications are not considered confidential. However, if a person does submit confidential information as part of an application, the information should be marked confidential. Information so marked will be afforded the rights and protection provided under the Freedom of Information Act.

(e) *Where to submit the application.* A sourcing area applicant shall send the application to the Office of Administrative Law Judges and shall, simultaneously, send a copy of the sourcing area application to the Forest Service Regional Forester of the region in which the manufacturing facility being sourced is located. Where the sourcing area application will cover purchases from more than one agency, application is to be made to the agency from which the applicant expects to purchase the preponderance of its Federal timber. The sourcing area applicant must also send a complete copy of the application to each agency concerned. The lead agency shall make the decision in consultation with, and upon co-signature of, the other agencies concerned.

(f) *Signatory procedures.* Sourcing area applications must be signed by the person making the request, or in the case

of a corporation, by its Chief Executive Officer, and must be notarized. The application shall be on company letterhead.

(g) The sourcing area application and review process will be conducted pursuant to the Rules of Practice Governing the Adjudication of Sourcing Area Applications and Formal Review of Sourcing Areas Pursuant to the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*), found at 7 CFR part 1, subpart M.

(h) A final decision on a sourcing area application or a formal sourcing area review will be issued within four (4) months of the receipt of the application or initiation of the review.

(i) The following criteria must be met for sourcing area approval:

(1) The Administrative Law Judge, or, on appeal, the Judicial Officer must find that the proposed sourcing area is geographically and economically separate from any area that the applicant harvests or expects to harvest for export any unprocessed timber originating from private lands. In making such a finding, the Administrative Law Judge, or, on appeal, the Judicial Officer shall consider the timber purchasing patterns of the applicant on private and Federal lands equally with those of other persons in the same local vicinity and the relative similarity of such purchasing patterns.

(2) The “same local vicinity” will normally be manufacturing facilities located within 30 miles of the community where the applicant’s manufacturing facility is located, but may include more distant communities if manufacturing facilities in those communities depend on the same source of timber and have similar purchasing patterns.

(3) The relative similarity of purchasing patterns of other mills shall be determined by considering the location and similarity of unprocessed timber being acquired by those facilities.

(4) Lines defining the geographic area shall be based on major natural and cultural features, including, but not limited to, prominent ridge systems, main roads or highways, rivers, political subdivisions, and not characterized by random lines.

(j) *Comments.* Persons may submit comments on sourcing area applications pursuant to the Rules of Practice Governing the Adjudication of Sourcing Area Applications and Formal Review of Sourcing Areas Pursuant to the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*), found at 7 CFR part 1, subpart M. Persons submitting a comment must certify at the end of the comment, but before the signature, to the following: “I certify that the information provided by me is true and accurate, to the best of my knowledge, and I understand that failure to provide true and accurate information could be violation of the False Statements Act (18 U.S.C. 1001).”

(k) Transporting or causing to be transported unprocessed private timber from outside of a sourcing area into a sourcing area by the holder of the sourcing area is prohibited as a violation of the sourcing area boundary. Such violation will cause a review of the sourcing area, and could subject the sourcing area holder to the penalties and remedies for violations of the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990, 16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*, and its implementing regulations.

(l) A person with an approved sourcing area may relinquish the sourcing area at any time provided the person certifies to the following:

“I am relinquishing the approved sourcing area, described in the Secretary’s determination in FSAA ____ on ____, 19___. I understand that I may not export unprocessed timber originating from private lands west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States during the fiscal year in which I have unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States in my possession or under contract, pursuant to the prohibition against substitution in the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*) (“Act”) and its implementing regulations. I also understand that I may not purchase unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States within 24 months of having exported unprocessed timber originating from private lands west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States, pursuant to the prohibitions against substitution in the Act and its implementing regulations. I make this certification with

full knowledge and understanding of the Act and its implementing regulations and do fully understand that exporting unprocessed timber originating from private lands west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States during a fiscal year in which I have unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States in possession or under contract, or purchasing unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States within 24 months of having exported unprocessed timber originating from private lands west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States is a violation of the substitution provisions of the Act and the False Statements Act (18 U.S.C. 1001), and may subject me to the penalties and remedies provided for such violation.”

The certificate must be signed by the person making such certification or, in the case of a corporation, by its Chief Executive Officer; must be on company letterhead; and must be notarized.

(m) A sourcing area is in effect until it is relinquished by the sourcing area holder, or is disapproved upon review of the sourcing area.

§ 223.191 Sourcing area disapproval and review procedures.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an applicant whose sourcing area application was submitted by December 20, 1990, and was disapproved could either phase out of purchasing Federal timber or phase out of exporting unprocessed timber originating from private lands within the sourcing area that would have been approved, as follows:

(1) *Phase-out of Federal timber purchasing.* The applicant could purchase, in the 9-month period after receiving the application disapproval, unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands in the disapproved sourcing area, in an amount not to exceed 75 percent of the annual average of such person’s purchases of unprocessed Federal timber in such area during the 5 full fiscal years immediately prior to the date of submission of the application. In the 6-month period immediately following the 9-month period, such person could purchase not more than 25 percent of such annual average, after which time the prohibitions against direct substitution, set forth in § 223.189 of this subpart, shall apply; or

(2) *Phase-out of private timber exporting.* The applicant could continue to purchase unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands within the disapproved sourcing area without being subject to the phase-out of Federal timber purchasing procedures described in paragraph (a) of this section, if the following requirements were met:

(i) The applicant certified to the Regional Forester or the approving official to whom such authority has been delegated, within 90 days after receiving the disapproval decision, as follows:

(A) An applicant that has exported unprocessed timber originating from private lands from the geographic area that would have been approved provided a signed certification that reads as follows:

"I have engaged in the exporting of unprocessed private timber originating from private lands located within the geographic area the approving official would have approved as a sourcing area for my manufacturing facility. I desire to continue purchasing unprocessed Federal timber from within such area. I hereby certify that I will cease all exporting of unprocessed timber from private lands located within the area that would have been approved by [the applicant shall insert date 15 months from date of receipt of the disapproval decision]. I agree to retain records of all transactions involving acquisition and disposition of unprocessed timber from both private and Federal lands within the area involved in the certification, for a period of three (3) years beginning on the date of receipt of the disapproval notification, and to make such records available for inspection upon the request of the Regional Forester, or other official to whom such authority has been delegated. I make this certification with full knowledge and understanding of the requirements of the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*) (Act) and do fully understand that failure to cease such exporting as certified will be a violation of the Act and may subject me to the penalties and remedies for such violation. Further, I fully understand that such violation may subject me to the penalty of perjury pursuant to the False Statements Act (18 U.S.C. 1001). I certify that the information in this certificate is true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.":

or,

(B) An applicant who has not exported unprocessed timber originating

from private lands from the geographic area that the Secretary would have approved provided a signed certification that reads as follows:

"I have not exported timber originating from private lands within both the sourcing area that the Secretary would have approved and the disapproved sourcing area in the past 24 months, pursuant to the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*), and I am accepting the area that the Secretary would have approved as my sourcing area. I certify that the information in this certificate is true, complete, and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief."

(ii) Each certification statement set forth in paragraph (a)(2)(i) of this section must have been signed by the person making such certification or, in the case of a corporation, by its Chief Executive Officer; must have been on company letterhead; must have been notarized; and must have had a corporate seal attached.

(iii) The person signing such certification set forth in paragraph (a)(2)(i)(A) of this section must have provided to the Regional Forester the annual volume of timber exported by that person during the five (5) full fiscal years immediately preceding submission of the application, originating from private lands in the geographic area for which the application would have been approved.

(iv) When the applicant submitted the certificate, the area the Secretary would have approved, as shown on the sourcing area map provided by the Secretary, became an approved sourcing area. If the certificate was not submitted, the sourcing area that would have been approved did not become an approved sourcing area.

(3) The phase-out of Federal timber purchasing and the phase-out of private timber exporting procedures provided by paragraphs (a)(1) and (a)(2) of this section do not apply to persons submitting sourcing area applications after December 20, 1990, or to persons requesting review of disapproved sourcing areas.

(b) *Limits on purchases and exports.* (1) During the 15-month period following disapproval of a sourcing area, a person who elects to phase-out of private timber exporting as described in paragraph (a)(2) of this section, may not:

(i) Purchase more than 125 percent of the person's annual average purchases of unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands within the person's disapproved sourcing area during the five (5) full fiscal years immediately prior to submission of the application; and,

(ii) Export unprocessed timber originating from private lands in the geographic area determined by the approving official for which the application would have been approved, in amounts that exceed 125 percent of the annual average of that person's exports of unprocessed timber from such private land during the five (5) full years immediately prior to submission of the application.

(2) At the conclusion of the 15-month export phase-out period, the prohibition against exporting private timber originating from within the area shall be in full force and effect as long as the sourcing area remains approved, pursuant to this subpart F of this part 223.

(c) *Presentation of map to applicant whose sourcing area is disapproved.* The area determined by the deciding official that would have been approved shall be drawn on a map and presented to the applicant by the deciding official with the notice of disapproval of the application.

(d) *Effect of prior certification to cease exporting.* An applicant's previous certification to cease exporting beginning February 20, 1991, for a period of three (3) years from within the disapproved sourcing area pursuant to paragraphs (f) and (g) in § 223.189 of this subpart shall remain in full force and effect for persons with approved and disapproved sourcing areas.

(e) *Review process and frequency.* (1) Approved sourcing areas shall be reviewed not less often than every five (5) years. A tentative date for a review shall be included in the Administrative Law Judge's, or, on appeal, the Judicial Officer's determination or stated in writing by the Regional Forester following the determination. At least 60 days prior to the tentative review date, the Regional Forester or other such reviewing official shall notify the person holding the sourcing area of the pending review, publish notice of such review in newspapers of general circulation within the sourcing area, and in-

vite comments, to be received no later than 30 days from the date of the notice, from all interested persons, including the person holding the sourcing area. For 10 working days following the comment period, any person submitting a written comment and the person with the sourcing area may review the comments. If there is disagreement among the persons who submitted written comments regarding the proper sourcing area, the reviewing official shall convene an informal meeting convenient to the persons that all interested persons may attend. If an agreement cannot be reached among the persons, formal administrative adjudication shall occur. The Administrative Law Judge, or, on appeal, the Judicial Officer shall, on the record and after opportunity for a hearing, approve or disapprove the sourcing area being reviewed, pursuant to the Rules of Practice Governing the Adjudication of Sourcing Area Applications and Formal Review of Sourcing Areas Pursuant to the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*), found at 7 CFR part 1, subpart M.

(2) Disapproved sourcing areas shall be reviewed using the process described in paragraph (e)(1) of this section upon resubmission of an application, provided the applicant has accepted the area the Secretary would have approved as a sourcing area pursuant to paragraph (a)(2) of this section.

(3) The Department reserves the right to schedule a review, at the request of the Forest Service or the person holding the sourcing area, at any time prior to the scheduled tentative review date, with 60 days notice.

(4) Sourcing areas being reviewed shall continue in full force and effect pending the final review determination.

(f) *Reporting and record keeping procedures.* The reporting and record keeping procedures in this section constitute information collection requirements as defined in 5 CFR part 1320. These requirements have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget and assigned clearance number 0596-0115.

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§ 223.192 Procedures for a non-manufacturer.

(a) Persons who do not own or operate a manufacturing facility (non-manufacturer) are not eligible to apply for or be granted a sourcing area.

(b) The prohibition against the purchase of Federal timber for a person who has exported unprocessed timber originating from private lands within the preceding 24-month period shall not apply, if the person certified in writing to the Regional Forester of the region(s) in which the person purchases National Forest System timber by November 20, 1990, that the person would cease exporting unprocessed timber originating from private lands by February 20, 1991, for a period of three (3) years, and the exporting did cease in accordance with such certification.

(c) To obtain an exemption from the prohibition against export within the preceding 24-month period for purchasing Federal timber described in § 223.189 (a) and (b) of this subpart, a person must have applied in writing to the applicable Regional Forester on or before November 20, 1990. The application was required to be on company letterhead and, in the case of a corporation, with its corporate seal affixed, and must have included:

(1) An agreement to retain records of all transactions involving acquisition and disposition of unprocessed timber from both private and Federal lands within the area(s) involved in the certification, for a period of three (3) years beginning November 20, 1990, and to make such records available for inspection upon the request of the Regional Forester, or other official to whom such authority has been delegated.

(2) A signed certification which reads as follows:

"I have engaged in the exporting of unprocessed timber originating from private lands located west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States during the preceding 24 months. I desire to purchase directly from a department or agency of the United States, unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands located in such area of the United States. I make this certification for the exemption from the prohibition against export within the preceding 24-month period for purchasing Federal timber required by the Forest Resources Con-

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servation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (Pub. L. No. 101-382, August 20, 1990, 16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*) (Act). I hereby certify that I will cease all exporting of such unprocessed private timber from west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States of the United States by February 20, 1991. I make this certification with full knowledge and understanding of the requirements of this Act and do fully understand that failure to cease such exporting as certified will be a violation of this Act (16 U.S.C. 620d) and the False Statements Act (18 U.S.C. 1001), and may subject me to the penalties and remedies provided for such violation."

(3) The certification must have been signed by the person making such certification or, in the case of a corporation, by its Chief Executive Officer. The certificate must have been notarized.

§ 223.193 Procedures for reporting acquisition and disposition of unprocessed Federal timber.

(a) *Annual report.* Each person who directly or indirectly acquires or possesses unprocessed timber originating from National Forest System lands located west of the 100th meridian in the 48 contiguous States shall submit an annual report on a form provided by the Forest Service on the acquisition and disposition of such timber. Such report shall be on a calendar year basis and shall be sent to the Regional Forester, or other official to whom such authority is delegated, who administers the National Forest System lands from which the majority of timber originated, not later than March 1 of each year, beginning March 1, 1997. The form shall include:

(1) A summary for the calendar year listing, by company, from whom the timber was acquired; the date of acquisition; the origin of National Forest System timber acquired; the sale name; the contract number(s); brand registration number(s) of brands registered by a state or agency or a pictorial representation of sale brand(s) if brands not registered by a state or agency; to whom the timber was sold, transferred or otherwise conveyed to another person; and the date of disposal;

(2) An accounting by origin, in net board feet Scribner or cubic feet, of the volume of National Forest System timber acquired, the volume domestically

processed by the purchaser or affiliates, and the volume sold or transferred for domestic processing;

(3) The volume by species of National Forest System surplus species timber acquired and exported or sold for export;

(4) The volume (MBF Net Scribner or cubic) of the unprocessed timber originating from private lands west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States that was exported, and

(5) A certificate stating that:

(i) The certifier has read and understands the form;

(ii) The certifier is eligible to acquire unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands in accordance with the Act;

(iii) The information supplied is a true, accurate, current, and complete statement of the receipt and disposition of unprocessed timber originating from National Forest System lands to the best of the certifier's knowledge;

(iv) The certifier agrees to retain a copy of the form and records of all transactions involving unprocessed Federal timber and to make such records available for inspection upon request of an authorized official of the United States for three (3) years from the date of disposal by manufacture or transfer; and

(v) The certifier acknowledges that failure to report completely and accurately the receipt and disposition of timber will subject the certifier to the penalties and remedies in the Act and the penalties in the False Statements Act (18 U.S.C. 1001).

(6) The information provided is presumed to be not confidential, unless specifically marked confidential, in which case confidentiality will be evaluated under applicable laws.

(b) *Transfer of unprocessed National Forest System timber.* Each person who transfers to another person unprocessed timber originating from National Forest System lands shall undertake the following:

(1) Before completing such transfer, provide to such other person a written notice of origin, species, estimated volume or actual volume if the transfer is based on log scale volume, from whom acquired, sale name, contract number, and log brand of unprocessed National

Forest System timber being transferred on a form provided by the Forest Service;

(2) Before completing such transfer, certify that the information supplied is a true, accurate, current, and complete statement to the best of his or her knowledge. As part of the certification, the certifier shall:

(i) Agree to send a signed copy of the form required in paragraph (b)(1) of this section within 10 calendar days of such transfer, which shall include all notices, acknowledgments, and agreements, required by this section, to the appropriate Regional Forester who administers the National Forest System lands from which this timber originates, or other official to whom such authority is delegated, and to retain a copy for the certifier's records;

(ii) Acknowledge that the transfer of unprocessed Federal timber to a person for export or to a person who may not purchase timber directly from the Federal government is a violation of the Act;

(iii) Agree to obtain full completed notice of origin form from the transferee;

(iv) Agree to retain records of all transactions involving unprocessed Federal timber for a period of three (3) years from the date of transfer and to make all records involving log transactions available to an appropriate Federal official upon request. Records include all forms and certificates required by these regulations;

(v) Acknowledge that failure to report completely and accurately the receipt and disposition and/or transfer of unprocessed National Forest System timber will subject the certifier to the penalties and remedies in the Act (16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*) and the penalties in the False Statements Act (18 U.S.C. 1001); and

(vi) Certify that he or she has read and understands the form.

(3) Before completing such transfer, obtain from the person acquiring such timber on the same form provided by the Forest Service.

(i) An agreement to retain for a period of three (3) years from date of transfer the records of all sales, exchanges, or other disposition of such

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timber, and make such records available for inspection upon the request of an authorized official of the United States;

(ii) An agreement to allow Federal officials access to log storage and processing facilities for the purpose of monitoring compliance with the Act and implementing regulations;

(iii) An agreement to maintain and/or replace all brands and paint identifying the Federal origin of each piece of unprocessed Federal timber as described in § 223.195;

(iv) An agreement to submit, by March 1, the annual report required in § 223.193(a);

(v) An agreement to submit a completed notice of origin form for the Federal timber received and to receive an agreement to comply with the Act and regulations in such form if the person transfers any or all of the timber listed in the document;

(vi) An acknowledgment of the prohibition against acquiring unprocessed Federal timber from a person who is prohibited by the Act from purchasing the timber directly from the United States;

(vii) An acknowledgment of the prohibitions against exporting unprocessed Federal timber and against acquiring such timber in substitution for unprocessed private timber west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States;

(viii) A declaration of its business size and manufacturing classification, as defined under the Small Business Administration Regulations at 13 CFR part 121; and

(ix) A certificate stating that the certifier has read and understands the form; is eligible to acquire unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands in accordance with the Act; has been notified that some or all of the unprocessed timber included in this transfer is subject to export and substitution restrictions; supplied information is a true, accurate, current, and complete statement of the receipt and disposition of the unprocessed timber originating from National Forest System lands to the best of the certifier's knowledge; and acknowledges that failure to report completely and accurately the transfer of unprocessed Fed-

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eral timber will subject the certifier to the penalties and remedies in the Act (16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*) and the penalties in the False Statements Act (18 U.S.C. 1001). The information provided is presumed to be not confidential, unless specifically marked confidential, in which case confidentiality will be evaluated under applicable laws.

(4) Except as otherwise provided by law, a person who transfers unprocessed Federal timber to another person and meets all notice, certification, acknowledgment, reporting and record keeping requirements contained in this section shall be relieved from further liability for such timber pursuant to the Act.

§ 223.194 Procedures for reporting the acquisition and disposition of unprocessed private timber.

(a) *Notice of domestic processing requirement.* Each person who acquires unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands located west of the 100th meridian in the 48 contiguous States, and who also possesses or acquires unprocessed timber from private lands located west of the 100th meridian in the 48 contiguous States that requires domestic processing, including unprocessed timber originating within an approved sourcing area, and in turn sells, trades or otherwise conveys such unprocessed private timber to another person, must include a statement notifying the person acquiring the unprocessed private timber that such private timber must be domestically processed. Unprocessed timber originating from private lands located outside of a sourcing area may be transferred by the holder of the sourcing area, or by persons acquiring such unprocessed timber who are eligible to export such timber, without including such a statement.

(b) The notification statement, pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, shall accompany each transaction involving unprocessed private timber that requires domestic processing. The statement shall be on a form provided by the Forest Service or a legible copy of such form.

(1) On such form, described in paragraph (b) of this section, the person transferring the timber shall:

(i) Give notice to the person receiving the unprocessed private timber that exporting that timber would violate the Act and its implementing regulations;

(ii) Give notice to the person receiving the unprocessed private timber that the timber has been identified for domestic manufacturing by a spot of highway yellow paint on each log end that must be retained on the timber;

(iii) Agree to send a signed copy of the transaction statement to the Regional Forester within 10 calendar days of the transaction;

(iv) Agree to retain records of all transactions involving the acquisition and disposition of unprocessed timber for a period of three (3) years from the date of disposal by manufacturing or transfer and to make such records available for inspection upon the request of an authorized official of the United States;

(v) Acknowledge that failure to completely and accurately report and identify unprocessed timber is a violation of the Act, and regulations issued under the Act, and the False Statements Act (18 U.S.C. 1001); and

(vi) Certify that the form has been read and understood.

(2) On such form, described in paragraph (b), the person acquiring the timber shall:

(i) Acknowledge receipt of the notice of requirement to domestically process timber originating from private land;

(ii) Certify that a statement pursuant to paragraph (b)(1) will be included in any subsequent transaction documents;

(iii) Agree to maintain yellow paint markings on each log end until the timber is domestically processed or transferred;

(iv) Agree to retain records of all transactions involving the acquisition and disposition of unprocessed timber for a period of three (3) years from the date of disposal by manufacturing or transfer and to make such records available for inspection upon the request of an authorized official of the United States;

(v) Agree to send a signed copy of the transaction statement to the Regional Forester within 10 calendar days of the transaction;

(vi) Agree to allow authorized officials access to log storage and processing facilities for the purpose of monitoring compliance with the Act and its implementing regulations;

(vii) Acknowledge that failure to comply with the domestic manufacturing requirements for unprocessed timber or failure to notify subsequent persons of this requirement may subject the certifier to the civil penalties and administrative remedies provided in the Act and regulations issued under the Act;

(viii) Acknowledge that failure to completely and accurately report and identify unprocessed timber is a violation of the Act, and regulations issued under the Act, and the False Statements Act (18 U.S.C. 1001); and

(ix) Certify that the form has been read and understood.

(c) Except as otherwise provided by law, a person who transfers unprocessed private timber to another person and meets all notice, certification, acknowledgement, distribution, reporting and record keeping requirements contained in this section shall be relieved from further liability for such timber with regard to the export and substitution restrictions pursuant to the Act.

§ 223.195 Procedures for identifying and marking unprocessed timber.

(a) *Highway yellow paint.* The use of highway yellow paint on unprocessed logs west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States shall be reserved for identifying logs requiring domestic manufacturing.

(b) *Preserving identification.* All identifying marks placed on an unprocessed log to identify the National Forest System origin of that log and/or to identify the log as requiring domestic processing shall be retained on the log until the log is domestically processed. If the identifying marks are lost, removed, or become unreadable, they shall be replaced. If the log is cut into two or more segments, each segment shall be identified in the same manner as the original log.

(1) A generic log hammer brand, known as a "catch brand", used to identify ownership, may be used to replace lost, removed, unreadable or otherwise missing brands where such use

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is authorized by the Regional Forester and approved by the Contracting Officer. Use of such a catch brand on a log or log segment will signify Federal origin.

(2) The requirement to preserve identification of log pieces shall not apply to logs cut into two or more segments as a part of the mill in-feed process immediately before processing. Log segments that are returned to or placed in storage must be marked on both ends with yellow paint.

(c) *National Forest System logs.* Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, all unprocessed logs originating from National Forest System timber sales west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States shall, before being removed from the timber sale area, be marked on each end as follows:

(1) Painted on each end with a spot of highway yellow paint not less than three square inches in size; and,

(2) Branded on each end with a hammer brand approved for use by the Forest Supervisor of the National Forest from which the logs originate. The brand pattern may not be used to mark logs from any other source for a period of 24 months after all logs have been removed from the sale area and until such brand pattern is released in writing by the Forest Supervisor.

(d) *Private logs.* All unprocessed logs originating from private lands west of the 100th meridian in the contiguous 48 States that require domestic manufacturing pursuant to § 223.194 of this subpart, shall be painted on each end with a spot of highway yellow paint not less than three (3) square inches in size before removal from the harvest area. If private logs are acquired by a person who may not export such logs, the logs must be marked by the person acquiring the logs at the time of the acquisition.

(e) *Waiver of painting requirements.* The log painting requirements pursuant to paragraphs (c)(1) and (d) of this section may be waived if the Chief of the Forest Service determines that alternate methods for identifying logs required to be domestically processed are equal to or better than the procedures required herein.

(f) *Waiver of branding requirements.* Regional Foresters may waive the branding requirements pursuant to paragraph (c)(2) of this section as follows:

(1) *Regions 1, 2, 3, and 4.* On an individual timber sale basis, all or a portion of the branding requirements pursuant to paragraph (c)(2) of this section may be waived, if:

(i) Unprocessed logs from any origin are not known to have been exported by any person from the person's area of operations within the previous 5 years.

(ii) The person certifies as follows:

"I hereby request waiver of the requirements to brand each end of individual logs originating from the ___ timber sale, Forest Service contract number ___ pursuant to 36 CFR 223.195. I certify that I have not exported or sold for export unprocessed timber from private lands within my area of operations in five years. I certify that I understand, that if granted, the waiver applies only to unprocessed logs being processed within my area of operations. I certify that any unprocessed logs to which this waiver applies that are transferred, or sold for transfer, outside my area of operations will be branded on both ends in full compliance with 36 CFR 223.195. I make this certification with full knowledge and understanding of the requirement of the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*) (Act) and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR part 223. I fully understand that failure to abide by the terms of the waiver will be a violation of this Act (16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*) and the False Statements Act (18 U.S.C. 1001) and may subject me to the penalties and remedies provided for such violation.";

and,

(iii) The person otherwise complies with the regulations relating to transfers of logs between persons.

(iv) If the Regional Forester determines that unprocessed logs from my origin are being exported, or are known to have been exported within the previous 5 years, by any person from the person's area of operations, the Regional Forester shall revoke the waiver.

(2) *Regions 5 and 6.* On an individual timber sale basis, the branding requirement pursuant to paragraph (c)(2) of this section may be waived for logs ten (10) inches or less in diameter inside bark on the large end may be waived if:

(i) One end of each log is branded;

(ii) The person certifies as follows:

“I hereby request waiver of the requirement to brand each end of individual logs ten (10) inches or less in diameter inside bark on the large end, originating from the ___ timber sale, U.S. contract number ___ pursuant to 36 CFR 223.195. I certify that I understand, if granted, that the waiver applies only to unprocessed logs being processed at ___, and further certify that any and all unprocessed logs to which waiver would apply that are transferred, or sold for transfer, will be branded on both ends in full compliance 36 CFR 223.195. I make this certification with full knowledge and understanding of the requirements of the Forest Resources Conservation and Shortage Relief Act of 1990 (Pub. L. No. 101-382, August 20, 1990; 16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*) (Act) and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 223. I fully understand that failure to abide by the terms of the waiver will be a violation of this Act (16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*) and the False Statements Act (18 U.S.C. 1001) and may subject me to the penalties and remedies provided for such violation.”;

and,

(iii) The purchaser otherwise complies with the regulations relating to transfers of logs between persons.

(iv) If the Regional Forester determines that logs ten (10) inches or less in diameter inside bark on the large end are being exported in the Region, the Regional Forester shall revoke the waiver.

(3) The Chief of the Forest Service may authorize the testing of alternative methods of branding for consideration in future amendment of these regulations. Such alternative methods and logs marked under those methods shall be closely monitored.

§ 223.196 Civil penalties for violation.

(a) *Exporting Federal timber.* If the Secretary of Agriculture finds, on the record and after providing an opportunity for a hearing, that a person, with willful disregard for the prohibition in the Act exporting unprocessed Federal timber, exported or caused to be exported unprocessed timber originating from Federal lands in violation of the Act, the Secretary may assess against such person a civil penalty of not more than \$500,000 for each violation, or 3 times the gross value of the unprocessed timber involved in the violation, whichever amount is greater.

(b) *Other violations.* If the Secretary of Agriculture finds, on the record and after providing an opportunity for a hearing, that a person has violated any provision of the Act, or any regulation issued under the Act relating to National Forest System lands, even though that the violation may not have caused the export of unprocessed Federal timber in violation of such Act, the Secretary may:

(1) Assess against such person a civil penalty of not more than \$500,000, if the Secretary determines that the person committed such violation willfully;

(2) Assess against such person a civil penalty of not more than \$75,000 for each violation, if the Secretary determines that the person committed such violation in disregard of such provision or regulation; or

(3) Assess against such person a civil penalty of not more than \$50,000 for each violation, if the Secretary determines that the person should have known that the action constituted a violation.

(c) *Penalties not exclusive and judicial review.* A penalty assessed under paragraph (a) or (b) of this section shall not be exclusive of any other penalty provided by law, and shall be subject to review in an appropriate United States district court.

§ 223.197 Civil penalty assessment procedures.

Adjudicatory procedures for hearing alleged violations of this Act and its implementing regulations and assessing penalties shall be conducted under the rules of practice governing formal adjudicatory proceedings instituted by the Secretary. Such procedures are found at 7 CFR 1.130, *et seq.*

§ 223.198 Administrative remedies.

In addition to possible debarment action provided under subpart C of this part, the Chief of the Forest Service, or other official to whom such authority is delegated, may cancel any timber sale contract entered into with a person found to have violated the Act or regulations issued under the Act. Such a finding shall constitute a serious violation of contract terms pursuant to § 223.116(a)(1) of this part.

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§ 223.199 Procedures for cooperating with other agencies.

The Regional Foresters may enter into agreements to cooperate with the Department of the Interior, the Department of Defense, and other Federal, State and local agencies for monitoring, surveillance and enforcing the Act.

§ 223.200 Determinations of surplus species.

(a) Determinations that specific quantities of grades and species are surplus to domestic manufacturing needs and withdrawals of such determinations shall be made in accordance with title 5, United States Code, section 553.

(b) Review of a determination shall be made at least once in every 3-year period. Notice of such review shall be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The public shall have no less than 30 days to submit comments on the review.

(c) Alaska yellow cedar and Port Orford cedar, which the Secretary of Agriculture found to be surplus to domestic processing needs pursuant to 36 CFR 223.163, the rules in effect before August 20, 1990, shall continue in that status until new determinations are published.

§ 223.201 Limitations on unprocessed timber harvested in Alaska.

Unprocessed timber from National Forest System lands in Alaska may not be exported from the United States or shipped to other States without prior approval of the Regional Forester. This requirement is necessary to ensure the development and continued existence of adequate wood processing capacity in Alaska for the sustained utilization of timber from the National Forests which are geographically isolated from other processing facilities. In determining whether consent will be given for the export of timber, consideration will be given to, among other things, whether such export will:

(a) Permit more complete utilization on areas being logged primarily for local manufacture,

(b) Prevent loss or serious deterioration of logs unsalable locally because of an unforeseen loss of market,

(c) Permit the salvage of timber damaged by wind, insects, fire or other catastrophe,

(d) Bring into use a minor species of little importance to local industrial development, or

(e) Provide material required to meet urgent and unusual needs of the Nation. (16 U.S.C. 472a; 16 U.S.C. 551; 16 U.S.C. 616)

§ 223.202 Information requirements.

(a) The procedures in §§ 223.189 and 223.192, and some of the procedures in § 223.190 were approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and assigned Control Number 0596-0114 upon issuance of the interim rule. Control Number 0596-0114 has been reapproved by OMB for use through May 31, 1997. OMB approved the information collection requirements in §§ 223.191 and 223.203 for use through August 31, 1995, and assigned them Control Number 0596-0115. OMB approved the information collection requirements in §§ 223.48 and 223.87 for use through March 31, 1997 and assigned them Control Number 0596-0021; the information collection requirements in §§ 223.48 and 223.87 have been revised. OMB Control Numbers 0596-0114, 0596-0115, and 0596-0021 have been consolidated under OMB Control Number 0596-0114.

(b) The application and reporting procedures in §§ 223.187, 223.193, 223.194, 223.195, and some of the procedures in § 223.190 of this final rule contain new record keeping and reporting requirements as defined in 5 CFR part 1320 and, therefore, impose additional paperwork burdens on the affected public. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved these requirements, and assigned them Control Number 0596-0114.

§ 223.203 Indirect substitution exception for National Forest System timber from within Washington State.

(a) *Exception limits.* A limited amount of unprocessed National Forest System timber originating from within Washington State could have been acquired by a person otherwise covered by the prohibition against indirect substitution, pursuant to § 490(b) of the Act and § 223.189(e) of this subpart.

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(1) The amount of such unprocessed timber was limited to whichever is less:

(i) The higher of the applicant's actual purchase receipts for unprocessed timber originating from National Forest System lands within Washington State or the Department's records, during fiscal years 1988, 1989, and 1990, divided by 3; or

(ii) 15 million board feet.

(2) Such limit shall not exceed such person's proportionate share of 50 million board feet.

(b) *Application, review and approval process.* To obtain a share of the 50 million board feet exempted from the prohibition against indirect substitution in section 490(b) of the Act, a person must have submitted an application. Applications were required to include at least the following:

(1) The amount of volume exception being requested, in thousand board feet (MBF);

(2) A signed certification that reads as follows:

"I certify that, except for an approved share of unprocessed Federal timber, in accordance with 36 CFR 223.203, the prohibition contained in section 490(b) of the Act (16 U.S.C. 620b) applies to me. I have exported unprocessed timber originating from private lands from west of the 100th meridian in the 48 contiguous States and have acquired unprocessed timber from National Forest System lands located within Washington State in 1988, 1989 and/or 1990. I certify that the information provided in support of this application is a true, accurate, current and complete statement, to the best of my knowledge and belief. I agree to retain records of all transactions involving the acquisition and disposition of unprocessed timber from Federal lands within the area involved in this application for a period of 3 years beginning on the date the application is approved, and to make such records available for inspection upon the request of the Regional Forester or other official to whom such authority has been delegated. I make this certification with full knowledge and understanding of the requirements of the Act and do fully understand that if this application is approved, the amount of exception granted under this approval may not be exceeded in any one fiscal year, and do fully understand that if such exception is exceeded I will be in violation of the Act (16 U.S.C. 620, *et seq.*), and I may be subject to the penalties and remedies provided for such violation. Further, I do fully understand that such violation may subject me to the penalty of per-

jury pursuant to the False Statements Act (18 U.S.C. 1001).";

and

(3) The application listed under this section must have been signed by the person making such application or, in the case of a corporation, by its Chief Executive Officer. The application must have been on the company's letterhead and must have been notarized.

(4) The application made under this section must have been mailed to the Regional Forester in Portland, Oregon, no later than January 8, 1992. Applicants were notified of the approving official's decision by letter. If approved, the amount of the exception becomes effective upon publication in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

(5) Prospective applicants could review Department records upon request prior to the deadline for submitting applications. An applicant could voluntarily submit information documenting the amount of purchases of unprocessed timber originating from National Forest System lands within Washington State. The Department then determined which amount is higher, verified by either the Department's records or the applicant's records. The Department then determined the applicant's portion of the 50 million board feet by determining the lesser of the amount verified by the records or 15 million board feet. Applicants could submit the information documenting the amount of purchases in the following manner:

(i) Actual receipts for purchasing unprocessed timber from National Forest System lands within Washington State; or

(ii) A statement by a certified public accountant of:

(A) A summary by fiscal year for 1988, 1989 and 1990 of the applicant's acquisitions of timber originating from National Forest System lands in the State of Washington, listing total volume for each of the three fiscal years; and

(B) The average volume for the three fiscal years. The volumes to be reported were the harvest volumes, except in the case of open sales. Advertised volumes had to be reported for open sales.

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(C) The certified public accountant must have certified to the following:

“I certify that under the penalties and remedies provided in §492 of the Act (16 U.S.C. 620d) and the penalty of perjury provided in the False Statements Act (18 U.S.C. 1001) that the information provided in support of this application is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, a true, accurate, current, and complete statement of [applicant’s company’s name] National Forest System timber acquisitions originating from within the State of Washington for fiscal years 1988, 1989 and/or 1990.”

(D) The certified public accountant’s statement and certification must have been on the accountant’s company letterhead, must have been notarized, and must have accompanied the applicant’s application.

(c) *Selling and trading rights.* The purchase limit right obtained under this rule may be sold, traded, or otherwise exchanged with any other person subject to the following conditions:

(1) Such rights may not be sold, traded, or otherwise exchanged to persons already in possession of such rights:

(2) Any person selling, trading, or exchanging any or all of the rights obtained under this rule shall advise the Regional Forester of the amount being traded and the name(s) of the person(s) acquiring such rights within 15 days of the transaction; and

(3) No person may have or acquire more than 15 million board feet in one fiscal year.

(d) *Information collection.* The application procedures in this section constitute information collection requirements as defined in 5 CFR part 1320. These requirements have been approved by the Office of Management and Budget and assigned clearance number 0596-0114.

(e) *Persons with approved shares.* The application period for shares of the indirect substitution exception for acquiring unprocessed timber originating from National Forest Systems lands within the State of Washington closed on January 8, 1992. Persons with approved shares are responsible for monitoring and controlling their acquisitions of National Forest System timber originating from within the State of Washington to assure approved share amounts are not exceeded in any Federal fiscal year. Unused portions of an-

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nual shares may not be “banked” for use in future fiscal years. The acquisition of such National Forest System timber must be reported to the Forest Service in accordance with §223.193 of this subpart. The following shares are approved as of September 8, 1995:

(1) Cavenham Forest Industries, Portland, OR, 1,048,000 board feet.

(2) Weyerhaeuser, Tacoma, WA, 15,000,000 board feet.

Subpart G—Special Forest Products

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 73 FR 79386, Dec. 29, 2008, subpart G was added, effective Jan. 28, 2009. At 74 FR 5107, Jan. 29, 2009, the amendment was delayed until Mar. 30, 2009. At 74 FR 14049, Mar. 30, 2009, the amendment was further delayed until May 29, 2009. At 74 FR 26091, June 1, 2009, the amendment was further delayed indefinitely.

§ 223.215 Applicability.

The regulations contained in this subpart govern the disposal of special forest products from National Forest System lands through sale and free use. Pursuant to the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2000 (Pub. L. 106-113, Div. B, sec. 1000(a)(3), 113 Stat. 135 (sec. 339 of Title III of H.R. 3423)), as amended in 2004 by Section 335 of Public Law 108-108, special forest products that are also forest botanical products shall be sold, or offered for free use, subject to the requirements of subpart H of this part, until termination of the forest botanical pilot program. A commercial sale of special forest products shall be governed by a contract, permit, or other authorizing instrument. Free use above the incidental-use harvest level shall be conducted under a permit, unless otherwise provided.

§ 223.216 Special Forest Products definitions.

As used in this subpart:

Person: Any individual, partnership, corporation, association, Tribe, or other legal entity.

Special forest products: Products collected from National Forest System lands that include, but are not limited to, bark, berries, boughs, bryophytes, bulbs, burls, Christmas trees, cones,

ferns, firewood, forbs, fungi (including mushrooms), grasses, mosses, nuts, pine straw, roots, sedges, seeds, transplants, tree sap, wildflowers, fence material, mine props, posts and poles, shingle and shake bolts, and rails. Special forest products do not include sawtimber, pulpwood, non-sawlog material removed in log form, cull logs, small roundwood, house logs, telephone poles, derrick poles, minerals, animals, animal parts, insects, worms, rocks, water, and soil.

§ 223.217 Authority to dispose of special forest products.

The Forest Service has authority to dispose of special forest products located on National Forest System lands pursuant to the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960, as amended (16 U.S.C. 528-531); the National Forest Management Act of 1976, as amended (16 U.S.C. 472a *et seq.*); and, the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974, as amended (16 U.S.C. 1600-1614).

§ 223.218 Consistency with plans, environmental standards, and other management requirements.

The disposal of special forest products from National Forest System lands shall be consistent with applicable land management plans. Each contract, permit, or other authorizing instrument shall include, as appropriate, provisions requiring the person or user to:

- (a) Provide fire protection and suppression;
- (b) Protect natural resources;
- (c) Regenerate harvested species after harvesting operations;
- (d) Minimize soil erosion;
- (e) Maintain favorable conditions of water flow and quality;
- (f) Minimize adverse effects on, protect, or enhance other national forest resources, uses, and improvements; and
- (g) Deposit voucher specimens with a curator of a nationally recognized herbarium in North America as identified in the *Index Herbariorum* when the permit, contract, or other authorizing instrument allows bioprospecting.

§ 223.219 Sustainable harvest of special forest products.

(a) *Sustainable harvest levels.* Prior to offering a special forest product for sale or free use, the responsible forest officer must determine the product's sustainable harvest level. A special forest product's sustainable harvest level is the total quantity of the product that can be harvested annually in perpetuity on a sustained yield basis. Responsible forest officers shall not authorize harvest or free use of special forest products in an amount exceeding known sustainable harvest levels. In determining a sustainable harvest level, the responsible forest officer may consider harvest levels of the product for the previous three years, if such information is available. Responsible forest officers may consider factors such as year-to-year and site-to-site variability, climate, weather change, geographic scale, and scientific data available prior to making their sustainability determination and establishing monitoring time frames consistent with paragraph (c) of this section. Responsible forest officers will consult with Tribes, to the extent appropriate, to determine sustainable harvest levels based on historical information. In addition, responsible forest officers may consult with other appropriate parties to determine sustainable harvest levels based on historical information.

(b) *Harvest of protected species.* The sale or free use of special forest products listed or proposed for listing as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act is prohibited, except as authorized by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Moreover, regional guidelines will identify when the sale or free use of any special forest product listed on the Regional Forester's sensitive plant list, species of concern list, species of interest list, or protected under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species may be authorized.

(c) *Monitoring of established harvest levels.* At least once every three fiscal years, or as otherwise established by the Regional Forester, the Forest Service shall monitor the effects of harvesting on the sustainability of special forest products. Such monitoring may include, but is not limited to, on-site

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examination of the product, including both harvested and non-harvested areas, and a review of past and projected harvest levels to the extent such information is available.

(d) *Revision of harvest levels.* The sustainable harvest level for a special forest product may be increased or decreased, as appropriate, based on monitoring.

§ 223.220 Quantity determination.

Sale contracts, permits, or other authorizing instruments may provide for determining the quantity of special forest products by scaling, measuring, weighing, counting, or other reliable means.

APPRAISAL AND PRICING

§ 223.221 Establishing minimum rates.

The Chief of the Forest Service shall establish minimum rates for the sale of special forest products or groups of special forest products. Products must be sold for appraised value or minimum rates, whichever is higher. No products may be sold or harvested for less than minimum rates except to provide for the removal of insect infested, diseased, dead or distressed products.

§ 223.222 Appraisal.

The Chief of the Forest Service shall determine the appraised value of special forest products. Valid methods to determine appraised value include, but are not limited to, transaction evidence appraisals, analytical appraisals, comparison appraisals, and independent estimates based on average investments. Special forest products must be sold at minimum rates or appraised value, whichever is higher.

CONTRACT AND PERMIT CONDITIONS AND PROVISIONS

§ 223.223 Advance payment.

Contracts, permits, or other authorizing instruments for the sale of special forest products shall require advance payment, unless the contract, permit, or instrument authorizes the person to furnish a payment guarantee satisfactory to the Forest Service. Advance payments found to be in excess of amounts due the United States shall be

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refunded to the person or their successor in interest, subject to the requirements of the Debt Collection Improvement Act.

§ 223.224 Performance bonds and security.

A contract, permit, or other authorizing instrument for the sale of special forest products may require the person to furnish a performance bond or other security for satisfactory compliance with its terms.

§ 223.225 Term.

The term of any contract, permit, or other authorizing instrument for the sale of special forest products shall not exceed 10 years, unless the Secretary of Agriculture finds that better utilization of the various forest resources consistent with the Multiple-Use Sustained-Yield Act of 1960, as amended (16 U.S.C. 528-531) will result. Any such finding by the Secretary of Agriculture shall be made in writing.

§ 223.226 Term adjustments for force majeure delay.

Contracts or other authorizing instruments for the sale of special forest products, excluding permits, may contain a provision allowing the term to be extended if circumstances beyond the person's reasonable control delay performance. In determining whether such an extension is appropriate, responsible forest officers shall consider the value of the products or species, the length and type of authorizing instrument, the need for early/accelerated harvest, and any other appropriate factors. Circumstances beyond a person's reasonable control may include, but are not limited to, acts of God, acts of the public enemy, acts of the Government, labor disputes, fires, insurrections, and floods. The responsible forest officer may grant such an extension upon finding:

(a) Circumstances beyond the person's reasonable control delayed performance; and

(b) The person has diligently performed in accordance with the contract or other authorizing instrument.

ADVERTISEMENT AND BIDS

§ 223.227 Sale advertisement.

(a) The Forest Service shall advertise any special forest products sales with an appraised value equal to or greater than \$10,000 for at least 30 days, except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section.

(b) When the sale's appraised value is less than \$10,000, the Forest Service may sell the products without advertisement; however, if there is competitive interest in a sale valued at less than \$10,000, the Forest Service shall advertise the sale for no less than 7 days.

(c) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section, the Forest Service may, at its discretion, sell any special forest products without advertisement, or advertise a special forest products sale for a period less than 30 days if:

(1) Deterioration of a special forest product threatens its value; or

(2) The products were previously advertised for competitive bidding and no satisfactory bids were received; or

(3) The products are remaining from expired, cancelled, or abandoned contracts, permits, or other authorizing instruments.

§ 223.228 Contents of advertisement.

The Forest Service shall include the following information in an advertisement for the sale of special forest products:

(a) The location and estimated quantities of special forest products offered for sale;

(b) The time and place at which sealed bids will be opened in public;

(c) A provision asserting the Agency's right to reject any and all bids;

(d) The place where complete information on the offering may be obtained; and

(e) Notice that a prospectus is available to the public and to interested potential bidders.

§ 223.229 Contents of prospectus.

The prospectus for the sale of special forest products shall include the following:

(a) The minimum acceptable value or unit price for a product and the

amount or rate of any deposits required in addition to the unit price of a product;

(b) The amount of the bid guarantee that must accompany each bid;

(c) The amount of the deposit or downpayment the successful bidder must make and the time-frame for making such deposit or downpayment;

(d) The location and area of the sale, including acreage;

(e) The estimated volumes, quality, size, or other appropriate measure for the special forest products;

(f) A description of any special harvest and removal requirements for the sale;

(g) The method of bidding that the Forest Service will employ; sealed bid or sealed bid followed by oral auction;

(h) The type of contract, permit, or other authorizing instrument to be used for the sale;

(i) The termination date and normal operating season, if any, of the contract, permit, or other authorizing instrument;

(j) The amount of performance bond required; and

(k) Such additional information about the sale as the Forest Service deems appropriate in order to encourage bidders to perform on-site investigations.

§ 223.230 Bid restriction on resale of incomplete contracts, permits, or other instruments.

In any resale of special forest products remaining from a previous sale, the Forest Service shall not consider a bid submitted by a person who failed to complete or defaulted the original contract, permit, or other instrument authorizing the sale, or from any affiliate of such person, except when such consideration serves the public interest.

§ 223.231 Bidding methods.

The Contracting Officer or designated forest officer shall offer advertised sales of special forest products through sealed bid or sealed bid followed by oral auction. The method selected shall:

(a) Ensure open and fair competition;

(b) Ensure that the Federal Government receives minimum rates or appraised value, whichever is higher;

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(c) Be consistent with the National Forest Management Act and other applicable federal laws;

(d) Require, as a prerequisite to participation in an oral auction, that a bidder submit a written sealed bid at least equal to the minimum acceptable bid price(s) specified in the prospectus. The Forest Service shall not accept a bid at oral auction that is less than the bidder's initial sealed bid; and

(e) Specify the use of sealed bids or a mix of bidding methods in the affected area where there is a reasonable belief that collusive and/or abnormal bidding practices may be occurring.

§ 223.232 Disclosure of relation to other bidders.

The Forest Service may require any prospective bidder for special forest products to disclose its relationship with other potential bidders or operators. Such disclosure may include a certified statement listing:

- (a) Stockholders or members of the bidder's firm;
 - (c) Officers;
 - (d) Members of the board of directors;
- or
- (e) Holders of bonds, notes, or other types of debt.

AWARD OF CONTRACTS, PERMITS, OR OTHER AUTHORIZING INSTRUMENTS

§ 223.233 Award to highest bidder.

(a) The Forest Service shall award contracts, permits, or other authorizing instruments for advertised sales as follows:

(1) The Forest Service will award a special forest products sale to the responsible bidder that submits the highest bid that conforms to the sale conditions in the prospectus.

(2) If the highest bidder cannot meet the conditions for the sale, as specified in the prospectus, the Forest Service may:

- (i) Reject all bids and reoffer the sale, or
- (ii) Offer the award at the high bid level to the next highest qualified bidder until the award is accepted or refused by all of the conforming bidders.
- (iii) In the event of a tie between two or more responsible high bidders submitting conforming bids, the Forest

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Service shall award the sale by drawing of lots.

(iv) If no bids meet the specified conditions in the sale's prospectus, or if there are other irregularities in the bidding process, the Forest Service may reject all bids, and, at its discretion, reoffer the sale.

(b) [Reserved]

§ 223.234 Determination of responsibility.

(a) A Contracting Officer shall not award a contract, permit, or other instrument authorizing the sale of special forest products to a declared high bidder unless that officer makes an affirmative determination that the person is responsible. In the absence of information clearly establishing that the declared high bidder is responsible, the Contracting Officer shall conclude that the declared high bidder is not responsible.

(b) In order to make an affirmative determination of responsibility, the Contracting Officer must find that:

(1) The declared high bidder has adequate financial resources to perform the contract, permit, or other authorizing instrument, or the ability to obtain such resources;

(2) The declared high bidder is able to complete the contract, permit, or other authorizing instrument within the relevant term, taking into consideration the declared high bidder's other existing commercial and governmental obligations;

(3) The declared high bidder has a satisfactory record of integrity and business ethics;

(4) The declared high bidder has or is able to obtain equipment and supplies suitable for harvesting the special forest product(s) and for meeting applicable resource protection requirements;

(5) The declared high bidder is otherwise qualified and eligible to receive an award of a contract, permit, or other authorizing instrument under all applicable laws and regulations;

(6) The declared high bidder has a satisfactory performance record on contracts, permits, and other agreements with the U.S. Government. Failure to apply sufficient diligence and perseverance to perform a contract, permit, or other instrument is strong

evidence that a declared high bidder is not responsible. A declared high bidder that is, or has been deficient in performance shall be deemed not responsible, unless the declared high bidder demonstrates that the deficiency arose from circumstances beyond their reasonable control.

(c) Affiliated concerns, as defined in 36 CFR 223.49(a)(5), are normally considered separate entities in determining whether the declared high bidder that is to perform the contract meets the applicable standards for responsibility. However, the responsible Forest Officer shall consider an affiliate's past performance and integrity when they may adversely affect the responsibility of the declared high bidder.

§ 223.235 Unilateral delay, suspension, or modification of contracts, permits, or other instruments authorizing the sale of special forest products.

(a) *Reasons for delay, suspension or modification.* The Forest Service may unilaterally delay, suspend, or modify any contract, permit, or instrument authorizing the sale or free use of special forest products for any of the following reasons:

(1) To prevent actual or potential harm to the environment, including without limitation, harm to land, water, air, habitat, plants, animals, cave resources, or cultural resources;

(2) To ensure consistency with land management plans or other management documents;

(3) To conduct environmental analyses, including, without limitation, consultation under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 U.S.C. 1531, *et seq.*;

(4) Existing or threatened litigation that might affect or involve a person's harvest of special forest products; or

(5) For any reasons or other conditions set forth in the contract, permit, or other authorizing instrument governing the sale.

(b) *Compensation.* (1) The Forest Service may compensate a person for the unilateral delay, suspension or modification of a contract, permit, or other authorizing instrument in accordance with the applicable provisions set forth in such document or, in the absence of

such provisions, in accordance with applicable Forest Service methods and procedures in effect when a claim for compensation is submitted, giving due consideration to the cause, duration, and financial impact of the delay, suspension or modification.

(2) A person submitting a claim must comply with claim provisions in the governing contract, permit, or other authorizing instrument, or, in the absence of such provisions, must submit a written claim for compensation accompanied by supporting documentation that fully substantiates the claim.

(c) *Authority to unilaterally delay, suspend or modify.* The Contracting Officer administering the sale or a responsible superior officer may delay, suspend, or modify the contract, permit, or other authorizing instrument by issuing instructions to a person to delay, suspend, or modify operations. Such instructions to delay, suspend or modify shall be issued to a person in writing, except when exigent circumstances warrant oral communication, in which case the officer shall promptly follow-up in writing.

§ 223.236 Unilateral termination.

(a) *Reasons for Unilateral Termination.* The Forest Service may unilaterally terminate a contract, permit, or other instrument authorizing the sale or free use of special forest products for any of the following reasons:

(1) Any of the reasons provided in § 223.235(a);

(2) Material breach or continued violation of the contract, permit or other authorizing instrument;

(3) Violation of any Federal or State laws or regulations related to:

(i) Obtaining, attempting to obtain, selling, trading, or processing special forest products;

(ii) Obtaining, attempting to obtain, or performing a public contract or sub-contract;

(iii) Harming or damaging public lands or protected species; or

(iv) Business integrity, honesty, or responsibility.

(b) *Compensation.* (1) The Forest Service may compensate a person for the unilateral termination of a contract, permit, or other authorizing instrument in accordance with the applicable

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provisions set forth in such document or, in the absence of such provisions, in accordance with applicable Forest Service methods and procedures in effect when a claim for compensation is submitted, giving due consideration to the cause, duration, and financial impact of the termination.

(2) A person submitting a claim must comply with claim provisions in the governing contract, permit, or other authorizing instrument, or, in the absence of such provisions, must submit a written claim for compensation accompanied by supporting documentation that fully substantiates the claim.

(3) No compensation shall be provided if the unilateral termination is due in whole or in part to the reasons set forth at § 223.236(a)(2) or (3).

(c) *Authority to unilaterally terminate.* The Chief, or the Chief's designee, has the authority to unilaterally terminate a contract, permit, or other instrument authorizing the sale or free use of special forest products. Any such termination shall be issued in writing, except when exigent circumstances warrant oral communication, in which case a written communication shall follow promptly.

§ 223.237 Request for delay, suspension, modification, or termination.

(a) *Request.* A person authorized to harvest special forest products may request delay, suspension, modification, or termination of their contract, permit, or other authorizing instrument pursuant to the provisions set forth in the contract, permit, or instrument, if any, or for another reasonable cause, including without limitation, catastrophic damage to the product or substantially changed market conditions. Any such request must be submitted in writing and include a detailed explanation of all relevant circumstances supporting the request.

(b) *Response.* The Forest Service shall respond to any request for delay, suspension, modification, or termination in accordance with applicable provisions in the contract, permit, or other authorizing instrument, or, in the absence of such provisions, respond in a manner that is reasonable in light of the request's circumstances. The Forest Service may deny any request, in

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whole or in part, in accordance with the provisions of the relevant contract, permit, or instrument, or, in the absence of such provisions, at the Agency's discretion.

(c) *Authority.* The Contracting Officer administering a sale or a superior officer has the authority to deny or grant any request by a person authorized to harvest special forest products to delay, modify, suspend, or terminate a contract, permit, or other authorizing instrument. The Forest Service's response to a request for delay, modification, suspension, or termination shall be issued in writing, except when exigent circumstances warrant oral communication, in which case a written communication shall follow promptly.

§ 223.238 Free use authorization to U.S. Army and Navy.

Subject to delegations of authority by the Chief, Regional Foresters may approve the harvest of special forest products by the U.S. Army and Navy for the purposes identified at 16 U.S.C. 492.

§ 223.239 Free use by individuals.

(a) *Free use.* A person may harvest a special forest product from National Forest System lands free of charge for personal, non-commercial use up to the amount or quantity authorized by a designated Forest Service officer, a Forest Supervisor, or a Regional Forester, as delegated at 36 CFR 223.8.

(b) *Free use without a permit up to the incidental use harvest level.* No permit is required for the free use of a special forest product at or below that product's incidental-use harvest level, which shall be determined at the discretion of the regional forester or a subordinate officer. The incidental use harvest level covers small amounts of special forest products, such as cones, mushrooms, berries, acorns, black walnuts, or medicinal roots. Any free use of a special forest product that does not have an incidental-use harvest level is subject to this section's permit requirements.

(c) *Free-use permit requirement.* No person seeking free use of a special forest product, except one identified in § 223.239(e), may harvest a special forest product above the product's incidental-

use harvest level without submitting an application to a forest officer and obtaining a free-use permit, unless the permit requirement has been waived for a specific special forest product in a designated free-use area.

(d) *Contents of the permit.* The permit shall indicate the type, amount, and/or value of the product to be harvested, the permit's duration, and shall contain other restrictions and requirements as appropriate.

(e) *Free use without a permit for members of Tribes with treaty or other reserved rights related to special forest products.* A member of a Tribe with treaty or other reserved rights related to special forest products retains his/her ability to harvest such products in full accordance with existing rights, including free-use harvest without obtaining a free-use permit, as specified in treaty or other reserved rights.

(f) *Free use without a permit upon the request of the governing body of a Tribe.* At the Agency's discretion, responsible forest officers may, upon the request of an authorized representative of the governing body of a Tribe, issue a permit that would not otherwise be required under paragraph (e) of this section to a Tribe with treaty or other reserved rights related to special forest products for the free use of a specified quantity of special forest products. That Tribe may then allocate specified quantities of the special forest product(s) to individual Tribal members, up to the maximum amount specified in the Tribal free-use permit. Any Tribe issued such a permit must provide the Forest Service with information related to the permitted harvest, upon request.

(g) *Free-use restrictions.* A Forest Officer may set conditions on the free-use harvest of a special forest product or deny the free use of a special forest product. Reasons for denying free-use access or setting conditions on free use, except as specified in § 223.240, may include, but are not limited to:

- (1) Ensuring public safety;
- (2) Preventing interference with Forest Service and/or commercial operations;
- (3) Ensuring the sustainability of a special forest product; or

(4) Otherwise protecting National Forest System land.

(h) *Unilateral termination of a free-use permit.* The responsible forest officer, or any superior officer, may terminate a free use permit without compensation at any time for reasons including, but not limited to, resource protection, weather factors, fire season, road access, conflicts with other users, or permit violations.

(i) *Subsistence in Alaska.* This section does not affect subsistence uses implemented under Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 3101–3126).

§ 223.240 Tribes and treaty and other reserved rights.

Tribes with treaty or other reserved rights related to special forest products retain their ability to harvest special forest products in full accordance with existing rights. However, consistent with all applicable rights, Regional Foresters may set conditions on Tribes with treaty or other reserved rights related to special forest products to protect the sustainability of special forest products or to otherwise protect National Forest System land. Regional Foresters may only prohibit Tribes with treaty or other reserved rights related to special forest products from harvesting a special forest product to protect public health and safety or to ensure sustainable harvest levels. Regional Foresters will provide a Tribe with treaty or other reserved rights related to special forest products that is prohibited from harvesting a special forest product with written documentation supporting the decision.

§ 223.241 Disposal of seized special forest products.

The Forest Service may dispose of seized special forest products that have been illegally obtained from National Forest System lands by sale or free use. Any sale of such products shall be conducted in accordance with the requirements of this subpart; however, no seized special forest products shall be sold to the person who collected them illegally. The Forest Service shall not dispose of a seized product by sale or free use if that product is:

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(a) Listed or proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act;

(b) Identified as prohibited for sale or trade under the Convention on Internal Trade in Endangered Species; or

(c) Listed on the Regional Forester's sensitive plant list, species of concern list, or species of interest list.

§ 223.242 Supplemental guidance, Memorandum of Agreements and Memorandums of Understanding.

Consistent with subparts G and H of this part, regional foresters may issue supplemental guidance and approve Memorandums of Agreement and Memorandums of Understanding to promote local collaboration, issue resolution, and local implementation of these regulations. Existing Memorandums of Agreement and Memorandums of Understanding related to forest products must be made consistent with subparts G and H within 24 months from December 29, 2008 or those agreements will terminate.

Subpart H—Forest Botanical Products

EFFECTIVE DATE NOTE: At 73 FR 79386, Dec. 29, 2008, subpart H was added, effective Jan. 28, 2009. At 74 FR 5107, Jan. 29, 2009, the amendment was delayed until Mar. 30, 2009. At 74 FR 14049, Mar. 30, 2009, the amendment was further delayed until May 29, 2009. At 74 FR 26091, June 1, 2009, the amendment was further delayed indefinitely.

§ 223.275 Establishment of a pilot program.

This subpart governs the Forest Service's pilot program for the disposal of forest botanical products, as authorized by the Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act of 2000, (Pub. L. 106-113, Div. B, sec. 1000(a)(3), 113 Stat. 135 (enacting into law sec. 339 of Title III of H.R. 3423)), as amended in 2004 by Section 335 of Public Law 108-108. The pilot program shall be in effect through September 30, 2009, unless extended or made permanent by Congress.

§ 223.276 Applicability.

This subpart applies to the sale and free use of forest botanical products, as

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defined in § 223.277, from National Forest System lands, until September 30, 2009, unless the pilot program is extended or made permanent by Congress. The Forest Service shall dispose of forest botanical products in accordance with the procedures set forth in 36 CFR part 223 Subpart G, subject to the requirements of this subpart.

§ 223.277 Forest botanical products definition.

As used in this subpart, the following term shall mean:

Forest botanical products are: Naturally occurring special forest products, including, but not limited to, bark, berries, boughs, bryophytes, bulbs, burls, cones, ferns, fungi (including mushrooms), forbs, grasses, mosses, nuts, pine straw, roots, sedges, seeds, shrubs, transplants, tree sap, and wildflowers. Forest botanical products are not animals, animal parts, Christmas trees, fence material, firewood, insects, mine props, minerals, posts and poles, rails, rocks, shingle and shake bolts, water, worms, and soil.

§ 223.278 Sale of forest botanical products and collection of fees.

The responsible Forest Officer shall ensure that the sale price of any forest botanical product includes a portion of the product's fair market value and a portion of the costs incurred by the Department of Agriculture associated with granting, modifying, or monitoring the authorization for harvest of forest botanical products, including the costs of any environmental or other analysis. The fair market value of forest botanical products shall be equal to the appraised value determined in accordance with § 223.222. The sum of the portions of fair market value and costs making up the sale price must be greater than or equal to the forest botanical product's fair market value. All other aspects related to the sale of forest botanical products shall be governed under 36 CFR part 223 Subpart G.

§ 223.279 Personal use.

(a) *Personal use.* A person may harvest forest botanical products from National Forest Systems lands free of charge for personal, non-commercial

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use up to the personal-use harvest level.

(b) *Personal use harvest level.* In conjunction with determining sustainable harvest levels under § 223.219, the responsible Forest Officer shall determine personal-use harvest levels for specific forest botanical products, which shall be equal to the amount or quantity authorized for free use under § 223.239(a).

(c) *Personal-use permit requirement.* A person seeking personal use of a forest botanical product must comply with the free-use permitting requirements of § 223.239.

§ 223.280 Waiver of fees and/or fair market value.

The Forest Service waives the collection of fees otherwise required pursuant to § 223.278 of this subpart as follows:

(a) For all federally-recognized Tribes seeking to harvest forest botanical products for cultural, ceremonial, and/or traditional purposes. Such purposes must be non-commercial, and any such harvest may be conditioned or denied for reasons similar to those provided in § 223.240 of subpart G; and

(b) For Tribes with treaty or other reserved rights seeking to harvest forest botanical products for cultural, ceremonial, and/or traditional purposes in accordance with such treaty or other reserved rights. Such purposes must be non-commercial, and any such harvest may be conditioned or denied for reasons similar to those provided in § 223.240 of subpart G; and

(c) When a Regional Forester or Forest Supervisor, having proper authorization from the Chief, makes a written determination that:

(1) The harvest of a specified forest botanical product will facilitate non-commercial scientific research such as species propagation or sustainability; or

(2) A forest botanical product is salvage because other management activities will destroy or damage the product.

§ 223.281 Monitoring and revising sustainable harvest levels.

The Forest Service shall monitor and revise sustainable harvest levels for

forest botanical products in accordance with § 223.219 of subpart G.

§ 223.282 Deposit and expenditure of collected fees.

(a) Funds collected under the pilot program for the harvest and sale of forest botanical products shall be deposited into a special account in the Treasury of the United States. These funds shall be available for expenditure at National Forests or National Grasslands where the funds were collected until September 30, 2010, unless the program is extended.

(b) Funds deposited into the special account specified in paragraph (a) of this section shall be expended at a National Forest or National Grassland in an amount equal to the fees collected at that unit and shall be used to pay for the costs of:

(1) Conducting inventories of forest botanical products;

(2) Determining, monitoring, and revising sustainable harvest levels for forest botanical products;

(3) Monitoring and assessing the impact of harvest levels and methods;

(4) Conducting restoration activities, including vegetation restoration; and

(5) Administering the pilot program, including environmental or other analyses.

Subpart I—Stewardship End Result Contracting Projects

SOURCE: 81 FR 3721, Jan. 22, 2016, unless otherwise noted.

§ 223.300 Applicability.

(a) This part sets forth the regulations applicable to the implementation of section 604 of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003, “Stewardship End Result Contracting Projects” 16 U.S.C. 6591c. This section provides for the use of contracts and agreements to achieve land management goals for the national forests and the public lands that meet local and rural community needs. In the fulfillment of these activities, the Forest Service may apply the value of timber or other forest products removed from the project site as an offset against the cost of services received under such contracts or agreements.

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(b)(1) *Procurement of service contracts.* If the Forest Service makes a determination as provided under section 223.301(b)(1) of this subpart that a stewardship contract is a contract for the procurement of services, the Forest Service will utilize the contracting procedures set forth in the Federal Acquisition Regulations, Title 48 of the Code of Federal Regulations including the regulations issued by the Department of Agriculture set forth in Chapter 4 of Title 48 as well as requirements included in § 223.303.

(2) *Sale of property contracts.* If the Forest Service makes a determination under § 223.301(b)(2) of this subpart that a stewardship contract is to be a contract for the sale of property, the regulations set forth in subparts A and B of this part are generally applicable, except as provided in § 223.304.

(3) *Agreements.* Agreements entered into under this subpart are not subject to grant regulations found in 2 CFR part 200 as adopted and supplemented by the USDA in 2 CFR parts 400, 416, and 422.

(4) *Other provisions.* Additional terms and conditions for contracts and agreements may be added to a contract or agreement entered into under this subpart, in accordance with applicable law and to the extent determined to be necessary by the Forest Service.

(c) *Parties to contracts and agreements.* The Forest Service may enter into contracts and agreements under this part with private persons, private entities and public entities.

§ 223.301 Determination of type of contract or agreement.

(a) *Use of a contract or agreement.* When the Forest Service initiates a project under this subpart, a determination will be made whether to use a contract or an agreement to implement the project.

(b) *Type of contract.* If the Forest Service determines that a contract will be utilized:

(1) *Procurement of service contracts.* When the value of timber or other forest products removed through the contract will be less than the total value of the service work items received by the Forest Service, the activity shall be considered a procurement of a serv-

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ice and a contract, for a period not to exceed 10 years, will be utilized as provided in § 223.303 or

(2) *Sale of property contracts.* When the value of timber or other forest products removed through the contract is equal to or exceeds the total value of the service work items received by the Forest Service, the activity shall be considered a sale of property and a contract, for a period not to exceed 10 years, will be utilized as provided in § 223.304.

(c) *Best interest of the government determination.* The Forest Service official who makes a determination under paragraph (b) of this section shall document in the contract file the basis for the determination that:

(1) It is in the best interest of the government that a sale of property contract is more suitable for a contract that would otherwise be subject to paragraph (b)(1) of this section; or

(2) It is in the best interest of the government that a procurement of service contract is more suitable for a contract that would otherwise be subject to paragraph (b)(2) of this section.

§ 223.302 Award of contracts and agreements.

Section 604(d) of HFRA requires that a source for performance of a stewardship agreement or contract be selected on a best-value basis. A stewardship agreement or contract may also be entered into notwithstanding subsections (d) and (g) of section 14 of the National Forest Management Act of 1976 (16 U.S.C. 472a).

§ 223.303 Procurement of service contracts.

All contracts determined under § 223.301(b)(1) to be a contract for receipt of a service shall:

(a) Be administered under the Federal Acquisition Regulations, Title 48 of the Code of Federal Regulations including the regulations issued by the Department of Agriculture set forth in Chapter 4 of Title 48; and

(b) Provide for a fire liability provision. All contracts under this section shall contain a fire liability provision that is in substantially the same form as the fire liability provision contained

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in integrated resource timber contracts, as described in Forest Service contract numbered 2400-13, part H, section 4.

(c) Utilize the following provisions of subparts A and B of this part:

(1) Section 223.1 Authority to sell timber.

(2) Section 223.3 Sale of seized material.

(3) Section 223.14 Where timber may be cut.

(4) Section 223.30 Consistency with plans, environmental standards, and other management requirements.

(5) Section 223.34 Advance payment.

(6) Section 223.36 Volume determination.

(7) Section 223.37 Revegetation of temporary roads.

(8) Section 223.38 Standards for road design and construction.

(9) Section 223.40 Cancellation for environmental protection or inconsistency with plans.

(10) Section 223.48 Restrictions on export and substitution of unprocessed timber.

(11) Section 223.60 Determining fair market value.

(12) Section 223.61 Establishing minimum stumpage rates.

(13) Section 223.87 Requirements of bidders concerning exports.

(14) Section 223.113 Modification of contracts to prevent environmental damage or to conform to forest plans.

(d) Products may be valued on a per acre basis.

(e) Such other provisions as are necessary to carry out the provisions of section 604 of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c).

§ 223.304 Sale of property contracts.

All contracts determined under § 223.301(b) to be a contract for a sale of property shall:

(a) Utilize the provisions of subparts A and B of this part, except that the following provisions will not be applicable:

(1) Section 223.4 Exchange of trees or portions of trees.

(2) Section 223.31 Duration of contracts.

(3) Section 223.42 Transfer of effective purchaser credits.

(4) Section 223.43 Limit on amounts of transferred purchaser credits.

(5) Section 223.44 Collection rights on contracts involved in transfer of purchaser credit.

(6) Section 223.44 Collection rights on contracts involved in transfer of purchaser credit.

(7) Section 223.45 Definitions applicable to transfer of purchaser credit.

(8) Section 223.49 Downpayments. Paragraph (d).

(9) Section 223.62 Timber purchaser road construction credit.

(10) Section 223.65 Appraisal of timber for land exchange; right-of-way, or other authorized use.

(11) Section 223.80 When advertisement is required.

(12) Section 223.82 Contents of advertisement.

(13) Section 223.83 Contents of prospectus.

(14) Section 223.84 Small business bid form provisions on sales with specified road construction.

(15) Section 223.88 Bidding methods.

(16) Section 223.100 Award to highest bidder.

(17) Section 223.102 Procedure when sale is not awarded to highest bidder.

(18) Section 223.103 Award of small business set aside sales.

(19) Section 223.118 Appeal process for small business timber sale set-aside program share recomputation decisions.

(b) Include the following additional provisions:

(1) If determined by the Forest Service to be necessary to protect the interests of the United States, a performance and payment bond, as described on February 7, 2014, in section 28-103-2 and 28-103-3 of Part 48 of the Code of Federal Regulations, in an amount sufficient to protect the investment in receipts by the United States generated by the contractor from the estimated value of the forest products to be removed under the contract;

(2) Provide for a fire liability provision.

(3) Redetermination of stumpage rates and deposits: The cost of service work included in stewardship contracts will be evaluated along with stumpage

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values at the time of a rate determination in accordance with normal rate determination procedures.

(4) Products may be valued on a per acre basis.

(5) Such other provisions as are necessary to carry out the provisions of section 604 of the Healthy Forest Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6591c).

§ 223.305 Agreements.

The Forest Service may enter into an agreement under this subpart in lieu of a contract.

(a) The regulations governing Federal financial assistance relationships are not applicable to such agreements.

(b) All agreements under this section shall contain a fire liability provision that is in substantially the same form as the fire liability provision contained in integrated resource timber contracts, as described in Forest Service contract numbered 2400-13, part H, section 4.

PART 228—MINERALS

Subpart A—Locatable Minerals

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