File Code: 5430/5570   **Date:** August 8, 2014
Route To:

    Subject: National Landownership Adjustment Team Oversight

        To: Regional Foresters

From 1998 until 2006, the National Landownership Adjustment Team (NLAT) provided land exchange case oversight for all regions. In March 2006, by letter guidance (copy enclosed), the individual review of land exchange cases and certain residential facility sales by the NLAT was replaced by periodic reviews of each region's land ownership adjustment program. This guidance was designed to stay in effect until the efficacy of this approach could be evaluated. Since the letter guidance was issued, all regions, excluding Region 10, have been reviewed. All were found to have sufficiently skilled personnel and oversight processes to ensure compliance with law, regulation, and policy.

Because of the demonstrated performance by the regions, the guidance in the 2006 letter will remain in effect until revoked. Requirements will be addressed as necessary in the next 5400 Forest Service Manual update. The Regional Lands Directors will retain the primary responsibility for ensuring independent oversight of all land adjustment cases, including exchanges, purchases, donations, and sales. The NLAT will continue to provide periodic regional reviews. We also reserve the option of reviewing any case where there may be national implications or issues of concern. The NLAT remains available to review any case at the request of the region.

As a reminder, NLAT reviews are still required for sales where the anticipated value exceeds $1,000,000 or a direct sale is proposed to a Governmental entity that has zoning control over the property. These requirements are specified in Forest Service Handbook 5509.11.

If you have questions regarding these NLAT requirements, please contact me at (202) 205-2818. Thank you for your continued diligence and focused efforts to strengthen the landownership adjustment program.

/s/ Steven Rinella
STEVEN RINELLA
Acting Director of Lands and Realty Management

Enclosure