



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL  
 Washington D.C. 20250



MAY 22 2006

The Honorable Ken Salazar  
 United States Senate  
 702 Hart Senate Building  
 Washington, DC.. 20510

Dear Senator Salazar:

Thank you for your letter of May 16, 2006, concerning the Forest Service (FS) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process regarding access roads for the proposed Village at Wolf Creek development. You requested an investigation of alleged improprieties in the FS' evaluation of and decision on the EIS regarding the FS land involved.

In early April 2006, the Office of Inspector General's (OIG) Hotline received a complaint presenting similar allegations from two advocacy groups in Colorado, and OIG received inquiries from a Colorado State Representative and U.S. Representative John T. Salazar. A similar letter is being sent to Representative Salazar and the Colorado-based requesters.

In response to these requests, OIG personnel have been reviewing information submitted by the concerned parties and FS regarding the EIS process and related matters. Once we have completed our evaluation of the facts and applicable statutes, regulations, and FS policies, we will make a determination whether further inquiry by OIG or FS is warranted. OIG will respond directly to you and the aforementioned requesters upon completion of our evaluation.

Should you have any questions or desire additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me on (202) 720-8001, or have a member of your staff contact Mr. Mark R. Woods, Assistant Inspector General for Investigations, on (202) 720-3306.

Sincerely,

Phyllis K. Fong  
 Inspector General



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 Jamie L. Whitten Federal Building  
 1400 Independence Avenue, Room 117-W  
 Washington, DC 20250-2301

**FACSIMILE TRANSMITTAL  
 SHEET**

DATE: May 22, 2006

TO: Senator Ken Salazar

FROM: Phyllis Fong  
Inspector General, USDA

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Tel 202-720-8001

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SUBJECT:

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REMARKS:

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Jan Harmon @ # above