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Route To:

Subject: Waiver for Certain Purchases, AGAR Advisory 58A

To: Regional Foresters, Station Directors, Area Director, IITF Director

The Forest Service has been granted a limited waiver from Agriculture Acquisition Regulation (AGAR) Advisory 58A, Prohibition on Using Purchase Cards or Convenience Checks to Acquire Telecommunications, by the Agriculture Chief Information Officer. The waiver increases the dollar limit from \$350 to \$2,500 for the duration of 2006 to expedite response capability during the wildland firefighting and hurricane season. The waiver allows Forest Service purchase cardholders to use their cards (and convenience checks, if necessary) to acquire incidental goods and services for Land Management Radios (LMR) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS) for purchases at or below \$2,500.

The cards will be used for the purchases of items such as coaxial cables, waveguide, antennas, signal wire, lightning arrestors, emergency LMR and GPS maintenance services, mobile radio installations, parts and subassemblies, and radio accessories such as batteries, speaker-microphones, cloning cables, etc., and shipment of any of these items overnight. These items are essential for operation and maintenance of FS LMR and GPS systems.

Also, in addition, a temporary waiver has been granted for the purchases for voice communications of the dollar threshold in AGAR 58A for 120 days. The dollar threshold is raised from \$350 to \$2,500 for voice systems maintenance and repair parts and time and materials required to make repairs in locations where FS IRM employees are not available. This 120 day waiver is not for the purchase of cell or satellite telephones. Under emergency conditions, those can be purchased with purchase cards by invoking the emergency clause in AGAR 58A.

Please contact Kelly Koeppe at 703-605-4823 in AQM, Tom Thomison at 703-605-4570 or June Lee at 703-605-4508 in IRM if you have any questions.

/s/ Ronald R. Wester (for)
RONALD E. HOOPER
Director, Acquisition Management

/s/ Joan B. Golden
JOAN B. GOLDEN
Acting Chief Information Officer

cc: Laurie Lewandowski, Tom Thomison, Kelly Koeppe, June T Lee, Ron Hooper

