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**File Code:** 2450 **Date:**  
**Route To:**  
**Subject:** Urgent Removal Contract Extensions  
**To:** Forest Supervisors

Catastrophic fires have occurred in Oregon and Washington in 2020. I have determined that adequate cause exists to consider Urgent Removal Contract Extensions on undamaged National Forest (green) timber sale contracts and Integrated Resource Timber Contracts (IRTC) on the seven National Forests listed below. Urgent Removal Extensions are made on a case-by-case basis to facilitate the timely removal and processing of damaged timber from Non-Forest Service System lands affected by these fires.

Urgent Removal Contract Extensions found in 36 CFR 223.53 allows for an early extension of up to one year if there is a substantial overriding public interest in extending National Forest System timber sale contracts for undamaged timber not requiring expeditious removal, in order to facilitate the harvest of catastrophically damaged timber on Non-National Forest System lands. Forests included in this Urgent Removal authority are the Gifford Pinchot, Fremont-Winema, Mt Hood, Umpqua, Rogue River-Siskiyou, Siuslaw, and Willamette National Forests.

My determination is based on the scope and scale of the fires in the Region on Forest Service, private, State, Tribal, and BLM lands, which constitute a significant catastrophic event. In addition, mills may not have the capacity to process the volume from fire-damaged timber and green timber from existing National Forest System timber sale contracts and IRTCs. There also may not be enough logging contractors available to harvest fire-damaged timber and green timber, and failure to promptly harvest the damaged Non-National Forest System timber could pose a threat to public safety, create a threat of an insect or disease epidemic to the National Forest System or other lands and resources, or result in significant private or other resource loss.

This determination provides timber sale Contracting Officers the authority under 36 CFR 223.53, to extend the contract terms of undamaged (green) National Forest System timber sale contracts when requested in writing by purchasers and contractors showing how they qualify under this rule.

To grant an Urgent Removal Extension, the timber sale Contracting Officer must verify the following:



1. The same logging equipment and/or manufacturing facilities would probably be needed to process both undamaged (green) timber from National Forest System land and the damaged Non-National Forest System timber from the area affected by the catastrophe and mill capacities are running close to 100 percent.
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:
  - a. That urgent removal extension does not adversely affect other resource management objectives to be implemented by the National Forest System timber sale being extended.
  - b. 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 or contractor has not been granted a previous Urgent Removal Extension on the same National Forest System timber sale contract or IRTC 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 or IRTC term will not exceed ten years from the date the National Forest System contract was awarded.
5. That the purchaser or contractor is not in breach of the National Forest System contract or IRTC, and all work items, payments, and deposits are current.
6. That the purchaser or contractor has curtailed operations on the green contracts to be extended and submits updated Plan of Operations for the contracts.
7. That the contracts were awarded prior to the date of this letter and are not currently suspended under B/BT8.33 or I/IT.3.3.
8. That any Contract Term Adjustment the contract qualifies for is granted in advance of this extension.

Contracting Officers may extend sales up to a maximum of one year and are guided by the latitude allowed in the provisions of this rule and policy identified in FSM 2453.11c. Contracting Officers should coordinate with the adjacent Forests when granting time extensions for purchasers and contractors that may be operating in more than one area of the Region or with BLM. If needed, the extension must include a requirement that the purchaser or contractor make a cash payment to cover the costs of remarking the timber on the sale area, contract area, or reestablishing cutting unit boundaries. Periodic Payment dates are to be adjusted at the time of the extension

If you or your staff have any questions, please contact Kraig Kidwell, Regional Sale Administration Specialist, at 541-961-2614.

GLENN P. CASAMASSA  
Regional Forester

cc: Debbie Hollen, Dan Shively, Mike Spisak, Marin Palmer, Kraig Kidwell, Jana Carlson, Robert Barnhart, Carl Erickson, Michael L. Johnson, AFRC