



File Code: 5300

Date: September 1, 2009

Route To:

Subject: National Media Contacts

To: Law Enforcement and Investigations Leadership Team

This letter is in follow up to our conference call on August 31, 2009 and to reiterate the discussion regarding Law Enforcement and Investigations (LEI)'s participation with media contacts.

Enclosed with this letter is Chief Tidwell's letter of August 25, 2009 to be distributed to all employees regarding protocol for all Forest Service interaction with the national media.

Currently, and until further notice all LEI employees are on stand-down from communicating with local and or national media contacts without clearance from the Director, LEI and Press Office, Media desk in the Washington Office.

To ensure this procedure is followed for compliance and in line with the Chief's letter; the following should occur:

- All presentations, media conferences, briefings, interviews or press releases regarding law enforcement matters are to have prior Director's approval.
- All requests from media contacts, whether it is local or national in scope will be handled through your local PAO and the LEI chain of command.
- When contacted by the media, employees should inquire about topic questions relating to the subject matter and determine what the timeline is for a response.

It is imperative that we communicate this direction to all our employees. As always we want to ensure the public is informed of Forest Service law enforcement activities in the most appropriate manner. The above procedures will ensure all law enforcement personnel are in compliance with the enclosed Chief's direction.

*/s/ David L. Ferrell*

DAVID L. FERRELL

Director

Law Enforcement and Investigations

Enclosure

