

Forrest Cole /R10/USDAFS
07/12/2006 09:15 AM

To Tim A Obst/NONFS/USDAFS@FSNOTES
bruce.landon@usdoj.gov, Carol
Kittson/R1/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Christopher S
Savage/R10/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Denny
cc Bschor/R10/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Karlene K
Hale/R10/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Keith
Simila/R10/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Patricia A
Grantham/R10/USDAFS@FSNOTES
bcc
Subject Re: Ethics Investigation

We made numerous attempts to make contact with OIG thru voice mail, email, and even the hotline without any response. That aside, the investigation currently taking place is for the benefit of the government as well as the employee. If nothing is found that bars me from putting him back into his original job I intend to do this expeditiously. At the moment there is an obvious cloud hanging over this move due to questions relating to conflict of interest, employee consultation with litigant during work hours, information paid for by the government without being accessible by the public and deciding official, and ethic violations. Mr. Ith has been assigned work unrelated to the current case under litigation. This work will soon culminate prior to the disposition of the litigation. I need to know whether or not I can put him back into his job without impairing the Forest Service ability to perform work. There is no funding to continue in his current assignment.

Forrest Cole
Forest Supervisor
R10 - Tongass National Forest
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Tim A Obst/NONFS/USDAFS



Tim A Obst/NONFS/USDAFS
07/12/2006 08:59 AM

To Keith Simila/R10/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Denny
Bschor/R10/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Forrest
Cole/R10/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Patricia A
Grantham/R10/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Christopher S
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Stacie Mason/R10/USDAFS@FSNOTES, Karlene K
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cc
Subject Ethics Investigation

Since we are threatened with a lawsuit and TRO in the ethics investigation, the advice from OGC is that we close the loop with OIG before the interview with the employee tomorrow. If anyone knows whether OIG has been contacted and whether they have declined to investigate, please let me know right away. Otherwise I will try to get with Karlene and OIG and sort that out today, if possible.

Tim Obst
Assistant Regional Attorney
USDA Office of the General Counsel
Juneau Office, Pacific Region
907-586-8826