

Dear Purchaser/Contractor:

On April 10, 2020, the Under Secretary for Natural Resources and Environment, Department of Agriculture determined there is Substantial Overriding Public Interest (SOPI) in extending certain National Forest System timber sale contracts for up to two years, except sales in Alaska will receive up to 3 years through a combination of Market Related Contract Term Addition (MRCTA) and SOPI. Contract length may exceed 10 years as a result of this extension. To be eligible, a contract must have been awarded prior to April 1, 2020 or have had a bid opening date prior to April 1, 2020 and upon award, meet the following conditions:

- 1) Contract or portions of contracts that are in breach must be remedied prior to being extended.
- 2) Contracts are not determined by the Contracting Officer to contain wood products that are in urgent need of removal due to forest health conditions or to mitigate a significant wildfire threat to a community, municipal watershed or other critical public resource.

For contracts extended pursuant to this finding, periodic payment determination dates that have not been reached as of the date the Contracting Officer receives a request for SOPI extension will be adjusted one day for each additional day of contract time granted. Periodic Payments with determination dates from March 1, 2020 to the date this SOPI is published shall be adjusted 1-day for each additional day of contract time granted when your request is received within 30 days of publication of the SOPI.

For contracts containing special provision C(CT)8.212 Market Related Contract Term Addition, any contract extension(s) under this SOPI determination will have any future Market Related Contract Term Addition(s) reduced by the amount of time granted under this SOPI.

In accordance with C(T)4.212 Temporary Reduction of Downpayment, when the contract term is extended for 30 more consecutive days for an adjustment of the contract term authorized upon a determination of substantial overriding public interest, Purchaser may request a temporary reduction of downpayment.

Our records show that you have one or more contracts that may be eligible for an extension under the SOPI. To receive an extension, periodic payment deferral and temporary reduction of downpayment, you must make a written request to the appropriate Contracting Officer and include a signed copy of the enclosed Request for Relief and Release of Liability Statement. If you wish to have your downpayment amount temporarily reduced please indicate so in your request.

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions about this SOPI and implementation procedures.

Contracting Officer