



Office of the Chief
Records Officer for the
U.S. Government

Sent Via Email. No Hard Copy to Follow.

September 27, 2024

William Meadows
Forest Service
U.S. Department of Agriculture
4000 Masthead St NE Mailstop 144
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Dear Mr. Meadows,

The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) has received a complaint alleging the potential unauthorized disposition of federal records. A member of the public has alleged that the United States Forest Service (FS) may have improperly disposed of or managed records responsive to the citizen's July 10, 2024, freedom of information act (FOIA) request.

The FOIA request sought information related to all firearms training and use records from 2021 to the present for all districts in the Tongass National Forest. The complainant asserted that "the limited scope of the records provided raises concerns that required records may have been improperly disposed of or mismanaged."

FS's response to this FOIA request indicated that all records on file, within the scope of the request, were provided. However, the complainant reported that FS did not provide training rosters for years 2021 for 9 districts, 2022 for 8 districts, 2023 for 8 districts, and 2024 for 5 districts, as well as various annual reports between 2021 to present (see enclosures for details). In accordance with 36 CFR 1230.16(b), NARA is requesting FS investigate this allegation and provide a report within 30 calendar days. The report must include the following information:

- An explanation for the gaps in the firearm access rosters and annual reports.
- Details of the circumstances surrounding these gaps.
- A complete description of the records in question, including all associated disposition authority number(s).
- Any actions taken to recover or reconstruct the missing records.
- A statement describing what safeguards will be established to prevent future unauthorized disposition of federal records.

Your attention to this matter is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions or wish to discuss further, please contact the Records Management Oversight and Reporting Program by email at UnauthorizedDisposition@nara.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Fischer". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

WILLIAM FISCHER
Chief Records Officer
for the U.S. Government (Acting)

cc: Beatriz Collazo, Departmental Records Officer, Department of Agriculture

Enclosures (6)