



Office of the Under Secretary

Natural Resources and Environment
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250-0108

February 26, 2026

THE HONORABLE MELANIE STANSBURY
United States House of Representatives
1421 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Stansbury,

Thank you for your November 5, 2025, letter to Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins, cosigned by your colleagues, regarding the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Forest Service Southwest Regional Office in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Your comments will be considered as we finalize our decisions to ensure USDA's Forest Service continues to fulfill its mission effectively. I am responding on behalf of the Secretary.

I appreciate your concerns about the proposed reorganization plan and the potential closure of the Albuquerque Regional Office. As the Forest Service transitions out of certain office locations across the country, the agency will ensure memorabilia, items of historical significance, and other Forest Service property are properly relocated.

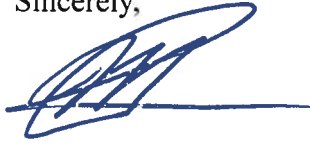
The USDA Reorganization Plan, announced in Secretary Memorandum 1078-015, dated July 24, 2025, is designed to streamline operations, reduce redundancy, and enhance service delivery. Reorganization empowers field level staff to make decisions based on what is most appropriate for the region, state and constituents. Furthermore, it removes bureaucracy and improves efficiency to best serve our constituents. Reorganization is authorized by the *Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1953* (5 U.S.C. app.; 7 U.S.C. 220 l note) and the *Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994* (Pub. L. 103-354).

The public comment period for the reorganization plan began on August 1, 2025, and was extended to September 30, 2025. During this time, USDA received nearly 47,000 emails from a wide range of stakeholders, including USDA employees, Members of Congress, State and local governments, Tribal representatives, and the public. A summary of these comments was released in a report on December 17, 2025. USDA also engaged in Tribal consultation on the Plan in September.

The Reorganization Plan is in the preliminary design phase, and the details are still under development. We remain committed to transparency and collaboration throughout this process and will continue to engage with Congress and other stakeholders as we evaluate the Reorganization Plan.

Thank you, again, for your letter. If you have additional questions, please have a member of your staff contact USDA's Office of Congressional Relations at (202) 720-7095 or ocr@usda.gov. We have sent a copy of this letter to your colleagues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'MB', is written over a horizontal line.

Michael K. Boren
Under Secretary
Natural Resources and Environment
U.S. Department of Agriculture