



OFFICE *of* GOVERNMENT INFORMATION SERVICES

December 22, 2015—Sent via email

[REDACTED]

In Re: Case No. 201501127
NG: CM: AS

NATIONAL
ARCHIVES
and RECORDS
ADMINISTRATION

8601 ADELPHI ROAD
OGIS
COLLEGE PARK, MD
20740-6001

web: www.ogis.archives.gov
e-mail: ogis@nara.gov
phone: 202-741-5770
toll-free: 1-877-684-6448
fax: 202-741-5769

Dear [REDACTED]:

This responds to your request for assistance from the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS), which we received via email on August 22, 2015. You asked for assistance with a Freedom of Information (FOIA) request (No. [REDACTED]) that you made to the Forest Service's Santa Fe National Forest (SFNF). We apologize for our delay in handling your request for assistance.

As you know, Congress created OGIS to complement existing FOIA practice and procedure; we strive to work in conjunction with the existing request and appeal process. The goal is for OGIS to allow, whenever practical, the requester to exhaust his or her remedies within the agency, including the appeal process. OGIS has no investigatory or enforcement power, nor can we compel an agency to process one request before others. OGIS serves as the Federal FOIA Ombudsman and our jurisdiction is limited to assisting with the FOIA process.

We understand that you are concerned about the agency's delay in responding to this request. OGIS staff contacted the SFNF FOIA Office to inquire about the status of your request; SFNF expects to respond to your request by January 18, 2016. This estimate is SFNF's best determination as to when it believes it will complete processing this request, based upon what remains to be done and in light of the agency's experience with processing similar requests. It is not a guarantee that agency will have responded by that date.

We understand that you are frustrated by the delay in the response to your request. Delays, while unfortunate, are an unavoidable aspect of the FOIA for many agencies. If an agency or department is actively processing a request, there is little more OGIS can do than provide a customer with information on the status of a request.

Thank you for bringing this matter to OGIS.

Sincerely,

JAMES V.M.L. HOLZER
Director

Cc: Forest Service FOIA Office

