



**American Bar Association
Section of Environment, Energy, and Resources**



**Forest Resources, Environmental Impact Assessment
and Public Land and Resources Committees**

Present a "Quick Teleconference" program

Excluding Forest Plans Under NEPA – A New Forest Service Directive Adds a Categorical Exclusion (CE) for Forest-Planning Decisions

Tuesday, February 6, 2007

12:00 p.m. – 1:30 p.m. Eastern Time / 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Central Time
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. Mountain Time / 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Pacific Time

Program Overview:

The Forest Service has revised its procedures for complying with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations. Pursuant to a final directive published in the Federal Register, 71 Fed. Reg. 75481 (Dec. 15, 2006), the Forest Service has added, for forest-planning decisions, a new categorical exclusion (CE) – a category of actions that do not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the environment and, therefore, do not normally require further analysis and documentation in either an environmental assessment or an environmental impact statement. The new CE applies to agency decisions to develop, amend, or revise land management plans for national forests.

Educational Objectives:

- Alert Section members and others to new Forest Service directive exempting plans under NEPA.
- Provide a forum for discussion and debate of legal issues presented by new forest-plan CE.
- Inform practitioners and policymakers about emerging issues with national forest management.

Faculty:

Moderator:

James Ustasiewski, Senior Counsel, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the General Counsel, Juneau, AK

Panelists:

Jim Angell, Managing Attorney, Earthjustice, Denver, CO

Daniel Mandelker, Professor, Washington University School of Law, St. Louis, MO

William R. "Chip" Murray, Natural Resources Counsel, American Forest & Paper Association, Washington, DC

David Tenny, Deputy Under Secretary of Agriculture for Natural Resources and Environment, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, DC

Questions?

Do you have a question that you would like the panel to address? Please email your question to Jim Ustasiewski at Jim.ustasiewski@ogc.usda.gov by February 5, 2007 at noon Eastern Time and the panel will make every effort to address your inquiry. You will also have an opportunity to ask questions of the panel live at the conclusion of the program.

