

Framing Paper

USDA Tribal Listening Session: Discussion on Timber Harvesters and Haulers Provision
Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021

June 9, 2021

3:00-5:00 EST

Topic: USDA Assistance to Timber Harvesters and Haulers that Suffered Losses due to the Pandemic

Summary: The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 authorizes over \$11 billion for USDA to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the coronavirus. Under the provision that addresses timber harvesting and hauling businesses, “The Secretary of Agriculture may use not more than \$200,000,000 to provide relief to timber harvesting and timber hauling businesses that have, as a result of the COVID–19 pandemic, experienced a loss of not less than 10 percent in gross revenue during the period beginning on January 1, 2020, and ending on December 1, 2020, as compared to the gross revenue of that timber harvesting or hauling business during the same period in 2019.”

Questions: Please consider the following questions, in addition to those you have, regarding the program and the provision stated above. Any feedback from tribal leaders can either be discussed at the consultation or submitted in writing to the Office of Tribal Relations (OTR). Submission details can be found below.

Question 1: What ideas may you have to ensure this program works effectively and efficiently in Indian Country?

Question 2: Since there is a limit on funding, depending on the number of applications there may be a factor. Should there be a payment limitation to applicants for this program?

Question 3: Should there be a minimum gross revenue requirement for an applicant to be eligible (e.g., 50 percent of the applicant’s annual gross revenue comes from timber harvesting and/or hauling)? What are ways to verify gross revenue?

Question 5: What are the unique circumstances facing logging in Indian Country? How can USDA ensure these are addressed?

Question 6: For how long should FSA allow applicants to apply, especially if the priority is to expend all available funds within a short time frame?

Question 7: Do you have any other comments, suggestions, or concerns?

Written records may be submitted to the Office of Tribal Relations at any time. For consideration to the decision making in this rule submission should be made no later than June 16 at tribal.relations.usda.gov.