

File Code: 6270
2025-FS-WO-01258-F
Date: 3/18/25

Ms. Chloe Dennison
American Oversight
1030 15th Street NW, Suite B255
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Ms. Dennison:

This letter is in response to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request dated and received October 24, 2024, by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service Washington Office FOIA Service Center and assigned tracking number 2025-FS-WO-01258-F. You requested the following with a date range of September 28, 2024, to the date of search:

1. "All email communications (including emails, email attachments, complete email chains, calendar invitations, and calendar invitation attachments) sent by any of the officials listed below and containing any of the key terms listed below.

U.S. Forest Service Officials:

- i. Randy Moore, Chief
- ii. Angela Coleman, Associate Chief
- iii. [named individual], Chief of Staff

Key Terms:

- a. militia
 - b. supremacy
 - c. supremacist
 - d. patriot
 - e. armed
 - f. vigilante
 - g. nationalist
 - h. III%
2. All final formal or informal directives (including informal email communications), guidance, protocol, assessments, reports, analyses, or recommendations concerning armed militia groups threatening or interfering with the work of emergency relief workers."

As a preliminary matter, you submitted a similar FOIA request to the Southern Region (Region 8) FOIA Service Center. The final response to that request, 2025-FS-WO-01722-F, dated December 9, 2024, addressed records responsive to item 2 of this request.



In response to item 1 your request, we conducted a search and found one (1) responsive page: one (1) page is released in part. Redactions were made pursuant to Exemption 6 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. 552(b)(6).

FOIA Exemption 6

Exemption 6 requires the Government to withhold all information about individuals in personnel and medical files and similar files, where disclosure of such information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy. Exemption 6 also involves a balancing of the public's interest in disclosure against the individual's privacy interest.

Pursuant to FOIA Exemption 6, we have redacted cell phone numbers. These individuals have a clear privacy interest in the protection of this information, and there is little or no public interest in its release. The individual privacy rights outweigh the public's interest in this information.

The FOIA provides that requesters pay the reasonable costs for search, review, and duplication of records. Pursuant to Title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, Subtitle A, Part 1, Subpart A, Appendix A, there is no charge as the amount falls below the minimum required to collect fees.

This concludes the Forest Service's response to your FOIA request.

The FOIA provides you the right to appeal this response. Any appeal must be made in writing, within 90 days from the date of this letter to the Chief, USDA Forest Service. Please submit your appeal electronically to SM.FS.WOFOIA@usda.gov. The term "FOIA APPEAL" should be placed in capital letters on the subject line of the email along with the FOIA case number assigned to your request. To facilitate the processing of your appeal, include a copy of this letter.

If you need further assistance or would like to discuss any aspect of your request, please do not hesitate to contact the FOIA Public Liaison at (202) 205-6560. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services to inquire about FOIA mediation services: Office of Government Information Services, National Archives and Records Administration at (202) 741-5770 or ogis@nara.gov.

Sincerely,

CHAD
DOUGLAS

Digitally signed by CHAD
DOUGLAS
Date: 2025.03.18
08:15:41 -04'00'

CHAD DOUGLAS
Director, Office of Communications

Enclosure: one (1) page

From: Rivera, Jaelith - FS, DC
Sent: Mon, 14 Oct 2024 20:13:46 +0000
To: Moore, Randy - FS, DC; Coleman, Angela - FS, DC
Cc: Douglas, Chad - FS, DC
Subject: FEMA - situation in NC

Chief and Angela,

You may have seen the news reports on this issue today and yesterday. Here is one article in WaPo, [Hurricane recovery officials in N.C. relocated amid report of 'armed militia,' email shows - The Washington Post](#).

Chad has been working with USDA OC much of today to get a holding statement together. This is very close to being signed off by USDA. I don't think it will change.

"On Saturday afternoon, a Forest Service liaison supporting the response to Hurricane Helene received an alert from FEMA that, in accordance with protocol, he relayed to interagency leadership. While the communication was an internal one intended to help keep partners informed of the situation, local law enforcement is lead on this issue and is the best point of contact for most recent updates.

It's important to mention, many Forest Service employees live in areas impacted by Hurricane Helene. The U.S. Forest Service continues to actively support communities impacted by Hurricane Helene in partnership with FEMA and state and local teams, and we will do so as long as the need remains."

The Rutherford County Sheriff's Office's most recent updates are available [here](#). You may also wish to contact FEMA External Affairs at FEMA-News-Desk@fema.dhs.gov.



Jaelith Hall-Rivera, MPA/MSES

she/her

Chief of Staff

**Forest Service
Office of the Chief**

p: 202-205-0581

c: [REDACTED]
Jaelith.Hall-rivera@usda.gov

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(b)(6)