



File Code: 2460; 1560
Date: February 5, 2016

Mr. Don Stevens
156 Bacon Drive
Shelburne, VT 05482

Dear Mr. Stevens:

This letter authorizes the collection of “special forest products” for non-commercial uses. It is our understanding that you are designated as a representative for the Nulhegan Abenaki of Vermont and that the intent of the Nulhegan is to remove plants in minimal amounts that are considered important for traditional ceremonies and medicinal purposes.

The 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 223 contains the regulations for the sale and disposal of National Forest System timber, special forest products, and forest botanical products. Definitions located § 223.216 describe special forest products as the following:

“products collected from National Forest System lands that *include*, but are not limited to, bark, berries, boughs, bryophytes, bulbs, burls, Christmas trees, cones, epiphytes, fence material, ferns, firewood, forbs, fungi (including mushrooms), grasses, mine props, mosses, nuts, pine straw, posts and poles, roots, sedges, seeds, shingle and shake bolts, transplants, tree sap, rails, and wildflowers.”

Also, under the CFRs, it is important to note that:

“Special forest products *do not* include animals, animal parts, cull logs, derrick poles, house logs, insects, minerals, non-sawlog material removed in log form, pulpwood, rocks, sawtimber, small roundwood, soil, telephone poles, water and worms.”

Additionally, guidelines within the Green Mountain National Forest Management Plan (2006) state:

“Gathering of special forest products for personal, tribal, or scientific use may require a permit... Other products considered foods, herbs, medicinals, decoratives, and specialty products require a permit if the Forest Service determines that collection of these products may be at or trending toward unsustainable levels.”

We understand that your interest primarily revolves around gathering minimal amounts of sweetgrass and other plants, including medicinals. It is also understood that these collection strategies will be carried out by individuals or by small groups working together. With this being the case, we have determined that your collection strategies trending toward unsustainable levels is not likely and this letter is the appropriate mechanism to authorize the removal of minimal amounts of non-commercial plants from National Forest System lands in Vermont. If



the need arises to collect more than the specified amount, please contact us regarding the issuance of a free use permit. Please ensure that individuals or small groups collecting plants from the Green Mountain National Forest have a copy of this letter with them to verify collection.

If you have any questions, please contact Tim Watkins, Forest Archaeologist, at (802) 747-6719, or by email at timothywatkins@fs.fed.us. Thank you for your interest in the Green Mountain National Forest.

Sincerely,



JOHN A. SINCLAIR
Forest Supervisor