



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Albuquerque Service Center
Claims Management

101 B Sun Avenue NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109
1-877-372-7248

File Code: 6570

Date: June 27, 2014

DURANGO & SILVERTON NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD
ATTN: Mr. Al Harper
479 Main Avenue
Durango, CO 81301-5494

CERTIFIED MAIL
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Re: Notice of Indebtedness to the USDA Forest Service

Dear Mr. Harper:

The United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (FS), has determined that you owe the United States \$44,751.26. Enclosed are two copies of a bill for that amount. Payment in full, via check or money order, must be made within 30 days of the date of this letter to:

USDA Forest Service, Albuquerque Service Center
Attn: Unit Collection Officer
101B Sun Avenue NE
Albuquerque, NM 87109

Please return one copy of the bill with your payment. The second copy is for your records.

Basis of Indebtedness

On October 26, 2012, as one of the train engines owned and operated by the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad passed through the San Juan National Forest, sparks emitted from the engine and/or the metal wheels of the railcars scraped the metal train tracks igniting a wildfire on National Forest System lands in violation of federal law. An investigation revealed that the fire, known as the Goblin Fire, originated from the railroad and was caused by sparks negligently escaping the passing train and igniting surrounding fuels.

This bill reflects the direct costs incurred by the Forest Service for suppression of the Goblin Fire. Please see the enclosed disk, which documents those costs.

Interest, Penalties, and Administrative Costs

Pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3717(b), 31 CFR 901.9 and 7 CFR 3.17, this debt is subject to interest, penalties, and administrative costs if it is not paid in full by the due date.

The current interest rate for delinquent debts owed the United States is 1 percent. If the debt is not paid in full within 90 days of the due date, you will also be charged a penalty of 6 percent per annum on the amount overdue. Interest and penalty charges will be calculated from the date the



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bill was issued, and will continue to accrue until it is paid in full. Additionally, you will be charged applicable administrative costs to cover processing and handling of the overdue debt.

Reporting Requirement

Pursuant to 7 CFR 3.12, this debt may be reported to credit bureaus if it is over 60 days delinquent.

Action Necessary to Avoid Reporting to Credit Bureaus

To avoid reporting of your debt to credit bureaus you must do one of the following within 60 days of the date of this notice:

1. Pay your debt in full, as provided above.
2. Agree to a payment plan. If you are unable to pay your debt in full, you must contact Joi Lin Olsen at the address above or by telephone at 801-625-5886, sign a payment plan agreement with the FS, and make payments as required in the agreement.
3. Document an automatic stay in a bankruptcy proceeding. If you have filed for bankruptcy and an automatic stay is in effect, please provide a copy of the bankruptcy petition containing the stamp of the clerk of the bankruptcy court to Steven Casey at the address above.

You have a right to inspect and copy the FS records related to this debt. You must pay for copying costs.

If you have insurance, you may want to consider referring this debt to your insurance carrier. However, please be advised that if your insurance carrier declines payment, or offers to settle the debt for an amount less than that which is owed, you remain liable for the full amount of the debt.

Please be advised that the Forest Service has the authority to refer delinquent debts to the United States Department of Justice or the United States Department of the Treasury for further collection action.

If you have any questions about this notice, please contact Joi Lin Olsen at 801-625-5886.

Amy Pearson
FOR A. LISA LUX
Branch Chief, Claims/Claims Officer

Enclosures

Cc w/o encl: Ronald J. Duvall, AO – San Juan NF