

For: State and County Offices, State Foresters, and Service Foresters

Obligating Remaining SIP Funds

Approved by: Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs



1 Overview

A

Background

Notice SIP-29:

- authorized State Offices to establish a SIP signup period to end no later than August 31, 2000
- established time periods for State Offices to approve applications or obligate any remaining SIP funds.

B

Purpose

Some State Offices continue to have unobligated SIP funds. This notice provides procedures for FSA and State Forestry Office employees to obligate any remaining SIP funds.

Note: This notice does not apply to the SIP ice storm funds.

C

Contact

If there are questions about this notice:

- County Offices shall contact the State Office
- State Offices shall contact Ilka Gray, CEPD, at 202-690-0794
- FS or State Forestry Offices shall contact Regional FS Offices
- Regional FS Offices shall contact Susan Stein, National FS Office, at 202-205-0837.

Disposal Date July 1, 2001	Distribution State Offices; State Offices relay to County Offices, State Forestry, and NRCS State Offices
--	---

Notice SIP-32

2 Obligating Remaining Funds

A

Obligating Funds Each State Office that has remaining unobligated SIP funds shall ensure that SIP funds are obligated as soon as possible.

B

Establishing a Signup Period Each State Office that has remaining unobligated SIP funds should establish a signup period for accepting SIP applications to:

- begin as soon as possible after receipt of this notice
- end no later than March 30, 2001
- report the amount of remaining unobligated funds by April 20, 2001, to the FS National Office.

Note: No new SIP signup periods are authorized in State Offices that do not have unobligated SIP funds.

C

Processing Applications By COB April 20, 2001, State Foresters shall consult with FSA to report any unobligated funds that are available for release according to subparagraph 3 C.

D

Appeals The State Forester shall handle appeals according to established procedure.

Notice SIP-32

3 Action

A State Office Action

State Offices shall:

- immediately provide a copy of this notice to County Offices and FS State Offices or applicable State Forestry Offices
- consult with the State Forester to determine whether a signup period is applicable in the State

Note: If a signup period is necessary to obligate remaining SIP funds, the signup period shall:

- begin as soon as possible after receipt of this notice
 - end no later than March 30, 2001.
- by April 20, 2001, consult with the State Forester to determine the amount of SIP funds available for release
 - **not** take action to remove funds from ledgers until SIP-357 is received in the State Office.
-

B County Office Action

County Offices shall:

- begin accepting SIP applications **only** upon notification by the State Office

Note: The signup period shall:

- begin as soon as possible after receipt of this notice and notification by the State Office to conduct a signup period
 - end no later than March 30, 2001.
- **if applicable**, notify producers of the signup period using monthly newsletters and other available means
 - **not** take action to remove funds on ledgers until notified to do so by the State Office.
-

Continued on the next page

Notice SIP-32

3 Action (Continued)

C

State Forester Action

State Foresters shall:

- consult with State Offices to report the SIP funds, fund code 00, available for release by COB April 20, 2001
 - FAX to Susan Stein, National FS Office, at 202-205-1271.
-

D

Service Forester Action

Service Foresters shall, **if applicable**, begin accepting SIP applications at the beginning of the signup period identified by the State Office through COB March 30, 2001.
