



UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE
REGIONAL OFFICE

7014 FEDERAL BUILDING, 1961 STOUT STREET
DENVER, COLORADO 80202

FEB 23 1971

Mr. Vernon O. Hamre, Regional Forester
Region 4, Forest Service
324 25th Street
Ogden, Utah 84401



LM089341

Dear Mr. Hamre:

We have made a review for the settlement of accounts of accountable officers at the Region 4 office of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Ogden, Utah, through fiscal year 1970.

Our review, which was completed in January 1971, was made pursuant to the Budget and Accounting Act, 1921 (31 U.S.C. 53), and the Accounting and Auditing Act of 1950 (31 U.S.C. 67). Our review was directed primarily toward evaluating current administrative procedures and controls and accounting practices pertinent to our settlement responsibilities. Tests of financial transactions were made to the extent deemed appropriate. In addition, we reviewed the latest reports of the Office of the Inspector General, Department of Agriculture, and the agency's internal auditors covering fiscal activities in the region. We did not review program activities or payroll operations, except for wage payments to firefighters.

Our review disclosed that financial activities were generally handled in a satisfactory manner except that all of the forests within Region 4 had not used the revised minimum rates when billings were prepared for special use permits for transmission lines. This matter was discussed with members of your staff who agreed to determine whether the rates being charged by each forest are in compliance with Forest Service policy. We will appreciate your comments and advice as to the basis for the lack of uniformity in the rates charged and the date when all forests will utilize the revised minimum rates for billing purposes.

We wish to acknowledge the cooperation given our representatives during the review.

Copies of this report are being sent to the Inspector General,
Department of Agriculture, and to the Chief of the Forest Service.

Sincerely yours,

S. D. McElyea
Regional Manager

44434

089341