



2012-11

**NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION OPPOSES ATTEMPTS TO
EXPAND THE POWER OF THE UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE
LAW ENFORCEMENT**

WHEREAS, the US Forest Service Law Enforcement published, within the Federal Register, a proposed rule change to the code of federal regulation 36 (CFR) 262, 261, and 212;

WHEREAS, the proposed revisions to 36 CFRs 262, 261, and 212 make the Forest Service (FS) regulations more consistent with other land management agencies; clarify the agency's authority and give it enforcement measures and means commensurate with state law; and update regulations regarding payments for evidence, rewards, and impounding abandoned property;

WHEREAS, these proposed rule changes exhibits an absolute disregard for the sovereignty of the individual States; a disregard for the authority of the Office of Sheriff; and continues inability of the Forest Service to understand the mission and function of its Law Enforcement component;

WHEREAS, this effort is an unnecessary and unauthorized expansion of federal police powers and is viewed as an usurpation on the authority of the Office of Sheriff;

WHEREAS, the ultimate legal and constitutional authority for the protection of the public and the land within an individual county is vested in the Office of Sheriff;

WHEREAS, the roles and responsibilities for the Office of Sheriff are well enumerated within the laws of each state and the sheriff possesses the authority to extend enforcement powers as appropriate;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the National Sheriffs' Association opposes all attempts to expand the power of the United States Forest Service Law Enforcement.

Adopted at a Meeting of the General Membership in Nashville, TN on June 18, 2012.