

# Stewardship Contracting

Another Tool  
to Accomplish Our Work

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## Pilot Program

## Background

- In 1999 Congress authorized the Forest Service to test a new approach to land stewardship on National Forests
- Created new incentives to work with communities and ensure quality work
- Limited to 84 pilot sites (28 in each of the 1999, 2001, & 2002 Appropriations Acts)

# Pilot Program

# Key Features

- Allows exchange of goods for services
- Facilitates land restoration and enhancement efforts by retaining project receipts for use on additional projects
- Provides for best-value contracts up to 10 years
- Project-level, multi-party monitoring and annual reports to congress

## Pilot Program

## Experience

- Large amount of resource work has been accomplished through this tool
- Strong local collaboration
- Projects have enjoyed financial soundness and financial integrity
- Focus has been on how we leave the land from a forest health perspective

## Section 323, Public Law 108-7

- Removes “demo” and the limit on the number of projects
- Extends Forest Service authority to 2013
- Expands authority to BLM
- Continues collaboration with state and local communities and tribes
- Removes requirement for project-level monitoring and “non-commercial” restriction

# Stewardship Contracting

- Will help improve our ability to accomplish important forest & rangeland health, restoration, and rehabilitation projects
- Provides another tool for vegetative treatments and fuel reductions
- Can facilitate implementation of the National Fire Plan and Healthy Forest Initiative

## PL 108-07

- Does not materially change the scope or purpose of projects
- Does not change appropriations or come with earmarked funds
- Does not change NEPA or other environmental laws
- Does not change need for volume and value determination

# Our Commitments

- Projects will be developed with public and community participation
- All environmental laws will be followed
- Wilderness and Roadless Area policies will apply
- Land Management Plans will apply
- Projects will be subject to existing appeal processes

# Our Commitments

- Our partners will include any cooperating government agencies, tribal governments, or any interested groups or individuals
- Multiparty monitoring and evaluation process will be established on a programmatic basis
- We will encourage multiparty monitoring at the local project level as part of the collaborative effort

# Our Commitments

- We will refine our contracting instruments and improve our skills to most effectively implement stewardship projects
- Acquisition and Forest & Rangeland Management will be partners
- Lessons learned from pilots will be used to develop guidance for the program

# Our Commitments

- We will include the public in developing guidance and policy
- Agencies will control the design and implementation of contracts and will administer them so the desired end results are achieved
- “We will prove our critics wrong”  
(Chief Dale Bosworth)

# National Direction

- Hill Briefings with DOI
- Listening sessions with Pinchot Institute
- Western Governor Association
- Policy Statement in Federal Register for public review and comment
  - Federal Register publication – late May
  - Public Comment
  - Published guidance

## In ten years...

- ...stewardship contracts are a key tool for getting work done
- ...focus is on-the-ground end results
- ...we have sound, streamlined business processes
- ...stewardship contracts are one of many tools that are used, including timber sale and acquisition contracts

## In ten years...

- ...we have strengthened our capacity for community based forestry
- ...we've helped build more local capacity
- ...we have high public support for continuing the program