



United States Department of Agriculture

valuing you AN R6 UPDATE May 2019





Cover: Looking through the photographer's lens while capturing reflections and landscapes on the Ochoco National Forest. (Photo Credit: USFS)

Inside Pages: Looking out over Hells Canyon from Memaloose, Oregon on the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest in 1955. (Photo Credit: USFS)

The USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer and lender.

some words FROM THE EDITOR

The Forest Service has always been about taking the long view.

About using our resources, in common-sense ways, and about ensuring that they keep coming back for use; both for now and for long into the future.

We're the pioneers of efficiency and the deliverers of value. We were first among federal agencies to deliver all employee email, the first region in the Forest Service to implement a combined services stewardship contract and we're going to be among the first people in the nation to implement large scale, state-level, shared stewardship projects across the landscape.

But we're not going to be doing it alone.

With our Good Neighbor Authorities and our new, signed statewide shared stewardship agreements we now have the tools to bring even more voices to the table. We have the ability to get more bodies in the woods, more boots on the ground and we have the opportunity to do more good than we've ever done before.

From restoring watersheds to making our forests more resilient to wildfire we're going to be working side-by-side with our counterparts, our colleagues and our neighbors, and we're going to work to meet people where they are so that we can all share in the long view together. Big picture ideas, large scale projects and value-added work will enable us to deliver on our promise to provide the greatest good, and the relationships we build and the friendships we cultivate will help us go farther than we've ever been able to go before.

Because America loves her forests. Americans need their forests, and we all are invested and interested in success. 🌲



leadership corner: SHARED STEWARDSHIP

Glenn Casamassa; Regional Forester, Pacific Northwest Region

As an organization that has a value around interdependence, it is important for us to create experiences for peer-learning and building collective understanding around key concepts we want to move out on. Our Pacific Northwest regional leadership team recently had the amazing opportunity to learn side-by-side in an interactive forum with our district rangers, research and Washington Office colleagues, state partners, and some tribal representatives to explore what Shared Stewardship means, where it came from, and how it will apply to our work all the way down to the district level. We have heard interest from other regions and stations so we hope we can soon expand our knowledge in this arena beyond even our own regional borders.

One of the things we explored was how Shared Stewardship may be a new term for many, but it is certainly not a new concept. The evolution towards Shared Stewardship represents the convergence of several factors over the last decades—new authorities and policies that govern our work, new and expanded science that informs it, and our own internal exploration and discovery of Who We Are and how we need to show up in community.

We explored how our Shared Stewardship approach will build on the strength of our existing partnerships and collaborative groups in the region that have matured over this same time period. And we were clear that we will need to embrace new ways of doing business and different ways of being.

Together we heard from our state partners directly and learned how they are uniquely positioned to convene stakeholders across communities to evaluate the needs and agree on cross-jurisdictional planning areas. We started to lay out the vision for our Oregon and Washington Shared Stewardship agreements that will be signed with the states this spring and we discussed how to share decision space with governors' offices and state agencies to set broad priorities together based on the holistic needs and values of our communities, state forest action plans and other tools. We also worked in small groups to workshop projects ideas at the state scale to not only meet our essential timber volume and fuels acres treated goals, but also integrate them with the our other priorities that our states, tribes and communities are telling us are important, like recreation, access, and infrastructure.



*Top to bottom:
Under Secretary for Natural Resources
and Environment Jim Hubbard, Chief
Vicki Christiansen and Regional Forester
Glenn Casamassa set the stage for an
evolvment of shared stewardship.*

*Left:
Forest Service employees and State
partners workshop project ideas at
the Pacific Northwest Region Shared
Stewardship Forum in Seaside, Oregon.*

Given the strong history of collaboration in our region and the strength of our existing Good Neighbor Authority agreements, we also spent some time exploring how Shared Stewardship is different and here's what I would offer on that account:

- Shared Stewardship with the States will elevate planning and decision-making from the national forest level to the state-level when appropriate. Together Forest Service and the states will use scenario planning tools to assess opportunities, risks and alternatives for managing the risk, and set priorities for investments that will bring the most bang for the buck.
- It will use new and existing science to do the right work in the right places at the right scale. Instead of random acts of restoration, we will share decisions and place treatments where they can produce desired outcomes at a meaningful scale.
- It will take full advantage of our capacity for shared stewardship across shared landscapes using all of our tools and authorities for active management. We will work with the states and other partners, including local communities, to choose the most appropriate tools tailored to local conditions.

As we embrace Shared Stewardship, we are also being intentional in creating a safe, supportive and resilient work environment because it is a determining factor in our ability to invite others into shared stewardship work with us—and as the Chief says, that's what Shared Stewardship is—an invitation.

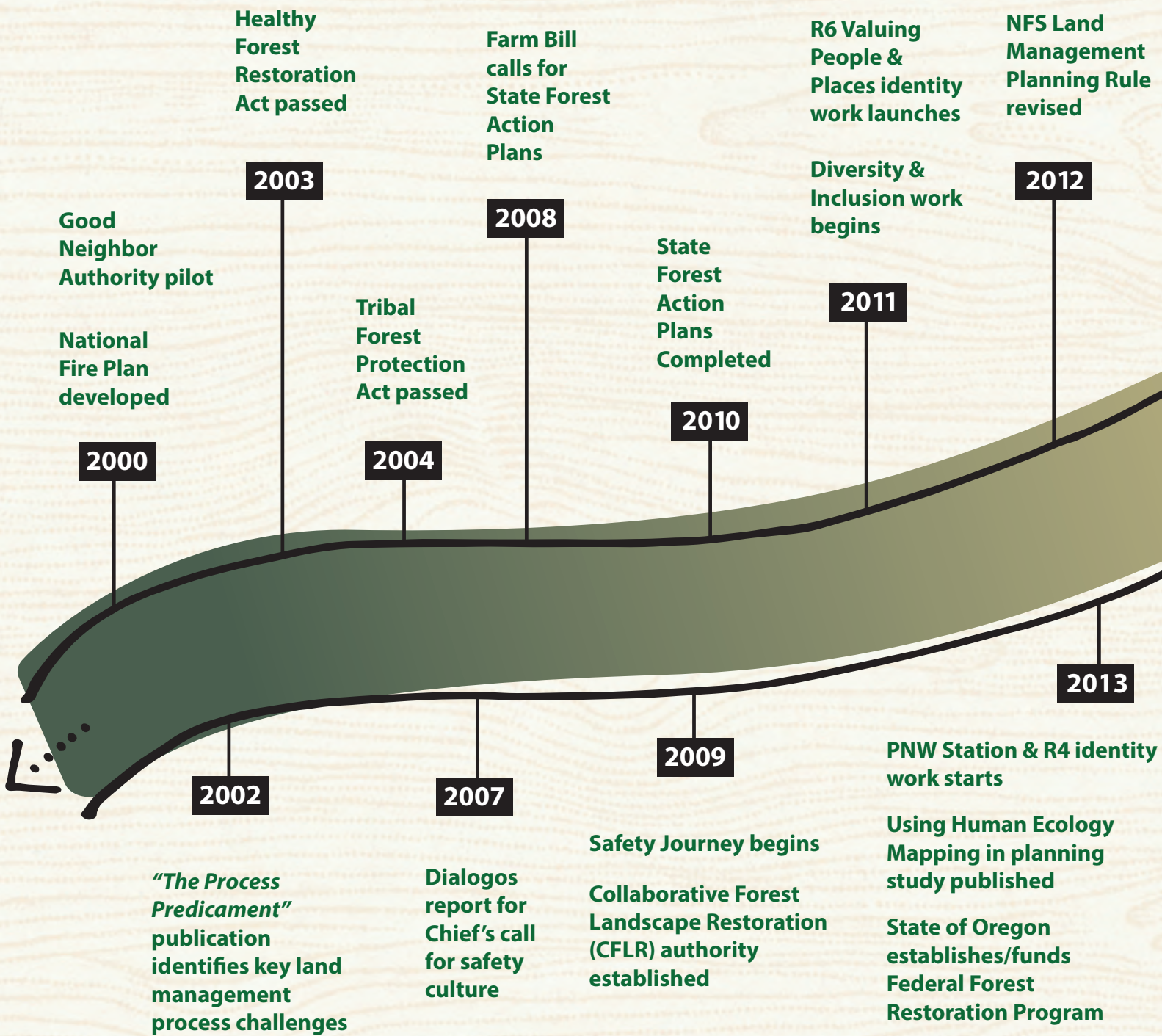
Once the agreements are signed this spring, the region is exploring how to develop more forums and workshops alongside our state partners and with our on-the-ground workforce to start sharing the priorities and planning projects across boundaries, at scale that lead to real progress. So...stay tuned for more!





USFS Shared Stewardship Gallery Walk

Values-based. Purpose-driven. Relationship-focused



**NLC & Leadership Community
begin identity work**

**National Cohesive Wildland
Fire Management Strategy**

**Good Neighbor Authority
(GNA) goes national in Farm Bill**

**Joint Chief's Partnership
established with NRCS**

2014

2015

**Identity work cascades
agency-wide**

**Catastrophic fire season
and call for "Whatever It
Will Take"**

**R6 All-Collaborative
Network established**

**Washington State 20-Year
Forest Health Strategy**

**Forest Product
Modernization launched**

**Environmental Analysis &
Decision Making initiative**

2017

2016

***Improving Lives*
dialogues launched**

**Washington State 20-Year
Forest Health Strategy**

**Forest Product
Modernization launched**

**Environmental Analysis &
Decision Making initiative**

**FS moves to anchor
Shared Stewardship to
*"This is Who We Are"***

**Seaside, Oregon, Shared
Stewardship convening**

2019

2018

**Identity work lands as
*"This is Who We Are"***

**Fire Funding Fix and
Risk-Based Fire Decision
Tools released**

**Publication of Northwest
Forest Plan *Science Synthesis***

***Toward Shared Stewardship
Across Landscapes* report
published**

GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY PROJECTS

There are currently three signed statewide agreements in Oregon and one in Washington, resulting in ongoing or proposed projects on nearly every forest in the region. Statewide agreements include funding for timber sale preparation in the state of Washington, funding for Oregon Department of Forestry personnel to conduct collaborative project development, and monitoring for white nose syndrome in bats. Forest-level projects cover a wide range of work, including timber sale preparation, thinning, fuels reduction, stream monitoring, aspen restoration, wildlife surveys, and road decommissioning. Three Good Neighbor Authority timber sales have been conducted in the region, including two sales in 2018 for 8.9 million board feet.



Forest restoration projects



Watershed restoration projects



Forest-wide timber sales



Restoration and resilience fuels projects



Wildlife/habitat enhancement projects



Professional services



Collaboration with Washington Department of Natural Resources



Collaboration with Oregon Department of Forestry



Collaboration with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife





March 16, 1984

Stewardship Contract a 'first' in R-6

It's new in Region 6 and in the Forest Service! A "Stewardship Contract" was awarded to Golden Reforestation Services, Inc., Roseburg, Oregon, for 183 acres (in seven units) on the Tiller RD, Umpqua NF.

Under a stewardship contract, the contractor is responsible for all reforestation from site preparation, planting, and replanting of recently logged units to caretaking of the units for three years to reach specific objectives. Caretaking involves animal damage controls and brush and grass removal. The FS would normally grant eight or nine separate contracts for the same work.

Valued at approximately \$110,000, the contract was awarded by Administrative Services, RO. Bill Millard, procurement analyst, is contracting officer and Ms. Chris Rusch is contracting officer's representative.

Rusch, Tiller RD reforestation technician, was instrumental in developing the stewardship contract. According to Rusch, the program should reduce costs by cutting paperwork and
(continued on page 2)

Stewardship contracts

(continued from page 1)

administrative duties associated with the traditional method of contracting each reforestation service separately.

A new procedure in the contract is an incentive payment system to the contractor for outstanding work. Payments are increased if the quality of work exceeds an acceptable level. Final acceptance and payment is based on survival rate of planted trees.

Because this stewardship contract is a prototype in the Forest Service, it will be carefully monitored and evaluated at all levels, according to Dennis Danz, Umpqua NF contracting supervisor.

Stewardship projects are under consideration by several other Forests in the Region.

looking back: stewardship contracting

The Pacific Northwest Region has a long and storied history when it comes to sharing and pioneering stewardship initiatives, but did you know that the first stewardship contract in the Forest Service originated in Oregon on the Umpqua National Forest?

Initiated and developed by Ms. Chris Rusch, a reforestation technician on the Tiller Ranger District, here are some clips from our employee newsletter, the "greensheet," that documented some of these important milestones as they were happening back in the 1980's.

March 29, 1985

Stewardship concept spelled success

The RO has awarded a second stewardship contract on the Umpqua NF for a 3-year period to Second Growth Forest Management, Inc., Eugene. The bid was \$426,658 for reforestation of 813 acres.

The stewardship program is a new concept where the contractor assumes complete responsibility for reforestation, including preparing the planting spots, planting trees, animal damage control, and minimizing competition from other plants. The contractor is paid according to the success or failure of the reforestation.

The program was initiated by Chris Rusch, Tiller RD, who will be overseeing the new contract project. Second Growth Forest Management, Inc. is a worker-owned business now in its final year of the first 3-year stewardship in Federal reforestation history.

Digger BEAR

by Jimmye Turner



Where

IN THE REGION

previous issue



Last issue's *Where in the Region* photo was of the one of the most impressive bridges in the Forest Service system, the **High Steel Bridge**, built by the Simpson Logging Company on the rugged Olympic peninsula of Washington's **Olympic National Forest**.

Constructed at the beginning of the Great Depression in 1929, the bridge rises 375 above the South Fork of the Skokomish River and was the second of two large steel arch bridges constructed for what was once a highly profitable logging railroad. Opening up vast expanses of previously inaccessible timber both on private land and on the National Forest, the 685 foot long bridge is unusual in that it was both built toward the end of railroad logging and that it was built of steel, and not timber.

Built at a cost of \$231,000 and paid for with the proceeds of the timber subsequently hauled across it, the High Steel Bridge was converted for vehicle use in 1964 and to this day logs still travel over this magnificent Forest Service owned and managed bridge.

For more information on America's 14th highest bridge:

<https://go.usa.gov/xm7su>

RECOMMENDED READING



United States Department of Agriculture

Written in the same vein as our original National Forest "Use Book," **This is Who We Are** is a pocket sized field guide designed to specifically help employees connect the dots and to find clarification and meaning in the important work that we do.

In addition to highlighting our Forest Service purpose and values, the guide covers the importance of trust, the essentiality of building relationships and why *how we are experienced* is more than just simply what we say or what we might do.

The story of conservation, our leadership stance and habits and the push and pull of what helps make our Agency unique are reason enough to recommend **This is Who We Are** for any and all employees looking to provide the greatest good.

For more information: <https://go.usa.gov/xm7JD>



**THIS IS WHO
WE
ARE**
Values based.
Purpose driven.
Relationship focused.



Forest Service

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valuing you AN R6 UPDATE

YOUR NORTHWEST FORESTS.org



A picture can say a thousand words, and within every picture is a story.

From the shores of every ocean to the back of every office, our workdays are often filled with the types of stories that could only happen with the USDA Forest Service.

We'd love to help you share, so to make it easy we've simplified our submission guidelines:

- 1) Pictures:** *action shots of people, especially in uniform; use highest quality and file size available*
- 2) People:** *direct quotes and permission from non-employees*

While we may not be able to run everything, we'd love to see what you've got, so reach out and contact us today at r6update@fs.fed.us

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Where
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Oregon and Washington Quarterly Photo Contest
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