

STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING & TRIBAL FOREST PROTECTION ACT

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Darci Birmingham, Forest Service

Jack Peterson, Bureau of Land
Management



Stewardship Contracting - Authority

In 1999, Congress authorized the Forest Service to test a new approach to land stewardship on National Forests (PL 105-277)

FS authorized to test this authority on 28 projects in FY99, 28 additional projects in FY01 & 28 additional projects in FY02 for a total of 84 projects



Stewardship Contracting - Authority

On February 20, 2003, FS & BLM were authorized to enter into an unlimited number of stewardship contracts & agreements until September 2013 (PL 108-7)



What's at the Heart of Stewardship Contracting?

It's a contracting mechanism for managing FS & BLM lands

Accomplishes management objectives on FS & BLM lands in collaboration with local communities

Ability to trade goods for services, retain excess offset values for service work in same contract or apply to other approved stewardship contracting projects, enter into contracts or agreements until September 30, 2013, & to bundle several contracts into one

Uses an independent third party to monitor community involvement in developing stewardship projects



Stewardship Contracting - Goals

Land management goals of a contract may include, among other things:



Stewardship Contracting - Goals

1. Road & trail maintenance or obliteration to restore or maintain water quality
2. Soil productivity, habitat for wildlife & fisheries, or other resource values
3. Setting prescribed fires to improve composition, structure, condition, & health of stands or to improve wildlife habitat



Stewardship Contracting - Goals

4. Removing vegetation or other activities to promote healthy forest stands, reduce fire hazards or achieve other land management objectives
5. Watershed restoration & maintenance
6. Restoration & maintenance of wildlife & fish habitat
7. Control of noxious & exotic weeds & reestablishing native plant species



Stewardship Contracting – Contracts & Agreements

- Contracts/agreements shall be selected on a “best value” basis
- Extends the authority for contract/agreement term up to 10 years
- Permits value of forest products sold to **offset** cost of contracted services (exchanging goods for services)



Stewardship Contracting – Contracts & Agreements

Best Value Awards

- Ability to hire locally or have primary contractor meet locality requirements
- Selection & award based on technical/price tradeoff
- Evaluation criteria could include criteria other than lowest service bid or highest product bid



Stewardship Contracting – Contracts & Agreements

- **Contract Term – Up to 10 years**
 - FS can award 10 year timber sale contracts, but not typical
 - BLM was limited to 3 year timber sale contracts
 - Service contracts under FAR were limited to 5 years
 - Agreements were limited to 5 years
- **Longer contracts may stimulate long term investment**
 - Example: Apache-Sitgreaves National Forests 10 yr contract



Stewardship Contracting – Receipts

- Collection of receipts is secondary to negotiating contracts that will best achieve purpose of achieving land management goals on agency lands that meet local & rural community needs
- Excess receipts on a project could be used on other authorized stewardship contracting projects
- Prior to stewardship contracting, product value could not be used to offset service work



Stewardship Contracting - Monitoring

FS & BLM are required to set up a multiparty monitoring & evaluation process to see how we are implementing stewardship contracting

Besides FS & BLM, participants in this process may include any cooperating governmental agencies, including Tribal governments, & any interested groups or individuals



Stewardship Contracting - Monitoring

FS & BLM shall report annually to the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives & the Senate on:

1. Status of development, execution & administration of agreements or contracts
2. Specific accomplishments under this authority
3. Role of local communities in development of stewardship agreement or contract plans



Stewardship Contracting - Collaboration

- Both agencies are collaborating w/ local communities in developing & implementing stewardship contracting
- In order for collaboration to work, agency needs line officer involvement & support
- Level of collaboration is based on:
 - Size of contract/agreement
 - Complexity
 - Community interest



Stewardship Contracting Forest Service Activities

- 84 pilot projects approved between FY99-FY02
- 57 projects approved under new authority since FY03
- 170 contracts/agreements awarded since FY99



Stewardship Contracting BLM Activities

- 57 projects approved under new authority since FY03
- 24 contracts/agreements awarded since FY03



Stewardship Contracting Projects on Healthy Forests Website

Click on a state
to find out about
planned &
contracted
stewardship
projects in the
state

http://www.healthyforests.gov/projects_map.html



Stewardship Contracting on Agency Website

FS:

- <http://www.fs.fed.us/forestmanagement/projects/stewardship/index.shtml>

BLM:

- http://www.blm.gov/nhp/spotlight/forest_initiative/stewardship_contracting/



FS Direction on the Web

<http://www.fs.fed.us/forestmanagement/projects/stewardship/handbook/index.shtml>

The screenshot shows the USDA Forest Service website. At the top, it says "USDA FOREST SERVICE" and "Forest Management". Below this is a search bar with the text "(enter query)" and a "Search" button. A navigation menu on the left includes "Forest Service Home", "Forest Management" (expanded), "Home", "About Us", "Contact Us", "Infocenter", "Projects", "Stewardship" (expanded), "New Authority", "Pilot Projects", "Direction", "Contacts", "Service Center", "VegTools", "Tree Marking Paint", "Reports", and "Links". The main content area is titled "Stewardship Contracting Direction" and contains a paragraph of text and a list of links.

USDA FOREST SERVICE Forest Management

(enter query) Search

► Forest Service Home
▼ Forest Management

Home
About Us
Contact Us
Infocenter

Projects
Stewardship
-New Authority
-Pilot Projects
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Service Center
VegTools
Tree Marking Paint

Reports
Links

► National Offices and Programs
► Regional Offices
► Evaluate Our Service
We welcome your comments and your suggestions.

Stewardship Contracting Direction

The USDA Forest Service and the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received new authority to implement stewardship contracting and agreements in the [2003 Appropriations Act \(P.L. 108-7\)](#). The agencies have issued interim guidance regarding how to develop and implement stewardship contracts and agreements.

- [Stewardship Contracting Handbook](#) (Microsoft Word document, 300 kb)
The interim directive providing the Forest Service guidance for Stewardship Contracting is found in the Renewable Resources Handbook, FSH 2409.19, Chapter 60.
- [Notice of Issuance](#) (PDF, 36 kb)
A Federal Register Notice was published January 28, 2004, notifying the public that an interim directive was issued providing guidance for Stewardship Contracting.
- [News Release](#)
A link to a news release entitled "*Federal Agencies Announce Guidelines for Stewardship Contracts and Agreements*" on the Department of Interior's website.
- [Forest Service Stewardship Contracting Questions & Answers](#) (PDF, 25 kb)
Questions and answers about Stewardship Contracting as it affects the Forest Service.
- [Forest Service Stewardship Contracting Fact Sheet](#) (PDF, 13 kb)
Fact sheet about Stewardship Contracting as it affects the Forest Service, including goal, authority, and definitions.
- [BLM Stewardship Contracting](#)
A link to the Bureau of Land Management's Stewardship Contracting web page with information and links to their guidance.

BLM Direction on the Web

http://www.blm.gov/nhp/spotlight/forest_initiative/stewardship_contracting/



Stewardship Contracts: BLM and Forest Service Issue Direction on Development, Implementation, and Monitoring

The Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management and the USDA Forest Service are issuing final guidance to their field offices on how to develop, implement, and monitor stewardship contracts and agreements. Stewardship contracting involves caring for the land through broad-based community public and community involvement. Stewardship contracting is intended to achieve key land-management goals that improve, maintain, or restore forest or rangeland health; restore or maintain water quality; improve fish and wildlife habitat; reestablish native plant species and increase their resilience to insect and disease; and reduce hazardous fuels that pose risks to communities and ecosystem values through an open, collaborative process. Stewardship contracting authority includes agreements with nonprofits, best-value contracts, designation by description, end results, and goods for services.

- [News Release](#)
- [Guidance Document](#) (502KB PDF)
Guidance on the preparation, implementation, and tracking of BLM stewardship projects, in accordance with Section 323 of Public Law 108-7, the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003.
- [Instructional Memorandum](#)
Issuance of Stewardship Contracting Guidance and Identifying Stewardship Contracting Opportunities and Projects.
- [BLM Stewardship Contracting Q's & A's](#) (29KB PDF)
Questions and answers about Stewardship Contracting as it affects the BLM.

Contact List for Forest Service

<http://www.fs.fed.us/forestmanagement/projects/stewardship/contacts.shtml>

Includes list of Regional & National
Stewardship Contracting Coordinators &
how to contact us



Partnership Resource Center Website

For selecting the right implementation tool for FS & partners, visit:

<http://www.partnershipresourcecenter.org/resources/imp-tools/>

Currently includes tools for:

- hazardous fuel treatment
- stewardship contracting

Includes a flowchart when you may want to use stewardship contracting & selecting appropriate contract



Additional Collaboration Websites

**FS collaboration website includes
FAQs about collaboration, a
collaboration handbook & lessons
learned from line officers on
stewardship contracting &
collaboration at:**

**[http://www.fs.fed.us/forestmanagement
/projects/stewardship/collaboration/ind
ex.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/forestmanagement/projects/stewardship/collaboration/index.shtml)**



Additional Collaboration Websites

FS website also includes a link to other resources & related links such as:

- Red Lodge Clearinghouse's description of stewardship contracting
- Pinchot Institute for Conservation's reports on monitoring pilot projects
- Partnership Resource Center
- Healthy Forests multi-agency website
- BLM's website on stewardship contracting



Winiger Ridge Forest Health Restoration Project

Arapaho & Roosevelt NFs

- 38,000 acres of intermixed land ownerships including 2500 homes in WUI
- Reduce risk of catastrophic fire through fuel reduction & improve wildlife habitat
- Contracts awarded, expected completion date – Sept 2005



Actions taken – Winiger Ridge

- Approx. 1800 acres of mechanical thinning
- Roughly 2475 acres of prescribed fire
- Utilize goods for services, designation by description, best value & multiyear contracting, & CSFS administration w/ Colorado Good Neighbor Act



Partnerships – Winiger Ridge

- Community-developed sampling system with volunteer assistance
- Interagency newsletter distributed to 4,000 residents
- Landowners included:
federal, state, & county land, Denver Water Board, individual private landowners & subdivisions



What Have We Learned?

- Start small
 - Include work within local contractor's capacity
 - Avoid including everything but the kitchen sink
 - Consider starting with shorter term contracts & smaller scale projects
 - Keep in mind that bonding is an issue for many contractors
- Assist contractors in understanding stewardship contracting (best value award, bidding, etc)
 - Workshops for contractors have been successful



What Have We Learned?

- Initial contracts take longer to prepare but with experience, they are as fast to prepare as timber sale contracts & offer advantage of bundling work from several contracts into one
- Stewardship contracts are more efficient & cost effective for the forest to use as they require fewer appropriated funds when exchanging goods for service
- Forests who weren't involved with pilot program have a steeper learning curve



What Have We Learned?

- Collaboration w/ local communities starts at project inception (refer to lessons learned on FS collaboration web page)
- Collaboration is not one size fits all (based on size, complexity & community interest)
- Rule of thumb: if you want to exchange goods for services you need at least 1 log load of commercial timber per acre



Lessons from a Western Forest

- As contractors adjusted to integrated resource contracts, they submitted bids more favorable to government
- Forest started out w/ one bid & more recently are receiving multiple bids on contracts



Lessons from a Western Forest

Service work costs for one of earlier contracts:

- \$100/acre biomass thinning
- \$500/acre machine piling
- \$580/acre mastication

As forest offered additional contracts, cost decreased to:

- \$44/acre biomass thinning
- \$255/acre machine piling
- \$455/acre mastication



Stewardship Contracting

- Stewardship contracting is helping both agencies improve forest health & restoration by providing a tool for vegetative treatment & fuel reduction
- Collaboration with local & rural communities, & Tribes is integral to agency success in stewardship contracting



Tribal Forest Protection Act

- PL 108-278 signed into law July 22, 2004
- Authorizes Secretaries of Agriculture & Interior to give consideration to Tribally-proposed stewardship contracting projects on FS or BLM bordering or adjacent to Indian trust land to protect Tribe's resources from fire, disease or other threats to Indian trust land or be needed for forest restoration purposes



TFPA & Stewardship Contracting

PROPOSAL EVALUATION & DETERMINATION FACTORS

(1) use best-value basis

(2) give specific consideration to tribally-related factors in the proposal of Indian tribe, including —



PROPOSAL EVALUATION AND DETERMINATION FACTORS

- (A) status of Indian tribe as an Indian tribe
- (B) trust status of Indian forest land or rangeland of Indian tribe
- (C) cultural, traditional, & historical affiliation of Indian tribe with land subject to proposal
- (D) treaty rights or other reserved rights of Indian tribe relating to land subject to proposal



PROPOSAL EVALUATION AND DETERMINATION FACTORS

(E) indigenous knowledge & skills of members of Indian tribe

(F) features of landscape of land subject to the proposal, including watersheds & vegetation types

(G) working relationships between Indian tribe & Federal agencies in coordinating activities affecting land subject to the proposal

(H) access by members of Indian tribe to land subject to the proposal



TFPA & Stewardship Contracting

We are beginning to receive proposals from the Tribes

FS & BLM have offered several workshops with the Tribes & Intertribal Timber Council & will be offering additional workshops



Additional Tools

- Agreements
- Service contracts
- Traditional timber sale contracts
- Wyden Authority



Stewardship Contracting & Tribal
Forest Protection Act provide an
excellent opportunity for the
Tribes, FS & BLM to work in
partnership to improve forest
health on all our lands

