

Stewardship Contracting Overview

Marcus Kauffman, Resource Innovations

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Tulare, CA

Topics

- Origins
- Authorities
- Guidelines (Do's and Don'ts)
- Collaboration
- Generic Process

Why Stewardship Contracting?

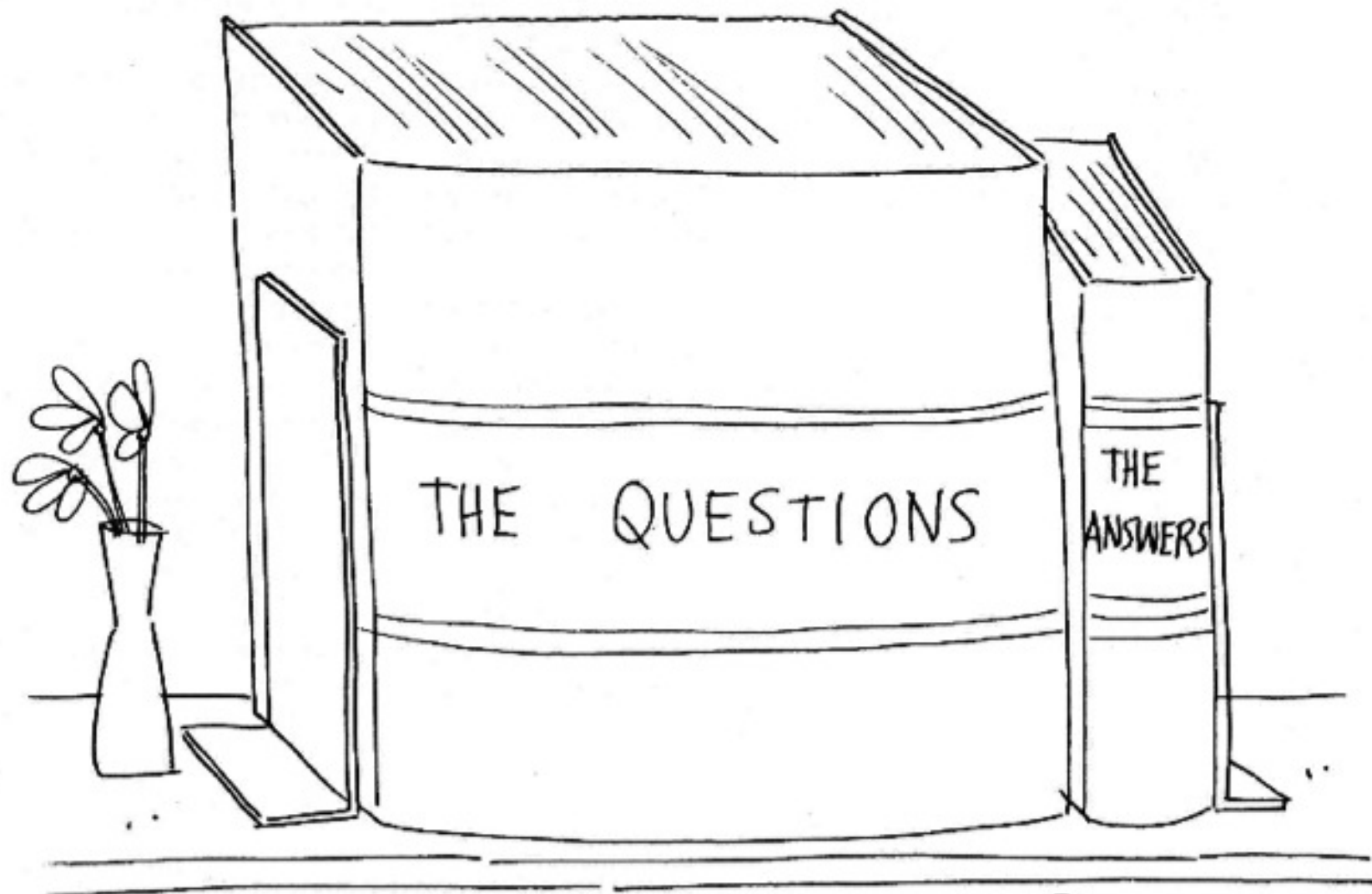
- Forest management is complex
- Existing tools insufficient
- Partners want an active role
- Highly litigious environment
- New markets are needed
- Need steady of biomass to foster new investment



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The Questions

- How can we reduce fuels and protect rural communities?
- How to restore ecosystem function and resilience?
- How to foster economic development in rural communities?
- How do we forge a consensus to move forward on public land?



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Origins

- Community leaders, contractors, and agency staff frustrated with:
 - Unhealthy forests
 - Stagnating rural communities
 - Lack of proactive role for stakeholders
 - Need for new tools & experimentation

Stewardship Contracting

- Authorized until 2013 by section 323 of Public Law 108-7
- FS and BLM may enter into stewardship contracts to:
 - Achieve land management goals for national forests and the public lands that meet local and rural community needs

Game Changers

- Focus on restoration and collaboration
- Communities and stakeholders as partners in managing lands
- Community leaders help broker long-term agreements and new investments
- Facilitates landscape level strategies

How is stewardship contracting being used?

- Thinning for forest health or fuel reduction
- Road obliteration to improve water quality
- Watershed restoration and maintenance
- Restoration of wildlife and fish habitat
- Control noxious weeds



Stewardship Authorities

- Goods for services
- Retention of receipts
- Best value contracting
- 10-year contracts
- End results contracting



Goods for Services

- Service work and product removal in one contract
- Allows product value to be applied to other resources
- Fewer resource impacts via single entry
- Allows some projects to go forward that would not otherwise work

Retention of Receipts

- When the value of products removed exceeds the cost of restoration service work
- Can be used on another stewardship project
 - On-the-ground projects
 - Contract NEPA
 - Multi-party monitoring
 - Process monitoring
- Can be used on private land using the Wyden Amendment
 - External NEPA, contract design, and administration

Retained Receipts Challenges

- Takes time to generate
- Lack of familiarity
- Moving target
- Many-layered bureaucratic system
- Needs strong partners



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Best Value Contracting

- Mandated to be used
- Can consider factors other than price
 - Technical proposal, past performance
 - Local economic benefit
- Invites more ideas from contractors



Best Value Challenges

- Contractors are unfamiliar
 - Not good writers
- “Loggers just want to log”
- Work items may be hard to estimate cost
- Workforce may lack linkages and subcontracting relationships

Designation by description and prescription

- Exemption from rule of marking all trees to be cut
- Describes objectives of treatments as they relate to the end result
- Used for commercial and noncommercial material, but commercial material requires scaling
- Saves money in labor and paint

Multi-year Contracts

- Enter into contracts for up to 10 years
- Provide incentive for local investment
- 10-year project underway on Fremont Winema NF in OR & White Mtns in AZ
- Need to consider agency and contractor workforce and capacity limitations

Multi-year Challenges

- Agency workforce capacity limits
- High risk for contractors
- Lack of NEPA shelf stock
- Lack of public agreement
- BLM IDIQs 10-yr w/task orders

Stewardship Guidelines

- Restoration is the focus
 - Revenue generation is secondary
 - Does not replace timber sale program
- Receipts can't be used for planning and administration

More Guidelines

- Open, local collaborative process
 - Identify projects, goals, and end-results
- Comply with NEPA and forest plans
- Must be on NFS or BLM land
 - Private land using the Wyden Amendment

Implementation Tools

- Integrated Resource Timber Contract (IRT-C)
- Integrated Resource Service Contract (IRS-C)
- Standard Service Contract
- Stewardship Agreement
- Wyden Amendment



Stewardship Agreements

Shasta-Trinity National Forest,
McCloud Flats

10-Year Agreement

Stewardship Area: 33,700
acres

Wildlife Improvement projects,
emphasizing elk



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Generic Process

- Gauge level of community interest
- Identify collective goals and objectives
- Develop organizational structure
- Develop stewardship strategy
- Contract development
- Project implementation
- Project monitoring (pre and post)

Understanding the Workforce



- Need to know:
 - Capacity (interest, equipment, experience, limitations)
 - Contract preferences (size, length, \$)
 - Deal killers
- Preferences considered in contract
 - Contactors' interests represented

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Role of Stewardship Groups

- Function
 - Provide agency with recommendations
 - Address concerns and pursue opportunities
- Schedule
 - Meet regularly for several years
- Outcomes
 - Projects with support from a diverse array of interests
 - Projects restore forests and watershed and provide benefit to local communities

Advantages

- Provides more flexibility
- Can bring more experience to complex challenges
- Enables comprehensive and landscape-level approaches
- Provides a strong role for local and regional stakeholders

Disadvantages

- Steep learning curve
 - Agency, community and contractors
- Can take years to get results
- Lack of control over large forces impacting the Forest Service
 - Downsizing and targets
 - County Payments reauthorization

Ingredients for Success

- Leadership (public and private)
- Shared vision
- Partnership
- Time
- Products and markets
- Collective learning
- Trust