

STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING BIOMASS WORKING GROUP PRESENTATION MARCH 18, 2014



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 (Section 323 PL 108-7)
 - ▣ Exchange Goods for services
 - ▣ Best Value Contracting
 - ▣ Retention of Receipts
 - ▣ Applying Receipts to a New Project
 - ▣ Multi-Year Contracts, up to ten years in length
 - ▣ DxD and DxP

Stewardship Contracting – Authority

- ▣ In 2014, Congress passed the Agricultural Act of 2014 or Farm Bill (H.R.2642), making Stewardship Contracting authority permanent
- ▣ Applies the same liability for accidental fire in timber sales as on stewardship sales (rather than FAR liability)
- ▣ Extends the authority regarding use of designation-by-description and designation-by-prescription to all thinning sales under National Forest Management Act of 1976

What's at the Heart of Stewardship Contracting?

- ▣ It's a contracting mechanism for managing FS & BLM lands – A contracting tool
- ▣ We utilize this authority for projects where the objectives are to improve landscape conditions
- ▣ Accomplishes management objectives on FS & BLM lands in collaboration with local communities
- ▣ Promotes a closer working relationship with local communities
- ▣ Projects focus on ecological restoration
- ▣ One contractor is responsible for completing all work. The contractor may use subcontractors

What's at the Heart of Stewardship Contracting?

- ▣ Best value, as described in FSH 2409.19, Sec 63.1, is the basis for evaluating proposals for awarding stewardship.
- ▣ Price is a key factor in awarding a contract or entering into an agreement on a Best Value basis.
- ▣ Non-price criteria include, but are not limited to, past performance, work quality, existing public or private agreements or contracts, on-time delivery, experience, technical approach and benefits to the local community.

What's at the Heart of Stewardship Contracting?

- ▣ 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, and to bundle several contracts into one.
- ▣ These funds are retained on the National Forest where they were generated to fund projects that are restorative in nature.

What is Community-Public Land Stewardship?

▣ “Collaborative stewardship is a process of scientists, government, and citizens working together to agree upon and attain goals and objectives that are environmentally responsible, socially acceptable, and economically viable.”



Community-ecosystem stewardship is a style of public land management characterized by:

- ▣ integrating scientific information with community knowledge;
- ▣ sharing power and accepting mutual responsibility;
- ▣ sustaining long-term interdependencies of communities, economies, public lands, and cultures;
- ▣ facilitating an appropriate integration of desired community and ecological futures;
- ▣ refining and improving the integrity and effectiveness of future actions.

Key Stewardship Goals Include:

- ▣ Improve, maintain, and restore forest and rangeland health
- ▣ Restore/maintain water quality
- ▣ Improve fish/wildlife habitat
- ▣ Re-establish native plant species and increase their resilience
- ▣ Reduce hazardous fuels



Key Feature – Goods for Services

- ▣ Permits value of forest products sold to **offset** the cost of contracted services (exchanging goods for services).
- ▣ Products include timber and other forest products, such as, but not limited to, biomass, seed, forage, fungi, and Christmas trees.



Key Feature – Best Value

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

Key Feature - Identifying Local Community

- ▣ Must be defined and used for each project
- ▣ Used consistently throughout the project
- ▣ Local line officer makes the determination
- ▣ Feedback from collaboration considered

Limitations on Use

- ▣ Forest Service Overhead Costs
- ▣ Vehicle Purchase
- ▣ Forest Service Salaries for Contract Design, Preparation or Administration
- ▣ Project Planning or Environmental Analysis
- ▣ Construction of Administrative, or Major Developed Recreation Facilities

Limitations on Use

- ▣ Utilization of Forage that would normally be allowed through grazing permit
- ▣ Protection, Operation, or Maintenance of Improvements Resulting from Stewardship Projects
- ▣ Inventories - cultural, resource, TE&S, or Silvicultural Surveys
- ▣ Research
- ▣ Preparation and Planning of Administrative Studies

Stewardship Contracting - Monitoring

- FS & BLM are required to set up a multiparty monitoring & evaluation process to assess 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 the development of stewardship agreements or contract plans

Stewardship Tools

The **Integrated Resource Contract** allows for:

- ▣ The mix of service work with logging work
- ▣ Trading goods for services
- ▣ May generate receipts to retain
- ▣ Blend of Service Contract and Timber Contract Provisions
- ▣ Best Value Contract Award Process

Stewardship Agreements

- ▣ Stewardship Agreements are the instruments used to work with a cooperator to perform services to achieve land management goals on National Forest System (NFS) lands that meet local and rural community needs. Activities under a Stewardship Agreement may include the exchange of goods (forest products) for services.
- ▣ Stewardship Agreements are not typically entered into through a competitive process, but rather are based on negotiations with a potential cooperator to meet mutual objectives and land management goals.

Stewardship Agreements

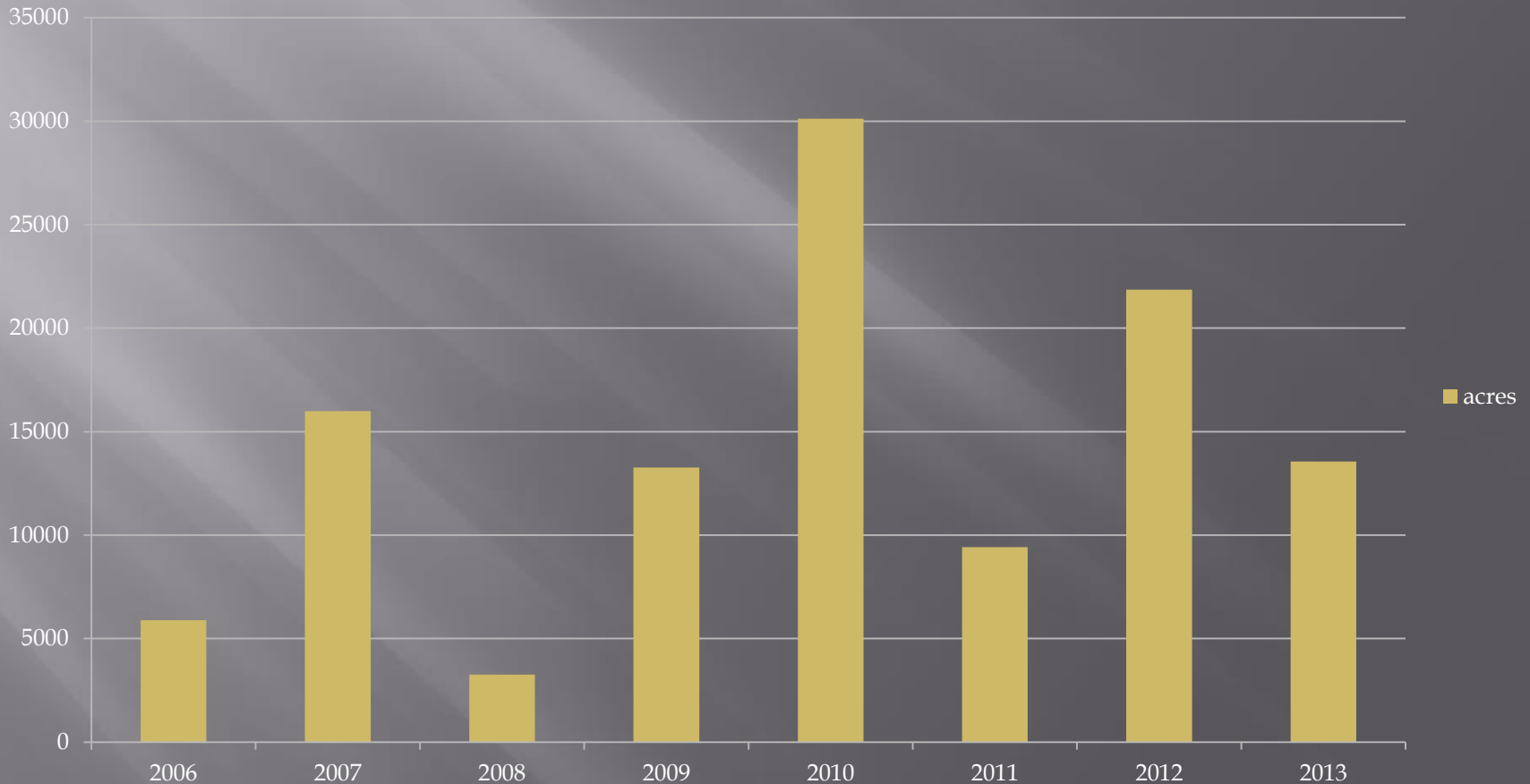
- ▣ The Forest Service may enter into stewardship agreements with any entity that has the ability to either perform the work or contract it out, including Tribes and non-profit organizations.
- ▣ Stewardship related activities require funds appropriated for work on National Forest System lands. In all instances, the Forest Service and the cooperator(s) shall contribute resources to perform the work, share mutual interests, and benefit in the same qualitative way.
- ▣ Each agreement must be negotiated on its own merits. The key is that the cooperator's contribution must be commensurate with benefits gained. The less the cooperator's contribution, the more likely the activity will have to be accomplished through procurement.

Region 5 has several active Stewardship Agreements:

- Shasta-Trinity NF and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation entered into a 10 year agreement in 2007 for wildlife habitat improvement projects.
- LTBMU and Placer County have an agreement to reduce fuel loads, utilize biomass and investigate the possibility of developing a biomass facility within the Tahoe Basin.
- Modoc NF has an agreement in place to work with the BLM on mutually beneficial watershed improvement projects.
- Shasta-Trinity NF and the community of Weaverville have an agreement in place for community forest issues.
- Mendocino NF and Crane Mills entered into an agreement to reduce forest fuel loads, treat stands to protect them from forest health hazards, thin conifer plantations, and build a fuel break to protect Crane Mills interests and the Buttermilk Springs LSR.
- Region 5 has a master stewardship agreement (umbrella document) in place with the National Wild Turkey Federation.

Region 5 Stewardship Contracting accomplishments

R5 Awarded Stewardship Contract Acres



For Further Information:

- ▣ USFS – Stewardship Contracting
http://www.fs.fed.us/restoration/Stewardship_Contracting/index.shtml
- ▣ Partnership Resource Center
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/prc>
- ▣ Region 5 Stewardship Program Coordinator –
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