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**For immediate release**

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**Contract Awarded to Steele Associates for Plan and Design  
of Deschutes NF Supervisor's Office and Bend Fort-Rock RD**

***Bend***—The contract for planning and design of the new Deschutes National Forest Supervisor's Office and Bend Fort-Rock Ranger District headquarters was awarded this week to Steele Associates, a Bend architectural firm.

This is an exciting step to begin Phase One of a three-phase operation to consolidate the headquarters and ranger district offices into one facility on Forest Service property at the Bend Pine Administrative Site location in northeast Bend. The government contract award process is a competitive one, and Steele Associates was the successful bidder among six respondents. The planning and design work is for a 40,000 square foot administration building with its associated site work and roadways.

It is anticipated that the construction contract for the facility will be advertised in January of 2009. The plan is for employees to move into the building by October of 2010 and open the building to the public by November of 2010.

Phase One, which includes the recent planning and design contract and the future construction contract, is a project costing approximately twelve to fifteen million dollars. Funding was generated through the Bend Pine Nursery Land Conveyance Act of 2000, which authorized the sale of the Bend Pine Nursery and six other National Forest System tracts. To date, the Forest Service has completed five of the conveyances authorized by the legislation.

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The new facility will be planned, designed and constructed as a “green building” incorporating sustainable practices and products under the “LEED” rating system of the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). The Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) is a third party certification program and the nationally accepted benchmark for design, construction and operation of high performance green buildings. More information on the LEED system is available on the USGBC website at [www.usgbc.org](http://www.usgbc.org).

Forest Supervisor John Allen says, “I am very pleased to have this contract awarded to Steele Associates. My goal is to have one of the finest public buildings in Central Oregon for employees to work in and serve the public.