

Comments to Competitive Out Sourcing From:

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1. I have been a COR (contractor officer's representative on government service contracts for twenty- three years and would be one of the government employees that would have to administer competitive out sourcing contracts. One of the problems with competitive out sourcing is that a contractor will be able to submit a low bid to a contract, get the contract awarded to them and then make up the difference by getting change orders for price increases later in the contract. Change orders aren't written into contract proposals for government review but are sometimes figured in by less than honest contractors that later take advantage of loop holes in service contracts that they saw when they bid on it but didn't point it out to the CO before bidding on the contract.
2. The government is leaving itself wide open to these type of less than honest contractors. Especially when it involves a proposal like this one that has a quick response due date, is being mandated from the top down rather than vice versa, is more than likely going to be very unorganized, have very little study before implementation, The whole proposal quickly becomes very costly and confusing.
3. Airport security after 911 was taken back from private contractors and government employees put in charge of airport security for good reason. Didn't we learn anything from that?!! What make this proposal any different? You still have the same problem of contractors hiring the cheapest minimum wage help and trying to cut cost corners at every opportunity at the sacrifice of pride, quality and safety. The old adage of "you get what you pay for" is going to come into play here. The American taxpayer is ultimately the loser here.
4. I take offense that competitive out sourcing implies that government workers and inherently lazy and cost too much! I take pride in my job as a Forest Service employee, have two college degrees and put in extra time on the job that I don't expect to get paid for. I have dealt with a lot of contractors over my career and still think that in general that Forest Service workers are better employees than the contractor population in general when it comes to managing natural resources. We care for the land, have good work ethics, and serve the people. Pride and quality of work matter especially when it comes to taking care of the land and our land ethics versus getting the job done at the sacrifice of quality and lowest price. How can you put a price tag on intrinsic values that a Forest Service employee brings to the job? Who else can manage complicated natural resource issues any better than the people who care the most about them and have the education and experience to do the job right for the American public!?
5. Who's going to COR these new contracts when 40% of our Forest Service employees will be eligible for retirement within five years? Instead of competitive sourcing we should be trying to permanently hire the best people

available from within and outside the Forest Service to replace the retiring permanent employees.

6. I work in Lincoln County on the Kootenai N.F. in northwest Montana. Forest Service jobs are some of the best paying jobs in this community. We live where we work. We put our money back into the local community and economy. Many of us work for local charitable organizations and care about the communities in which we live in. If you take away our jobs and replace them with low paying green card people that are only here seasonally, you take away that community involvement and long-term commitment to isolated communities. At present our contractors are already from out of state and this is happening already on a smaller scale. Most seasonal workers collect unemployment and competitive outsourcing would draw even more money away from local, state and federal governments. Providing more permanent better paying jobs is much better way to stimulate the American economy. Outsourcing will have just the opposite affect! Americans who work full time will pick up their unemployment benefits and lack of medical coverage and it will cost more in the long run.
7. Let us get back to our jobs and not have to put up with distraction of management by "ginnicks". It takes time and money away from the jobs we need to be doing!

Please consider these comments carefully regardless of what you are mandated to do! Thanks!

Sincerely,

