
Stewardship Contracts and Agreements

Alpine, California

Stewardship Contracts

- Stewardship contracts are new tools to get job done. They don't replace traditional tools such as Timber Sale Contracts & Service Contracts
- Project design & objectives will drive contract tool selection

Stewardship Projects - Planning & Approval Process

- Regional Forester: Responsible for approving project along with type of stewardship contract
- Forest Supervisor: Responsible for reviewing & recommending projects & setting Forest priorities
- District Ranger: Responsible for developing stewardship project - shall be developed collaboratively with communities

Stewardship Projects-Planning and Approval Process

- Projects are subject to all applicable environmental laws and regulations (NEPA Review)
- Projects are subject to applicable agency appeal & dispute resolution process
- Projects need to be consistent with Forest land & resource management plans

Contract Tools

- Traditional Tools:
 - Service Contracts
 - Timber Sale Contracts

- Stewardship Contracting Tools
 - Service Contracts
 - Integrated Resource Contracts
 - Agreements

Stewardship Contracts

- Contracts will generally be “end-result” in nature – specifying what is desired rather than how to accomplish
- Forest Service developed new contracts for stewardship contracting called **Integrated Resource Contracts (IRC)**
 - **IRC-Service**
 - **IRC-Products**

Stewardship Contracts

The **Integrated Resource Contract** allows for:

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

Stewardship Contracts-IRC

If the project involves removing commercial value products & accomplishment of service work such as road closure, fuels treatment, fireline construction, precommercial tree thinning, weed spraying, stream restoration, prescribed burning & other land management activities, use **Integrated Resource Contract**

Stewardship Contracts-SC

- When project involves only services such as precommercial tree thinning & fuels treatment, use a **Service Contract**
- Appropriated dollars or retained receipts will be used with **Service Contract**

Goods for Services

- Products are measured & accounted for in dollars & volume-paid for with stewardship credits
- Service work items are accounted for based on work completed-earn Stewardship Credits
- Bonding must be provided for value of all products removed until Stewardship Credits are earned to offset cash value of products
- Bidding occurs on both products offered & services to be performed

Best Value

- No public opening of offers
- Contractors must be selected using a best value process
- Solicitation includes evaluation criteria that will be used to evaluate proposals
- Bidders submit their proposals addressing evaluation criteria
- Selection & award based on technical/price tradeoff

Typical Evaluation Criteria

- Price
- Technical Approach
- Capability and Past Performance
- Utilization of Local Resources

Evaluation Process

- Proposals are evaluated by Technical Evaluation Team (TET) using the criteria set in solicitation
- Each proposal is evaluated on its own merits
- Team Chairperson presents recommendations for award to Contracting Officer
- If necessary, discussions are conducted with those offerors in competitive range
- Contracting Officer reviews TET report, pricing, & all other factors & makes award decision

Award

- Award of contract is based on making technical/price tradeoff
- Award results in most advantageous proposal to government
- Technical/price tradeoff must be supported by narrative explanation explaining best value determination

Additional Information

- Integrated Resource Contracts are available on the following website:
<http://www.fs.fed.us/forestmanagement/projects/stewardship/contracts/index.shtml>

Agreements

- Typically Cost Share Relationships Based On Mutual Interests In Goal Or Objective
- Typically Not Entered Into Through Formal Competitive Process
- Project Proposals Can Come From: (1) Cooperators, (2) Agency Developed, or (3) Jointly Developed By Parties
- Limitation: Government Has To Have Appropriate Legal Authority To Enter Into Agreement

Authorities

PARTICIPATING AGREEMENTS (P.L. 94-148)

Authorization to enter into cooperatively performed, mutually beneficial projects with non-Federal parties

- Cooperative Pollution Abatement
- Cooperative Manpower, Job Training & Development Programs
- Development of publication of Cooperative Environmental education & forest History Materials

Authorization; no appropriation. Match required.

Authorities

CHALLENGE COST SHARE (P.L. 102-154)

Authorization to cooperate with others to develop, plan & implement mutually beneficial projects that enhance Forest Service activities

- Expenditures shall be commensurate with value received
- Appropriated funds cannot be used for improvements on non-Federal lands
- Reimbursement based on actual costs; not value of services/supplies

Authorization; no appropriations. Match required.

Authorities

WYDEN AMENDMENT (P.L. 105-277, as amended)

Authorization to enter into cooperative agreements with others for protection, restoration and enhancements of habitat, & other resources on public & private land within watershed

- Projects must comply with all Federal, State, local laws & regulations
- Agreement terms must protect public investment on non-Federal lands
- Goal to improve collaborative efforts across all ownership

Authorization through 2005; no appropriation. No match required.

Stewardship

Two diverse examples of using agreement authority to accomplish stewardship projects:

Flathead National Forest – Condon Fuels Project

- One time project to reduce hazardous fuels as a “Firewise” demonstration project
- Low dollar value project (<\$7,000)
- Very specific work specifications
- Actual work accomplished by third party contractor

Shasta-Trinity National Forest – Post Mountain

- Identified high fire risk area to both NFS & other landowners
- 5-year agreement to work together to identify mutually beneficial projects

Questions and Answers

