

Stewardship Contracting Overview

Marcus Kauffman, Resource Innovations
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Sonora, CA

Topics

- Origins
- Guidelines (Do's and Don'ts)
- Authorities
- Examples from other communities

Why Stewardship Contracting?

- Forest management is complex
- Existing tools insufficient
- Partners want an active role
- Highly litigious environment
- New markets are needed
- Supply of biomass needs to be steady and stable

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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

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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

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Authorities granted

- Goods for services
- Retention of receipts
- Best value
- Designation by description or designation by prescription
- Multi-year contracts

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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

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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

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Retained Receipts Challenges

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

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Best Value Contracting

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

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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

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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

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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

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Multi-year Challenges

- Agency workforce capacity limits
 - Fear of tying up all the resources
- Too much burden on contractors
- Lack of NEPA shelf stock
- Lack of public agreement
- BLM IDIQs 10-yr w/task orders

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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
- Programmatic monitoring at national level
 - Project level monitoring encouraged

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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

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Implementation Tools

- Integrated Resource Timber Contract (IRT-C)
- Integrated Resource Service Contract (IRS-C)
- Stewardship Agreements
- Service contracts

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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)

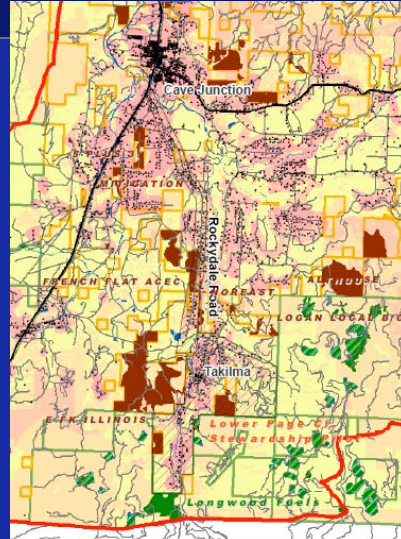
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Josephine County Stewardship Group

- Use stewardship to implement high priority projects in Fire Plan
- Focus on common ground
- Promote stable local economy
 - Grow local contractors
 - Foster biomass utilization
- Involve broader community



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Siuslaw Stewardship Strategy

- Thinnings in priority LSR stands
 - Promote LSR habitat
 - Complete required associated projects
 - Roads, culverts, weeds, tree planting
- Reinvest receipts in high priority areas
 - Forest Service
 - Private land

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Retained Receipts National Forest Lands

- Road Decommissioning (3 projects) \$86K
- Riparian Restoration/Fisheries Enhancement (7 projects) \$82K
- Reforestation/TSI (1 project) \$225K
- Road Reconstruction (2 projects) \$136K
- Dune Restoration/Snowy Plover Habitat (3 projects) \$45K
- Invasive Plant Treatment (2 projects) \$19K

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Private Lands Projects

- 24 projects
- \$472,174 Stewardship Funds
- \$698,309 Match
- 148% Match



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Stewardship Restoration Projects - Private lands

- Types of projects to date:
 - Instream Habitat
 - Riparian Enhancement
 - Wetland Restoration
 - Fish Passage
 - Invasive Plant Control



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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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Project Level Multi-Party Monitoring

- Monitoring as a tool for group learning and adaptive management
- Collaborative role could be:
 - Identify questions, protocols, analyzes data, and report findings
- Appropriated funds, retained receipts, and outside sources can be used

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What's it good for?

- Complex land management problems benefits from diverse participation
- Comprehensive, basin-wide forest and watershed restoration
- Providing a strong role for local and regional stakeholders

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Advantages

- Provides greater flexibility
- Allows for strong community partnerships
 - Communities, contractors, environmental groups, local government, etc.
- Enables holistic approaches
- Reduced negative resource impacts

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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

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Observations & Insights

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