

STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING WEBINAR

August 24, 2017

ANDREI RYKOFF, USFS PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

- Experience with stewardship contracting on Mount Hood National Forest as a district ranger, now works in the regional office (R5) overseeing timber sale prep and stewardship contracts
- Integrated Resource Timber Contracts- value of the timber exceeds cost of restoration.
- Integrated Resource Service Contracts- cost of restoration work exceeds value of timber.

KEVIN ZEMAN, USFS WASHINGTON OFFICE

- Stewardship agreements specialist with the Washington Office
- Stewardship agreements require mutual interest and mutual benefit; it is a collaborative process and partners provide 20% match minimum.
- For example, the Upper Mokelumne Watershed Authority is a new partner and they have leveraged \$1.5 million.

MARK WEBB, BLUE MOUNTAIN FOREST PARTNERS

- Blue Mountain Forest Partners (BMFP) is a collaborative started in 2002 on the Malheur National Forest, and was involved in helping facilitate development of a ten year stewardship contract on the Malheur NF.
- Early in the collaborative, there was a lot of mistrust and it took three years, with the help of a neutral facilitator, for the group to agree on a small project. After some time building relationships and trust, a ten year stewardship contract was awarded in 2013 to prevent the closing of a mill in John Day, and restoration work has been ongoing since then.
- Some challenges with the stewardship contract:
 - There is some negative public perception to the stewardship contract
 - The contract is not always reactive to market prices
 - This contract is large enough that acquisition management is involved, which affects the collaborative's relationships and trust
- Benefits of the stewardship contract:
 - Includes a broader range of restoration actions (helps to get public support)
 - Better way to integrate management actions
 - Helped contractors to retool
 - Contributes to stability and consistency of work; diversity of work
 - More job opportunities (mill employs 150 full time employees) and higher wages
 - Increased infrastructure, new post and pole facility coming soon
 - Biomass and pellet manufacturing opportunities being pursued

- Positive effect on housing, businesses and school enrollment
- Without the contract, the mill would have shut down

DISCUSSION

- What is the difference between a stewardship contract and a stewardship agreement?
 - Stewardship agreements are negotiated and developed between the Forest Service and a partner, requiring continued involvement, mutual benefit and a 20% match. Stewardship contracts (including IRTCs, IRSCs, and Stewardship Service Contracts) are issued by the Forest Service and bid on by contractors.
- How can these contracts/agreements help to bring in new money? What do the financials look like?
 - Mark: The stewardship contract and the CFLR are doing enough work now that it encourages other investment. Rocky Mountain Elk, National Turkey Federation and BPA have matched.
 - Kevin: There are templates for agreements that can be shared.
 - Andrei: For an IRTC or IRSC the service funds will come from appropriated dollars for the extra cost, or from retained receipts.
- How might a collaborative help a long term stewardship contract get started?
 - There is talk about trying to offer longer term contracts, possibly grouping a number of forests under an IDIQ (Indefinite Duration, Indefinite Quantity), to simplify the issuing of task orders to contractors. Biomass facilities also have a lot of interest in longer term contracts. Banks are even saying that ten year contracts are not enough.
 - If it looks like something that is going to be appropriate for the group, begin by talking to the region.
- Can a stewardship contract or agreement be used for contracting NEPA planners?
 - It's something we're looking into in the region, but have not utilized yet. There is an example in Region 6 called A to Z.