

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
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In Reply To:

5000(923)P

July 8, 2003

EMAIL TRANSMISSION - 07/09/03
Instruction Memorandum No. MT-2003-055
Expires: 9/30/04

To: Field Managers
From: Deputy State Director, Division of Resources
Subject: Stewardship End Result Contracting **DD: 07/21/2003**

The Bureau of Land Management and the United States Forest Service have released a Federal Register Notice on Stewardship End Result Contracting. The notice can be found in Volume 68, No. 124/Friday, June 27, 2003/Notice 38285. This notice (Attachment 1) can also be viewed at:

<http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/14mar20010800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2003/pdf/03-16348.pdf>

The notice contains the interim guidelines for use and application of the Stewardship Contracting authority and provides for a public comment period.

In April, you were requested to supply potential projects for consideration under Stewardship Contracting authority. The projects that were identified are:

South Dakota - Woodville WUI Project	200 Acres
Dillon - Dyce Creek Aspen Restoration Project	20 Acres
Dillon - Scudder Creek Mountain Restoration Project	10 Acres
Butte - Clancy Forest & Meadow Treatments Project	675 Acres
Butte - South Elkhorns Vegetation Treatments Project	475 Acres
Malta - Zortman Project	400 Acres

With the development of the interim guidelines, we are requesting that you revisit these projects to see if they meet the 18 guidelines for Stewardship Contracting use. If you need to make changes to this list, either removal of a project or addition of a new project, please contact Bill Hensley at (406) 896-5042. Offices that did not submit a potential Stewardship Contracting project are encouraged to do so at this time.

Stewardship Contracting is a new tool available for our use. It does not replace the Lump Sum Timber Sale or service-oriented contracts. If the project is focused on removal of commercial forest products, the Lump Sum Timber Sale contract is the most likely instrument. If the project is to reduce tree stocking densities in a pre-commercial stand, the service contract may be the appropriate instrument. If the project is developed

through a collaborative approach, at a watershed or landscape level, with a desired end result focused on healthy range and forests/hazardous fuel reduction/improving fish and wildlife habitats or native species, the stewardship contract may be the appropriate instrument.

At this point, there is a lot of flexibility in interpretation as to what projects could utilize the Stewardship Contracting approach. Use the interim guidelines in the Federal Register Notice until further notice.

You will need to complete the Proposed Stewardship Contracting Project Summary sheet for each project that you identify as meeting the Stewardship Contracting interim guidelines (Attachment 2). Proposals selected by the State Office will go back to the Washington Office for concurrence as to their applicability for Stewardship End Result Contracting.

Send the information on your stewardship projects along with any comments you have pertaining to the Federal Register Notice to Bill Hensley by close of business July 21, 2003. If you have any questions pertaining to this request, please contact Bill at (406) 896-5042.

Signed by: Howard A. Lemm for Thomas P. Lonnie

Authenticated by: Merry Prestridge (MT923)

2 Attachments

- 1-[Federal Register](#) Notice (PDF File)
- 2-Proposed Stewardship Contracting Project Summary (2 pp)

Distribution

SOMT-1

Asst. FM Harve-1

Asst. FM Glasgow-1

Proposed Stewardship Contracting Project – Project Summary

DATE: _____

Confidential - For Internal Use Only

Project Name:

Location: (State and Field Office)

Prepared by: (Name of the person preparing this document)

Through: (Name and Title of Appropriate Field Manager)

Project Description: Include a short narrative of the project proposal. Minimum information should include:

- Objective of project. Tie to the types of activities listed in the authorizing legislation. These include road/trail maintenance/obliteration for water quality, wildlife or fisheries habitat improvement, use of prescribed fire or mechanical methods to improve the composition, structure and condition of forest stands, watershed restoration, control of noxious weeds, reestablishment of native plants, etc.
- Location/Size. Don't need a legal description - name of nearest community is probably OK (ex. Project is located 10 miles east of Carson City in west-central Nevada). Include an estimate of acres - include acres other than BLM (i.e. forest service, state, private) if applicable. Is it wildland-urban interface?
- Type of treatment proposed. Include vegetation type in general terms. How does the project address proposed utilization of the treatment by-products? Make sure to highlight commercial activities if they are part of the proposal. Include an estimate of volume/value of by-product if available (this does not have to be supported by an appraisal at the time of preparation of this summary) Example: The project proposes to mechanically thin existing closed canopy pinyon/juniper woodlands to allow for reestablishment of native grass and brush species by seeding and planting. BLM is working with the local Carson City government to explore utilization of the material for feedstock for a proposed biomass cogeneration plant for production of electricity. BLM planners estimate treatments may provide about 20 tons of green biomass per acre. Until establishment of the cogeneration plant, the material is of limited value; the by-products can be sold for firewood, but the scale of the project would far exceed local demand. If the plant is built, BLM expects the biomass value may stabilize in the range of \$3-\$5/ton delivered to the plant. (this is a purely hypothetical example)
- Partners and collaborative processes utilized to date to formulate the project proposal. Example: The BLM has held two town meetings in Carson City with notice of the meetings published in the Carson City Gazette. Approximately 5,000 people attended the meetings and expressed support for the proposal. In addition, the BLM has held several meetings with the Carson City Council; the Council is forming the Carson City Economic Development Committee to represent the City in further discussions with BLM.
- Length of proposed project activity: include a range if necessary: Example: We estimate the contract/agreement length will be in the range of 5-7 years to complete the proposed treatments on these 300,000 acres.

- Status of NEPA/other reviews. Examples: The project will be covered by an environmental assessment to be completed by (date). Informal consultation with the fish and wildlife service on the three-toed humpback lizard has begun and will be completed in conjunction with the EA. Required cultural clearances are completed. OR The project will be funded as part of National Fire Plan Activities and will utilize the newly published categorical exclusion for wildfire treatments. All surveys for threatened and endangered species and cultural resources have been completed.

Issues/Highlights: List anything that may be of particular interest to the reviewer. Examples might include:

- Project area is officially listed as a community at risk under the National Fire Plan. Existing and continuing forest mortality from beetle infestation increases the vulnerability of the City to catastrophic wildfire.
- This project will directly impact fuel loading adjacent to 100 homes in the XYZ subdivision adjacent to BLM managed lands.
- This project will improve breeding habitat for the blunt nosed ocelot, a listed threatened species.
- Etc.

CONTACT: Names and Contact #s. Should include appropriate line manager and, if needed, a staff member with the detailed technical information on the proposal.