

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
Bureau of Land Management  
Oregon State Office  
P.O. Box 2965  
Portland, OR 97208

**In Reply Refer to:**  
9015 (OR-933) P

March 19, 2003

EMS TRANSMISSION 03/21/2003  
Information Bulletin No. OR-2003-112

To: All District Managers  
Attention: District Forestry Leads, District Weed Coordinators and District Fire Management Officers

From: Deputy State Director, Resource Planning, Use and Protection

Subject: Additional Criteria for Identifying Stewardship Contracting Opportunities and Projects DD: 03/26/2003

**Program Areas:** Forest and Rangeland Health, Fuels Management, Weed and Invasive Species Control.

**Purpose:** In reference to Washington Office (WO) Instruction Memorandum (IM) No. 2003-107, the Oregon State Office (OSO) is providing additional criteria, clarification, and explanation for the information requested on potential projects. The due date of March 26, 2003, is intended to allow adequate lead time to consolidate the Oregon/Washington response to the WO.

**Action:** Careful review of IM No. 2003-107 is necessary to ensure appropriate utilization of this new tool. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has requested stewardship authority for a considerable number of years to more effectively meet land management goals. Now that the Congress has responded favorably, it is critical that we make credible use of the authority to expand our treatments, including doing so by leveraging appropriated funds. Data is requested for both FY 2003 and FY 2004. Separate spreadsheet formats have been provided for each fiscal year. Please provide sufficient information for each proposed project to ensure that the project can be screened to meet the intent of the legislative authority. Emphasis and clarification is provided as follows:

1. No decision has been made as to whether projects must be approved at the OSO or WO. However, at a minimum OSO will have a screening and consolidation role for project submissions.
2. Where IM No. 2003-107 states "projects that have a strong record of public involvement opportunities can be considered in the short term," this refers only to FY 2003 projects.

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A "strong record of public involvement opportunities" is defined as an Environmental Impact Statement or an Environmental Assessment (EA) with documented public involvement, e.g., community meetings, presentation to a watershed council or a Resource Advisory Committee, etc., that exceeds the basic requirements for an EA. For FY 2004 projects, it is assumed that a documented collaborative process with States, Tribes, and local communities will occur.

3. For a potential FY 2003 project to be considered, the project planning and layout must be sufficiently progressed to allow actual on-the-ground treatment to occur in the summer of 2003. It is assumed that any necessary record and/or National Environmental Policy Act supplementation to effect and document a "strong record of public involvement

opportunities” will not diminish FY 2003 overall workload/performance measure accomplishments.

4. It is intended that use of the Stewardship Contracting authority will not diminish other workload/performance measure accomplishments, nor will it involve the removal of high value timber products. Traditional timber sales conducted to meet fiber production commitments are not to be modified to reflect stewardship components. Lower value timber sales in Western Oregon Reserves, designed to meet late-successional and old-growth objectives, may benefit from the inclusion of stewardship components.

District Manager approved project lists using the attached format for both FY 2003 and FY 2004 are to be electronically transmitted to Jim Hallberg, County Payments Coordinator, at (jhallber@or.blm.gov) by close of business, March 26, 2003.

Please contact Jim Hallberg at 503-808-6451 if you have any questions.

**Districts with Unions** are reminded to notify their unions of this Information Bulletin and satisfy any bargaining obligations before implementation. Your Servicing Personnel Office or Labor Relations Specialist can provide you assistance in this matter.

Signed by  
Cary A. Osterhaus  
Acting Deputy State Director  
for Resource Planning, Use and Protection

Authenticated by  
Mary O'Leary  
Management Assistant

1 [Attachment\(s\)](#)

1 - FY 2003 and 2004 Possible Stewardship Contract Projects (2pp)

Distribution

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