



Clearwater Stewardship Contract Opens the Door to Road Maintenance

- 2002-2003
- Lolo National Forest, Seeley Lake Ranger District
- Stewardship contracting partner: Pyramid Mountain Lumber

STEWARDSHIP CONTRACTING

Project description

A successful stewardship contract with a local lumber products manufacturer allowed the Lolo National Forest to complete in two seasons more road-related, on-the-ground work than would normally be accomplished in ten years.

Under a stewardship contract, the contractor uses receipts from timber sales to complete on-the-ground projects within the Forest. With the Clearwater Stewardship Contract, the Forest hoped to accomplish 10 to 11 projects, but timber market values allowed for the completion of 22 projects. In addition to a few recreation projects and the standard road work required after timber harvest, proceeds from the timber sales under this stewardship contract allowed Pyramid Mountain Lumber to accomplish the following road maintenance-related projects:

- Decommission 30 miles of road.
- Apply gravel to 1-2 miles of mainline road.
- Repave a one-mile campground entrance road.
- Replace 7 culverts
- Complete a 50-foot bridge span.
- Replace a log stringer bridge with an 18-foot span bottomless arch.
- Rebuild a trailhead.
- Rehabilitate a gravel pit.
- Redefine and stabilize 150 feet of stream channel.

Benefits

Road-related work accomplished under the contract resulted in healthier watershed conditions on the Forest. Timber sales were in areas that needed to be treated for stand health and fire suppression, resulting in healthier forest stands.

Healthier forest stands increase the likelihood for future timber harvest opportunities for the contractor. And because the contractor is required to hire subcontractors from the local community, the local economy benefits.

Keys to success

“Economics is key—you have to put together a viable project for the contractor and tie that value to what you want to accomplish on the ground,” says Rod Blessing, Civil Engineering Technician for the Forest. “It’s also important to have additional restoration projects available in case the contractor gets more value or volume from the timber sales. In that case you will go into negotiation—so it’s important to have a contractor who’s willing to work with you to accomplish the best outcome for the Forest and for the contractor.”

Type of agreement
Stewardship Contract

Estimated savings
\$1,000,000

More information

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Pyramid Mountain Lumber
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