



U.S. Forest Service Draft Briefing Paper

Date: July 12, 2012

Topic: Mill Creek Stewardship A to Z

Goal: The goal of this effort is to increase the capacity of the Colville National Forest to accomplish on-the-ground restoration work without increasing cost to the Forest.

Concept: Issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a landscape scale Stewardship Contract (up to 10 years in length) to perform collaboration, NEPA analysis, development of silvicultural prescriptions, layout, marking and cruising of restoration units, transportation and logging system planning, harvesting, fuels treatments, reforestation, and timber stand improvement. The Forest Service will sign the NEPA decision, prepare the timber appraisal, and collect the payments for timber removed.

Strategy:

1. NEPA: The contractor's proposal will address objectivity and propose subcontracting with a reputable NEPA contractor. Selection of the best proposal will depend on Forest Service acceptance of the proposed objectivity and NEPA subcontractor. This approach is similar to a Ski Area Company, Mining Company or a special use permittee being required to pay and complete their own NEPA for their projects on public lands.
 - a. RFP would be clear the "no action" is valid and may be selected, in which case the successful contractor would be responsible for the cost, without guaranteed compensation. The Decision is the sole responsibility of the agency line officer.
 - b. The RFP would not contain any guaranteed quantities of goods or services. Actual quantities and associated task orders will be determined post decision.
2. COST RECOVERY: We need to research if Forest Service responsibilities can be paid for by cost recovery similar to special use permits and after an interpretation of policy and law from the Washington Office. Can the Forest Service prepare a collection agreement as a part of the final contract? Could the Contractor pay for Forest Service costs to administer the contract from the beginning to the end, or for providing any existing data to the NEPA subcontractor and performing the timber sale appraisal? *We have been informed by the WO that cost collection to cover our additional expenses to successfully implement the A to Z concept is not possible, enabling legislation would be needed.*
3. APPRAISED VALUE: Cruising will be to Forest Service standards. The Forest Service will check cruise the contractors cruising results and use the contractor's final volumes to appraise the value of the timber to be removed. Contractor pays for the Forest Service appraised value of the timber. Retained receipts and appropriated funds will pay for restoration work activities.
4. SCHEDULE: Our estimated date to issue a solicitation is September 15, 2012, and to award a final contract is January 4, 2013.

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