



Malheur National Forest

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10-Year Stewardship Timber Contract Announced

JOHN DAY, OR – The Malheur National Forest will offer a 10-year timber contract that will provide a predictable and sustainable volume of timber, employ local people and assist the local economy while getting crucial restoration work done on the land, Forest officials announced today.

The stewardship authority the Forest will use allows the agency to fund forest restoration activities with revenue from timber sales – traditional timber sale revenue goes directly to the Treasury. By retaining these receipts, the Forest will be able to have additional restoration projects, which also means additional employment. A 10-year contract would allow the ability to treat large landscape areas providing much needed restoration.

“After careful consideration, I made the decision that the volume in the contract will be 70 – 80 percent of our total volume offered each year,” said Malheur National Forest Supervisor, Teresa Raaf. “This amount will guarantee the awardee of the contract a consistent, sustainable amount of volume which will also offer benefits to local communities by providing a stable economic environment that would support local businesses in Grant and Harney counties.”

The Malheur expects to offer 55 million board feet of timber this year, and increase that amount to 75 mmbf by 2015.

Timber firms would have to bid on and win the contract in competition with others. Local mills play an important role in Grant and Harney counties as they have the ability to harvest material from the Forests at a reasonable cost.

“I am committed to increasing the amount of restoration work on the Malheur Forest,” Pacific Northwest Regional Forester Kent Connaughton said. “A clear benefit to the communities and economy of eastern Oregon will be an increased, sustainable supply of timber.”

In January, the Malheur NF hosted three public meetings to discuss the 10-year stewardship contract proposal and to gather comments on what industry and the public felt should be the evaluation criteria, including what percentage of the Forests’ volume should be in the contract.

A timeline is being established that will identify when the contract will be advertised as well as the following:

Mid-June, 2013 -A technical proposal workshop which will identify evaluation criteria will be held to assist those wanting to submit an offer for the contract.

Late-July, 2013 – Proposals will be evaluated.

Mid-August – The contract will be awarded

Mid-September – The awardee of the contract will begin restoration efforts.

Traditional timber sales will continue to occur in addition to the 10 year stewardship contract.

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