



Malheur National Forest

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Malheur National Forest Awards First Stewardship Contract

John Day, OR - On September 26, 2007, the Malheur National Forest awarded its first stewardship contract, announced Stan Benes, Malheur National Forest Supervisor. The 16 Road Stewardship Project was awarded to DR Johnson Lumber Co. of John Day, Oregon.

Stewardship contracting is a means for federal agencies to contribute to the development of sustainable rural communities, restore and maintain healthy forest ecosystems, and provide a continuing source of local income and employment.

“Especially important to our communities is that stewardship contracting gives preference to contractors who submit best value contract proposals that display they will use a local work force to accomplish contract activities,” said Benes. “Additionally, all commercial and noncommercial wood material will be sold and delivered to local industries.”

It is anticipated that approximately 3.3 million board feet (MMBF) of commercial timber will be harvested and the value from that material will be used to accomplish 402 acres of precommercial thinning & slash treatment work that otherwise may not have been funded or treated. This process is referred to as *trading goods for services*; the Malheur National Forest traded the value of the timber for the accomplishment of the thinning and slash treatment work. This is a unique benefit of stewardship contracting, as authorized by the 2003 Appropriations Act (P.L. 108-7).

The remaining acres of precommercial thinning slash treatment, conifer removal from aspen stands and construction of exclosures to protect aspen stands will be accomplished using appropriated dollars received from Congress.

For more information on stewardship contracting with the US Forest Service visit:

www.fs.fed.us/forestmanagement/projects/stewardship/index.shtml

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