

NEWS

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NORTHERN REGION ANNOUNCES COMPETITIVE SOURCING RESULTS

Missoula, Mont, (September 30, 2003) - Regional Forester Brad Powell announced today results of three zone studies on fleet, roads, building, and grounds maintenance (FRBGM) jobs, and two trails maintenance studies.

These studies were conducted on National Forests and Grasslands in North Dakota, Northern Idaho, and Montana to determine the most efficient and effective way to maintain fleet, roads, buildings, grounds and trails.

For the FRBGM maintenance studies, results indicate Forest Service employees are able to perform the work at a lower cost than contractors in all three zones studied. The trails maintenance studies also showed that Forest Service employees are able to perform the work at a lower cost than contractors.

Based upon these five study results, competition determined the Forest Service provides maintenance and trails services to taxpayers at the lowest cost and will retain all job positions.

Competitive sourcing is one of the initiatives in the President's Management Agenda undertaken by President Bush to improve the efficiency of government.

A national study of Information Technology (IT) services began earlier this year as a part of FY 2003 studies and is currently ongoing. Results of the IT study are expected in the spring of 2004.

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