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PRE-AWARD WAIVER, RELEASE, AND LIMITATION OF LIABILITY AGREEMENT
(STEWARDSHIP CONTRACT)

This PRE-AWARD WAIVER, RELEASE, AND LIMITATION OF LIABILITY AGREEMENT ("Agreement") is entered into as of this ____ day of _____, ____ between the U.S. Forest Service ("Forest Service") and _____ ("Contractor") (together sometimes referred to herein as the "Parties").

RECITALS

WHEREAS, on or about _____, the Forest Service declared Contractor to be the apparent best value proposal on the contract to operate the _____ Stewardship Project, located on _____ National Forest;

WHEREAS, the Parties recognize that the _____ Stewardship Project may be affected by existing litigation ("Litigation"): **Conservation Northwest v. Sherman, C08-1067-JCC**, and that, due to such Litigation, the Contracting Officer may instruct Contractor to delay or suspend operations, and/or modify or terminate the _____ Stewardship Contract; and

WHEREAS, Contractor desires the Forest Service to proceed with the award of the contract, despite the possibility that the Forest Service might delay or suspend operations, and/or modify or terminate the contract;

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties agree as follows:

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Contract Award. After the Parties' execution of this Agreement, the Contracting Officer shall promptly award the contract for the _____ Stewardship Project to Contractor, if Contractor has met all the eligibility requirements for contract award.
2. Release of Claims. Except as provided in Paragraph Three, Contractor agrees to waive and release any and all claims against the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, and/or United States (collectively the "Government") based in whole or in part upon any instruction issued by the Contracting Officer to delay or suspend operations, and/or modify or terminate the contract for the _____ Stewardship Project because of Litigation. Contractor agrees that the foregoing waiver and release includes, but is not limited to, any claim based in whole or in part upon (a) any finding that the Forest Service failed to comply with environmental laws, regulations, rules, and/or policy; (b) any express or implied contractual warranty regarding the availability of timber for harvest; or (c) any express or implied contractual duty to cooperate and not to hinder Contractor's performance.
3. Contractor's Remedies. Contractor acknowledges and accepts the risk that this contract is subject to interruption, delay, modification and/or termination as a result of this litigation. If such interruption occurs due to the litigation, Contractor acknowledges and agrees to accept as full compensation for such interruption, the remedies set forth in the timber sale contract, except as provided in Paragraph Four.
4. Limitation of Liability. In the event that the Contracting Officer instructs Contractor to delay or suspend operations, and/or modify or terminate the contract because of Litigation, Contractor shall not be entitled to any kind of breach damages, reliance damages, restitution damages, consequential damages, or special damages, except as specifically allowed in the contract. Moreover, Contractor shall not be entitled to the following contract remedies set forth in provisions I/IT.3.4: 1) replacement volume, and 2) liquidated damages. Nor shall Contractor have the right to unilaterally terminate the contract under provision I/IT.3.4, unless the duration of the delay or suspension exceeds either six months of Normal Operating Season time or one calendar year.
5. Merger. Upon the Parties' execution of the contract for the _____ Stewardship Project, this

Agreement shall become part of such contract as an addendum thereto. Should there be a conflict between the terms of this Agreement and the terms of the original contract, the terms of this Agreement shall govern. The Parties' subsequent execution of the contract for the _____ Stewardship Project shall not in any way affect the waiver, release, and limitation of liability, contained herein. Should Contractor assign or otherwise transfer contract-performance duties to a third-party, this Agreement shall be binding on the subsequent contract holder and/or operator.

6. Contractor's Affirmation. By executing this Agreement, Contractor affirms that it has freely and knowingly agreed to the foregoing waiver, release, and limitation of liability. Moreover, Contractor affirms that the stewardship contract award by the Forest Service, which might have been delayed or withheld, constitutes adequate consideration for the foregoing waiver, release, and limitation of liability.
7. Choice of law. This agreement shall be governed by the laws of the United States and federal common law without regard to conflicts of laws.
8. Severability. In the event that a tribunal of competent jurisdiction invalidates any part of this Agreement, the Parties agree that such part shall be severed and that the remaining parts shall continue in full force and effect.
9. Jurisdiction. The Parties expressly agree that the United States Court of Federal Claims and the U.S. Civilian Board of Contract Appeals shall have jurisdiction over this Agreement and hereby consent to the jurisdiction of such bodies. The foregoing agreement and consent shall not be construed to interfere with or defeat the proper jurisdiction of other courts.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have executed this agreement.

USDA, Forest Service:

_____**[Contractor]**_____

By:
Title: Contracting Officer

By:
Title:

I, _____, certify that I have full authority to represent the interests of _____**[Contractor]**_____, and that my signature above binds _____**[Contractor]**_____ to this agreement.

_____ **Corporate Seal**
(If one exists)