

## Resource: Stewardship Authorities

### 7 Land Management Goals of Stewardship:

1. Road and trail maintenance, or decommissioning to restore or maintain water quality
2. Soil productivity, habitat for wildlife and fisheries, or other resource values
3. Setting of prescribed fires to improve the composition, structure, condition, and health of stands or improve wildlife habitat
4. Removing vegetation, or other activities to promote healthy forests, reduce fire hazards, or achieve other land management objectives
5. Watershed restoration and maintenance projects
6. Restoration and maintenance of wildlife and fish habitat projects
7. Control of noxious weeds and exotic weeds, and re-establishment of native plant species

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### Partnering Through Stewardship Contracts

#### **Stewardship Authorities**

The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management can enter into stewardship contracts or agreements with private persons or public/private entities to perform services to achieve land management goals on public lands that meet local and rural community needs. Stewardship projects include natural resource management practices seeking to promote a closer working relationship with local communities in a broad range of activities that improve land conditions. These projects shift the focus of federal forest and rangeland management towards a desired future resource condition. They are also 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.

#### **Examples**

- Maintain roads or trails that are causing erosion and/or degradation of water quality,
- Replace a culvert obstructing aquatic organism passage to permit the passage of aquatic species,
- Conduct prescribed burns to enhance wildlife habitat,
- Thin trees to enhance growth or prevent insect infestation, and
- Maintain, establish, or create permanent wildlife openings and fish structures
- Treat non-native invasive species.

#### **Collaboration**

Collaboration is an important step in stewardship projects and should identify and the collaborative process should engage stakeholders early in the process, design a strategy to conduct an open, inclusive, and transparent process, and plan for implementation and evaluation.

#### **Key Takeaways**

- Stewardship agreements are a tool to strengthen partnerships to accelerate restoration across boundaries,
- Projects must fit the seven land management goals,
- Collaboration is a “must” to address land management challenges and ensure successful outcomes in the local community, and
- Stewardship agreements give the Forest Service and partners the ability to leverage resources to increase capacity to accomplish work on National Forest System lands.

### Helpful links and resources

[Forest Service Stewardship Contracting](#)

[Basic Principles of Stewardship Contracting](#)

[Successful Partnerships of the Last Decade Peer Learning Session](#)