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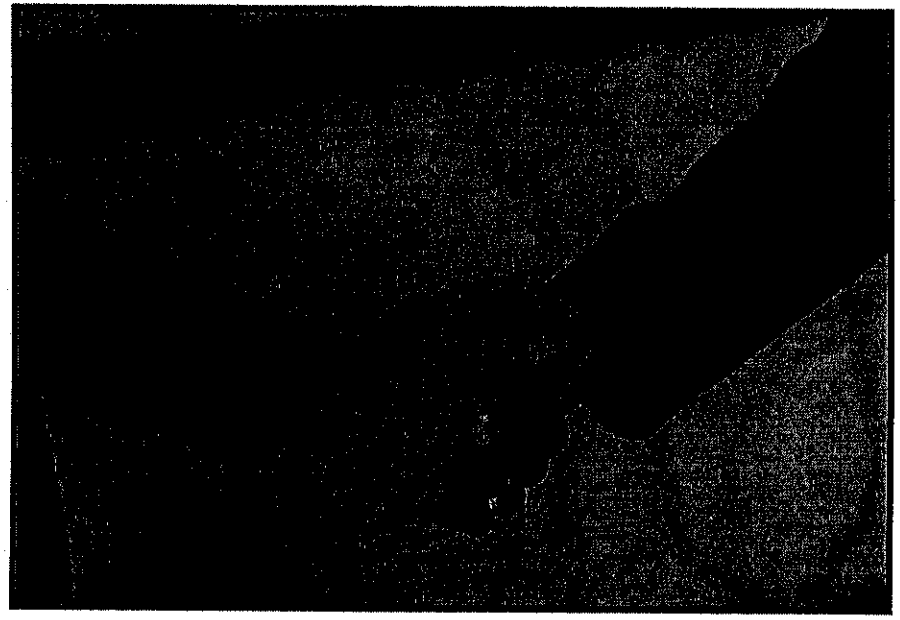
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

# Stewardship Contracting – The Time Is Now

Bureau of Land Management

# Stewardship Contracting

- Language authorizing "stewardship" contracting for the Bureau of Land Management and Forest Service was authorized in the 2003 Appropriations Bill, passed by Congress on February 13, 2003.

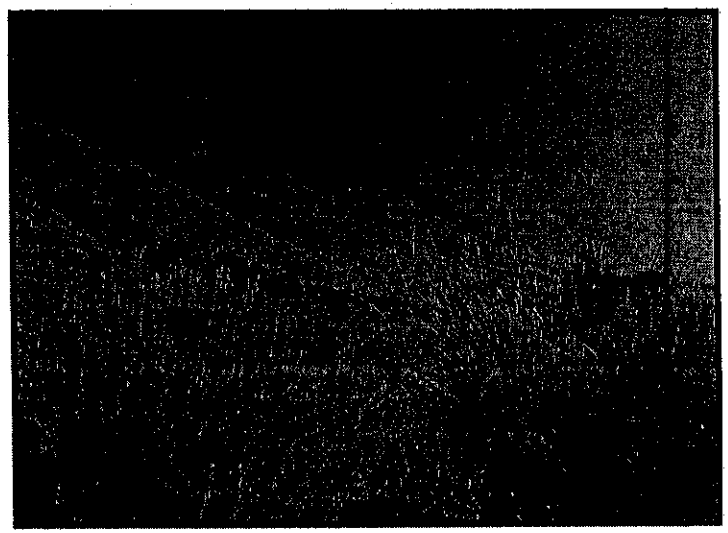


# In Simple Terms

- Stewardship contracting allows BLM to exchange goods for services.
- BLM received the authority to enter into long term contracts (Up to 10 years in length)
- Money from a stewardship contract or agreement may be retained by BLM and "shall be available for expenditure without further appropriation"

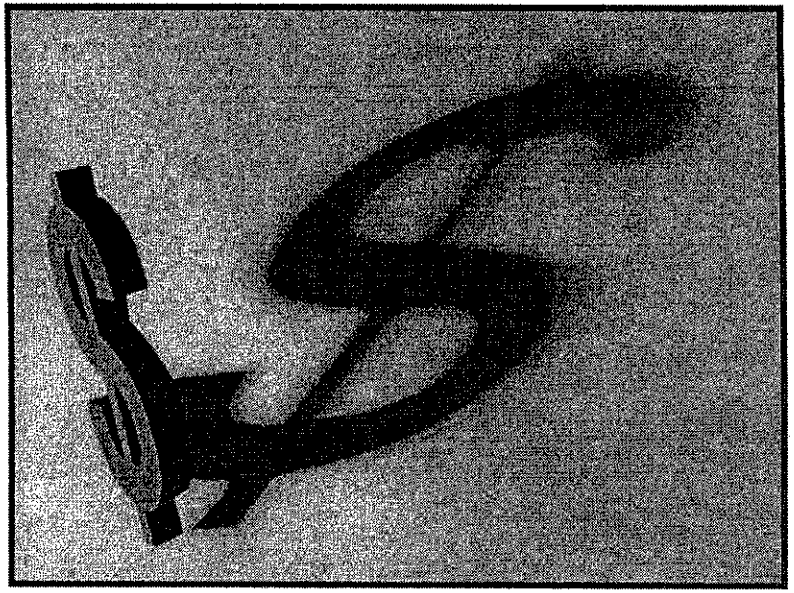
# Stewardship Contracting

- Provides BLM with another tool to carry out fuels reduction and forest/rangeland health projects while providing for community involvement, economic assistance and improved ecosystem health.



# The Benefits of Stewardship Contracting

- Offsets costs to reduce risk to communities.
- Leveraging (increased results from) appropriated funds.
- Boosts community awareness and involvement.
- Stimulates local rural communities and economies.



# The Benefits of Stewardship Contracting

- Helps develop markets for forest and rangeland by-products.
- Provides long-term availability of products.
- Decreases smoke emissions and reduces “greenhouse gasses.”
- Increases opportunities to prevent or reduce weeds and undesirable species.

# Implementation Strategies

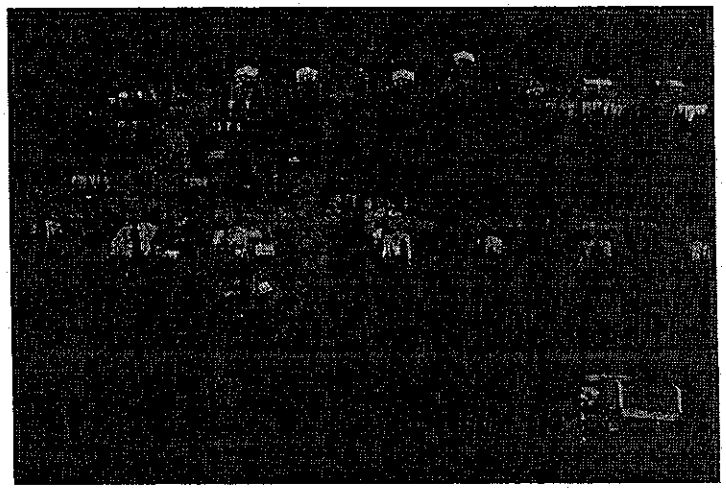
- Be sensitive to revenue sharing issues.
- Geographic distribution of projects.
- Market analysis, both volume and value.
- Avoid high-value timber sales.

# Priority for Selection

- Meets NFP/Healthy Forest and Rangeland objectives.
- Consistent with RMPs.
- Value of removed products.
- WUI considerations.
- Mechanical treatments.

# Types of Projects

- WUI
- Forest health
- Rangeland health
- Mechanical treatment
- Invasive species
- Great Basin Restoration Initiative (GBRI)
- Cultural treatment



# Potential Contracting Methods

- Sales contracts.
- Permits.
- Service contracts.
- Service contract with salvage rights.
- Service contract with embedded sales contract.
- Assistance and cooperative agreements.

Some of these need further work to develop new types of contracts.

# Stewardship Contracts

- Represent the chance to involve non-traditional contractors to improve wildlife and fish habitat.
  - Municipalities for bio-energy production.
  - NGOs such as the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation or Trout Unlimited.

Stewardship contracts are a good fit with Secretary Norton's Four C's philosophy.

# Other potential opportunities to "exchange goods for services"

- Post fire salvage in exchange for long term rehabilitation and restoration.

- Exchanging grazing fees for noxious/invasive species control.

# Other potential opportunities to "exchange goods for services"

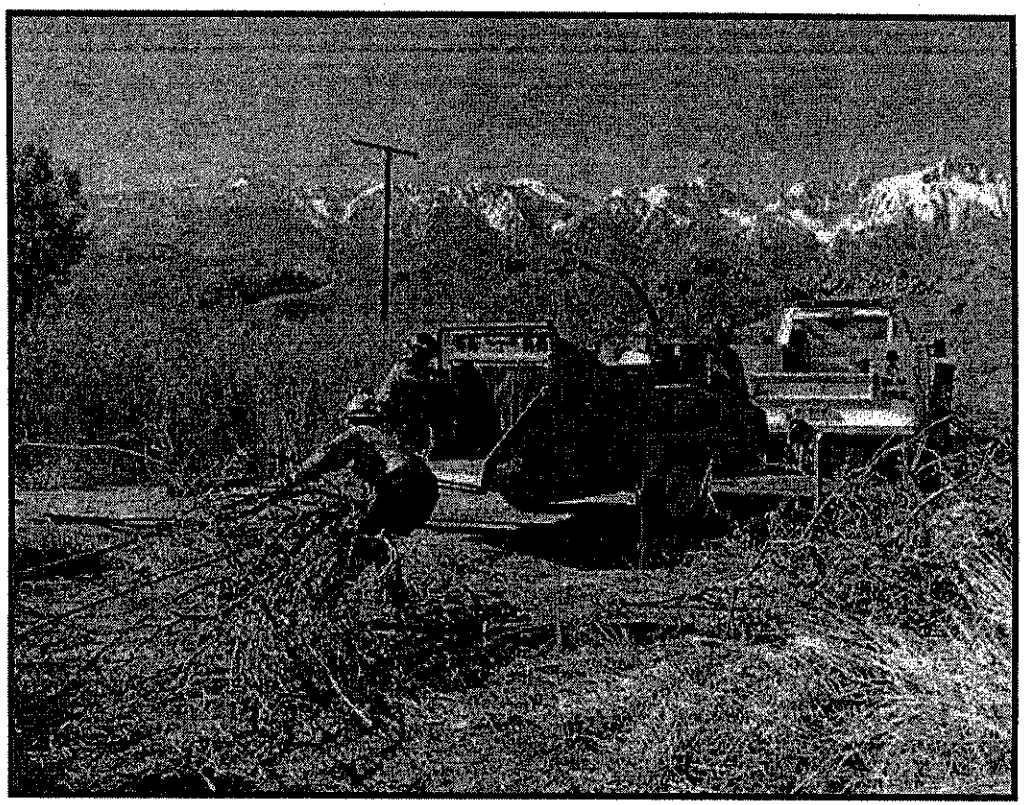
- Exchange of grazing fees for fuels reduction in critical plant communities and/or WUI

- Exchange forest products for opening the canopy and planting bitterbrush.

# Summary

- Stewardship contracting authority is a high priority for Secretary Norton.
- We now have that authority.
- Stewardship contracting gives us the tool that we've been seeking for a long time.
- Provides the potential to treat more acres within existing appropriations.

The time has come to demonstrate our capability to use it in support of improved rangeland and forest health, economic stability for local communities, and reduction of hazardous fuels.



# The Next Step

Develop implementation strategy.

State Directors are asked to look at current and potential projects that have opportunities to trade “goods for services” and off set the costs of projects.