

Fall FTPC Q&A  
Erie, PA  
Nov. 13-17, 2023

1. What region are you representing?

R6

2. What factors contributed to or detracted from your FY 2023 timber program accomplishments?

**During FY 23 Region 6 saw yet another intensive wildfire season with significantly noted impacts on the Willamette and Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forests (b)(5) [REDACTED] The WIL fires have affected five Timber Sales resulting in a loss of 7 MMBF in FY23 timber sale advertisements while the RRS removed one timber sale with a loss 8 MMBF.**

**In addition to wildfires the Region experienced devastating litigation on the Colville National Forest affecting nearly 76 MMBF of timber outputs (b)(5) [REDACTED] (b)(5) [REDACTED] In response to this situation Region 6 worked directly with Forest Supervisors and staff to move multiple sales scheduled for FY 24 into the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of FY 23. These efforts were successful on the Mount Baker Snoqualmie, Umpqua, and Fremont-Winema National Forests. Additionally, the Region continues to implement a strategic 5-year plan focused on deepening our volume approved under NEPA as well as prepped volume entering each FY. This 5-year plan is aimed at stabilizing the base timber program across the Region to provide more consistent delivery of outputs in the face of uncertainty (fire, litigation, market fluctuations/timing). The goal is for each Forest to have 3 times its annual volume under decision and 1 year of sale prep volume entering each FY (3+1 strategy). The Region continually makes adjustments to regional timber targets on a yearly basis based on timber targets assigned by the Washington Office. Tentative targets assigned by the WO for Region 6 currently sit at 611 MMBF for FY 24 and 637 MMBF in FY 25 (b)(5) [REDACTED] (b)(5) [REDACTED] . We were able to capitalize on BIL/IRA funding to invest in areas that contribute to wildfire risk reduction as well as Forests that are poised to make accelerated**

**headway towards consistent and predictable volume. FY23 BIL/IRA investments supported NEPA related activities and presale support activities. We expect to see the landscape outcomes of these investments over the next couple of years.**

3. If your unit had no bid sales in FY 23- 1) why did they go no bid, 2) how much FY 23 no bid volume did you already reoffer and sell, and 3) when do you expect to reoffer remaining FY 23 no bid sales? What is your plan for any unsold no bid sales from previous years?

**Region 6 had approximately 50 MMBF in no bid sales in FY23. Of the 50 MMBF approximately 22.5 MMBF was successfully re-advertised and awarded. Road package size, litigation concerns, appraisal value differences and deterioration of product (particularly for salvage/deck sales), SBA requirements, and inclusion of low value material have contributed to no bids across the Region. The remaining balance of no bid sales are being evaluated for re-offer and reworked to respond to suggestions from industry.**

4. What percent of your FY 23 volume advertised in 4th Quarter?

(b)(5)



**The Colville and Okanogan-Wenatchee have nine timber sale contracts (seven and two respectively) currently subject to environmental litigation, which include an estimated volume of 130 MMBF and 14,000 acres.**

**Due to the recent adverse opinion from the District Court of Eastern Washington vacating the Sanpoil project on the Colville, all operations on the Sanpoil DxP Stewardship Reoffer Contract have been suspended by the Forest Service.**

**The Willamette has two timber sale contracts with Contract Disputes Act claims that are being litigated in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims**

**The Willamette and Gifford-Pinchot have received tort claims allegedly related to activities on timber sale contracts. The tort claim on the Willamette is related to the 2020 Beachie Creek Fire and the catastrophic termination of two timber sale contracts. The tort claim on the Gifford Pinchot is related to injuries a Purchaser's employee received as a result of an accident on the timber sale contract area.**

**The Region is in negotiations on several of the lawsuits, (b)(5) (b)(5) and projects are moving forward under different environmental analysis documents, and others we are currently briefing. The Region consistently looks for the most expedient manner in which to move forward on all its timber sale projects in order to get the work done efficiently and as soon as practicable.**

**6. What internal or external problems/challenges are you anticipating for your FY 24 timber program? How do you plan on addressing these problems?**

**Region 6 anticipates continued challenges to increase NEPA and prep shelf if FY 24 and beyond, but also has a continued need to focus on wildfire response. The Region is actively adjusting to the "3+1" strategy as it receives timber target assignments from the WO. As timber targets increase Forest units are being forced to move outyear sales up in the queue to meet their assigned timber targets. This reduces the number of timber sales that have NEPA coverage and often decreases the number timber sales that are being prepped according to the "3+1" strategy. Forests are also being encouraged to use Environmental Analysis Decision Making (EADM), new NEPA authorities, and forest products modernization as much as possible in order to expedite NEPA decisions and build timber sale shelf stock.**

Litigation continues to be an ongoing problem/challenge. The eastside Forest are currently experiencing contest from the environmental community challenging the eastside screens decision (b)(5)

This has the potential to effect numerous NEPA decisions that fall under the ruling and/or timber sales that are slated for advertisement. The Region is carefully navigating any challenges from litigation and will continue to work with litigants in order to find common ground and proceed with projects. (b)(5)

(b)(5)

Staffing continues to be a challenge as the Region faces attrition, retirement, and staff accepting positions outside of the region. We are utilizing all the authorities given to the agency to fill/replace vacancies. These include, but not limited to; Schedule A, Veterans Hiring, collective hiring events, recent grads, etc. (b)(5)

On Oct. 30, 2023 the Federal Government was under the threat of not being funded and going into partial shutdown. Fortunately, congress was able to pass a continuing resolution funding the government until midnight on Nov. 17, 2023. This continues to be a concern if the government does go into partial shutdown which could affect many resource areas including timber management.

7. Are you using DxP, DxD, and/or Virtual Boundaries?

- DxP
- DxD
- Virtual Boundaries
- All of the above
- None of the above

8. How much funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and/or Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) was allocated to your region for timber producing projects

**\$5M in BIL funding was allocated to the Region for timber related projects. Additionally, the Region received \$8M to be allocated to Good Neighbor**

**Authority and \$3.7 M to be allocated to Tribal Forest Protection Act projects. Natural Resources and Fire and Aviation Management in Region 6 are highly integrated and work together frequently on an integrated program of work that produce mutually beneficial outcomes for risk reduction and contribution to timber volume outputs.**

9. How well are you working with the fuels management staff in your region to identify and offer fuels reduction projects which also produce merchantable timber?

- Really well
- Reasonably well
- Not as well as we should
- Poorly

10. How are vacancies in the timber program or other staff areas impacting your ability to deliver the timber sale program?

- A great deal
- A lot
- A moderate amount
- A little
- None at all

11. What efforts are you taking to address vacancies?

**In FY 23 Region 6 submitted 126 positions to the SAF hiring event and successfully hired 75 new employees that included series 499-462/460 (student interns), 460 and 462:**

Series	460	462	499-401	499-460	499-462	Grand Total
Submitted	38	61	6	17	4	126
Hired	29	22	8	16		75

The next SAF hiring event will take place Oct. 25-28<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento CA. The Region has submitted (b)(5) positions for this year's event.

We will have R6 staff present throughout the event who will be actively recruiting. Additionally, the Region has shifted to a new hiring platform (HIVE) that has seen success in hiring a number of new employees (b)(5)

(b)(5) Human resources has been utilizing group vacancy announcements (GVAs) which combine positions of similar nature into one single announcement. This has streamlined the workload on HR and has seen success throughout the region.

12. Anything else you think we should know?

Region 6 successfully met, and slightly exceeded, its FY 23 timber target of 575 MMBF assigned by the WO. The final volume sold was 586 MMBF.

Good Neighbor Authority continues to provide a vital role across the Region. The combined volume sold from the two State Agencies (ODF and WADNR) contributed 13% of the Regional Timber Sold Target in FY23.

The Regional Office recently executed a Stewardship Agreement SPA with Patriot Restoration Ops (PROPS) that will enable us to work together on forest restoration projects throughout the region.

The MBS reported closure of the [WestRock paper mill in Tacoma, WA](#). The UMA reported a layoff of 300 people at [PCA's Wallula paper mill](#). Both events are creating tension and concerns across the region.

The Deputy Regional, NR Director, and staff will be meeting with Forest Supervisors monthly beginning Oct. 2023 to assess progress on timber sales. These meetings will likely increase in frequency in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of FY 24. This communication is critical as we track sales throughout the year and target investments, where needed, to be successful in meeting the FY 24 timber target.

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2. What factors contributed to or detracted from your FY 2023 timber program accomplishments?

**The Region continues to implement a strategic 5-year plan focused on deepening our volume approved under NEPA as well as prepped volume entering each FY. The goal is for each Forest to have 3 times its annual volume under decision and 1 year of sale prep volume entering each FY (3+1 strategy). The Region continually makes adjustments to regional timber targets on a yearly basis based on timber targets assigned by the Washington Office. We were able to capitalize on BIL/IRA funding to invest in areas that contribute to wildfire risk reduction as well as Forests that are poised to make accelerated headway towards consistent and predictable volume. BIL/IRA investments supported NEPA related activities and presale support activities. We expect to see the landscape outcomes of these investments over the next couple of years.**

**The Region experienced yet another intensive wildfire season with impacts on the Willamette and Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forests. The wildfires affected six advertised timber sales, resulting in a loss of 15 MMBF. In addition to wildfires, the Region experienced litigation on the Colville National Forest, affecting nearly 76 MMBF. In response to this situation, the Region worked directly with Forest Supervisors and staff to move multiple sales scheduled for FY 24 into the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of FY 23. These efforts were successful on the Mt-Baker Snoqualmie, Umpqua, and Fremont-Winema National Forests.**

3. If your unit had no bid sales in FY 23- 1) why did they go no bid, 2) how much FY 23 no bid volume did you already reoffer and sell, and 3)

when do you expect to reoffer remaining FY 23 no bid sales? What is your plan for any unsold no bid sales from previous years?

**The Region had approximately 50 MMBF in no bid sales. Of the 50 MMBF approximately 22.5 MMBF was successfully re-advertised and awarded for an overall regional no bid rate of 4.6%. Road package size, appraisal value differences and deterioration of product (particularly for salvage/deck sales), SBA requirements, and inclusion of low value material contributed to no bids across the Region. The remaining balance of no bid sales are being evaluated for re-offer and reworked to respond to suggestions from industry.**

4. What percent of your FY 23 volume advertised in 4th Quarter?

**37% of our advertised volume was in Q4.**

5. How many timber sales and how much timber volume was withheld or not awarded due to litigation? How are you responding to litigation?

**Five timber sales, approximately 76 MMBF. Some projects are being reworked and some are moving forward under different environmental analysis documents. The Region consistently looks for the most expedient manner in which to move forward on all its timber sale projects in order to get the work done efficiently and as soon as practicable.**

6. What internal or external problems/challenges are you anticipating for your FY 24 timber program? How do you plan on addressing these problems?

**The Region anticipates continued challenges to increase NEPA and prep shelf in FY 24 and beyond, but also has a continued need to focus on wildfire response. The Region is actively adjusting the (3+1 strategy) as it receives timber target assignments to from the WO. As timber targets increase, Forests are being forced to move out-year sales forward in the queue to meet their assigned timber targets. This reduces the number of timber sales that have NEPA coverage and often decreases the number of timber sales that are being**

prepped according to the (3+1 strategy). Forests are also being encouraged to use Environmental Analysis Decision Making (EADM), new NEPA authorities, and forest products modernization as much as possible in order to expedite NEPA decisions and build timber sale shelf stock.

Litigation continues to be an ongoing challenge. The eastside Forests are under litigation for projects that relied on the Eastside Screens Amendment. This has the potential to effect timber sales under contract, recently completed NEPA decisions with upcoming sales, and NEPA decisions currently in progress. The Region is carefully navigating challenges from litigation and will continue to work with litigants in order to find common ground and proceed with projects.

Staffing continues to be a challenge as the Region faces attrition, retirement, and staff accepting positions outside of the region. We are utilizing all the authorities given to the agency to fill vacancies. These include, but are not limited to; Schedule A, Veterans Hiring, collective hiring events, recent grads, etc.

7. Are you using DxP, DxD, and/or Virtual Boundaries?

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8. How much funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) and/or Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) was allocated to your region for timber producing projects

**\$5M in BIL funding was allocated to the Region for timber related projects. Additionally, the Region received \$8M to be allocated to GNA and \$3.7 M to be allocated to TFPA projects. In FY23, we received substantial funding in BIL and IRA for our five Wildfire Crisis Strategy landscapes, total of \$103M as follows: Central Oregon (Deschutes NF) \$18.2M; Mt. Hood (Mt. Hood NF) \$4.7M;**

**Klamath Basin R6 (Fremond-Winema NF) \$27.9M; Central Washington Initiative (Okanogan-Wenatchee NF) \$48.7M; and Colville (Colville NF) \$3.5M. In FY23, we realized additional timber volume and outputs along with increased acres treated on all five WCS landscapes except for the Colville which was negatively impacted by litigation. Natural Resources and Fire and Aviation Management in the Region are highly integrated and work together frequently on an integrated program of work that produces mutually beneficial outcomes for risk reduction and contribution to timber volume outputs.**

9. How well are you working with the fuels management staff in your region to identify and offer fuels reduction projects which also produce merchantable timber?

- Really well
- Reasonably well
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10. How are vacancies in the timber program or other staff areas impacting your ability to deliver the timber sale program?

- A great deal
- A lot
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The next SAF hiring event will take place Oct. 25-28<sup>th</sup> in Sacramento CA. The Region has submitted 87 positions for this year's event. We will have R6 staff present throughout the event who will be actively recruiting. Additionally, we have shifted to a new hiring platform (HIVE) that has seen success in hiring a number of new employees. This new platform allows the region to strategically prioritize key vacancies for hiring whereas before it was on a first come, first serve basis. Human resources has been utilizing group vacancy announcements (GVAs) which combine positions of similar nature into one single announcement. This has streamlined the workload on HR as well as hiring managers and has seen success throughout the region.

12. Anything else you think we should know?

The Region successfully met, and slightly exceeded, its FY 23 timber target of 575 MMBF assigned by the WO. The final volume sold was 586 MMBF.

GNA continues to provide a vital role across the Region. The combined volume sold from the two State Agencies (ODF and WADNR) contributed 13% of the Region's timber target in FY23.

The Region recently executed a Stewardship Agreement SPA with Patriot Restoration Ops (PROPS) that will enable us to work together on forest restoration projects throughout the region.

Two facilities in Oregon, Biomass One and Heartwood Biomass, are participating in the biomass transportation incentive pilot(BTIP), and have secured eligible biomass that will be delivered to their facilities in Oct. and Nov.

The closure of the [WestRock paper mill in Tacoma, WA](#) and layoff of 300 of [PCA's Wallula paper mill](#) employees are causing concerns across the Region.

The NR Director and staff will meet with Forest Supervisors monthly beginning Oct. 2023 to assess progress on FY 24 timber sales. These meetings will likely increase in frequency in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarters of FY 24. This communication is critical as we track sales throughout the year and target investments, where needed, to be successful in meeting the FY 24 timber target.

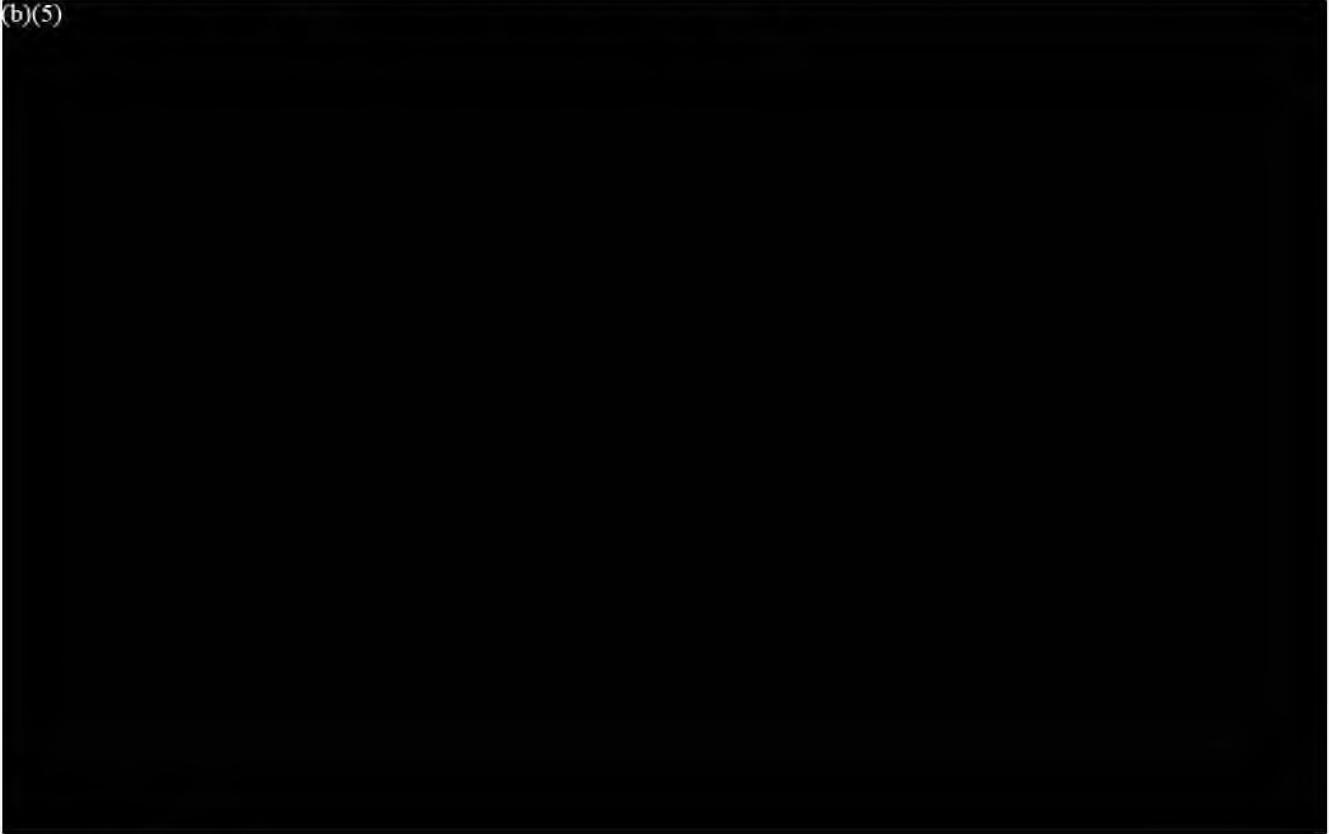
# FTPC Regional Response Forms

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## Question Title

1. What percent of your FY23 target was accomplished in the 1st half? What factors affected your accomplishment to date?

(b)(5)



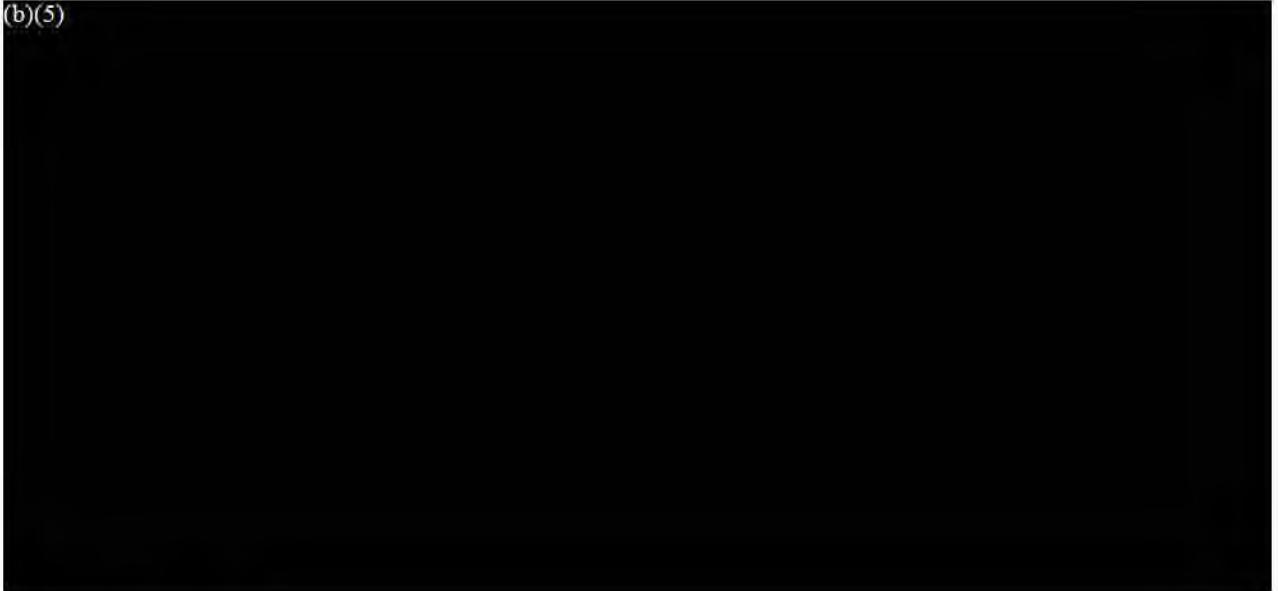
## Question Title

2. What steps are you taking to accomplish the remainder of your FY23 target in the 2nd half?

(b)(5)



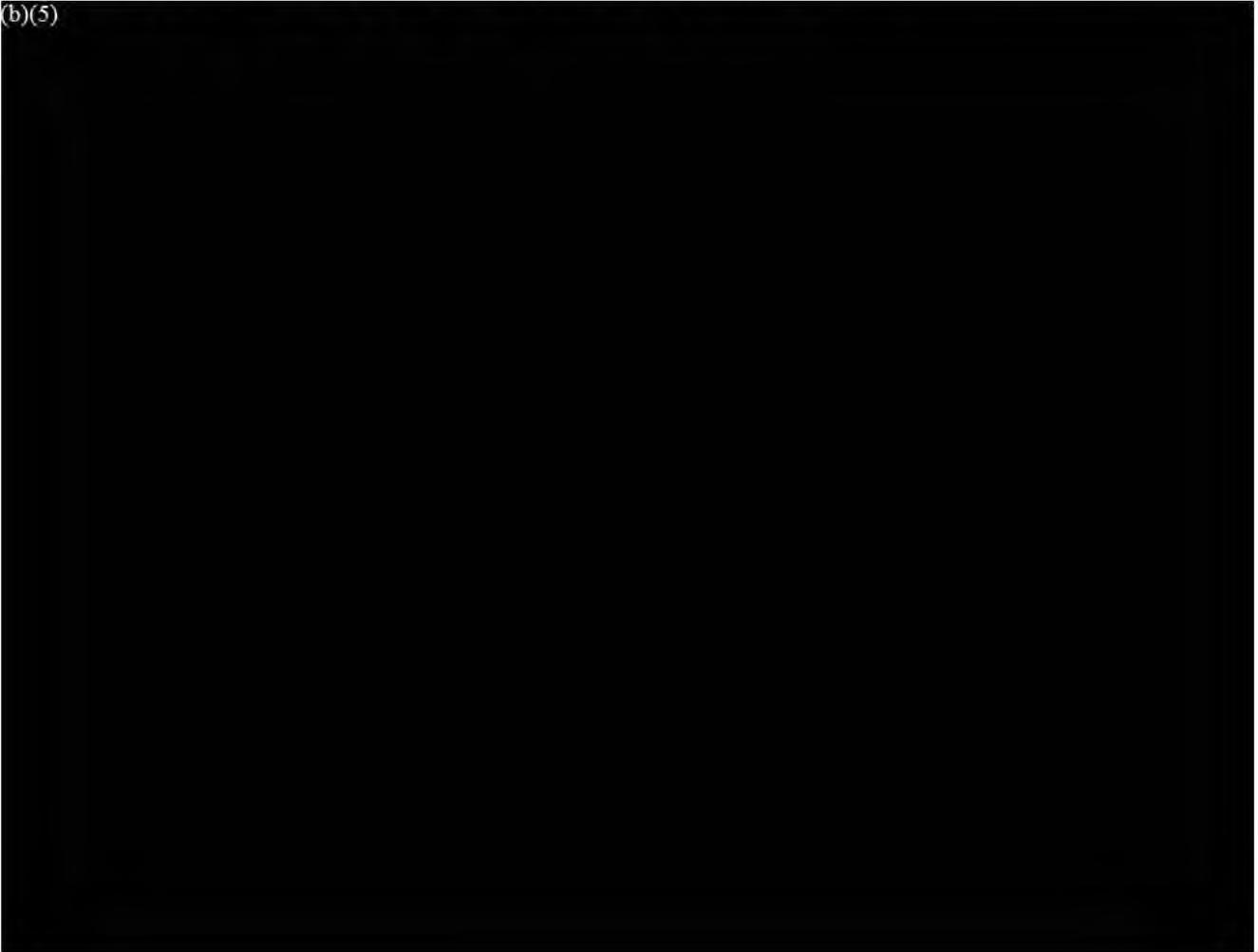
(b)(5)



**Question Title**

3. What is your target for FY24? What steps are you taking to prepare for the FY24 program? Do you anticipate any problems?

(b)(5)



(b)(5)



**Question Title**

4. How much timber volume and how many acres analyzed in NEPA documents is currently affected by litigation?

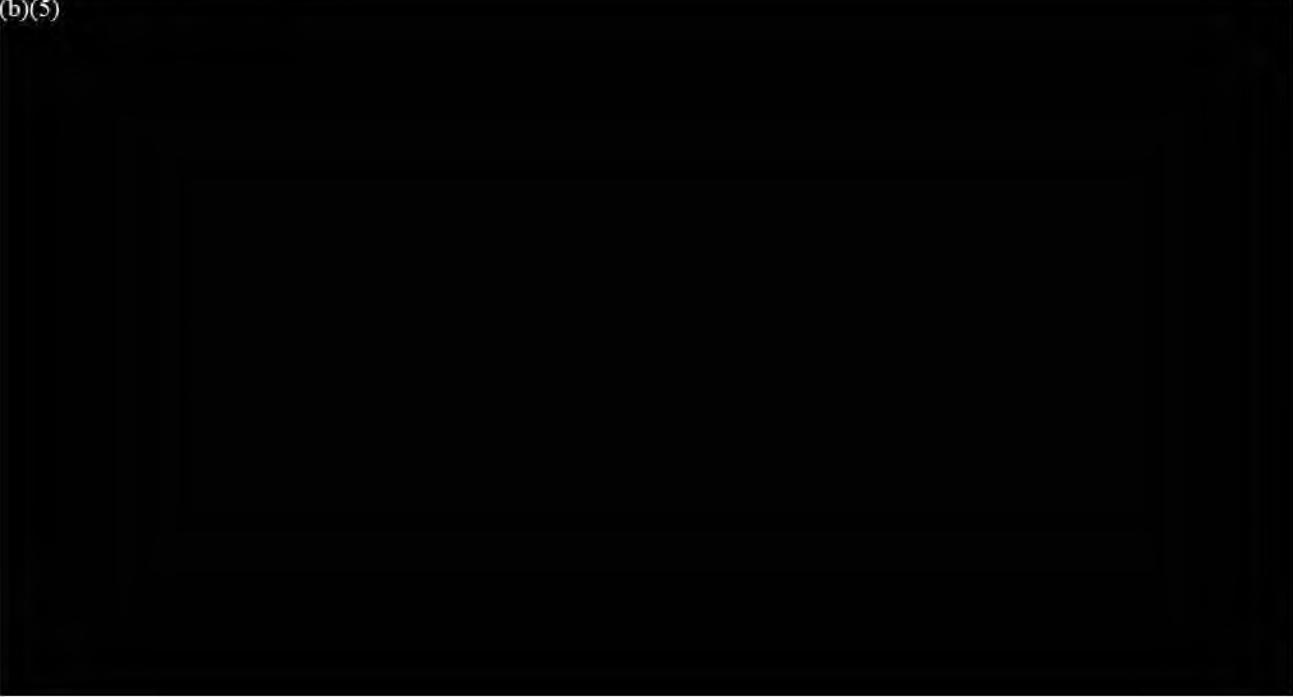
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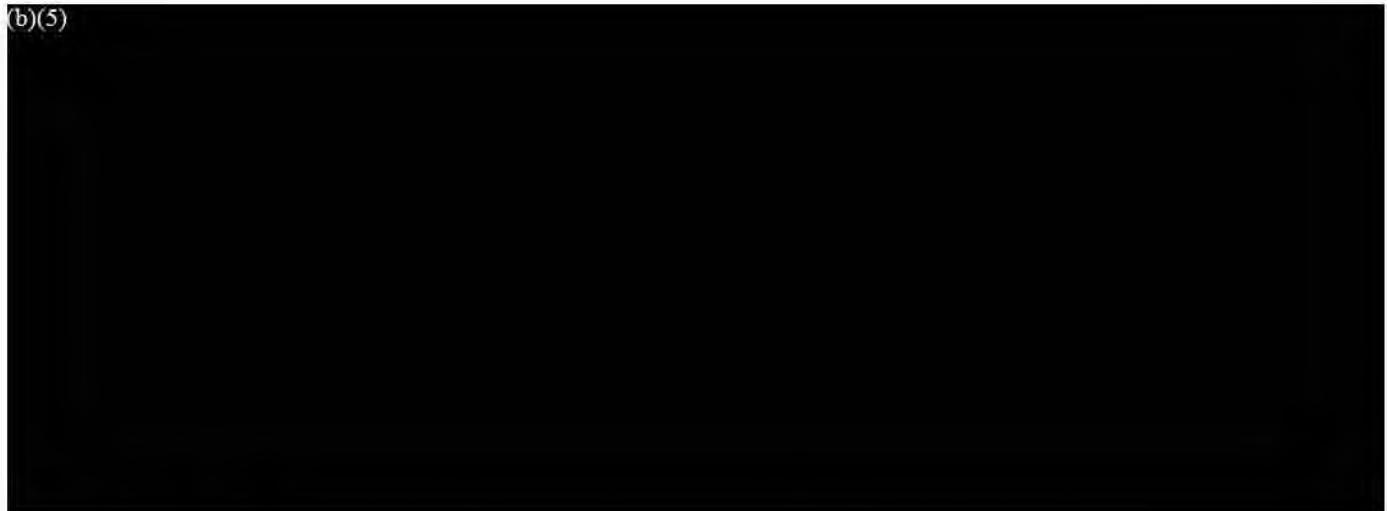
**Question Title**

5. How are external partners (NFF, NWTF, Mule Deer, etc.) being utilized to accomplish timber programs? How much of your target is being sold by external partners?

(b)(5)



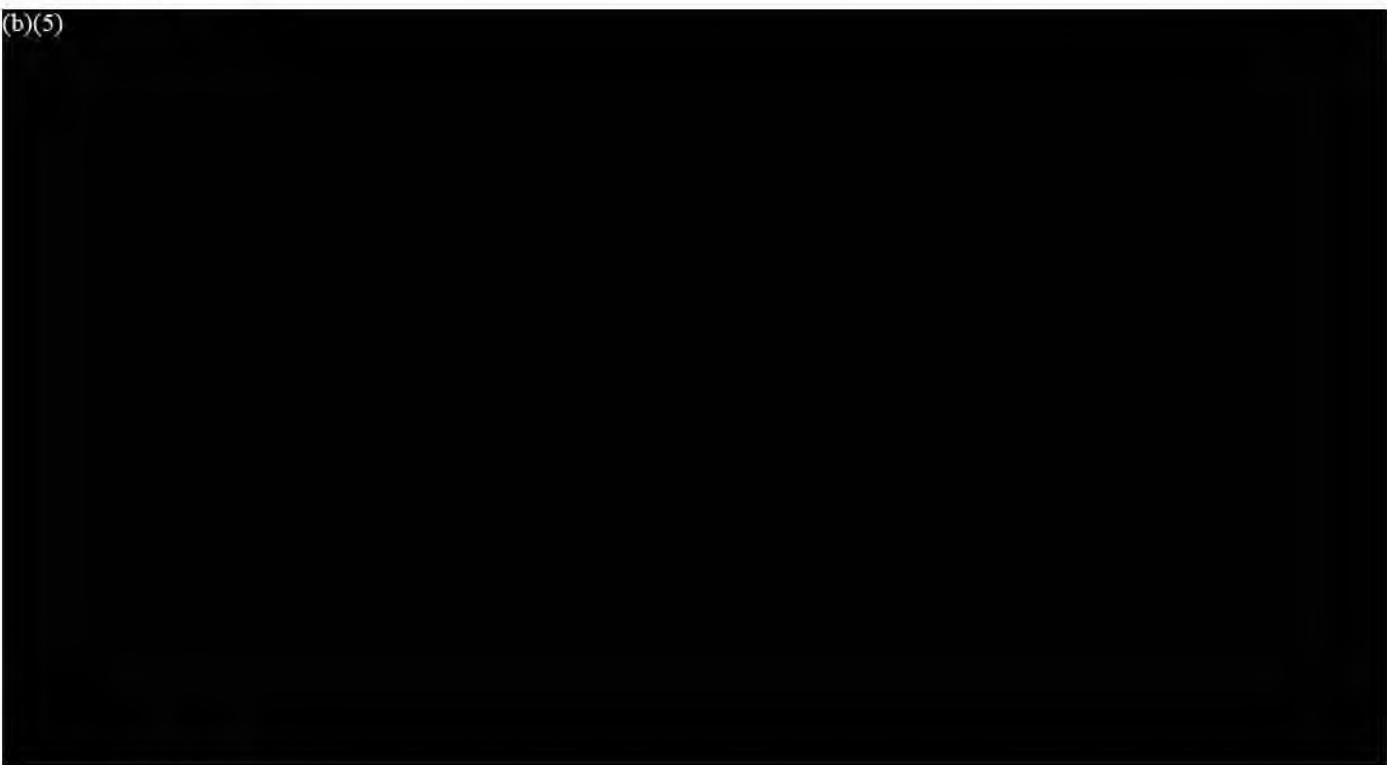
(b)(5)



**Question Title**

6. Did your unit have no bid sales in the 1st Half? If so, how are you responding? If you have carryover no bids from previous years, how are you handling those?

(b)(5)



**Question Title**

7. How much funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was allocated to your region for timber related projects?

(b)(5)



**Question Title**

8. Are you working with the fuels management staff to identify projects which can use timber harvest to achieve hazardous fuels reductions?

(b)(5)



**Question Title**

9. Does your Region have a BPA? If so, how is it working, and do you anticipate increased volume going out through the BPA?

(b)(5)



(b)(5)



**Question Title**

10. How much of the volume you've sold in the first half of FY 2023 was sold under the Good Neighbor Program?

(b)(5)



## FTPC Regional Response Forms

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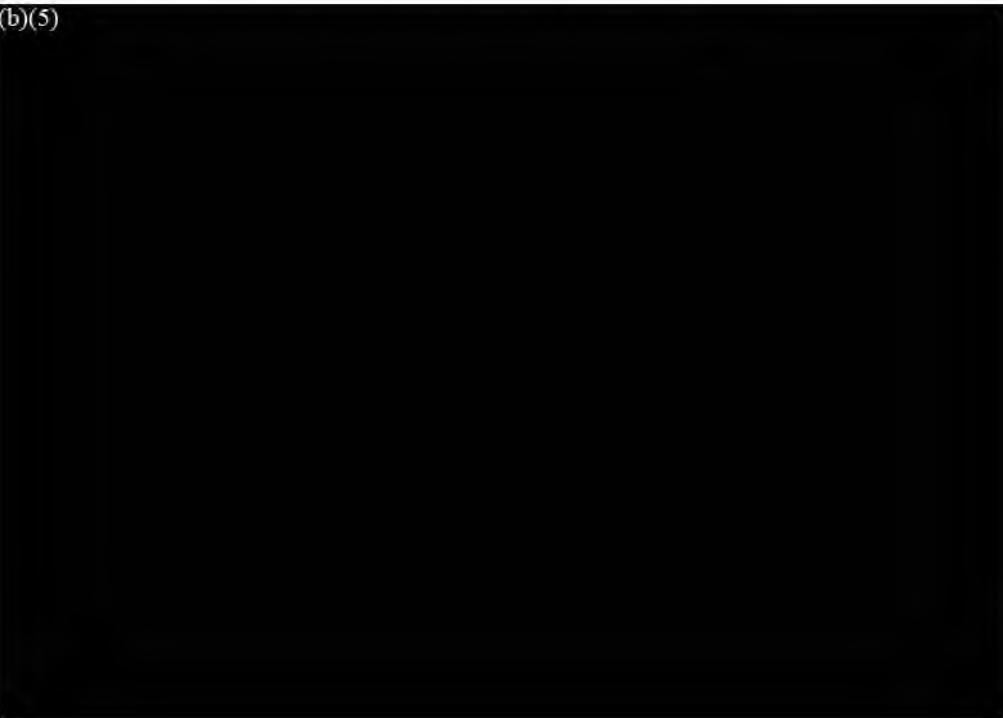
(b)(5)



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(b)(5)



(b)(5)



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(b)(5)



(b)(5)



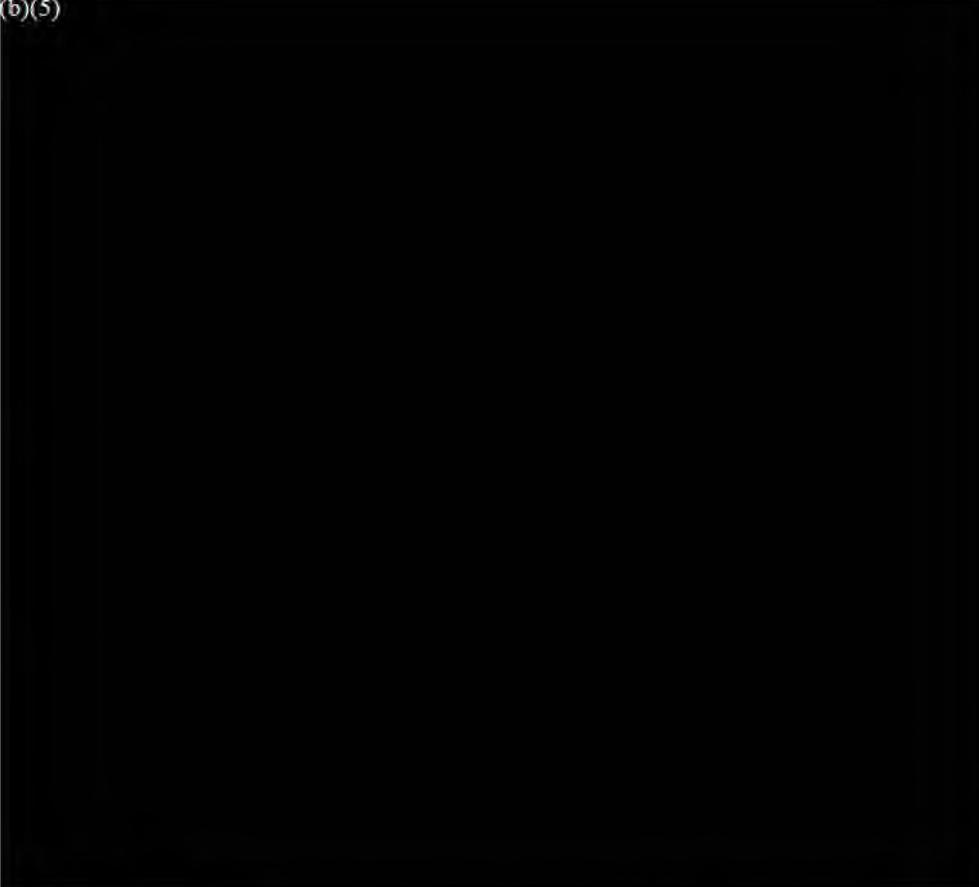
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5. How are external partners (NFF, NWTF, Mule Deer, etc.) being utilized to accomplish timber programs? How much of your target is being sold by external partners?

(b)(5)



(b)(5)



(b)(5)



**Question Title**

6. Did your unit have no bid sales in the 1st Half? If so, how are you responding? If you have carryover no bids from previous years, how are you handling those?

(b)(5)



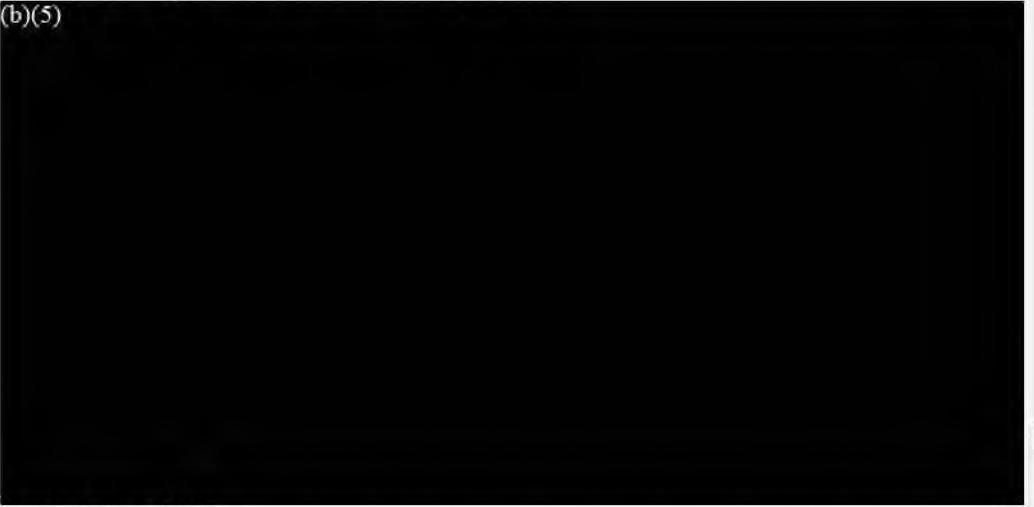
(b)(5)



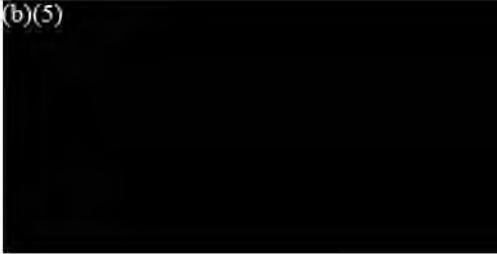
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(b)(5)



(b)(5)



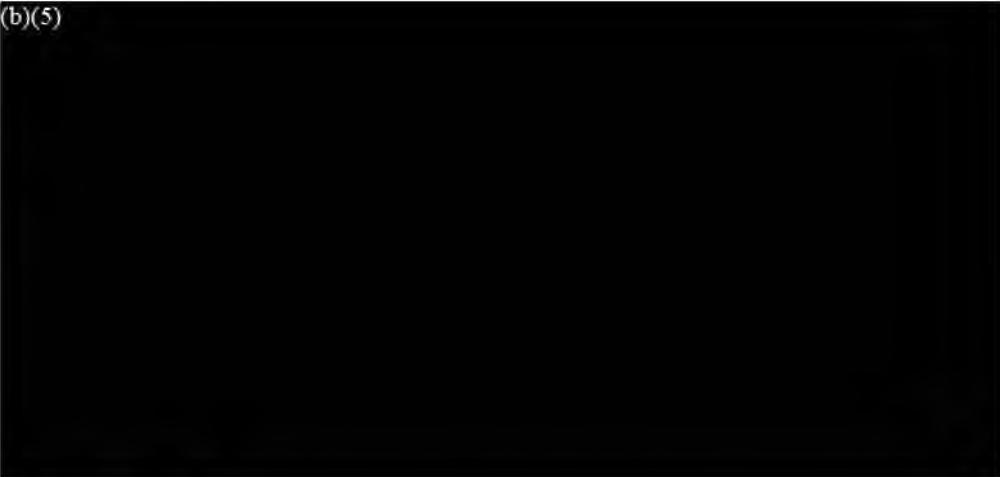
**Question Title**

8. Are you working with the fuels management staff to identify projects which can use timber harvest to achieve hazardous fuels reductions?

(b)(5)



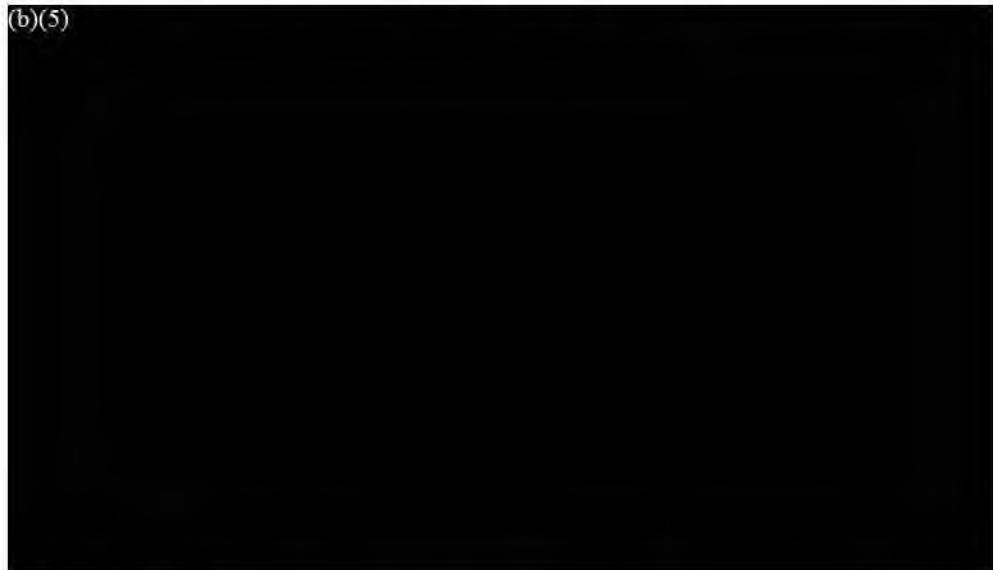
(b)(5)



**Question Title**

9. Does your Region have a BPA? If so, how is it working, and do you anticipate increased volume going out through the BPA?

(b)(5)



**Question Title**

10. How much of the volume you've sold in the first half of FY 2023 was sold under the Good Neighbor Program?

(b)(5)



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### Question Title

1. What percent of your FY23 target was accomplished in the 1st half? What factors affected your accomplishment to date?

As of April 1, 2023, Region 6 has awarded 141 MMBF of timber volume through various authorities including, but not limited to, standard FS timber sale contracts (2400-6), Stewardship, and Good Neighbor Authority. This is approx. 25% of the assigned 575 MMBF timber target for the Region for FY23. This is aligned with where the Region and Forest Service nationally is typically for attainment at this time in the fiscal year, attaining approx. 25% of the assigned target midway through the fiscal year.

-Staffing levels on all Forest units continue to be a challenge. Attrition, retirement, high cost of living, and a competitive market all seem to be factors that are affecting the Forest Service employment rate.

-The Region has experienced an uptick in litigation for both its salvage and green timber program.

-We have experienced an unusually wet winter with lots of snow which, in some cases, has limited the access for both Forest Service personnel and industry to access timber sale areas thus delaying sale layout and advertisement.

### Question Title

2. What steps are you taking to accomplish the remainder of your FY23 target in the 2nd half?

The Regional Office has been making quarterly conference calls with each Forest to discuss their progress toward timber target attainment. These conferences help to identify any challenges or issues that a forest may have encountered in the previous months and facilitates Forest-to-Forest and Regional Office support.

The Agency has made significant investments internally and with partners utilizing BIL funding. These investments include, but not limited to Tribal Forest Protection

Act, Good Neighbor Authority, and Stewardship. Through these mechanisms the Agency is able to leverage its workforce and increase its pace and scale.

The Region continues to embrace the use of Forest Products Modernization to expedite some of the internal process associated with timber sales (e.g., virtual boundaries, tethered logging systems, DxP, etc.).

In FY22/23 the Region is planning to hire 125 new foresters and forestry technicians. We anticipate a significant investment needed to train and develop newly hired employees, with most new employees within 2 years of graduation. Additionally, The Region is looking to add capacity through use of contractors, assistance from Enterprise, and assistance from neighboring regions to provide added capacity when and where possible.

**Question Title**

3. What is your target for FY24? What steps are you taking to prepare for the FY24 program? Do you anticipate any problems?

The Region's preliminary timber target for FY24 is 653 MMBF.

As stated in question 2, the Region continues to utilize multiple authorities to allocate BIL funds to in efforts to build capacity both internally and externally.

The Region has a focused effort to utilize group vacancy announcements where Forests share similar vacant positions. This has allowed the human resources department to fill multiple positions across the Region under a single announcement.

Region 6 anticipates continuing challenges to increase NEPA and prep shelf stock. The "3+1" strategy will bring greater focus on investments in planning and sale prep through both investments in funding and greater focus and monitoring. We will continue to invest significant time and money to ensure the Region attains its assigned timber target for FY24. The Region recently developed and released an Environmental Analysis and Decision Making (EADM) Guide to streamline NEPA and regulatory compliance as well as make better use of emergency authorities.

The uncertainty of wildfire is always a threat to National Forest Service lands. When wildfire occurs on the National Forest it is inevitable that Forest Service staff will need to address the effects of the wildfire. When this happens, focus on projects that are being planned is shifted to address these effects. This delays the planning

efforts focused on active management including, but not limited to; NEPA, sale prep, consultation, etc. Largescale, catastrophic fires in 2020 and 2021 affected many outyear timber sale planning efforts on several forests and the Region continues to rebuild and recover after these largescale events.

Litigation can cause delays in outyear planning. With an emphasis on Environmental Analysis and Decision Making (EADM) the Region strives to have more focused proposed actions and clear/concise decision rational which should lessen the likelihood of litigation.

**Question Title**

4. How much timber volume and how many acres analyzed in NEPA documents is currently affected by litigation?

In FY 2023, litigation has affected two sales on two forests for a total of 32 MMBF and an estimated 3,200 acres. For the remainder of FY23 we anticipate another seven sales affected totaling another 100 MMBF and 10,000 acres.

(b)(5)

**Question Title**

5. How are external partners (NFF, NWTF, Mule Deer, etc.) being utilized to accomplish timber programs? How much of your target is being sold by external partners?

Currently the Region has sold approximately 27 MMBF of timber through the Good Neighbor Authority (5% of total volume sold to date this FY). This number will likely increase in the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of the fiscal year. This will also likely change as units execute Supplemental Project Agreements that include merchantable timber.

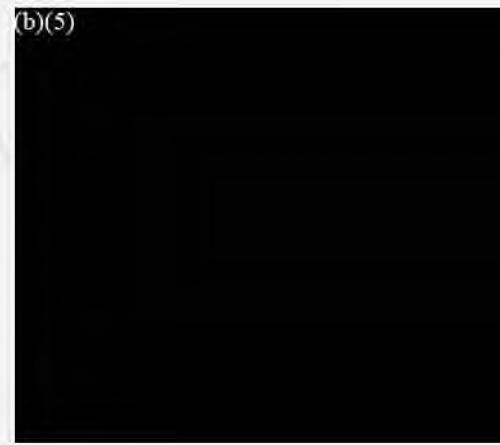
A Regional SPA with NWTF is being considered by the Fremont-Winema, Deschutes, and Ochoco national forests. This new SPA would be tiered to the National Master Stewardship Agreement with NWTF. This would provide and increase in pace and scale of implementation on these forests. Volumes and acres of work are being reviewed and not finalized at this time.

**Question Title**

6. Did your unit have no bid sales in the 1st Half? If so, how are you responding? If you have carryover no bids from previous years, how are you handling those?

Yes, Region 6 had a total of 2 newly advertised sales that went no bid in the first half of the fiscal year 2023. One of these sales was readvertised and awarded while the second is delayed due to snow. The Region has been able to readvertise and award 7 of 9 carryover no bid sales from FY 21 and 22.

(b)(5)



The Regional Office is working closely with the timber staff and contracting officers on the forests where no bids occurred (GP, OLY, and UMA). We are soliciting feedback from industry as to why the sales went no bid and carefully reviewing the contract packages to make any necessary adjustments in order to make sure future contract packages are attractive to prospective purchasers.

Forests are expected to focus on any carryover volume from FY 22 early in the fiscal year. Efforts should be made to either advertise or, in the case of no bid, seek industry input, adjust contract packages as needed, and readvertise ASAP. ~~Carryover volume is not counted as part of a forest's assigned FY 23 timber target. This volume is viewed as supplemental timber volume sold in the fiscal year.~~

**Question Title**

7. How much funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was allocated to your region for timber related projects?

In FY22 the Region received \$7.0M in BIL (NITX) funding for timber related projects and \$33.9M in BIL for hazardous fuels reduction work in the wildfire crisis landscapes (Central Oregon and Central Washington Initiative). In FY23 the Region just recently received \$11.2M in BIL (NITX) funding for timber related projects; \$7.8M in BIL (NIHX) for TFPA and restoration fuels biochar work; and \$75.2M in combination of BIL and IRA for continued hazardous fuels reduction work in the wildfire crisis landscapes (Central Oregon and Central Washington Initiative as well as the three newly identified landscapes in Region 6: Colville, Mt. Hood, and Fremont-Winema as part of the Klamath Basin).

**Question Title**

8. Are you working with the fuels management staff to identify projects which can use timber harvest to achieve hazardous fuels reductions?

Yes, timber and fuels staff work together at the Regional and Forest level to develop projects that meet desired outcomes to protect communities and restore landscapes. Commercial and non-commercial treatments are essential to meeting the goals and objectives on the ground. Strategically placed treatments that mitigate fuels based on best available science may have low value material. However, the Region and Forests recognize the importance of local infrastructure and build outyear plans that aim to meet needs on the ground while providing reliable quantities of timber to local industry. Treatments associated with fuels that have marginal timber value may require the use of IRTC's, IRSC's, or partnerships to effectively accomplish the work at hand.

**Question Title**

9. Does your Region have a BPA? If so, how is it working, and do you anticipate increased volume going out through the BPA?

Yes, the Region has multiple BPAs across various resource areas. Within the Natural Resources Directorate, Regional Stewardship Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPAs) are used to establish vendor pools per National Forests for procuring forest restoration and vegetation management services. Once established, contractors with BPA awards are contacted via email to notify them of upcoming projects. This has proven to be a valuable tool to expedite treatments by shortening procurement timelines and improving relationships with local contractors and industry.

These BPAs can be used for Stewardship projects, disaster recovery projects, and will be a vital tool for increasing pace and scale of treatments in priority landscapes and high risk firesheds. BPA Call Orders may include Integrated Resource Service Contracts (IRSCs) with required timber product removal; service based IRSCs that include optional Timber Subject to Agreement products to be removed when there is

no required timber product removal; or be service contracts in which no timber product removal is included.

**Question Title**

10. How much of the volume you've sold in the first half of FY 2023 was sold under the Good Neighbor Program?

As of April 1, 2023, the Region has sold approximately 27 MMBF with the use of Good Neighbor Authority.

FTPC, Denver CO

Wed 5/3/2023

**-Introductions**

- Andy reminding how important our relationship is with industry and USFS
- Jim Smalls intro and leaders intent message (touched on appraisals and desire to increase timber production in the USFS)
- Chad V. speaking to appraisals and welcome
- Shoemaker with BLM intro and welcome (MOG executive order)

**Timber Program Direction and IIJA/IRA Implementation**

-Chris French welcome and recognition of Buck and relationship building. The FS situation has been chaotic and we've had a shift to a fire organization. Lack of active management, climate change, low staffing, and increased fire on the landscape. DxP, stewardship contracting, and thinking outside the box. Feeling better about how we are moving forward utilizing the new resources to accomplish work for the FS. IIJA/BIL funding gave us the ability to augment our staffing. Lots of the money came in the form of fuels reduction, but we have been creative in doing fuels reduction that produces volume and forest products. We are struggling to hire people! We have field going people moving up into greater leadership positions. Our partners are assisting us in many ways to increase pace and scale. BIL funding is mostly focused on building capacity and outyear treatments vs. IRA being focused on shelf ready implementation. Funding for NEPA efficiencies and outside contracting to build a trajectory of a successful path. Our NF are rapidly changing (30% of southern Sierra Nevada have become unforested; insect & disease and fire). Culmination of many things creating a very bad situation. Without action we are going to lose our MOG, but how do we take action? Illustrating the findings in the MOG E.O. We need to have science driving our decisions and veer away from opinion based decision making.

IRA/IIJA – We've initially focused on our priority landscapes and then moving out from there. We have been granted emergency authority to target 27 mil acres of NFS lands. Why aren't we doing things differently on landscapes that we know are going to burn up?

Q: Steve Brink - the FS has the tools to implement 10 yr strategy. How can we help move quicker to accomplish treatments on the ground. Type conversion in S. Lake Tahoe is happening more rapidly and we need to move quicker.

A: Chris French - Capacity from the boots on the ground is across the board. We are nationally trying to make the hard choices to bolster our staffing levels. Congress has done some interesting things with our ingredients as far as funding. Challenges in obligating the funds under appropriations law.

Q: How are you allocating money to regions that aren't at wildfire risk?

A: Allocating appropriated funds for forest management to those regions. Replacing TM dollars with BIL funds. Moving other BIL/IRA funds to those regions.

Q: Species listing and effects to active management. How can industry help dialogue with Agencies regarding species management and consultation/preservation of listed species.

A: We are working to staff up Agencies to assist with broader consultation efforts. Most species that are listed live in niche habitats. Don't criticize the USFS when we are having conversations with USFWS and NOAA as we have our eye on the ball with project based management.

Chris – I want to increase some of the consultants that represent industry and help guide some of our decisions as we are losing some of this corporate knowledge. Retired industry folks, ACES, etc.

85% of NEPA decisions are CE's. We are trying to get larger decisions that typically don't fit into CE categories and thus we utilized EA's and EIS's. We get litigated all the time and often that forces us to use EA's & EIS's.

Andy Geissler - There are stakeholders that don't want to see the FS use CE's. Industry would like to support the use of CE's and taking risk.

Chris French – R6 under Glens leadership did not embrace EADM and Liz is now being told to use EADM in a more efficient manner.

Bill (FTPC) – There is a concern that non-commercial treatments will pull resources that are focused on commercial treatments away from those areas when NEPA is completed.

Chris French - Offer the projects up with commercial treatments and we will figure out the utilization of the products.

Steve (Director) – We are working across resource boundaries to address how and where we can utilize some of these funds that are earmarked under BIL/IRA. Fuels and Veg management are symbiotic in nature.

Iron Triangle – Over value the products and under value the service work that needs to be done under stewardship. The process is not broken, but the data that is input is incorrect.

Chris French – Yes, we are asking to create significant changes in our appraisal process to be more reflective of the emergency situation we are in. We are often asking the removal of a product not for it's value, but because it's a threat.

21 priority landscapes (165 of the 250 fire sheds are priority landscapes)

There has been 3 directions to utilize the emergency authority. If you doing high risk work in a high risk fire shed use HFRA and those authorities!

Amanda – Are there key performance measures that the FS is using?

Chris French – We are working on how we will build this into performance for units.

#### **FS Sale Program (Mike Spisak)**

-Target is 3.5 billion board feet. We are currently around 32% nationally.

-Utilizing new authorities, GNA, and we need to get funding to the field sooner (WO). We are trying to dramatically improve the efficiency of funds getting to unit. It's going to be difficult to meet our targets this year. G to Z update from PPS.

-For FY 24 we are asking the field to increase treatments and outputs (acres and volume). 3.6 billion BF in the next year. Shooting for 4 billion by FY 26.

-Risks? NEPA is a challenge. Hand to mouth NEPA and timber sales. Wildfire season is a risk. Our intent is to develop a more resilient program (NEPA shelf life).

High Cascade (Garrett) – Keep the present in mind while planning out year projects. It's going to be difficult to sustain outputs with our current process. We are trending toward consolidation.

Q: Colins Pine – Staffing is a real issue. How are we adapting to staffing issues when you know you won't be able to meet the staffing levels that you know you need?

Q: Volume under contract. We need to plan for that and keep volume under contract. Contractor availability and seasonal restrictions. Don't take volume under contract as if we don't need volume, it's our ability to log and the timing of that.

A: Mike – GNA, keystone agreements, and other hiring authorities. Engagement with partners outside of our current policy and regs.

Q: FTPC (Steve) – Make marginal projects more valuable. Only treating 20-35% of potential.

A: Consider all objectives and meet with other resources (sale admin vs. silviculture).

Q: Conditions based operations season. Allow ground based ops on steeper slopes.

A: Looking at tethered logging ops (R6)

Q: Fire effects and NEPA analysis. How is the FS dealing with that and avoiding re-analyzing NEPA.

BREAK

BLM updates

#### **GNA**

-Rob Barnhart intro to Stewardship and GNA

-Tom with NWTF discussing partnership with the FS and how they are working to provide services under the GNA.

-Timber Transport Project discussion

Q: How are we monitoring accomplishments and meeting the needs of the agreement?

A: Much of the language is included in the MSA and also includes using a Forest level bidders list to make sure they are notified and have opportunities.

Q: How is NWTF working with local trade associations? Local logging capacity?

A: Still building the capacity and don't have an answer just yet. It's a pilot project and we need to talk to local industry to figure it out. We want to be transparent. We are using local logging capacity and will soon be outreaching to local communities.

Q: Are you involving industry about the needs? Developing regional SPAs and inputs from industry.

A: We have a lot of work to do and are seeking inputs locally. We are being diligent and are going into this with eyes wide open. We have experience in the field (40 yrs).

### **Lunch**

#### **NFF (Marcus)**

- Alignment with FS mission
- Staff approaching 100 by the end of the calendar year
- last year \$19 mil in forest health and \$6 mil in recreation and added 28 staff members
- Foresters, project finance, and implementation
- Very much an implementation organization and do a lot of outsourcing/contracting to industry and private contractors.
- R6 has \$15.1 mil in MSA
- Distribution of RFP are mostly larger than the FS list of contractors
- 7-8 years of history with zero NO BID projects
- Patrick Shannon, Pacific Northwest POC

#### **Mature and Old Growth (Jamie)**

- Same presentation that was given the day prior
- Utilizing multiple metrics to define mature and old growth (characteristics of stand)
- Age was not considered in the analysis
- Fire shed analysis using approx. 250 K acres = fire shed
- May have additional opportunities for management to protect these conditions
- 61 thousand square miles of MOG

#### **No bid research paper presentation**

-

Spring FTPC Q&A  
Phoenix, AZ  
May 7-9th, 2024

1. What percent of your FY23 target was accomplished in the 1st half?  
What factors affected your accomplishment to date?

**As of 4/12/2024 the region accomplished 19% of the WO assigned target of 611 MMBF and 18% of the regionally assigned target of 648 MMBF.**

**The Region anticipates continued challenges to increase NEPA and prep shelf in FY 24 and beyond, but also has a continued need to focus on wildfire response. The Region is actively adjusting the (3+1 strategy) as it receives timber target assignments to from the WO. As timber targets increase, Forests are being forced to move out-year sales forward in the queue to meet their assigned timber targets. This reduces the number of timber sales that have NEPA coverage and often decreases the number of timber sales that are being prepped according to the (3+1 strategy).**

(b)(5)

(b)(5)

**the potential to effect timber sales under contract, recently completed NEPA decisions with upcoming sales, and NEPA decisions currently in progress. The Region is carefully navigating challenges from litigation and will continue to work with litigants in order to find common ground and proceed with projects.**

**Staffing continues to be a challenge as the Region faces attrition, retirement, and staff accepting positions outside of the region. We are utilizing all the authorities given to the agency to fill vacancies. These include, but are not limited to; Schedule A, Veterans Hiring, collective hiring events, recent grads, etc.**

2. What steps are you taking to accomplish the remainder of your FY23 target in the 2nd half?

**The NR Director and staff have increased the frequency of meetings with Forest Supervisors to bi-monthly to assess progress on FY 24 timber sales. This communication is critical as we track sales throughout the year and target investments, where needed, to be successful in meeting the FY 24 timber target.**

**The region successfully hired 48 employees through the 2023 hiring event in Sacramento CA. Due to budget constraints approximately 13 of those positions are on hold.**

3. What is your target for FY24? What steps are you taking to prepare for the FY24 program? Do you anticipate any problems?

**FY25 targets have not yet been assigned to regions from the WO. However, preliminary targets for the Region in FY25 were estimated in FY23 by the WO at 646 MMBF. This number will likely change as we move into FY25.**

**The Region continues to implement a strategic 5-year plan focused on deepening our volume approved under NEPA as well as prepped volume entering each FY. The goal is for each Forest to have 3 times its annual volume under decision and 1 year of sale prep volume entering each FY (3+1 strategy).**

**At the start of FY 2024, the Region had 1,214 MMBF under a NEPA decision (64% of the targeted level under the 3+1 Strategy) and 189 MMBF prepped for sale (30% of the targeted level).**

**Additionally, the 2024 wildfire season is uncertain and has the potential to affect planning to meet FY25 timber targets.**

4. How much timber volume and how many acres analyzed in NEPA documents is currently affected by litigation?

(b)(5)



5. How are external partners (NFF, NWTF, Mule Deer, etc.) being utilized to accomplish timber programs? How much of your target is being sold by external partners?

At the national level, we now have 13 Keystone Agreements with funding targets up to \$567M to add partner capacity to help us get our work done.

**Previous agreements:**

- National Forest Foundation (aspirational limit: \$240M; obligated to date: \$152M),
- National Wild Turkey Federation (aspirational limit: \$50M; obligated to date: \$31M),
- Mule Deer Foundation (aspirational limit: \$60M; obligated to date: \$29M)
- The Nature Conservancy (aspirational limit: \$50M; obligated to date: \$40M)
- The Student Conservation Association (\$12M fully funded for 5 years)
- Trout Unlimited (aspirational limit: \$40M; obligated to date: \$58M)
- AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps (\$15M fully funded for 5 years).

**New Agreements FY 2024**

- Minority Farmers of the South (MFS) (aspirational: \$5M)
- National Baptist Convention (NBC) Office of Disaster Management (aspirational: \$20M)
- PEK Services (aspirational: \$20M)
- American Forests (aspirational: \$20M)
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (\$35M fully funded)
- Arbor Day Foundation (in development)
- Tribal Keystone Agreements (aspirational: \$100M).

In the first half of FY24 approximately 18.2 MMBF was sold under the GNA program.

In FY23 as part of the Pilot Timber Transit Assistance Program NWTF was successfully awarded 8 MMBF on the Fremont-Winema NF under the Hawks Project. This project is nearing its completion.

Additionally, approximately 17.6 MMBF was also awarded under two sale areas to Patriot Restoration Operations (PROPS) in FY23 through a SPA with the Fremont-Winema NF. The advertisement and sales of this material will soon be solicited by the partner and available to industry.

**The Region continues to explore opportunities with external partners to increase the pace and scale of restoration activities and supply ample forest products available to industry.**

6. Did your unit have no bid sales in the 1st Half? If so, how are you responding? If you have carryover no bids from previous years, how are you handling those?

**We had two sales that went no bid in the 1<sup>st</sup> half totaling 3.9 MMBF. The Forest is currently working with local purchasers to make any necessary adjustments to the sales for readvertisement.**

**There were 5 sales totaling 20.4 MMBF in FY23 that carried over into FY24. One sale totaling 14.3 MMBF was reoffered and sold. The remaining sales have deteriorated to a point of zero value (salvage) or are currently being looked at in collaboration with local purchasers to be readvertised.**

7. How much funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was allocated to your region for timber related projects?

**FY24 (not all funds yet received from the WO and the final budget still to be released):**

- **BIL (NIKX): com. thinning, shaded fuel breaks -- \$5.5M**
- **BIL (NILX/NIWX): watershed restoration and revegetation -- \$3.5M**
- **BIL (NIAX/NIPX): GNA and TFPA Projects (recommended, not rcv'd) -- \$7.7M**
- **BIL/IRA Wildfire Crisis Landscapes: hazardous fuels reduction -- \$63.3M**
- **IRA (IRVM): watershed restoration --\$5.6M**

8. Are you working with the fuels management staff to identify projects which can use timber harvest to achieve hazardous fuels reductions?

**Natural Resources and Fire and Aviation Management in the Region are highly integrated and work together frequently on an integrated program of work that produces mutually beneficial outcomes for risk reduction and contribution to timber volume outputs. As part of the bi-monthly meetings with the Forest Supervisors fuels and timber accomplished are specifically addressed and reported on as to progress made to date, successes, and potential challenges.**

**Focus on PODs (Potential Operational Delineations) and PCLs (Potential Control Lines)** – launched a pilot project in partnership with industry on the Willamette National forest, \$14.7M allocated in FY23.

**As part of the \$14.7M, in FY24 the Willamette NF has obligated/committed \$12.7M on multiple projects across the forest. The result of these investments include:**

- 5,221 acres of proposed treatment (commercial and non-commercial)
- 303 miles road maintenance for access
- 31,681 acres of surveys for phased implementation on an additional 163 miles of roads.

**9. Does your Region have a BPA? If so, how is it working, and do you anticipate increased volume going out through the BPA?**

(b)(5)

**The Forest Service is interested in developing new transportation modes to ensure all forest products necessary to maintain or enhance forest resilience can go to market (e.g., removal of hazardous fuels).**

**This Basic Ordering Agreement (BOA) is part of a PILOT project that has been designed to incentivize removal of deficit haul and/or surplus Federal timber products by providing alternative disposal outlets.**

**The overall objectives of the incentive are:**

- 1. Remove hazardous fuels from NFS lands that would otherwise not be treated or not treated within acceptable time frames for increasing pace and scale goals of forest restoration.**
- 2. Ensure timber product facilities and industry remain viable and operational.**

**3. Establish and/or modernize the existing infrastructure for transporting forest products.**

**4. Provide forest products to new and/or emerging facilities and markets.**

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Phoenix, AZ  
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1. What percent of your FY23 target was accomplished in the 1st half? What factors affected your accomplishment to date?

**As of 4/12/2024 the region accomplished 19% of the preliminary WO assigned target of 611 MMBF.**

**Litigation continues to be an ongoing challenge. The eastside forests are under litigation for projects that relied on the Eastside Screens Amendment, and received an unfavorable ruling in the District Court of Oregon. This has the potential to affect timber sales under contract, recently completed NEPA decisions with upcoming sales, and NEPA decisions currently in progress. The Region is assessing the impact of the decision and making any adjustments we can to stay on track to meet target.**

**Staffing continues to be a challenge as the Region faces attrition, retirement, and staff accepting positions outside of the region. We are utilizing all the authorities given to the Agency to fill vacancies. These include, but are not limited to, Schedule A, Veterans Hiring, collective hiring events, recent grads, etc.**

2. What steps are you taking to accomplish the remainder of your FY23 target in the 2nd half?

**The NR Director and staff have increased the frequency of meetings with Forest Supervisors to bi-monthly to assess progress on FY 24 timber sales. This communication is critical as we track sales throughout the year and target investments, where needed, to be successful in meeting the FY 24 timber target.**

**The region successfully offered jobs to 47 candidates through the 2023 hiring event at the SAF National Convention in Sacramento CA. Due to budget constraints approximately 13 of those positions are on hold.**

3. What is your target for FY24? What steps are you taking to prepare for the FY24 program? Do you anticipate any problems?

**The preliminary target assigned to the region by the WO is 637 MMBF, but this number may change.**

**The Region continues to maintain a strategic 5-year plan to ensure a steady supply of timber projects are being developed to meet targets each year. The Region's goal is for each forest to have 3 years' worth of timber volume under NEPA decision and 1 year's worth of sale prep volume entering each FY by the end of FY 2026 (the 3+1 strategy). By reaching this goal, the Region will be able to achieve an operationally sustainable timber program and provide purchasers with a consistent and predictable volume of timber for sale year to year, as well as a more even distribution of timber sales within the FY (not strongly concentrated in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter).**

**At the start of FY 2024, the Region had 1,214 MMBF under a NEPA decision (64% of the targeted level under the 3+1 Strategy) and 189 MMBF prepped for sale (30% of the targeted level).**

4. How much timber volume and how many acres analyzed in NEPA documents is currently affected by litigation?

**We are currently doing these assessments.**

5. How are external partners (NFF, NWTF, Mule Deer, etc.) being utilized to accomplish timber programs? How much of your target is being sold by external partners?

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**Supervisors, fuels and timber accomplishments are specifically addressed and reported on as to progress made to date, successes, and potential challenges.**

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- 303 miles road maintenance for access**
- 31,681 acres of surveys for phased implementation on an additional 163 miles of roads.**

**9. Does your Region have a BPA? If so, how is it working, and do you anticipate increased volume going out through the BPA?**

**We have recently developed a new Basic Ordering Agreement (BOA) as part of a pilot project that has been designed to incentivize removal of deficit haul and/or surplus Federal timber products by providing alternative disposal outlets to facilitate removal of hazardous fuels.**

**The overall objectives of the incentive are:**

- 1. Remove hazardous fuels from NFS lands that would otherwise not be treated or not treated within acceptable time frames for increasing pace and scale goals of forest restoration.**
- 2. Ensure timber product facilities and industry remain viable and operational.**
- 3. Establish and/or modernize the existing infrastructure for transporting forest products.**
- 4. Provide forest products to new and/or emerging facilities and markets.**

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**In the first half of FY24 approximately 15.2 MMBF was sold under the GNA program.**



# Federal Timber Purchasers Committee

Fall Meeting  
October 27, 2022  
Coeur d'Alene  
Joint Meeting

*"We need to get the purchasers of the Federal timber sales involved so that we could identify what the market needs are, and then we can establish our timber program according to those needs."*

– Former Chief Victoria Christiansen – April 15, 2021



## **FEDERAL TIMBER PURCHASERS COMMITTEE**

### **POLICY STATEMENT ON COMPLIANCE WITH ANTITRUST LAWS IN GENERAL**

Fair and vigorous competition is essential to the maintenance of this country's free enterprise system. In furtherance of this principle, all activities are to be conducted in strict compliance with antitrust laws. Staff, officers, directors, members, and committee members are reminded that they are required to comply with the spirit and requirements of the antitrust laws.

A free exchange of ideas on matters of mutual interest to representatives of forest product manufacturers, distributors, and others is necessary for the success of all meetings. Such an exchange of views is essential to the successful operation of every trade association. It is not the purpose of this policy to discourage the exploration in depth of any matter of legitimate concern to meeting participants. Nevertheless, to ignore certain antitrust ground rules, either through ignorance or otherwise, is to create a hazard businessmen cannot afford.

The Sherman Antitrust Act, The Clayton Act, the Federal Trade Commission Act, and the Robinson-Patman Act comprise the basic federal antitrust laws, which set forth the broad areas of conduct considered illegal as restraints of trade. In general, agreements or understandings between competitors that operate as an impediment to free and open competition are forbidden. The broad language of the Clayton Act suggests the scope of federal antitrust prohibitions by forbidding any "agreement or understanding...to substantially lessen competition or tend to create a monopoly in any line of commerce."

For lumber manufacturers and distributors, the general prohibitions contained in the federal antitrust laws have been particularized in the form of a series of consent decrees which were entered into in 1941 against a number of lumber manufacturing and retailing trade associations. Included in activities and practices which are forbidden, both under the general antitrust laws and these consent decrees, are the following:

- Discussing the fixing or regulating of prices, markups, or the conditions or terms for the sale of lumber or wood products.
- Discussing the establishment of geographic trading areas, allocation of markets or customers, or classification of certain customers as being entitled to preferential treatment by manufacturers of lumber or wood products.
- Discussing or participating in any plan designed to induce any manufacturer or distributor of lumber or wood products to sell or refrain from selling, or discriminate in favor of or against any particular customer or class of customers.
- Discussing limiting or restricting the quantity of lumber or wood products to be produced.
- Discussing or participating in any plan designed to control the means of transportation or channels through which lumber or wood products may be sold.
- Discussing or participating in any plan which has the effect of discriminating against or excluding competitors.

This is, at best, only a general outline of some of the areas which pose antitrust dangers in discussions between competitors and between sellers and their customers. They are provided to guide discussions during meetings, and in connection with social or other gatherings on those occasions.

If any question arises about an item on a meeting agenda, it should be reviewed by legal counsel before the meeting. If the question does not arise until the meeting has begun, or if a questionable topic is about to be discussed in connection with any gathering, whether or not a formal meeting, that discussion should be immediately stopped and not resumed until approved by legal counsel.



## **Federal Timber Purchasers Committee**

### **Purpose, Goals, and Strategy**

The Federal Timber Purchasers Committee was formed in 1962 at the behest of Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman who sought an entity to be the principal point of communication between the Forest Service and the timber industry on matters relating to timber sales and the timber sale contract. Since its creation, the FTPC has, with the help of the Forest Service, functioned continuously to fulfill the role that Secretary Freeman envisioned for it, discussing with the Forest Service, among other things, the structure of the basic timber sale contract and related matters, appropriate modifications thereto, and inconsistent or inappropriate administration of the contract and the program.

Consistent with Executive Order No. 12866, September 30, 1993, which urges federal agencies, even with respect to proposed rulemakings, to "seek the involvement of those who are intended to benefit from and those who are expected to be burdened by the regulation." The FTPC, because of the breadth and talent of its members, remains well equipped to continue the role for which it was created, i.e., to be the place where the Forest Service and BLM can, in the words of the Executive Order, 'explore consensual mechanisms for developing regulations and the like.'

While it primarily focused on contract issues for many decades, the FTPC has evolved into a model collaborative effort between the timber industry and the Forest Service. It provides a forum for airing of issues and gives both the agency and its customers the opportunity to understand each other's internal and external challenges. Once largely a forum for conflict over particular contract clauses, the FTPC serves as a forum where both the Forest Service

and timber industry engage in constructive dialogue with an eye towards resolving disputes.

This approach, with frank but respectful exchanges, has quickly identified and resolved issues which have come up as new authorities have been enacted, and as the focus of the timber program has changed over the years. FTPC has methodically identified issues with new tools like Stewardship Contracts, Stewardship Agreements, Good Neighbor Authority, Designation by Prescription, and worked with great success to effect positive changes.

**Purpose:**

Historically, the role of the FTPC has been to ensure that Federal timber sales are economically and operationally feasible, the terms of the contract are fair, and all timber sold is available for harvest, and to provide support to federal agencies to maximize their ability to meet forest plan timber production goals. As we near the third decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, traditional timber sales are no longer the only vehicle by which forest management is accomplished. Indeed, FTPC members now acquire federal timber not only through traditional timber sale contracts but also through Stewardship Contracts and Agreements, as well as contracts let under Good Neighbor Authority.

**Goals:**

To assure that

- The acquisition of federal timber can be accomplished economically and in an operationally feasible manner.
- A process for acquiring federal timber exists that ensures fair competition while avoiding undue burdens on potential contractors.
- Contracts and agreements are understandable, equitable, and secure the rights of the contract holder.
- Timber projects are available to operate during reasonable operating seasons.
- Cruising procedures accurately reflect the volume and quality of designated timber.
- Scaling procedures accurately reflect the volume of delivered timber.
- Billing procedures do not place undue financial or operational burdens on contractors.
- Contracts and Agreements form a favorable legal foundation for resolving disputes.
- The harvest of all timber to be removed can be accomplished

- Federal agencies recognize the importance of forest industry infrastructure and the importance of a stable, federal green timber program for sustained infrastructure viability.

**Strategies:**

- Provide a unified voice for companies that acquire federal timber
- Provide timely and meaningful input to proposed changes in contracts, agreements, regulations, policies, and procedures concerning the acquisition and harvest of federal timber.
- Provide a forum through which federal agencies and companies that acquire federal timber can meet and discuss issues associated with contracts, agreements, regulations, policies, and procedures that affect the acquisition and harvest of federal timber and the risks associated with doing so.

**History:**

Upon its creation in 1962, the FTPC was managed by the primary wood products trade association in Washington, DC. In 2011, the FTPC went under the management of the Federal Forest Resource Coalition, a trade association focused exclusively on Federal Land Management.

National Lumber Manufacturers Association (1962 – 1965)

National Forest Products Association (1965 – 1992)

American Forest & Paper Association (1992 – 2009)

Federal Forest Resource Coalition (2009 – Present)

**Function:**

The FTPC accomplishes much of its' work through the professional work provided by FFRC staff. The FTPC Staff Executive tracks issues under discussion, communicates with program staff at the USDA Forest Service, and ensures that follow up action from meetings is addressed.

The FTPC meets twice annually, usually in towns or cities close to National Forests with active timber sale programs. The Forest Service is invited to the FTPC meeting, and usually conducts parallel, independent meetings involving their timber program staff leaders from both the National office and each Forest Service region. After a day of parallel meetings, the industry and Forest Service (and Bureau of Land Management) hold a joint meeting to find common ground and pursue solutions.

**Top 5 Issues -- Federal Timber Purchasers Committee**

- **Bring timber program outputs in line with the needs of the federal forests, rural communities, and forest products companies.** Current demand for federal timber exceeds current supply. Nearly every federal land manager has customers whose needs are not being met and forest management needs that are not being achieved. Funding requests and annual work plans must incorporate those needs. Volume should be distributed throughout the year. Federal land managers must 'know their customers' and transparently address overall product mix and the effects on prospective purchasers driven by volume shortfalls. Forest planning must take a hard look at suitable acres, standards and guidelines, desired future conditions, resource objectives, budget limitations, and social and economic sustainability, and must not unnecessarily limit forest management strategies and timber outputs. "Support existing infrastructure" should be in the Purpose and Need of all forest management NEPA documents.
- **Ensure that contracts are clear, implementable, and balance risks.** Timber sale contracts, stewardship contracts and agreement, and Good Neighbor Authority timber contracts are the nuts-and-bolts means of accomplishing federal land manager and purchaser goals. The FTPC views open lines of communication and working with federal land managers on contract details, starting with sale preparation, through contract preparation, appraisal, bid and award, and contract administration as essential.
- **Identify and implement program efficiencies, including NEPA, and incorporate 'shared stewardship' in order to increase on-the-ground accomplishments.** Federal land managers are working on multiple fronts to increase efficiency and reduce unit costs in light of funding uncertainties. Allocation of budgets and targets should include incentives for efficiencies, and, disincentives for inefficiencies. Maintain the "momentum" that is building in some Regions, and help spread that "momentum" to all Regions. Fully utilize KV authorities to fund projects outside sale areas and eliminate KV overhead collections. Encourage inclusion of "Infrastructure Retention" in NEPA 'Purpose and Need'.
- **Make the most of opportunities to use timber harvest to maximize the effectiveness of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.** This law provided over \$3 Billion to implement hazardous fuels reduction, forest restoration, and reforestation treatments on National Forests. The Forest Service should use timber harvest, implemented using streamlined authorities include DxP, DxD, fire liability in IRSCs, Good Neighbor Authority, I&D Treatment Areas, and Hazardous Fuels CE, virtual boundaries, all of which will contribute to increased 'pace and scale', efficiencies, and outputs.
- **Use appropriate contracts in appropriate circumstances.** Timber sale contracts, Stewardship Contracts and Agreements, and Good Neighbor Authority contracts are all available for the sale and harvest of federal timber. The FTPC recommends that with as much transparency as possible local units work with local purchasers to determine which

is most appropriate for local circumstances. The FTPC does not support policies that arbitrarily favor stewardship contracts over timber sale contracts.

## **October 25, 2022 FTPC Field Trip Agenda**

<b>7:30 am</b>	Meet outside the entrance to the Best Western Plus
<b>8:00 am</b>	Depart Best Western Plus and travel to FS timber Sale
<b>9:00 am</b>	Arrive at FS timber sale <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Discuss Fire (size, duration, etc.)</li><li>• Discuss Salvage operations</li><li>• Discuss tethered operations</li></ul>
<b>12:00 – 1:00 pm</b>	Lunch
<b>1:00- 2:30 pm</b>	Travel to Stop 2
<b>2:30 pm</b>	Travel back to Coeur d'Alene
<b>3:30 pm</b>	Arrive at Best Western Plus

## **October 27<sup>th</sup> Federal Timber Purchasers Committee Meeting Agenda**

8:30	Welcome, Antitrust Reminder, Introductions
8:45	Opening Comments <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Andy Geissler, Chair, Federal Timber Purchasers Committee</li><li>- Christine Dawe, Chief of Staff to Undersecretary Wilkes</li><li>- Jim Smalls, USFS</li><li>- Wade Salverson, BLM</li></ul>
9:35	FS Sale Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- FY 2022 Accomplishments</li><li>- FY 2023 Outlook<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Timber Targets</li><li>o Hazardous Fuel Targets</li></ul></li></ul>
10:20	Break
10:40	BLM Sale Program <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- FY 2022 Accomplishments</li><li>- FY 2023 Outlook</li></ul>
11:00	Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Contracting<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Catastrophic Modifications<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Timing</li><li>▪ NEPA</li><li>▪ Costs</li></ul></li><li>o BPAs</li><li>o Timber Sale Contracts Revision Process</li><li>o Performance Bonds</li></ul></li></ul>
12:00	Lunch
1:00	Issues Continued <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Budgets</li><li>- New Authorities</li><li>- Forest Planning – Planning Service Group Update</li><li>- Mature and Old Growth EO</li><li>- Capacity<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>o Hiring</li><li>o Use of Partners/Agreements</li></ul></li></ul>
3:30	Wrap-up and Adjourn

Draft Meeting Minutes  
May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Federal Timber Purchasers Committee Joint Meeting with USFS and BLM  
Sacramento, California

Intros and Opening Comments

Geissler called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. Imbergamo reviewed the FTPC Antitrust Policy.

Those present for the meeting were:

Molly Pitts, FTPC	Steve Brink, CFA
Doug McDonald, Timber Data	Ed Martin, Western Forest Products
Ian Fox, USFS R3	Gary Church, USFS R8
Scott Smith, USFS R8	Michael Spisak, USFS R6
Matt McGriffin, USFS WO	Erin Smith-Mateja, USFS WO
Bryan Taylor, Trinity River Lumber	Bill Imbergamo, FFRC
Galen Smith, Collins	Steven Henson, Neiman
Paul Pierson, Neiman	Rob Barnhart, USFS WO
Kraig Kidwell, USFS R6	Curtis Yocum, USFS – PPS Stewardship
Mark Phillip, USFS – PPS Stewardship	Cameron Wohlschlegel, F.H. Stoltze
King Williams, Iron Triangle, LLC	Jon Shinn, Tahoe Forest Products
Tony Simms, Tahoe Forest Products	Jay Sandmann, Boise Cascade
John Fullerton, Boise Cascade	Alan Harper, Idaho Forest Group
Dan Buehler, Neiman	Jim Smalls, USFS WO
Joe Leggett, Rex Lumber	Michael Leonard, Rex Lumber
Jake Scott, Smith, Currie & Hancock	David Lytle, USFS WO
Joseph Adamson, USFS WO	Steve Lohr, USFS R2
Karl Malcolm, USFS R2	Jay Williams, USFS R3
Ashton Hargrave, USFS WO	Eric Carleson, Associated California Loggers
Wade Salverson, BLM	Carol McKenzie, USFS R1
Dave Clay, USFS R1	Brad Seaberg, USFS R5
Kevin Roehrs, USFS R5	Diana Craig, USFS R5
Liz Berger, USFS R5	Ben Wudtke, Intermountain Forest Assoc.
Robert Hoover, SPI	Ryan Hadley, SPI
Josh Anderson, Vaagen Brothers	Rick Truex, USFS R2
Rob Tomczak, USFS R6	Travis Salvestro, Timber Products Co.
Amanda Sullivan-Astor, Assoc Oregon Loggers	Andy Geissler, AFRC

Following introductions, Geissler provided opening remarks. He noted the critical role of FS fiber in keeping businesses viable. The industry has lost mills recently and we don't want to lose any more. This is an important partnership to deal with carbon sequestration and rural prosperity. Fuels treatment is critical but shouldn't squeeze out the timber program.

Lytle followed up with opening remarks. He noted it was nice to be in person. He explained the FS will be moving from virtual to hybrid on June 6<sup>th</sup>. They will be opening the doors and expecting people back to work (with telework and remote). The offices will not be going back

to what they once were, it will be hybrid moving forward. The primary reason for allowing telework and hybrid is to help with recruiting. Lytle reported that they are finally filling critical positions in the WO. Jim Smalls will be coming on as Deputy Director. He also introduced new staff and thanked acting staff. Overall, there has been 10-12 new positions in NFTM.

Liz Berger provided an introduction from R5. She mentioned the return to work but emphasized that field staff on the forests have been working in the field. The main change will be the RO. Liz explained how the staff have worked through adversity (large fires, etc.). Regions priority areas were already well identified, now they have funding. They are working in partnership with industry and their non-profit partners. There is an urgency to treat more acres across bigger landscapes. The priority is disaster response, fire recovery, forest restoration and recreation access. Salvage is entirely from roadside, but it is selling. She reiterated that the FS can't do this alone and they can't do it without industry. Liz also mentioned Shared Stewardship. Geissler reminded Liz that a steady green program is critical.

Wade Salverson from the BLM provided a few opening remarks including how it is helpful to hear challenges from the industry and the USFS. Forest health depends on the industry and groups such as FTPC.

Moving on to the FS Sale Program, Erin Smith-Mateja ran through the allocation of funding, including infrastructure law funding. Infrastructure law provided \$41M for timber work from two line items totaling \$650M. Geissler asked about targets and why none were provided in the spreadsheet? A long and lively discussion followed. Smith-Mateja explained that they still expect Regions to get what they told us they could get with the dollars they were told they were going to get. Questions regarding fuelwood were raised and it was explained that it is a Regional approach. Some are counting it towards accomplishments, others are not.

Pitts turned it over to Hoover for a discussion on local markets. R5 is dominated by salvage from large fires. Salvage wood is finding a home, but sometimes it must be repackaged. King Williams discussed no bids on the east side of R6. Some sales were offered that were not going to be sold. Local folks said their hands were tied in terms of appraisals. None have been reoffered. Sales were offered at above base rates. It is unclear why they weren't just reappraised and offered for base rates.

Lytle then opened up the conversation on FY 2023 Outlook. He explained that leader's intent is:

- Reducing wildfire risk to communities and infrastructure – adding 20M acres of NFS treatment.
- Create healthy and resilient ecosystems and watersheds.
- Restore areas affected by wildfires and other catastrophes – BAER and others
- Maintain and grow forest products industry, including use of sawtimber.
- Stabilize and grow "base programs."
- Decisions on GNA and Tribal Forest Protection Act

- Infrastructure support \$400M – this will likely go out as loans and loan guarantees

Targets were once again discussed. Lytle explained that Regions have mixed view on them.

Wade Salverson gave an update from BLM. Discussed limited operating periods and fire restrictions. They are trying to allow extensions for those and for salvage. Need to keep the forest health and recovery funding, which is up for renewal. **They are being successful in using the 70-acre timber sale CE and the 250-acre CE.**

Pitts then moved the discussion to FS appraisals. She explained that the FS appraisal webinar was very helpful but lead to some further questions. Amanda Sullivan-Astor talked about appraisals from the perspective of logging costs and how they are zoned, etc. She explained that logging associations could be used to help gather data. Ashton Hargrave explained that his goal is to have transparency within the appraisal process, including making it simple and repeatable. He discussed the cost feedback loop and the FS use of BBER in Montana. He explained that the survey completion rate is not great and asked if the industry is feeling over-surveyed? It was recommended that in the interest of transparency, the FS could publish base period price data and follow up on both outliers – high bid premiums and no bids. The question was raised on why salvage is getting appraised instead of being offered at base rates. The FS responded that it is important to understand how big the deficit is so they can understand how much money they need to put into the sale. Bid premium is a good thing, but it's also an indication that we don't know what we are doing. Industry brought up that local utilization specs can be a problem, leading to no bids. This is still an issue on the east side of R6 – primarily dealing with piece size. The group asked if oral auctions could be a potential solution to get price points? The FS responded yes, and that they are allowed everywhere. McDonald asked what problem the FS was trying to solve with the investigation of the appraisal process? Rather than laboring under the fallacy of accuracy, the real goal should be the final bid. Perhaps a different increment of accuracy is necessary (\$10 vs to the \$.01). The group then had a long discussion on no-bids. The FS is working with the Southern Research Station to try and get to the bottom of what drives no bids. Fullerton emphasized local utilization standards – 8-foot piece is 6 feet below local utilization. With regards to ERR, the group asked for greater flexibility – especially when there is a major change of condition.

Next, the group discussed NEPA efficiency. Imbergamo asked about the Determination of NEPA Adequacy? Smalls said they are focused more on project management rather than particular NEPA tools. The units have not been told NOT to use DNA, but not many have chosen to use it. **CEQ wants to meet to discuss how the FS can get through NEPA faster, especially in R5 and R6.** Smalls pointed out that NEPA is shorthand for compliance with a variety of NEPA laws, not just planning. Diana Craig mentioned R5 working on large EAs for roadside, given the courts rejection of road maintenance CE.

Moving on to procurement, Mark Phillip explained that if it's product removal, it's going through the National Stewardship Office. IRSC's are new to a lot of people. The FS is trying to bundle more work into these and get Forests familiar with their use. Ideally, the FS wants to make sure they are using the right contract for the right work. BAER work is going through

the National Office. With regards to Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPA) R2 has one out for bid and other Regions will follow. The idea is to have BPAs in place so we can have purchasers ready to go. They are trying to standardize procedures, with timber CO's the lead on all timber projects. The idea is to package up majority of work to make implementation more efficient. They are using Stewardship to get all fuels reduction covered and get at least the low value material onto a deck but as timber subject to agreement. Brink asked about the SPOC and why is the FS using BPA's to implement IRSC's. The FS responded that a BPA could move smaller pieces of work more quickly as contractors on the BPA can be put on IRSC's without waiting for a new bid process. They can also use emergency procurement for fuel breaks. The group expressed concern of how the FS can ensure competition on the work over time. Brink and Carleson asked why CFA and Associated California Loggers was just hearing about this? FS explained that the pre-solicitation just sent into SAM for a 45-day solicitation. They will also be sent through each Forest to their bidder list.

Pitts asked about virtual boundaries and where the FS is with implementation? Smith-Mateja responded that the use of virtual boundaries is an option, but it doesn't work in every place. Training is on-going. Industry expressed concern that new staff aren't being introduced to new methods and will continue to do business the same old way.

The group discussed performance bonds for longer contracts and the concern that new or small businesses may not have access to bonds. Kidwell explained that small businesses can use SBA bonding. The FS has a list of bonding agents, insurance brokers. Contractors can also use cash or letters of credit. It was mentioned that NFMA bonding requirements might need adjusting for longer contractors.

Industry explained that while the Timber Sale Dashboard is a great idea, it still links back to highly variable local Forest websites. They also mentioned that it would be good to keep info on older sales.

Gary Church updated the group on a load tracking project they are undertaking. The idea is it reduces need for roadside inspections or pull overs. More details to follow.

Brink asked about plan amendments to accommodate tethered logging. The FS will share examples of how that work is getting through NEPA. Harper emphasized that tethered logging is becoming prevalent on sloped grounds. We need to encourage wide adoption to encourage investment and needs to be allowed (not mandated) in forest plan revisions.

Steve Lohr opened up the discussion regarding the Log Transportation Pilot Program, explaining that the FS needs to move wood from regions with excess damaged wood – whether it's fire, insect and disease, or wind. The Chief has given the green light for the FS to identify challenges and find ways to address them. They recognize the need to address providing opportunities for local purchasers, while also addressing phytosanitary concerns and overall logistics. The FS discussed the need to minimize pest risk. Some pests are region wide and therefore aren't much of a concern, but others are more localized, and we don't want to spread them to other areas. They have identified 4 zones – basically west side of R5 and R6,

northern Rockies, central Rockies, and Arizona and New Mexico. There are about 10 species of concern. They have developed recommendations for mitigation, debarking and heat treatment. Cooksey explained that they are doing a white paper that they will share once complete. The FS explained that they are trying to figure out how to determine what is surplus and that likely the local markets will need to determine that threshold. Right now, they are making log transit an option item and gathering local input on how they could market it locally. Henson discussed logistics and objectives of the Chief to try and save mills and utilize wood. Trying to locate rail cars is very challenging. Neiman's are currently debarking logs at the Gilchrist, OR mill and transporting them to Wyoming. They are targeting pine that is surplus. Industry may need to build or buy their own rail cars. He explained that this is still very much a proof-of-concept phase. Further discussion followed. Economics of sale are a problem both for the harvest and for the rail transit costs. How will wood be determined surplus? Response from the FS is that will be fairly informal – local industry can't process prior to deterioration, or a market doesn't exist.

With regards to Mature and Old Growth, Lytle explained that he is not the expert, but is participating at the highest level. He laid out four objectives including scientific land management, identify and inventory and identify threats. FIA and EMC are compiling information on definitions and inventories. The FS is trying to achieve sustainable carbon sequestration and stop global deforestation. They are looking for nature-based solutions to climate change. BLM mentioned that they will be relying on FIA data on their inventory.

To wrap up the day, Lytle discussed the Wildfire Crisis Strategy. The Strategy is being managed by the Wildfire Risk Reduction Implementation Team (WRRIT) – and is led by Brian Ferebee. Lytle explained that 10% of the firesheds have 90% of the risk exposure. There are also other ways of prioritizing work such as State Action Plans, insect and disease treatment areas, etc. Ultimately, the chosen landscapes were narrowed down to those with the highest exposure. Industry expressed concern that projects were selected without regard to presence or absence of industry facilities and the impact of the funding in taking way focus on base programs. The group also discussed the \$400M in industry assistance funding – for landscapes at high risk where industry can help reduce costs.

Following wrap-up, the meeting adjourned at 3:30.

**FY22 USFS Timber Volume Status Report to FTPC**  
**Thousand Cubic Feet (MCCF)**

Attachment 1a (as of 10/06/2022)	Period:	Mid-Year		Year-End	X						
	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R8	R9	R10	WO	TOTAL
<b>FY22 Timber Program Expenditures (\$000) (1)</b>											
Appropriated Funds (NFTM)	\$3,808	\$2,137	\$2,137	\$1,440	\$3,322	\$5,708	\$5,676	\$5,676	\$1,476		\$31,380
Appropriated Funds (NITX): BIL Provisions 40803(b)11 & 40803(b)14	\$4,928	\$5,958	\$3,958	\$1,476	\$1,934	\$6,489	\$6,480	\$7,480	\$2,994		\$41,697
Emarked: for Priority Landscapes (NITX) and Joint Chiefs (NFTM)		\$2,632	\$769	\$2,448	\$8,407	\$2,649	\$615	\$50			\$17,570
Salvage Sale Funds (SSSS) (2)	\$5,788	\$214	\$406	\$4,056	\$10,654	\$20,680	\$8,098	\$11,030	\$186		\$61,112
Knutsen-Vandenberg (CWK2) (3)	\$1,703	\$1,553	\$147	\$492	\$1,193	\$8,456	\$1,941	\$1,849	\$1,134		\$18,468
<b>Total FY22 Timber Program Expenditures (\$000)</b>	<b>\$16,227</b>	<b>\$12,494</b>	<b>\$7,417</b>	<b>\$9,912</b>	<b>\$25,510</b>	<b>\$43,982</b>	<b>\$22,610</b>	<b>\$26,085</b>	<b>\$5,790</b>		<b>\$170,227</b>
<b>FY22 Timber Target and Accomplishment (MCCF)</b>											
<b>FY22 Total Timber Target</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>7,000.0</b>	<b>7,000.0</b>
FY22 NFTM, SSSS, CWK2 & Other Accomp	566.7	356.5	287.5	183.9	819.3	805.8	986.4	890.2	9.1	N/A	4,905.3
FY22 Good Neighbor Authority Accomp	93.9	29.0	72.4	1.2	0.0	74.3	15.9	208.6	0.0	N/A	495.3
<b>FY22 Total Timber Accomp</b>	<b>660.6</b>	<b>385.5</b>	<b>359.9</b>	<b>185.1</b>	<b>819.3</b>	<b>880.1</b>	<b>1,002.3</b>	<b>1,098.8</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>5,400.6</b>
Accomp %	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	77%
	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R8	R9	R10	TOTAL	
<b>No Bid Sales (MCCF)</b>											
Cumulative Volume No Bid Sales	153.1	36.7	6.0	31.0	113.8	198.8	310.8	108.9	2.3		961.4
Reoffered Volume Sold (4)	93.4	16.8	16.0	12.3	45.8	99.1	168.6	78.2	0.5		530.7
<b>FY22 Total Accomplishment (based on CCF volume)</b>											
Total Volume	660.6	385.5	359.9	185.1	819.3	880.1	1,002.3	1,098.8	9.1		5,400.6
% Sawtimber	82%	72%	32%	52%	82%	82%	51%	37%	87%		62%
% Pulpwood	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	29%	59%	0%		18%
% Fuelwood	0%	12%	35%	41%	4%	2%	1%	1%	13%		6%
% Biomass	0%	1%	7%	0%	10%	15%	0%	1%	0%		5%
% Other Convertible	18%	15%	24%	7%	4%	1%	19%	2%	0%		10%
<b>FY22 Total Accomplishment (based on CCF volume)</b>											
Total Volume	660.6	385.5	359.9	185.1	819.3	880.1	1,002.3	1,098.8	9.1		5,400.6
% Timber Sale Contract	85%	58%	10%	56%	48%	53%	81%	59%	97%		60%
% Timber Permit	0%	11%	38%	34%	4%	2%	1%	2%	3%		6%
% GNA	14%	8%	20%	1%	0%	8%	2%	19%	0%		9%
% Stewardship Contract and Agreements	0%	24%	31%	9%	48%	36%	16%	20%	0%		24%
<b>Stewardship Contracts &amp; Agreements</b>											
Number of SC & SA Awarded		15	12	1	17	13	33	47			138
Volume Sold (MCCF)	0.8	94.2	111.5	17.1	392.8	315.2	163.0	217.9			1,312.4
Acres Awarded (includes non-harvest activities)	203	4,048	17,863	0		2,228	41,286	15,433			81,061
Retained Receipts EOY balance (\$000)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		\$0
<b>Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration</b>											
Number of Projects											
Volume Sold (MCCF)	28.3		28.7	1.0	2.2	16.3	23.4	8.0			107.9
<b>Other Initiatives and Funding Sources</b>											
Good Neighbor Authority Volume Sold (MCCF)	93.9	29.0	72.4	1.2		74.3	15.9	208.6			495.3
Joint Chiefs Projects Volume Sold (MCCF)					0.0		22.2	3.2	0.3		25.7
Insect and Disease NEPA Volume Sold (MCCF)	0.2	2.2		7.0	0.1	29.8	119.6	6.6			165.5

(1) For mid-year reporting, current fiscal year budgets are reported. For year-end report, actual expenditures reported.

(2) Expenditures include local Salvage Sale Funds along with any WO distributions made during the budget process.

(3) Expenditures include local Knutsen-Vandenberg K2 Funds along with any WO distributions made during the budget process.

(4) This may include volume no-bid from current and previous fiscal years.

**FY22 USFS Timber Volume Status Report to FTPC**  
**Thousand Cubic Feet (MCCF)**

Attachment 1a (as of 10/06/2022)

Period:

<b>Year End Accomplishment Trends (MCCF)</b>										
<b>FY22 - MCCF</b>	<b>R1</b>	<b>R2</b>	<b>R3</b>	<b>R4</b>	<b>R5</b>	<b>R6</b>	<b>R8</b>	<b>R9</b>	<b>R10</b>	<b>Total</b>
Timber Target	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,000.0
Total Accomplishment	142.2	123.1	104.2	40.2	234.9	372.3	345.6	459.4	0.6	1,822.7
Stewardship Contracts and Agreements	0.4	27.4	39.5		60.6	129.1	73.1	58.2		388.5
Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)	12.2	10.2		0.4		47.0	4.8	73.0		
CFLR Funded	0.3		0.4		2.2	10.9	0.9	2.8		17.5
Insect and Disease NEPA Volume Sold				11.6	0.3	3.2	68.1	4.2		87.3
Joint Chiefs Projects Volume Sold							0.2			0.2
Percent of Target										26%
<b>FY21 - MCCF</b>	<b>R1</b>	<b>R2</b>	<b>R3</b>	<b>R4</b>	<b>R5</b>	<b>R6</b>	<b>R8</b>	<b>R9</b>	<b>R10</b>	<b>Total</b>
Timber Target	920.0	600.0	488.0	296.3	767.9	1,434.5	1,471.7	1,129.0	145.7	7,270.7
Total Accomplishment	206.0	135.1	60.3	64.3	90.3	412.8	395.7	397.3	2.5	1,764.3
Stewardship Contracts and Agreements	32.6	26.8	13.0		35.8	174.6	85.5	49.1		417.4
Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)	27.7	10.9		10.0		20.1	21.1	45.9		135.7
CFLR Funded	31.1		13.3		6.5	0.1	18.8			69.9
Insect and Disease NEPA Volume Sold	10.8	7.1		16.5	0.4	67.4	13.6	0.2		116.0
Joint Chiefs Projects Volume Sold							25.0			25.0
Percent of Target	22%	23%	12%	22%	12%	29%	27%	35%	2%	24%
<b>FY20 - MCCF</b>	<b>R1</b>	<b>R2</b>	<b>R3</b>	<b>R4</b>	<b>R5</b>	<b>R6</b>	<b>R8</b>	<b>R9</b>	<b>R10</b>	<b>Total</b>
Timber Target	840.0	630.0	456.0	287.0	800.0	1,384.6	1,377.4	1,064.5	142.9	7,000.0
Total Accomplishment	330.5	113.2	90.1	148.0	319.6	353.4	399.4	445.9	1.5	2,201.6
Stewardship Contracts and Agreements	5.7	37.3		7.9	109.4	162.4	156.4	31.3		510.5
Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)	2.2	2.1		8.0		53.4	15.8	39.4		120.9
CFLR Funded	44.0	0.0	6.8	6.3		0.0	11.8	2.7		71.6
Insect and Disease NEPA Volume Sold	0.1	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0		0.2
Joint Chiefs Projects Volume Sold							-			-
Percent of Target	39%	18%	20%	52%	40%	26%	29%	42%	1%	31%

**FY22 USFS Timber Volume Status Report to FTPC**  
**Million Board Feet (MMBF)**

Attachment 1b (as of 10/06/2022)	Period:		Mid-Year	Year-End	X							
	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R8	R9	R10	WO	TOTAL	
<b>FY22 Timber Program Expenditures (\$000) (1)</b>												
Appropriated Funds (NFTM)	\$3,808	\$2,137	\$2,137	\$1,440	\$3,322	\$5,708	\$5,676	\$5,676	\$1,476		\$31,380	
Appropriated Funds (NITX): BIL Provisions 40803(b)11 & 40803(b)14	\$4,928	\$5,958	\$3,958	\$1,476	\$1,934	\$6,489	\$6,480	\$7,480	\$2,994		\$41,697	
Earmarked: for Priority Landscapes (NITX) and Joint Chiefs (NFTM)		\$2,632	\$769	\$2,448	\$8,407	\$2,649	\$615	\$50			\$17,570	
Salvage Sale Funds (SSSS) (2)	\$5,788	\$214	\$406	\$4,056	\$10,654	\$20,680	\$8,098	\$11,030	\$186		\$61,112	
Knutsen-Vandenberg (CWK2) (3)	\$1,703	\$1,553	\$147	\$492	\$1,193	\$8,456	\$1,941	\$1,849	\$1,134		\$18,468	
<b>Total FY22 Timber Program Expenditures (\$000)</b>	<b>\$16,227</b>	<b>\$12,494</b>	<b>\$7,417</b>	<b>\$9,912</b>	<b>\$25,510</b>	<b>\$43,982</b>	<b>\$22,810</b>	<b>\$26,085</b>	<b>\$5,790</b>		<b>\$170,227</b>	
<b>FY22 Timber Target and Accomplishment (MMBF)</b>												
<b>FY22 Total Timber Target</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>3,400.0</b>	<b>3,400.0</b>	
FY22 NFTM, SSSS, CWK2 & Other Accomp	296.0	174.5	162.8	99.6	431.6	420.9	520.9	536.4	4.2	N/A	2,647.0	
FY22 Good Neighbor Authority Accomp	46.7	13.9	36.4	0.6	0.0	39.4	8.6	128.9	0.0	N/A	274.5	
<b>FY22 Total Timber Accomp</b>	<b>342.7</b>	<b>188.4</b>	<b>199.2</b>	<b>100.2</b>	<b>431.6</b>	<b>460.3</b>	<b>529.5</b>	<b>665.3</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>2,921.5</b>	
Accomp %	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	86%	
	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R8	R9	R10		TOTAL	
<b>No Bid Sales (MMBF)</b>												
Cumulative Volume No Bid Sales	75.1	17.8	3.0	16.0	63.0	109.9	162.5	66.9	1.0		515.2	
Reoffered Volume Sold (4)	47.8	8.1	7.0	6.5	27.6	53.0	87.8	48.2	0.2		286.2	
<b>FY22 Total Accomplishment (based on CCF volume)</b>												
Total Volume	342.7	188.4	199.2	100.2	431.6	460.3	529.5	665.3	4.2		2,921.5	
% Sawtimber	82%	72%	32%	52%	82%	82%	51%	37%	87%		62%	
% Pulpwood	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%	0%	29%	59%	0%		18%	
% Fuelwood	0%	12%	35%	41%	4%	2%	1%	1%	13%		6%	
% Biomass	0%	1%	7%	0%	10%	15%	0%	1%	0%		5%	
% Other Convertible	18%	15%	24%	7%	4%	1%	19%	2%	0%		10%	
<b>FY22 Total Accomplishment (based on CCF volume)</b>												
Total Volume	342.7	188.4	199.2	100.2	431.6	460.3	529.5	665.3	4.2		2,921.5	
% Timber Sale Contract	85%	58%	10%	56%	48%	53%	81%	59%	97%		60%	
% Timber Permit	0%	11%	38%	34%	4%	2%	1%	2%	3%		6%	
% GNA	14%	8%	20%	1%	0%	8%	2%	19%	0%		9%	
% Stewardship Contract and Agreements	0%	24%	31%	9%	48%	36%	16%	20%	0%		24%	
<b>Stewardship Contracts &amp; Agreements</b>												
Number of SC & SA Awarded		15	12	1	17	13	33	47			138	
Volume Sold (MMBF)	0.4	46.8	53.1	9.1	204.2	159.9	86.7	129.8			690.1	
Acres Awarded (includes non-harvest activities)	203	4,048	17,863	0		2,228	41,286	15,433			81,061	
Retained Receipts EOY balance (\$000)	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A		\$0	
<b>Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration</b>												
Number of Projects												
Volume Sold (mmbf)	14.9		16.0	0.6	1.2	8.2	12.4	4.9			58.1	
<b>Other Initiatives and Funding Sources</b>												
Good Neighbor Authority Volume Sold (mmbf)	46.7	13.9	36.4	0.6		39.4	8.6	126.9			274.5	
Joint Chiefs Projects Volume Sold (mmbf)					0.0		12.1	1.9	0.1		14.2	
Insect and Disease NEPA Volume Sold (mmbf)	0.1	1.1		3.8	0.1	15.4	64.9	3.8			89.1	

(1) For mid-year reporting, current fiscal year budgets are reported. For year-end report, actual expenditures reported.

(2) Expenditures include local Salvage Sale Funds along with any WO distributions made during the budget process.

(3) Expenditures include local Knutsen-Vandenberg K2 Funds along with any WO distributions made during the budget process.

(4) This may include volume no-bid from current and previous fiscal years.

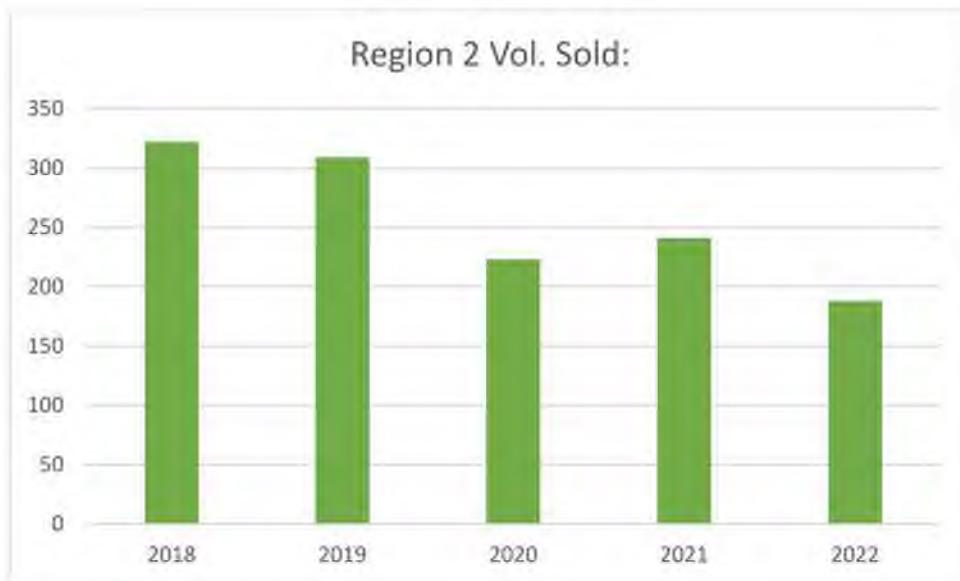
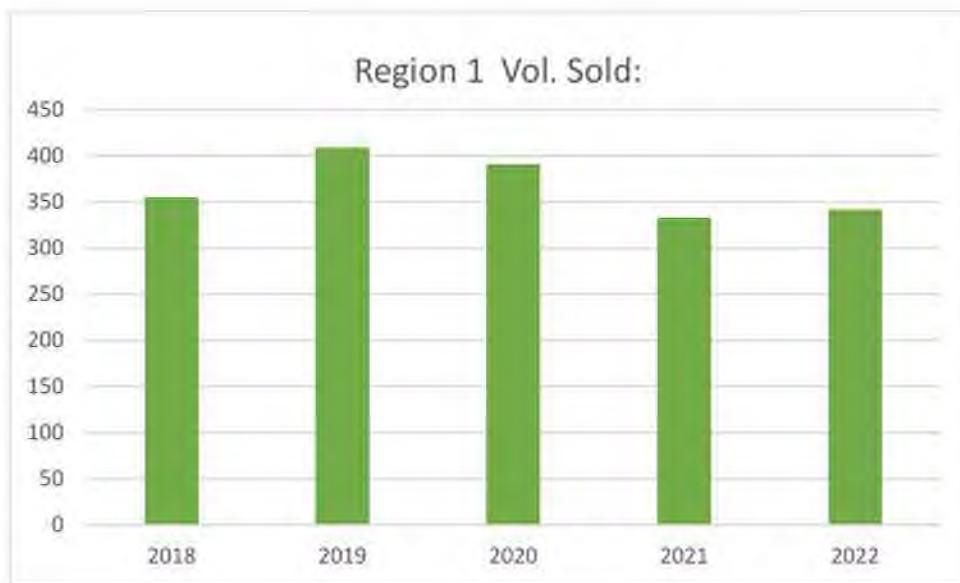
**FY22 USFS Timber Volume Status Report to FTPC**  
**Million Board Feet (MMBF)**

Attachment 1b (as of 10/06/2022)

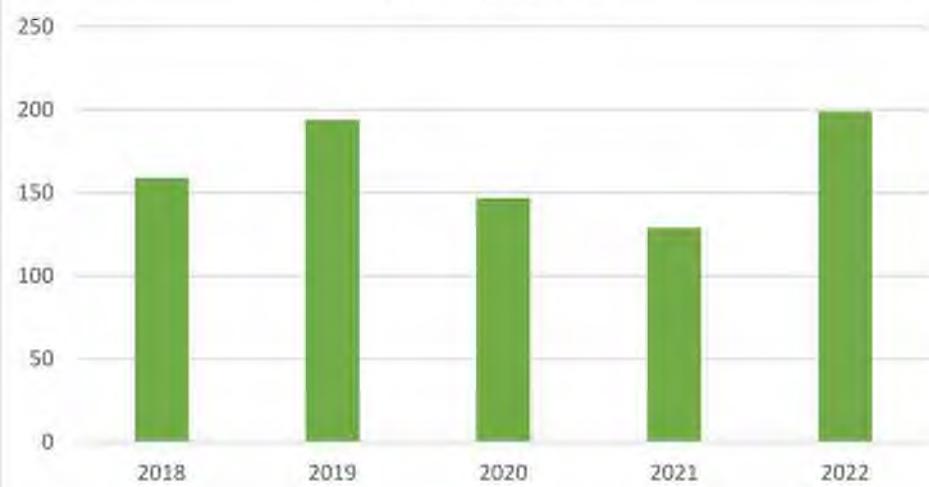
Period:  Mid-Year  Year-End  X

Year End Accomplishment Trends (MMBF)										
FY22 - MMBF	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R8	R9	R10	Total
Timber Target	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,400.0
Total Accomplishment	74.0	60.1	57.4	22.3	125.6	191.5	183.0	279.0	0.3	993.2
Stewardship Contracts and Agreements	0.2	13.6	18.9		28.1	65.8	38.8	35.6		201.0
Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)	6.8	4.8		0.2		24.4	2.6	45.0		83.9
CFLR Funded	0.2		0.2		1.2	5.4	0.5	1.7		9.2
Insect and Disease NEPA Volume Sold				6.1	0.1	1.7	36.8	2.5		47.2
Joint Chiefs Projects Volume Sold							0.1			0.1
Percent of Target										29%
FY21 - MMBF	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R8	R9	R10	Total
Timber Target	460.0	300.0	244.0	160.0	430.0	760.0	780.0	700.0	61.2	3,895.2
Total Accomplishment	109.1	67.7	36.1	33.4	48.4	214.6	212.2	238.6	1.2	961.3
Stewardship Contracts and Agreements	17.5	13.4	6.4		18.4	89.1	45.3	28.0		218.0
Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)	14.2	5.2		5.1		10.5	11.5	28.1		74.6
CFLR Funded	16.7		6.6		3.6	0.1	10.0			36.9
Insect and Disease NEPA Volume Sold	5.8	3.6		7.8	0.2	34.6	7.4	0.1		59.5
Joint Chiefs Projects Volume Sold	-			-		-				-
Percent of Target	24%	23%	15%	21%	11%	28%	27%	34%	2%	25%
FY20 - MMBF	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R8	R9	R10	Total
Timber Target	420.0	315.0	228.0	155.0	400.0	720.0	730.0	660.0	60.0	3,688.0
Total Accomplishment	171.5	56.6	50.9	80.4	163.8	183.6	213.4	275.3	0.7	1,196.2
Stewardship Contracts and Agreements	3.2	19.4		4.5	56.2	85.0	82.9	19.1		270.2
Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)	1.0	1.0		4.4		26.2	8.7	24.4		65.7
CFLR Funded	24.1	0.0	4.3	3.6		0.0	5.9	1.7		39.5
Insect and Disease NEPA Volume Sold	0.0	0.0		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0		0.1
Joint Chiefs Projects Volume Sold							-			-
Percent of Target	41%	18%	22%	52%	41%	26%	29%	42%	1%	32%

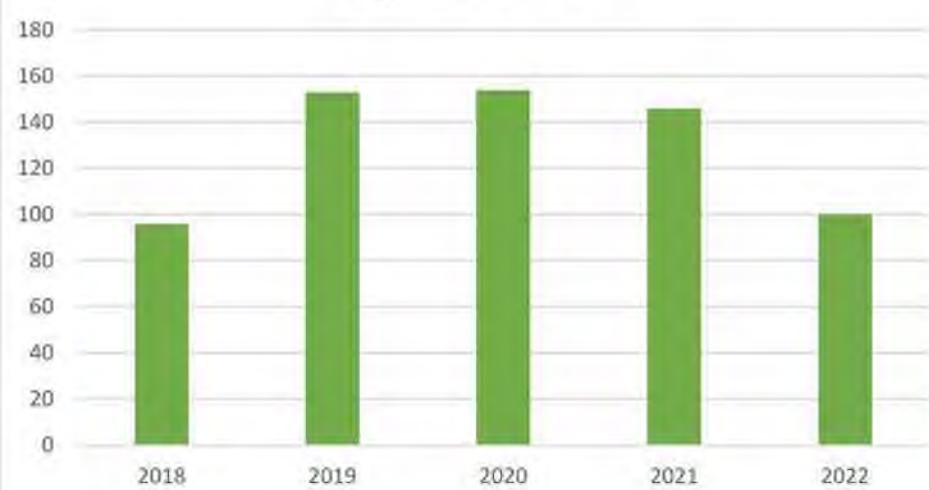
## USFS Timber Volume Sold by Region by Fiscal Year (MBF)



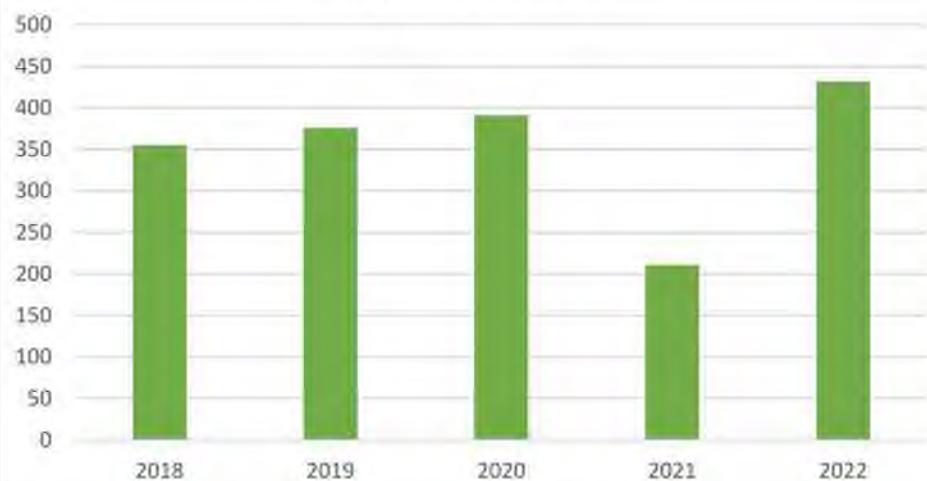
Region 3 Vol. Sold:



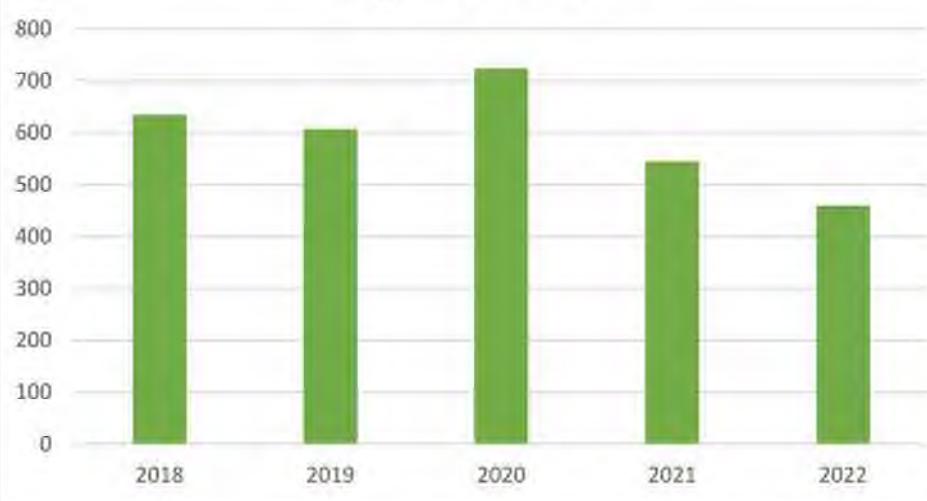
Region 4 Vol. Sold:



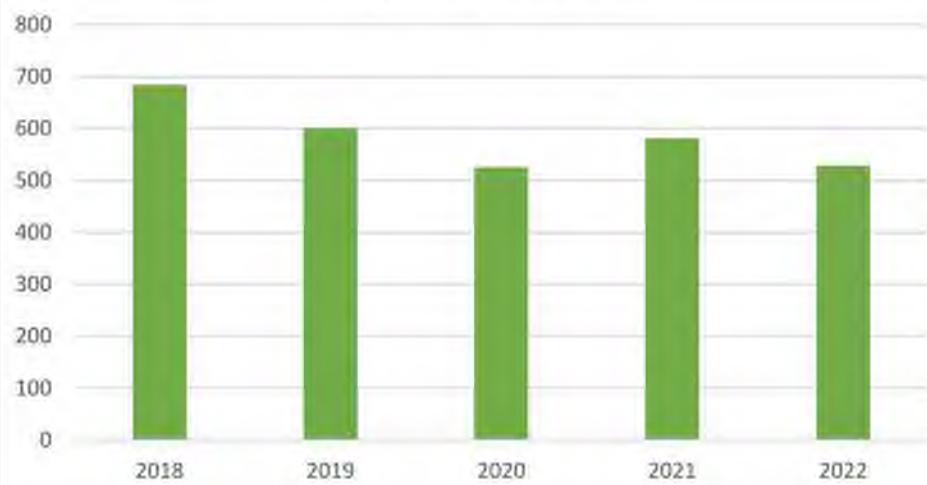
Region 5 Vol. Sold:



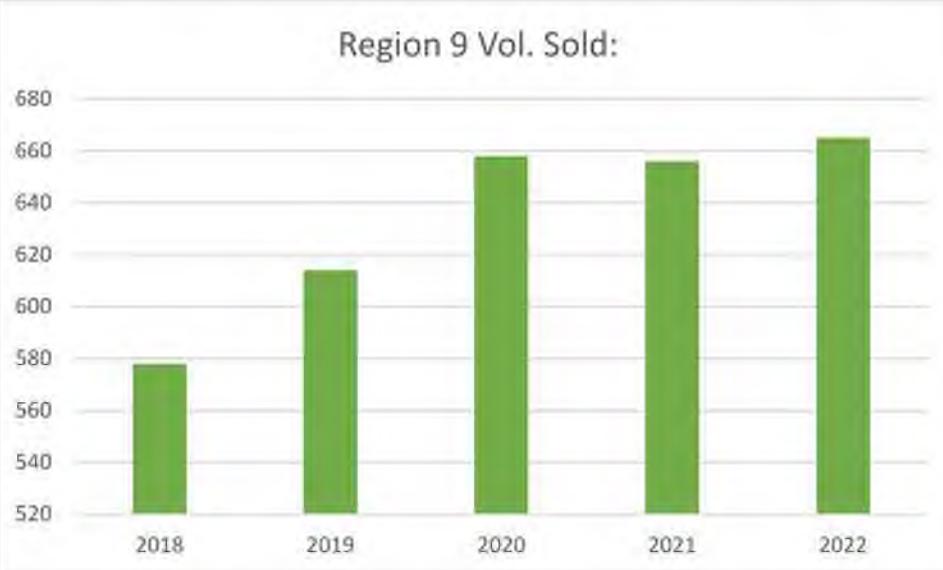
Region 6 Vol. Sold:



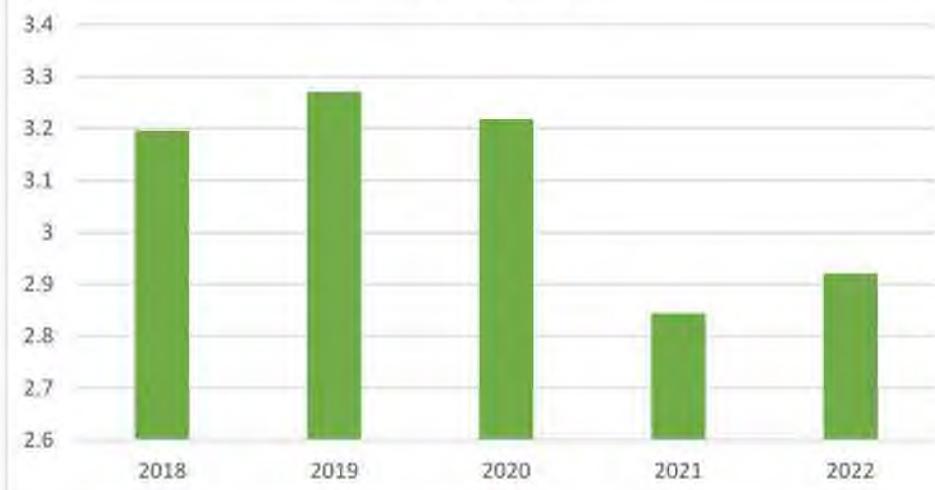
Region 8 Vol. Sold:



Region 9 Vol. Sold:



All FS Vol. Sold:





Q: Agency/Region	A: USDA Forest Service – Northern Region
<p><b>Q:</b> What factors contributed to, or detracted from, your FY 22 timber program accomplishments?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adding fire salvage to our FY22 program and engineering capacity challenges led to late offers across the Region</li><li>• No bid sales accounted for over 10% of our target shortfall</li><li>• Litigation, ESA consultation, disaster response to spring floods, and other NEPA issues contributed to 75 MMBF being delayed to FY23</li></ul>
<p><b>Q:</b> If your unit had no bid sales in FY 22 – 1) why did they go no bid, 2) how much FY 22 no bid volume did you already reoffer and sell, and 3) when do you expect to reoffer remaining FY 22 no bid sales? What is your plan for any unsold no bid sales from previous years?</p>	<p><b>The Region had 55 MMBF of no bid volume in FY22, 9 MMBF of which was reoffered and sold in the same fiscal year. The remaining unsold volume will be repackaged for FY23 offer after we finish gathering input from potential bidders. The total volume reoffered will be lower as we drop portions of Units that are unmarketable or make them Timber Subject to Agreement. There's only one previous year no bid remaining in the Region (Big Mann on IPNF); mostly skyline ground.</b></p> <p>Sales went no bid for two primary reasons: a) high percentage of non-saw and/or dead wood included b) high percentage of skyline required while line-logger capacity is decreasing.</p>
<p><b>Q:</b> What percent of your FY 22 volume advertised in 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter?</p>	<p><b>63% of our FY22 sold volume (412,845 CCF) had bid openings in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. An additional 106,039 CCF was offered, but not sold in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.</b></p>
<p><b>Q:</b> What is the volume of timber sales withheld or not awarded due to litigation? How are you responding to litigation?</p>	<p><b>The Region has a total of 570 MMBF under litigation; 149 MMBF of which is enjoined and not under contract. The Region has weekly meetings with the Regional Forester, Directors and OGC to discuss litigation cases and potential new issues highlighted in objections. If warranted NEPA analyses maybe modified to address emerging issues. Overall the Region continues to plan and offer sales.</b></p>
<p><b>Q:</b> What problems are you anticipating for your FY 23 timber program? How do you plan on addressing these problems?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Road package and engineer capacity issues: contracting survey/design work, increasing engineering staff through hiring events, pre-roading when possible</li><li>• ESA consultation capacity: hired an additional 2 biologists embedded with USFWS to complete consultation</li><li>• Project planning: revised 2 Forest Plans in FY22 and completed re-consultation at the plan level for one other, which will result in less disruptions to project planning in FY23. Using BIL funds to increase planning capacity on multiple Forests</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>No bids:</b> engaging with local industry for solutions to sale design challenges listed above.</li> </ul>
<b>Q:</b> Are you using DxD, DxP, and Virtual Boundaries?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>DxD:</b> continues to be our predominant designation method, primarily through use of Species Designation</li> <li>• <b>DxP:</b> level of use varies on individual Forests, but is increasing across the Region. Three timber sales were sold in FY22 with DxP included, with more approved for FY23 offer.</li> <li>• <b>Virtual Boundaries:</b> discernable boundaries are used across the Region along roads, openings, past regen blocks, ridges, etc. Geofencing has not been used in the Region yet, in part based on local industry input.</li> </ul>
<b>Q:</b> How much funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was allocated to your region for timber related projects? Are you working with the fuels management staff to identify projects which can use timber harvest to achieve hazardous fuels reductions?	<p>The Region has created a cross-directorate 10 Year Crisis Strategy Team to continue integrating hazardous fuels and timber harvest as we implement BIL and WRITT. This strategy builds off our Outyear Planning Framework that provides consistent approaches to how we identify and plan our veg/fuels program of work across the Region. In FY22, we received BIL funding for the Kootenai Complex priority landscape (\$3.6 million) and, separately, for fuels reduction and timber harvest on other priority areas in the Region (\$5.4 million). Region 1 received a total of \$34.8 million in BIL funds, not all of which contributes toward timber related projects.</p>
<b>Q:</b> What is the status on hiring/vacancies?	<p>Region 1 has a 22% vacancy rate. We have been using a variety of collective and national hiring events for positions, but experience a high declination rate due to cost of living concerns in north Idaho and Montana. The Region has a prioritization process in place for single and group vacancies, but has lost more positions than filled over the past year. In light of this, outside workforces have become key parts of our success (Enterprise, contractors, GNA, etc).</p>

## 2022 Fall FTPC Region 1 Breakout Notes

October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### NOTES

FTPC Concerns - 64% mbf in Q4 = too late and 10% No Bids

- FS - Staffing limitations, Use of NEPA shelf stock and changed conditions affect ability to produce CE/project pipelines
- FTPC - Imbergamo - Concern over ongoing cycle of volume into litigation. Request agency to make not likely to adversely affect determinations where previous litigation resolved around ESA, habitat conservation etc.
  - FS - species moving and other changes to conditions like habitat, fire, etc require analysis and findings based on existing regs. Not cut and dry issue.

FTPC Concern - Inflation relationship to No Bids

- FTPC - FS calculating at 100% operations is far outside reality and should change to avoid No Bids = sales that have too many limits on the contracts coupled with logging cost increases.
- FS - rate of change is a challenge for all. Data collection capacity is not able to keep up with changing market conditions and appraisal costs. Road contract costs and estimates that are built into cost guides using some of the same data are another challenge. Hope to use acquisition contracts from the last 6 months to analyze and help adjust road costs which are prohibitive.

FTPC concern - Challenge of getting sales from sale purchase to operational conditions- salvage sales in particular. Regardless of contract type FS needs more analysis for actionable purchase. Engineering and Project Management are major issues for purchasers.

- FS - surge hiring happening but still a 50% fill rate engineers in region. Old ways aren't meeting current needs. Suggest: spend more time in depth on the issues and constraints at a more local level where greatest concerns in smaller working group by bringing contracting officers to the winter meeting (roads, ops, layout). Ask: FTPC specificity on area of concerns to support better designs.

FTPC - Concern - Unsafe designs for operations on temp roads coupled with lags in availability of FS inspectors etc. for change orders. Some roads approved for reconditioning have equipment sliding off.

FTPC - Non-saw timber aspect of program is increasingly concerning - is FS going to decrease saw timber to increase non saw timber?

- FS - IRSC is last resort - IRTC, timber sales and GNA are looked at first. If no other option to remove on landscape IRSC considered.
- Currently R1 uses IRSC as additive to the program to help balance meeting objectives we need to meet. It varies unit to unit year to year.
- FTPC - appreciate FS reply but also recognize the policy structure does not support what you are trying to do.

- FS – (Lytle) – looking at opening rulemaking around federal lands and to have it covered in EPA renewable fuel. Will be a long journey, making progress helping EPA understand the need to align the materials available.

FTPC – oral auctions – will they return? Request list of sales from Region

- FS – After the issue was raised by purchasers R1 regional forester sent letter to regions to not wait until end of calendar year to restart oral auctions.



## FTPC Fall 2022 Agency/Regional Questionnaire

<b>Q:</b> Agency/Region	<b>A:</b> FS/Rocky Mountain Region
<b>Q:</b> What factors contributed to, or detracted from, your FY 22 timber program accomplishments?	<b>A:</b> Lack of seasonal hires available over the past few years have impacted sale prep. Lack of affordable housing has negatively impacted hiring ability. Very late budget allocations negatively impacted contracts with service items attached.
<b>Q:</b> If your unit had no bid sales in FY 22 – 1) why did they go no bid, 2) how much FY 22 no bid volume did you already reoffer and sell, and 3) when do you expect to reoffer remaining FY 22 no bid sales? What is your plan for any unsold no bid sales from previous years?	<b>A:</b> Several sales were offered under the SBA program and went no-bid so were then offered and sold as open market sales (25% of the no-bid volume). An IRTC on the San Juan went no -bid and then received a solicitation a week later and is expected to be sold off the shelf (15% of no-bid volume). Road work and mandatory non-saw removal was also cited for no-bids being received for sales on the GMUG and the Shoshone. Unsold no bid volume will be re-offered in FY23 on most Forests. An exception will be Flax Decked Biomass sale on the Black Hills.
<b>Q:</b> What percent of your FY 22 volume advertised in 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter?	<b>A:</b> 45% of the volume sold to date occurred in the 4 <sup>th</sup> quarter.
<b>Q:</b> What is the volume of timber sales withheld or not awarded due to litigation? How are you responding to litigation?	<b>A:</b> No volume was withheld or not awarded due to litigation.
<b>Q:</b> What problems are you anticipating for your FY 23 timber program? How do you plan on addressing these problems?	<b>A:</b> Lack of a full budget October 1 will impact first quarter sales. There are a lot of new employees that need formal and on the job training to become proficient in their positions. The region just hosted LARI 101 for 90 employees and will continue offering training in person, through AgLearn and virtually. The Region will issue targets to the field in FY23. Units will be encouraged to implement DxP, virtual boundaries, and other efficiency tools where appropriate.
<b>Q:</b> Are you using DxD, DxP, and Virtual Boundaries?	<b>A:</b> Yes where appropriate. The region hosted DxP training last spring and will have another session in FY23.
<b>Q:</b> How much funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was allocated to your region for timber related projects? Are you working with the fuels management staff to identify projects which can use timber harvest to achieve hazardous fuels reductions?	<b>A:</b> The region received \$10,390,000 in NITX funds that were allocated out to all units in the region. There are always ongoing discussions around integrated project funding and implementation. In Region 2, the front range priority firesheds do not overlap well with the commercial timber base though some volume and other products will . We take advantage of markets to lower implementation costs when possible.

**Q:** What is the status on hiring/vacancies?

**A:** The region hired 32 positions through the Forestry Collective Hiring Event held this summer and will submit 106 positions to the Society of American Foresters hiring event this Fall. The regional sale admin specialist position currently has a detailer and will be filled permanently in FY23. The regional Resource Specialist for Timber Finances is currently filled by a detailer and will be filled permanently in FY23. The Regional Office is continuing to build capacity to support the field. This includes 2 NEPA strike teams (NEPA specialist, resource specialists, archaeologist) and an additional module to the Region's Timber Strike Team, which will focus on silviculture and reforestation work.

## 2022 Fall FTPC Region 2 Breakout Notes

October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### FY22 Report

- Steve Lohr just accepted DRF position. Rick Truex acting in interim.
- 386,000 ccf sold - less than anticipated based on capacity constraints and sequencing of funding (BIL etc). More reliance on 4Q sale and several no bids. Capacity constraints will take some time to resolve.
- List of material % request = Sharon Paul can provide post call if needed.

### FY23 Report

- Likely to deliver similar program as FY22 Should look like FY22 around capacity constraints.
- Some budget uncertainty will affect POW. Hope to have it by Dec w/ strategy to use carryover to move through Q1.

### FTPC Q's & Issues

- 8% volume was GNA – is there an opp to boost that number and address personnel issues?
  - Always looking to expand GNA opportunity. Moved some funding to state partners (Colorado State Forest Service) to build capacity to support GN work; anticipate CSFS to stand up timber strike teams and other support over time. Will initially focus on front range landscape. Also provided funds to WY support to a second GN Coordinator.
- Expand on non-saw causing No Bids
  - San Juan – requirement of Products Other than Logs (POL) vs POL as option likely resulted in No Bid. Review of no bids ongoing.
- How much aspen vs true non saw?
  - Post beetle post salvage focus means more non saw.
- Budget – we know numbers are going up, agency needs to start moving out on the assumption of a flat budget
  - R2 taking this approach. Q1 targets will be assigned, in Dec we will look at final budget to make any final moves once funding is in place.
- WCIP Front Range Priority Landscape - Why \$18m stated and \$10m received?
  - Front Range received \$18m total for active management, including ~\$15M fuels reduction and ~\$2.4M timber.
  - \$8m timber to field was BIL and important to deliver those programs last year.
- FY23 – same as usual – when will Black Hills & Bighorn get out 6-month sale plan
  - RO working with them on the timing of those forests.
- Capacity – recognition that maybe the forest wasn't using all the means available to address capacity issues with authorities on table from planning to implementation?
  - Recruit and Fill – recognition that SAF, etc are not enough alone. R2 looking for 106 employees. Seeing merit promotions through some hiring events,

- typically 50-60% fill rate. Hiring remains challenge due to cost of living/housing availability, overall labor market etc.
- Planning & Implementation – recognizing need for flexibility - standing up
  - Two NEPA strike teams Front Range Team, Region wide with Black Hills focus first.
  - Silv strike team in progress with goal to stand up by May 2023.
- Front Range NEPA is strong, correct? Why such a front range focus and special strike team?
  - WCIP strategy is to take advantage of building capacity. Example Silv strike team funded partly through restoration fund. Need will be assessed tied to allocation of human capital.
- Need to see a balance of more staff with more acres treated.
  - R2 continues to work towards both.
- Speak to post fire issues
  - ARP- FY22 post fire was priority focus. Capacity issue for a sale ~3700ccf anticipated Q1 as additive. Saw service contracts come in high 4k acre. Recognize potential need to re-evaluate - cost of doing business
- % Stew work through BPA estimate?
  - No % available, all FY22 awards finalized 26 total. FY23 more planned, working on lessons learned with White River.
- Eng costs tied to No Bids – No bid meeting on Slaughterhouse Project showed water bars installed too big to drive over. Road access provision needs are real.
  - Rick/R2 - offer to add topic to fall mtg Nov and get Eng at table to discuss.
- Ask on CO capacity - tied to slow processing (over a year in some instances)
  - CO capacity pinch point on some audits and accounting work
    - North Zone Laramie still very limited but other zones seeing recovery of capacity. Working on understanding NZ needs and how to fill them.
- Tethered Logging meeting Black Hills – any update or follow up to that meeting or anything we can do to open up more acres on steep ground?
  - BH, GMUG may be new opps. Looking into it now.
- What are the gaps you need filled?
  - RMRS work is pivotal. We need to keep the conversations and opps up to show successes for demonstration sites to grow support to broadly bring it into our programs. Grow Monarch Project success.
- Issue with supply – example ticket books may take a week to 10days. Need help it's becoming cost prohibitive sale closures etc. Request RO support to resolve.
- We are on borrowed time in Black Hills – info matters – short term info matters etc. Asking for transparency.
  - Impact is sought through 5-year strategies. More a focus on where we need to be in 5 years and how we move across that 5-year horizon so industry knows where we could head.
- Low value material – origin won't change it's in the loss of markets for standing timber. Look at R3 the attempt to re-establish something of value down there – let's not do it again.
- Will forests have a hard target FY23?

- We understand WO will assign targets and RO will assign them to the field. Approach was to assign a reality based ccf not beyond what is achievable and share that with industry. Want to push realistic targets out it benefits all.
- CO State FS offered capacity support proposal what is status on that?
  - Proposal was \$5m over 3 years – almost \$2m went to them in FY22. We will continue to look at funding the proposed duration.



## FTPC Fall 2022 Agency/Regional Questionnaire

<b>Q:</b> Agency/Region	<b>A: Forest Service, Southwestern Region (R3)</b>
<b>Q:</b> What factors contributed to, or detracted from, your FY 22 timber program accomplishments?	<b>A:</b> Wildfire/disaster recovery had a significant impact on all program accomplishments. Reworking 4FRI 1 task orders was more complicated than anticipated. Workforce shortages continue to plague the agency at all levels.
<b>Q:</b> If your unit had no bid sales in FY 22 – 1) why did they go no bid, 2) how much FY 22 no bid volume did you already reoffer and sell, and 3) when do you expect to reoffer remaining FY 22 no bid sales? What is your plan for any unsold no bid sales from previous years?	<b>A:</b> 5 sales were offered that received no bids this year. Oky and Baseball 3 Reoffer are the only sales of those that have not been sold. Oky has some access challenges and low volume per acre. It may be reconfigured and offered as two separate sales. Baseball 3 Reoffer was originally awarded in 2020 and was withdrawn due to the MSO injunction. The sale was offered a second time this year and went no bid. The forest is pursuing other options to attract local industry in early FY 23.
<b>Q:</b> What percent of your FY 22 volume advertised in 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter?	<b>A:</b> 86% of all volume, including IRSC and Stewardship Agreements.
<b>Q:</b> What is the volume of timber sales withheld or not awarded due to litigation? How are you responding to litigation?	<b>A:</b> N/A
<b>Q:</b> What problems are you anticipating for your FY 23 timber program? How do you plan on addressing these problems?	<b>A:</b> Workforce experience and capacity continues to be a challenge. Inexperience among sale preparation personnel delays implementation. The region is focusing on training/mentoring opportunities. Post-NEPA compliance with wildlife, cultural and other requirements is a challenge. The Region is putting considerable effort into developing detailed outyear project tracking to avoid unexpected setbacks due to non-compliance.
<b>Q:</b> Are you using DxD, DxP, and Virtual Boundaries?	<b>A:</b> Where appropriate we are using these tools. R3 continues to be a leader in adaptation/adoption of DxP and virtual boundaries. In 2022, the region released a load count provision to enable DxP and scaled sales in areas without weighing infrastructure.
<b>Q:</b> How much funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was allocated to your region for timber related projects? Are you working with the fuels management staff to identify projects which can use	<b>A:</b> \$4.7 million in timber and \$11.4 million in hazardous fuels, for priority landscape projects. R3 Forestry and Hazardous Fuels director areas work hand in hand in development of priorities.

timber harvest to achieve hazardous fuels reductions?	
<b>Q:</b> What is the status on hiring/vacancies?	<b>A:</b> The Region tried to fill around 80 forester/forestry technician positions in the national collective hiring event and filled about half (most are reassignments/promotions). We have nearly 70 positions advertised in association with the recent SAF conference (including the ones unable to fill in the collective event). Engineering and other resource areas are having similar challenges filling positions. There are also significant vacancies in HR.

## 2022 Fall FTPC Region 3 Breakout Notes

October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### NOTES

FTPC - Request FY22 Accomplishments - Vision for FY23

- FS - FY22 243m acre target 193m achieved (+/- 80% target), fire impacts significant. Hiring focus tied to attrition in all areas not just forestry. Majority of work/advertisement was in Q4.

- FS - FY23 - 225m acres target FY23. 4FRI a key focus in planned activities.

FTPC - 86% of offers came too late in Q4 for industry - how will FY23 avoid this?

FTPC - 4FRI Phase 2 canceled this year - what's status - are Task Orders pending/on hold?

- FS - 4FRI Phase 1 completed this year. Uncompleted acres came back to forest (=/- 40k acres) and repackaged. Two IRSC issued on Phase 1 in FY22 on the remaining acres (New Life took 1).
- FS - Restoration plan covers both east and west side - available to share.
- FS - WRRIT landscapes need a lot of survey work - to operate with efficiency we are seeking road and logging infrastructure. NM side = a lot of service contracts but a lot of it is programmatic survey work is needed.
- FS - Need a lot of money for sale prep tied to current attrition. Re-evaluating Phase 1 4FRI Task Orders (e.g., is paint still good, are MSO surveys still valid).

FTPC - How do you determine Haz Fuels vs Timber #'s? How will you report accomplishments for those?

- FS - 4FRI saw disaster relief funding tied to fires
- Funding tracked 2 ways - Labor by job code until funds expended + direct project funding.
- \$4.7m or \$11.4m was determined by WO then sent to ROs. Fuels funding also goes to forestry projects when they are designed as integrated which most are. Programmatic analysis is often through hazardous fuels since funding streams have been higher there in past years, but projects are developed as integrated projects to meet both objectives.

FTPC - All region targets are of concern - how will supplemental funding contribute to it.

- FS - we can't quantify this yet - we have \$ but not people yet, and no estimate of onboarding, upskilling etc. R3 hired 50% of what we were trying to hire. Note: +/- 80% appear to be merit promotions = so they are not staffing gains.
  - FTPC - recognizes the difference between funding a position and 'filling' it.
- FTPC - if agency still talking difficulty to hire at end of FY23 = the impression will be that the \$ was to staff up fed agencies not-resolve the result. We face the same issues with hiring in industry - we need to resolve getting work done on the land.
- FS - competition across fed agencies and private sector create hire/talent challenge
- FTPC - Partnership and agreement should be agency focus not more hires to show good faith in moving out on the IRA and BIL funding.
- FTPC - for NFF are you looking at A-S and other areas for wood for life?
  - FS - Yes on Coconino and Kaibab, not A-S yet.

- FS - NFF has not been as strong presence in NM as AZ. Flagstaff was first project. Santa Fe has one approved for a portion of an IRSC for local tribes. Lateness of funding for a third NFF Agreement being diverted to fund agreements with state to haul fuelwood to local communities from hermit's peak
- FTPC - Do you still have plans for salvage in recent fire areas?
  - Still evaluating recent fire, big issue is staffing/labor capacity (including leadership - forest supervisors etc, not just timber). Super/surge hires are in progress, but same issues apply to onboard/upskilling.
- FTPC - What is status on forest plan revisions northern NM
  - FS - All 3 northern NM forest plans are signed/completed.
- FS (Smalls) – WRRIT initial landscape investments. Will check April 2022 web page info). Note – agency is working through a conversation of what does meaningful work look like in the next 3-5 years to show results?  
FTPC – a lot of money and growing questions about where it's all going.



## FTPC Fall 2022 Agency/Regional Questionnaire

Q: Agency/Region	A: Intermountain Region – R4
<b>Q:</b> What factors contributed to, or detracted from, your FY 22 timber program accomplishments?	A: Capacity is the main factor. Despite capacity issues, the region was able to maintain the last couple of years attaining 98 and 92%; however, vacancies and lack of mentors has caught up to the region and our remaining workforce is at max capacity. Two sales won't be awarded until FY23; 1 sale requires a FAD (30,827 ccf) and the 2 <sup>nd</sup> (4,912 ccf) has a waiting period due to a possible Bid Protest.
<b>Q:</b> If your unit had no bid sales in FY 22 – 1) why did they go no bid, 2) how much FY 22 no bid volume did you already reoffer and sell, and 3) when do you expect to reoffer remaining FY 22 no bid sales? What is your plan for any unsold no bid sales from previous years?	A: 1) Total no-bid volume = 30,954 ccf (6 sales). SBSA volume accounted for 13,396 ccf (2 sales). Overall, haul costs due to inflation, appraised value due to falling markets, and not enough bunk log sized material was identified. 2) 8,571 ccf (1 SBSA sale) ran a concurrent ad and was sold on the open market, 1 small sale was reoffered and sold (308 ccf) and one sale was bought off-the-shelf (361 ccf). 3) One sale (1,851 ccf) is in a remote location and may not be reoffered. Remaining 2 sales will be reworked and reoffered Q1/Q2 FY23.
<b>Q:</b> What percent of your FY 22 volume advertised in Quarter 4?	A: Approximately 70% of R4's volume was advertised in 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter.
<b>Q:</b> What is the volume of timber sales withheld or not awarded due to litigation? How are you responding to litigation?	A: The Payette NF has signed their first post LCBC NEPA decision, Cold July. This decision covers 3 of the 6 existing awarded contracts that were suspended due to the LCBC litigation. The CO is currently working on completing contract modifications and reappraisals to allow the purchasers to begin operations. A 2nd NEPA decision is anticipated to be signed in Spring of 2023 to cover the 3 remaining suspended contracts.
<b>Q:</b> What problems are you anticipating for your FY 23 timber program? How do you plan on addressing these problems?	A: Although R4 is actively hiring, the largest concern is still the high number of vacancies within our vegetation management positions. We are vigilantly working towards filling vacant and adding additional positions; however, in some cases applicants just aren't available.
<b>Q:</b> Are you using DxD, DxP, and Virtual Boundaries?	A: The region is continuing to maximize the use of discernable boundaries and DxD.
<b>Q:</b> How much funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was allocated to your region for timber related projects? Are you working with the fuels management staff to identify projects which can use timber harvest to achieve hazardous fuels reductions?	A: R4 was allocated \$947,884 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding for timber related projects. Yes, we are working closely with our fuels staff to ensure priority acres are being treated to achieve hazardous fuel reduction.
<b>Q:</b> What is the status on hiring/vacancies?	A: The Region continues to prioritize ongoing hiring efforts making modest gains in hiring entry to mid-level forestry positions. Approximately 50% of our advertised forestry positions have been filled through regional and national hiring efforts.

## 2022 Fall FTPC Region 4 Breakout Notes

October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### 1. FY 22 Targets/ Accomplishments

Planning to finish at 70% attainment. Offered a large 15 mmbf sale in q4 but has to go through financial and ASC. Some no bids requiring reoffer. Capacity issues- vacant Forester and TMA positions across the region. Capacity issues are tied to sale prep work. 70% of the volume sold was in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter which is concerning.

### 2. FY 23 Outlook

Not anticipating the same issues in FY 23. Hiring is a focus but there will be a lot of training and mentoring needs for the new foresters onboarding. Will plan to add on the deficit volume from FY22 onto FY23 sale offering plans.

### 3. Increased use of IRSCs-

Region 4 doesn't intend to see a spike in IRSC's. Could see them in Utah based on the material. But shouldn't see IRSC's affecting the sawlog markets

### 4. Increasing Capacity overall- increasing use of GNA gets the region closer to 100% capacity but nothing above. Also utilizing FS enterprise to increase capacity.

Working with Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) to use GNA but IDL can't hire additional employees right now.

### 5. Virtual Boundaries

Have been using DxD but folks are still hesitant to use true DxP in the region. FTPC- If layout activities are holding us up we should be using virtual boundaries to free up that capacity. Industry wants to try virtual boundaries in the region.

### 6. Optional Tethered-assist logging

Need to increase the use of this so we can start treating steep slopes in the region and also gathering data on the use of this equipment and technology.

### 7. BLM Program

Open to new technologies such as DxP, virtual boundaries, and tethered logging. Sales are being sold as weight sales with virtual boundaries. Loggers still have flip phones and aren't embracing smart phones and tablets yet.

### 8. Misc.

Infrastructure funding priority landscapes- Agency Only selected 1 of the 4 priority landscapes identified in Idaho as a priority landscape. Additional BIL funding went to other resources in R4. And the region is poised if additional priority landscapes are selected in FY23. Concerns from FTPC on the whole Infrastructure Priority Landscapes selection and funding process. Mirroring CFLRP.

How will you demonstrate the outputs from the BIL funding? There is a plan to show outcomes from the 10 priority landscapes. Currently in discussions to come up with measures that make sense.

What should target be beyond on the normal timber target given the increase in BIL funding and resources. These are conversations happening now at the FRMVE Director and NFS ADC level.

How do we move away from the thinking of having the same output (3.4 billion BF) with the increase of BIL funding. The output should be higher.

Need to move away from the culture of training our new employees do things the same old inefficient way.

Some drone use is happening measuring log decks in the region



## FTPC Fall 2022 Agency/Regional Questionnaire

Q: Agency/Region	A: Region 5 (Pacific Southwest Region)
<p><b>Q:</b> What factors contributed to, or detracted from, your FY 22 timber program accomplishments?</p>	<p><b>A:</b> The amount of burned wood needing to be treated across California, and associated mill capacity and logging workforce shortages, was a challenge. Many of our sales used IRSCs with timber subject to agreement. Length of time to complete environmental compliance and internal workforce shortages were also challenges this year. Factors contributing to our success included increased use of a wider variety of NEPA instruments to increase efficiency and shorten timelines, using Stewardship Agreements to work with partners to increase capacity, and being able to apply Disaster Supplemental funds to address timber subject to agreement in IRSCs.</p>
<p><b>Q:</b> If your unit had no bid sales in FY 22 – 1) why did they go no bid, 2) how much FY 22 no bid volume did you already reoffer and sell, and 3) when do you expect to reoffer remaining FY 22 no bid sales? What is your plan for any unsold no bid sales from previous years?</p>	<p><b>A:</b> 1. Generally, R5 continues to have a glut of salvage volume with very low value and high operating costs, particularly when mandatory biomass removal is an included product. In some cases, advertised log values were simply too high for the short-term economic period. Additionally, there is some volume that is too old and deteriorated. In the case of decked salvage logs, there was one instance of too many mis-manufactured and short logs from fire operations. 2. Around 52,000 CCF of no bid sales were successfully reoffered and sold. 3. It is unknown when the remaining unsold sales will be sold but any deck sales will likely be reoffered in the first quarter. Some are dependent on additional funding. All the sales that are withdrawn from selling in the future were deck sales.</p>
<p><b>Q:</b> What percent of your FY 22 volume advertised in 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter?</p>	<p><b>A:</b> 43% (229,004 CCF Q4 of 531,719 CCF) of our timber sales and reoffer volume were advertised in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter.</p>
<p><b>Q:</b> What is the volume of timber sales withheld or not awarded due to litigation? How are you responding to litigation?</p>	<p><b>A:</b> In FY22, there were no timber sales withheld or not awarded due to litigation.</p>
<p><b>Q:</b> What problems are you anticipating for your FY 23 timber program? How do you plan on addressing these problems?</p>	<p><b>A:</b> We will continue to see the same problems listed above, workforce, length of time needed for Environmental compliance, and industry capacity. We continue to increase pace of hiring through collective hiring events, as well as working with partners to increase capacity. We are increasing our use of all appropriate NEPA processes and are working with USFWS to identify ESA consultation efficiencies. We are also working with the national office on a timber transport pilot as a method to match wood supply with industry capacity.</p>

<p><b>Q:</b> Are you using DxD, DxP, and Virtual Boundaries?</p>	<p><b>A: YES</b></p>
<p><b>Q:</b> How much funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was allocated to your region for timber related projects? Are you working with the fuels management staff to identify projects which can use timber harvest to achieve hazardous fuels reductions?</p>	<p><b>A:</b> In FY22, we received about \$10.3M in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) funds that support timber-related work (NITX), including funding to support our two Wildfire Risk Reduction initial projects [North Yuba (Tahoe NF) and Stanislaus]. Additional fuels (NIHX) funding was allocated to the two Wildfire Risk Reduction initial projects, some of which will also support timber related projects. We are working closely with the fuel management staffs at both the Forest and Regional levels to identify projects that use timber harvest and other mechanical methods to achieve hazardous fuels reduction.</p>
<p><b>Q:</b> What is the status on hiring/vacancies?</p>	<p><b>A:</b> We were able to hire approximately 50 positions through the national Forestry Hiring Event and look to fill additional positions through the SAF event. In addition, the Region is working with HR to fill our highest priority positions. Current forestry-related vacancies include: Klamath CO, Klamath FSR, Klamath TMO, Klamath SA (2), Lassen FSR, Lassen SA (2), Plumas FSR, Plumas SA (2), Eldorado FSR, Eldorado SA (1), Tahoe SA (1), and RO Timber Sale Prep Program Manager.</p>

## 2022 Fall FTPC Region 5 Breakout Notes

October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### **1. FY 22 Targets/Accomplishments**

Fires in 2020 and 2021 made 2022 made 2022 challenging. But used IRTC, IRSC, and Stewardship to get wood out. Utilizing log decks from the recent fires contributed. There were some no bids, but less than anticipated. Most of the no bids were reoffered and sold. 43% of volume came in the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter, partially due to fire recovery. Timber volume target was exceeded, which is an accomplishment given the conditions in Region 5. Found different ways to move wood, Service contracts to move log decks. Green volume was 39% of the program

### **2. FY 23 Outlook**

Workforce is a challenge with the FS and industry. Working with partners to increase capacity. Using NEPA efficiencies. Using DxD, DxP, and Virtual boundaries wherever possible. Using fire suppression resources to work on decking logs while the equipment and resources are on site and available. Industry has concerns with the ability to move the program away from salvage and into more green volume opportunities

### **3. Progress on completion of Regional Hazard Tree Removal EA**

Currently in objection phase for 3 of these projects tiered to the overall EA

### **4. Programmatic NEPA for future disturbances**

Working to streamline future emergency determinations and other emergency tools, also important to communicate with partners that the FS is still doing NEPA. Are DNA actions being taken on NEPA completed projects affected by fire. DNA can be done fairly quickly but there are a lot of variances for each project.

NEPA Authority Alternative Arrangements- Region 5 is the only region using this authority and this is a big deal.

Roadside Hazard EA projects are also a big benefit in the region

### **5. Staffing**

Klamath NF is lacking capacity in the timber shop, the forest is working with the province and also out of region to provide support, specifically for a timber CO position

### **6. More widespread use of Infrastructure Act Fuelbreak CE**

4 forests either using it or going through the process to use the authority. More are interested in the tool. Eldorado is leading the way.

### **7. BLM Program**

FY22 -

Small program only 5 foresters at 5 offices. No salvage in FY22 due to Fire. There is a fire salvage implementation fire team available to assist. The team worked on the Tamarack fire. The sale went no bid due to haul distance

FY22 target was around 3mmbf for CA

**FY23-**

There will be a roadside hazard sale on the mosquito fire. This is the focus for FY23. The salvage team will be moving over to this project on the Mother Lode Field office  
Some small green sales in process. Plan to offer the 3 mmbf target using these green sales  
Working on agreements with CALFIRE, CAL TRANS and the RCD's to increase capacity

**MISC Notes**

What about the use of the 3,000-acre HFRA CE authority overlaying it with the top ten fire sheds in the state? Currently looking at an approach to looking at this to put another tool in the toolbox



<b>Q:</b> Agency/Region	<b>A: USFS/Region 6</b>
<b>Q:</b> What factors contributed to, or detracted from, your FY 22 timber program accomplishments?	<b>A:</b> Region 6 continues to rebuild the timber and active management program from FY20/21 fires that affected existing NEPA decisions and active timber sales. In addition to wildfires the Region has experienced an uptick in litigation on both salvage effort and the green timber program. In response to this situation Region 6 implemented a strategic 5-year plan focused on deepening our volume approved under NEPA as well as prepped volume entering each FY. This 5-year plan is aimed at stabilizing the base timber program across the Region to provide more consistent delivery of outputs in the face of uncertainty (fire, litigation, market fluctuations/timing). The goal is for each Forest to have 3 times its annual volume under decision and 1 year of sale prep volume entering each FY (3+1 strategy). We estimate that the minimum delivery for consistent timber outputs will be ~650MMBF by Fiscal Year 2026. We were able to capitalize on BIL funding to invest in areas that contribute to wildfire risk reduction as well as Forests that are poised to make accelerated headway towards consistent and predictable volume. FY22 BIL investments supported NEPA related activities and presale support activities. We expect to see the landscape outcomes of these investments over the next couple of years.
<b>Q:</b> If your unit had no bid sales in FY 22 – 1) why did they go no bid, 2) how much FY 22 no bid volume did you already reoffer and sell, and 3) when do you expect to reoffer remaining FY 22 no bid sales? What is your plan for any unsold no bid sales from previous years?	<b>A:</b> Region 6 had approximately 100MMBF in no bid sales in FY22. Road package size, litigation concerns, appraisal value differences and deterioration of product (particularly for salvage/deck sales), SBA requirements, and inclusion of low value material have contributed to no bids across the Region. Some of this year's no bid volume was contributed from previous FY sales that were re-offered and went no bid again this year. About ½ of the no bid volume has been reoffered and awarded. The remaining balance of no bid sales are being evaluated for re-offer and reworked to respond to suggestions from industry. A few sales are being withdrawn due to deteriorated value of material particularly for post fire deck or salvage materials.
<b>Q:</b> What percent of your FY 22 volume advertised in 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter?	<b>A:</b> 45% of our FY22 advertised volume was in Q4.

<p><b>Q:</b> What is the volume of timber sales withheld or not awarded due to litigation? How are you responding to litigation?</p>	<p><b>A:</b> ~220MMBF across 6 Forests and 23 sales. Litigation occurred on our DT/HT Road Maintenance CEs following the FY20/21 fire season. The Region shifted from CE authorities to EAs to complete that work. The Region is still working through multiple EAs to accomplish this work. The Region is in negotiations on several of the lawsuits, other decisions have been withdrawn and projects are moving forward under different environmental analysis documents, and others we are currently briefing. The Region consistently looks for the most expedient manner in which to move forward on all its timber sale projects in order to get the work done efficiently and as soon as practicable.</p>
<p><b>Q:</b> What problems are you anticipating for your FY 23 timber program? How do you plan on addressing these problems?</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Region 6 anticipates continue challenges to increase NEPA and prep shelf from FY20/21 fires, but also continued need to focus on wildfire response. The “3+1” strategy will bring greater focus on investments in planning and sale prep through both investments in funding and greater focus and monitoring. We will continue to invest significant time and money to ensure the Region reaches its FY26 goal of consistent delivery of a minimum of 650MMBF.</p> <p><b>In FY22/23 the Region is planning to hire 125 new foresters and forestry technicians. We anticipate a significant investment needed to train and develop newly hired employees, with most new employees within 2 years of graduation. There will be a number of forests that will continue to face challenges with recruitment and hiring. Inability to fill positions has a direct impact on capacity for each unit. The Region is looking to help use contractors or assistance from Enterprise or neighboring units to provide added capacity when and where possible.</b></p>
<p><b>Q:</b> Are you using DxD, DxP, and Virtual Boundaries?</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Yes. DxD/DXP is used on approximately 49% of our timber sales by volume and virtual boundaries are being utilized extensively on one of the Forests in the Region on green sales, and another 2 for designating interior features that require different treatment than the remaining stands (leave areas for various retention structures). Following the fires of FY20/21 virtual boundaries are being used frequently (4+ forests) for roadside hazard treatment. We regularly use discernable boundaries, roads, ridge lines, or other features easily identifiable and hard boundaries are not being physically painted or marked on the ground.</p>
<p><b>Q:</b> How much funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was allocated to your region for timber related projects? Are you working with the fuels management staff to identify projects which can use timber</p>	<p><b>A:</b> \$7.4M in BIL funding was allocated to the Region for timber related projects. Natural Resources and Fire and Aviation Management in Region 6 are highly integrated and work together frequently on an integrated program of work that produce mutually beneficial outcomes for risk reduction and contribution to timber volume outputs.</p>

harvest to achieve hazardous fuels reductions?																																									
<b>Q:</b> What is the status on hiring/vacancies?	<b>A:</b> The Region participated in the National Collective hiring event for foresters and forestry technicians in FY22 in order fill many of our vacancies. The Region aimed to fill 73 positions, but was only able to fill 34. Total of 22 positions had no applicants. We are planning on building upon the hiring successes started in FY22 and adopting this process as our standard operating procedure to ensure continually and predictably filling important vacancies as they arise throughout the year. This fall the Region has submitted requests for 125 permanent and internship positions in concert with the SAF Convention's National hiring event. Many of the positions included in the SAF event include unfilled positions through the National Hiring effort. A number of other positions remain vacant throughout the region that are key to environmental analysis. Key leadership vacancies, including line officer vacancies will continue into the future due to a high level of retirements and attrition across the Region. Some units are experiencing attrition rates higher than 30% or more.																																								
<b>National Collective Hiring Summary for R6</b>																																									
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## 2022 Fall FTPC Region 6 Breakout Notes

October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### **1. FY 22 Targets / Accomplishments**

Still recovering from the fires from 2020 and 2021. There was an uptick in litigation in the salvage and green sale programs. Focusing on building a 5-year timber plan to stabilize the baseline program. This provides reliability and consistency. There was a gap self-target and what was offered in FY22. 45% of volume offered in quarter 4,

### **2. FY 23 Outlook**

The volume gap will be added onto FY23 timber targets and expectations. Want to build a plan that allows for resilience and adaptability to changing conditions like fire. Goal is to have a 1, 3, and 5 year strategy.

### **3. No Bids**

100MMBF went no bid in FY22. Higher than expected. No bids due to road packages, appraisal packages. Line officer engagement is key and needs to continue. Half of the no bid volume was reoffered and sold. Concern from industry around a lack of expertise in logging systems, roads, and logging costs. These skills need to be built back up. 11% no bid rate in FY22, still too high. Industry is concerned about geographic trends with no bids. Seems to be a widespread issue.

### **4. Litigation**

220mmbf held in litigation following FY20 and FY21 fire salvage. Looking at shifting to EA's for some of this volume. Continuing to look for the best and efficient tools to handle post fire recovery efforts.

### **5. Increased use of IRSCs**

This has come up at previous meetings. Some of this will be achieved through BPA's. This will also have a positive affect on No Bids. Purchasers need to communicate with local Forests to understand what different mechanisms will be used

### **6. Post-fire Strategies**

2 new teams stood up focused on post fire recovery efforts.

Looking at Alternative Arrangements and tracking what Region 5 is doing

### **7. NEPA Decision Making-**

RF expects we look at streamlined and smart NEPA decision making processes

### **8. Utilization Specs**

Related to no bids, because there can be disagreements between FS and industry on what merch volume and log lengths should be. Next steps are to review the implications of making utilization specs changes, especially within the region and neighboring regions.

## **9. Bar Coded Tickets**

Moving forward with ordering yellow ticket books for Sales, starting small, and looking to see what works and look at capability and creating product everyone can utilize.

## **10. BLM Program**

280mmbf offered all volume sold except for 8mmbf from Coos Bay. All salvage volume sold. 500+ mmbf currently under contract.

Litigation- 25mmbf held in litigation. Strategy to defend those issues. Some litigants have withdrawn

Major constraints are in procurement and HR.

Struggling to meet targets but still succeeding barely.

We can extend contracts up to 36 months to allow the contractor to complete salvage.



## FTPC Fall 2022 Agency/Regional Questionnaire

Q: Agency/Region	A: USFS/Region 8
<b>Q:</b> What factors contributed to, or detracted from, your FY 22 timber program accomplishments?	<p><b>A:</b> As stated during the Spring meeting, current inventory on hand is high for many Purchasers so they are reluctant to buy more timber. Impacts from SOPI and MRCTA to contract terms can lead to no bids.</p> <p>The growth of the R8 strike team has increased sale prep capacity. Where states are agreeable to taking on the work, GNA sales have also added to our capacity.</p> <p>Working with local authorities in Crawford County, AR on a road bond issue has minimized impacts and allowed a district to get several no-bid sales awarded.</p> <p>The salvage sales on the LBL National Recreation Area added about 67,000 CCF to accomplishments this year. we expect this salvage program will facilitate the unit in getting their green program back up and running.</p>
<b>Q:</b> If your unit had no bid sales in FY 22 – 1) why did they go no bid, 2) how much FY 22 no bid volume did you already reoffer and sell, and 3) when do you expect to reoffer remaining FY 22 no bid sales? What is your plan for any unsold no bid sales from previous years?	<p><b>A:</b> Most no-bids are tied to economics in some way. Whether it's stumpage rate, road costs, distance to mill, product ratio, or any other reason, it can usually be tied to economics. At the end of FY22, we had 17 no-bid sales with 140,433 CCF of volume. 3 of these sales were salvage sales. All sales will be re-offered if not bought off the shelf. We will continue to work with purchasers to reduce no-bid. We can address many issues around fuel with appraisal adjustments.</p>
<b>Q:</b> What percent of your FY 22 volume advertised in 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter?	<p><b>A:</b> Approximately 40%. We have used BIL funds to prepare units to get more NEPA and heritage done with expectations to offer more volume earlier in the year.</p>
<b>Q:</b> What is the volume of timber sales withheld or not awarded due to litigation? How are you responding to litigation?	<p><b>A:</b> Zero. R8 doesn't normally have issues with litigation but did have one possible situation develop in NC this year. The sale in question was awarded and to date, no further action has been taken by the group. We do expect the Steep Ground/tethered logging sale on the Boone to be litigated.</p>
<b>Q:</b> What problems are you anticipating for your FY 23 timber program? How do you plan on addressing these problems?	<p><b>A:</b> Markets for small diameter material. This used to be an issue only on the Mountain forests, but it now seems to be an issue in the coastal plain and piedmont units as well. The Region is working with the Daniel Boone and other Mountain forests on increasing possibilities of implementing tethered logging.</p>
<b>Q:</b> Are you using DxD, DxP, and Virtual Boundaries?	<p><b>A:</b> DxD – Yes, R8 has been using DxD for many years with a lot of success. The most common DxD use is DxSpacing, both tree measurement and scaled.</p> <p>DxP – Yes, R8 uses DxP on several forests. It is primarily used in plantation thinning but we have experimented with it on</p>

	<p>intermediate treatments. The sales always have at least 2 products that are blended into a weighted average bid rate. DxP use is increasing.</p> <p>Virtual Boundaries – No, not the Geo Fence type. We do use discernable boundaries in R8 but that is nothing new, this has been done for at least 20 years. We do have one forest preparing to use VB in the near future.</p>
<p><b>Q:</b> How much funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was allocated to your region for timber related projects? Are you working with the fuels management staff to identify projects which can use timber harvest to achieve hazardous fuels reductions?</p>	<p><b>A:</b> R8 received \$6,480,000 in NITX for Mechanical Thinning, Timber Harvesting, and Pre-Commercial Thinning. All funds except a few thousand dollars went to the field for project work. \$631,000 for herniate surveys. The heritage survey funding was coupled with \$520,000 of NFTM funds for a total of \$1,151,000 going towards surveys for future timber sales that will add shelf stock and enable the region to increase volume offered.</p> <p>R8 also received \$1.4 million for GNA/TFPA restoration projects. \$350K went to NC TFPA and the rest is going to the Ouachita to complete a forest wide NEPA for thinning.</p> <p><b>Q:</b> What is the status on hiring/vacancies?</p> <p><b>A:</b> R8 as a whole has approximately 2,600 employees, which is slightly higher than the 5 year average. The Forester/Forestry Tech hiring event of 2022 has increased the employees working in timber sale prep and admin. Through the event, R8 attempted to fill 292 positions, the most of any region. 95 positions received no applicants, 39 positions had offers made but were declined, 136 positions were offered to current employees, and 16 positions were offered to external applicants. Filling of positions continues to be a challenge and we have many vacant boxes on our organization charts. One significant component of the hiring event was that we increased the pay grade for approximately 70 Sale Administrator positions. This will greatly increase recruitment and retention of quality employees.</p> <p>R8 also advertised 100 Techs, 28 Foresters, 9 interns, we won't know until December how many of these positions will be filled.</p>

## 2022 Fall FTPC Region 8 Breakout Notes

October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### FY22 Report

- Still putting in volume - showing low in dashboard but should see add volume. Anticipate being just under last year but close. Forests were asked to repeat last year target 600mbf.
- FY22 RO team worked close with units on budget and allocations for FY23.
- Focused investment is on a FY24-26 sale strategy
- Will see a lot in Q1 not just No Bids repackaged
- Heritage, NEPA backlogs are issues
- Much of BIL \$ went to Heritage work - mainly FL, SC, some TN
- Working on landscape level CEs and forest wide NEPA to support thinning and shifts to DxP on Ouachita, Kisatchie
  - State GNA will cover thinning while forest focuses on watershed bridge
- No Bid analysis ongoing to support strong re-offers
- Road package solutions looking at GNA as support
- Purchaser meeting Ouachita Nov, Mississippi met early in summer
- Working with Appalachian forests to do some helicopter logging
- Still working tethered logging project on Boone NF - staff officer will be at FTPC. They will be pretty big player in that market.
- Scaled sale implementation improved
- Wood innovations will be key for us. New market needs Oachita and others
- Added two strike teams for marking
- Approved reduced road bond achieved Ozark

### FTPC Issues & Qs

On Ouachita and Appalachian - how much No Bid? Have you broken down which of net no bid is pulp?

- AC don't recall No Bid, Ouachita yes, sent pdf of no bids a few months ago will send Sept. - one was picked up by new purchaser and got pushed to Q1 FY23 as a result.

### Stewardship

- 16% Stewardship - yes - majority in Texas
- Daniel Boone Starting more stew volume. Program is much lower producer than TX so you may not see overall%.

Why do you anticipate litigation on the steep slope tethered logging?

- Kentucky hardwood stakeholder concerns my trigger.

What do plans say on slopes?

- If limit exists some have 40%, some have none. Varies to conditions

Why is FS not operating more in FL in wet – it has to be possible they are doing it elsewhere. Example of bridge replacement need that prevented project. With BIL for infrastructure this needs to work in concert. If good resource management work can be done on one side of a bridge to let a project move it needs to be done.

- R8 working on better integration with Eng shop and scaling GNA work. Integrated staff meeting planned to support this move (FTPC can join a discussion of historical perspectives).

#### Hurricane Impacts & Response

- FL has 100k limit on what state will accept to do work. As a result, GNA solutions a challenge.
- DxP and scale sale is the approach/method to recovery. Its increasingly successful in getting sales out before material deteriorates.
- Disaster Recovery Team in R8 exists – Have a hired coordinator position. FL mainly roads and flooding, also Puerto Rico. Rest of forests were typical or less.
- FY22 allocation disaster relief? – They were for past events Mississippi etc
  - Kisatchie a lot of salvage, NC more road issues flooding
- Why is R8 able to conduct so much salvage compared to the West?
  - R8 approach is to react quickly, chainsaw stumpage approach – NEPA was in place, etc. Landscape also conditions different to much of the West.

Purchaser comment – Our No Bids package suggestions have been taken and worked out well. Mainly around big road packages mixed in with timber sales and how to do it GNA or Stewardship.

FTPC comment- as purchasers at sawmills are retiring and new people coming in, there is a lot of pulpwood moving a lot of directions in the south. Need to find a way to make the purchase worthwhile for FS and the market. Pulp industry needs.

- Designated haul routes issue is different in R8, and a challenge. Exploring space for change there.

Heritage Q – is there a spike in cost Heritage surveys in general R8? Seems heavier lift higher cost in West.

- Yes contracts cost increased +/- 30%. Issue of draining NEPA shelf stock to meet targets in past years plays a role. Plan is subregional model of 5 year plans and integrated programs of work. Hired Project Manager to build Project Management Office (PMO) to support outyear future stand conditions. Anticipate this making impact in outyears to achieve scale in project delivery.



<b>Q:</b> Agency/Region	<b>A: Region 10</b>
<b>Q:</b> What factors contributed to, or detracted from, your FY 22 timber program accomplishments?	<p><b>A:</b> Prior year litigation losses and a broader integrated resource focus has left the Tongass with very little new NEPA cleared volume. The Region continues to offer small old-growth sales from prior NEPA and new NEPA efforts are underway to provide young-growth volume in alignment with the Department's Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy (Strategy).</p> <p>Southcentral Alaska continues to experience a widespread spruce beetle outbreak, creating an abundant supply of fuelwood across all ownerships. The Chugach continues to offer decked fuelwood sales resulting from vegetation treatments and highway improvement projects.</p>
<b>Q:</b> If your unit had no bid sales in FY 22 – 1) why did they go no bid, 2) how much FY 22 no bid volume did you already reoffer and sell, and 3) when do you expect to reoffer remaining FY 22 no bid sales? What is your plan for any unsold no bid sales from previous years?	<p><b>A:</b> There have been five no bid sales in FY22.</p> <p>The Chugach had two no bid decked fuelwood sales (214mbf) that were part of a three sale bid opening on the same day and have since been sold off the shelf.</p> <p>The Tongass had two no bid microsales with one reoffered and sold (1.8mbf) earlier this year and the other planned to be sold off the shelf very soon.</p> <p>The third no bid sale on the Tongass was a small old-growth sale (783mbf) on Prince of Wales Island. Feedback from local purchasers cite the high advertised bid rate (\$380/mbf), economic uncertainties such as inflation and labor availability, available lower stumpage volume already under contract, and uncertainty in export market opportunities for small purchasers on the island. We plan to reoffer this sale in spring 2023 after we update appraisal selling values and costs to reflect 2023 Qtr 1 data, which we expect will indicate a lower advertised value based on recent price and cost trends.</p> <p>A previous no bid sale from FY18 has been repackaged into smaller offerings with the first sale (2,600mbf) awarded late FY22. Subsequent offerings will be repackaged and offered in future fiscal years as determined by industry interest.</p>
<b>Q:</b> What percent of your FY 22 volume advertised in 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter?	<b>A:</b> Approximately 82% of FY22 volume was advertised in the 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter.

<p><b>Q:</b> What is the volume of timber sales withheld or not awarded due to litigation? How are you responding to litigation?</p>	<p><b>A: Zero.</b></p>
<p><b>Q:</b> What problems are you anticipating for your FY 23 timber program? How do you plan on addressing these problems?</p>	<p><b>A:</b> In FY23, the Tongass anticipates an increase in volume offered compared to previous years. This will be primarily young growth volume following anticipated NEPA decisions on two large young growth projects on the Tongass. Small old growth sales will continue to be offered from previous NEPA decisions.</p> <p>Tongass NEPA teams are at capacity with ongoing young-growth planning efforts, with four of five IDT positions vacant. Two positions have been hired, and the remaining two should be onboard next year. In addition, the Tongass is developing a strategy to prioritize new NEPA planning to best meet industry needs for economic old-growth and young-growth volume along with meeting other resource management objectives in alignment with the Strategy and within the framework of the 2016 Forest Plan.</p> <p>The Chugach will continue offering decked fuelwood sales from continued vegetation treatments in response to spruce beetle outbreak.</p>
<p><b>Q:</b> Are you using DxD, DxP, and Virtual Boundaries?</p>	<p><b>A: No.</b></p>
<p><b>Q:</b> How much funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was allocated to your region for timber related projects? Are you working with the fuels management staff to identify projects which can use timber harvest to achieve hazardous fuels reductions?</p>	<p><b>A:</b> In FY22, Region 10 received an initial allocation of \$2,994,000 under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law which has been put towards pre-commercial thinning treatments. In August, the region received an additional \$1,000,000 for new Good Neighbor agreements, we are working on a strategy to obligate those funds early FY23.</p> <p>There are ongoing efforts with the Regional Fuels Coordinator to begin evaluating the Kenai priority fireshed for fuels treatments. We expect this effort to include FS and non-FS landowners so that maximum benefit can be achieved to combat undesirable fire behavior. We expect that there could be a green tree log component coming from these activities, although we currently do not have any species or volume estimates. Efforts to identify this work are in preliminary stages, but we expect implementation to begin within one to two years and could extend upwards of ten. This effort would be taking advantage of funding from the National WRRIT wildfire mitigation strategy and potential funds from the Inflation Reduction Act.</p>

**Q:** What is the status on hiring/vacancies?

**A:** The Region recently advertised 10 forester and forestry tech positions as the Society of American Foresters national hiring event, which was attended by our new Alaska Recruitment and Retention employee and timber management staff. Nationally there were about 850 positions advertised, and we expect that competition to fill every advertised position will be strong. This event will culminate with offers around December of 2022, with new positions being physically filled by later winter early spring.

Regionally we have struggled to bring on new employees. Housing has become a large concern in our smaller communities, with a number of declinations referencing this issue. While we have ramped up our efforts on hiring, our employee numbers have remained flat. New strategies are being utilized to increase outreach and capacity in HR.

## 2022 Fall FTPC Region 10 Breakout Notes

October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### FY22 Report

- 4mbf completed, 6mbf targeted, offered closer to 5mbf (final sale fell through). Admin change and shift in program direction, lack of surveys and NEPA shelf stock were low tied to changes in direction. Old growth strategy directed by Secretary resulted in guidance to expand young growth timber harvest opportunities and objectives prior to issuance (affects POW and plan to project timeline). Two GNA sales Alcan Timber, Bounder Bay GNA Ketchikan sale Old growth and young growth state and fed lands.

### FY23 Forecast

- Continue to work in developing and transitioning to a young growth sale program, address old growth strategy requirements.
- Land exchange with Alaska health intended to act as bridge to mills and business infrastructure on old growth.

### FTPC Issues & Qs

Why 82% sold in 4<sup>th</sup> quarter.

- Represents 1 sale (old growth)
  - from 2017 NEPA decision 7mbf 2018 went No Bid
  - metered the sale in 2.5mbf
- 800mbf sale also went No Bid 4Q
- Young growth yes old growth no.
- Not enough old growth NEPA cleared to move through the next few years for local sawmill supply and small business sales.
- 22mbf EA in Gate 2 project design
- Sale Prep issues begin faced also slowing project delivery

Why can't the backlog work out to 6m average?

- The additional NEPA to clear old growth volume – idea is to meter that out so it is available in a stream.

No Bids

- Deck sales 2 – both resold
- Chugach total 5 fuelwood sales
- Tongass – 3 – 2 were micro-sales roadside salvage ect (music wood, etc one truck)
- Sour Sticky – old growth - prince of whale island
- Challenges identified in No Bid Actions = recent inflation trends, labor, housing issues, affordability, already having lumber under contract at a higher price at that time of year.
- Plan – re-advertise sales spring - no feedback on sale package issues w same rate

## Regional Appraisals

How often do you use ability to adjust cost centers? How often up front to ward off No Bids?

- R10 - 1x year update all costs and factors in May each year. Last year with inflation fuel prices, did 6month limited cost update. Discussing with Timber Officer potential for this on next appraisal – a 6month costs adjust if indices are available. Note: local contractors wanted to wait until spring
- Use Profit & Risk analysis – std 10% profit allowance 5% risk for 15% total. Adjusted up 2% to 17% FY22. Regional FS responsibility to establish risk (distance haul, operating restrictions, etc)
- R10 RO working on competitive bid RF can approve case by case for sale packages. In the past there was more flexibility for profit risk but it was pulled back after consistency review.
- Plan to automate it so it's consistent from one package to the rest

Appraisal performance measures FSM FSH = do they meet those requirements in their work?

- Measured as advertised rate within 70% high bid rate. One bid received was small sales advertised with Tongass standard rates – a version of transaction evidence appraisal. Those have struggled to meet appraisal performance standards. Because sales are so small that they have competitive bids.

## 4Q sales

- Hope to get out of the cycle of bulk of offers in Q4. Hope for different trend with Sour Sticky in early spring or summer and young growth offer out. For Petersburgh Rainbow Tongass late in year offer may be good. Thomas Day young growth Petersburgh RD is in Gate 2 project design.

## IRA BIL Supplemental Funding – how did they use it?

- DR Prince of Whales - has opportunities to implement funding region is holding.
- Just under 3m allocated to region NITX to a pre commercial thin IDIQ contract - wildlife treatments and other work to set up young growth stands for future harvest
- NITX fuel reduction thinking and producing commercial products – don't have the fuel loading on Tongass – Chugach Forest Plan doesn't allocate any suitable commercial timber so all by products in other treatments
- Hitting partner capacity. AK as a whole is limited in scope. Issues with OSHA on housing and work on pre commercial thinning program to get stands ready for future harvest opportunities affected FY22.

## Hiring Issues – SAF etc.

- Agency is hopeful, spoke to up to 8 recent grads SAF.
- Definite competition for hires – 50% Chugach, 50% Tongass
- Retention? More than 50% last more than a year – average 3 year stay
- R10 hired a recruitment retention specialist like many in agency.
- Several resource staff hired which is a win but also loses to timber staff pending
- Administration shifts to POW affect moral and retention.

- Declination is tied mainly to housing stock availability GS 7-9 coast guard.

Is R10 program binary? Young Growth Old Growth only? Yes

FY 2022

Sales through 10/02/2022

State	Timber Sale		Timber Sale		Good Neighbor Authority		Total Timber Volume Offered (MBF)
	Volume <sup>1</sup> Offered	Timber Sale Value Offered	Volume <sup>2</sup> Sold	Other Sawtimber Volume <sup>3</sup>	Volume (MBF) <sup>4</sup>	Volume (MBF)	
	(MBF)		(MBF)	(MBF)	(MBF)	(MBF)	
AK	0	\$0		0	0	0	0
AZ	0	\$0		0	0	0	0
CA	-288	\$37,965	-288	297	0	0	9
CO	499	\$1,761	-579	1,891	1,791	0	4,181
ID	9,153	\$942,702	9,753	5	0	49	9,207
MT	1,282	\$22,767	1,282	36	1,795	1,667	4,781
NV	3,559	\$1,972	1,972	32	0	0	3,591
NM	0	\$0	0	1	0	0	1
OR (East)	4,173	\$410,018	4,173	1	0	0	4,173
UT	1,178	\$23,015	1,178	173	0	0	1,351
WY	7,333	\$152,132	3,202	43	0	0	7,376
<b>PD Totals</b>	<b>26,889</b>	<b>\$1,592,333</b>	<b>20,693</b>	<b>2,479</b>	<b>3,586</b>	<b>1,716</b>	<b>34,670</b>
OR (West)	279,310	\$72,535,138	271,775	50	0	477	279,838
<i>Grand Totals</i>	<i>306,199</i>	<i>\$74,127,471</i>	<i>292,468</i>	<i>2,529</i>	<i>3,586</i>	<i>2,193</i>	<i>314,508</i>



## FTPC Fall 2022 Agency/Regional Questionnaire

Agency/Region	BLM O&C
<b>Q:</b> What factors contributed to, or detracted from, your FY 22 timber program accomplishments?	A substantial portion of the timber offered and sold in FY22 was salvage and hazard tree harvest resulting from the Labor Day Fires of 2020.
<b>Q:</b> If your unit had no bid sales in FY 22 – 1) why did they go no bid, 2) how much FY 22 no bid volume did you already reoffer and sell, and 3) when do you expect to reoffer remaining FY 22 no bid sales? What is your plan for any unsold no bid sales from previous years?	Two contracts received no bids at the initial auction, totaling 10.4 MMBF. For both sales the feedback we received from prospective purchasers indicates that the reason was minimum appraised price, and/or the appraisal allowance for roadwork. One of the sales (a salvage sale including 2.34 MMBF) was repriced/reoffered and sold. The green timber sale including 8.01 MMBF was repriced and reoffered on 9/16/2022 and once again received no bids. The district is currently evaluating next steps; likely the sale will be reappraised and reoffered again early in FY23. All unsold sales from previous years, (one remains from 2018) will be reoffered and sold, unless they can't be (e.g., salvage sales where the timber has degraded to the point that there is no interest).
<b>Q:</b> What percent of your FY 22 volume advertised in 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter?	8%
<b>Q:</b> What is the volume of timber sales withheld or not awarded due to litigation? How are you responding to litigation?	Of the timber sales offered in western Oregon since 2018, implementation of four contracts are still delayed due to litigation totaling approximately 25 MMBF. OR/WA BLM's approach is to defend projects in litigation, but when legal deficiencies are identified, we will work to correct those deficiencies and, if possible, move forward with project implementation. Award of contracts in litigation is typically delayed until a clear legal strategy is developed, or until any identified legal deficiencies are addressed. We are trying to work with purchasers to promptly award contracts that impacted by litigation on a case-by-case basis. In situations where the outcome of the litigation remains unclear, we typically request that the purchaser sign a waiver of claims as a condition of award in case operations need to be suspended in response to court decisions.
<b>Q:</b> What problems are you anticipating for your FY 23 timber program? How do you plan on addressing these problems?	Continued lack of staffing will constrain forestry capacity in FY23. Delays in human resources processing coupled with lack of qualified applicants in many areas stifle efforts to add staff even to maintain current capacity as people offboard faster than we can onboard new employees. Streamlining HR processing is a focus of the BLM at a national and state level. Renewed efforts to engage in recruiting (job fairs, professional societies

	etc) are planned in FY23, as many of these events were cancelled during the pandemic.
<b>Q:</b> Are you using DxD, DxP, and Virtual Boundaries?	Yes, we are using DxP though not as a standard practice.
<b>Q:</b> How much funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was allocated to your region for timber related projects? Are you working with the fuels management staff to identify projects which can use timber harvest to achieve hazardous fuels reductions?	Unknown at this time. Though we did receive increases in fuels funding through BIL, and this funding is complementing forestry funding to implement vegetative treatments in western Oregon, many of which have a timber harvest component. Yes, timber, silviculture, and fuels are working closely together to improve integration between the programs, identifying ways fuels funding can support timber harvest projects that aim to improve forest health and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire.
<b>Q:</b> What is the status on hiring/vacancies?	See above discussion on problems.



Agency/Region	BLM Public Domain
<b>Q1:</b> What factors contributed to, or detracted from, your FY 22 timber program accomplishments?	A number of offices were impacted by staffing shortages. Seasonal forestry techs and contracting and grants management officers were particular areas of concern. BLM is meeting some of its timber target through GNA and loss of grants officers affect GNA implementation.
<b>Q2:</b> If your unit had no bid sales in FY 22 – 1) why did they go no bid, 2) how much FY 22 no bid volume did you already reoffer and sell, and 3) when do you expect to reoffer remaining FY 22 no bid sales? What is your plan for any unsold no bid sales from previous years?	BLM PD had several no bid sales. Reasons were marginal quality timber and over appraisal. No Bid sales have been modified or reappraised and sold.
<b>Q3:</b> What percent of your FY 22 volume advertised in 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter?	62% 20.4 of 33 MMBF for the PD forestry target.
<b>Q4:</b> What is the volume of timber sales withheld or not awarded due to litigation? How are you responding to litigation?	BLM PD did not see any litigation in FY22.
<b>Q5:</b> What problems are you anticipating for your FY 23 timber program? How do you plan on addressing these problems?	With the increase in funding for ecosystem restoration and wildfire risk reduction from the Infrastructure bill and Inflation Reduction Act, the competition for staff to conduct NEPA and field work has increased. Service contract costs for precommercial thinning have also increased to where projects are coming in significantly over estimates. Seasonal hiring has been problematic for the last few years. The lack of affordable housing makes seasonal recruitment hard. State Office Procurement (COs and GMOs) will continue to be short staffed.
<b>Q6:</b> Are you using DxD, DxP, and Virtual Boundaries?	BLM policy allows DxD and DxP, and field offices use it routinely for low value and low complexity thinning. BLM is working on providing further guidance on the use of virtual boundaries. The BLM already allows the use of discernable feature such as roads, streams, trails, meadows to designate unit boundaries.

<p><b>Q7:</b> How much funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was allocated to your region for timber related projects? Are you working with the fuels management staff to identify projects which can use timber harvest to achieve hazardous fuels reductions?</p>	<p>PD Forestry had a couple of BIL projects for the Ecosystem Restoration section under the Good Neighbor activity. Of \$5.3 million in FY22 for GNA, around \$500,000 went to forestry related treatments. Field foresters are coordinating with Fuels Management to treat forests, but Fuels is not yet supporting fire resilience timber sale development.</p>
<p><b>Q8:</b> What is the status on hiring/vacancies?</p>	<p>The BLM is hiring forester vacancies, but HR capacity is causing delays.</p>

**B2.133 Damage by Catastrophe.** As provided under B8.32, undesigned live and dead timber within Sale Area, meeting Utilization Standards, and affected by Catastrophic Damage. "Catastrophic Damage" as used hereunder is major change or damage to Included Timber on Sale Area, to Sale Area, to access to Sale Area, or a combination thereof:

- (a) Caused by forces, or a combination of forces, beyond control of Purchaser, occurring within a 12-month period, including, but not limited to, wind, flood, earthquake, landslide, fire, forest pest epidemic, or other major natural phenomenon and
- (b) Affecting the value of any trees or products meeting Utilization Standards, within Sale Area and estimated to total either:
  - (i) More than half of the estimated timber volume stated in A2 or
  - (ii) More than two hundred thousand cubic feet (2,000 CCF) or equivalent.

Catastrophic Damage does not include changes caused by forest pest epidemics or foreseeable deterioration if Included Timber was sold for salvage or pest control.

#### **46.62 - Catastrophic Damage Rate Redeterminations**

Catastrophic damage is defined in the contract. Only Timber Sale Contract Forms FS-2400-6, FS-2400-6T, FS-2400-13, and FS-2400-13T include provisions for catastrophic damage rate redeterminations. Steps for making rate redeterminations for catastrophic damage areas are as follows:

1. Complete any other rate redetermination that is needed under the contract terms.
2. Determine the timber remaining on the sale area immediately before the catastrophe.
3. Determine the timber volume to be included after the catastrophe in accordance with contract options. If there will be a delay in harvest after the catastrophic event, consider the loss of volume due to deterioration and base the estimated volume in the appraisal and contract on the volume estimated to remain at the midpoint of the contract.
4. Prepare two appraisals, one for the remaining included timber before the catastrophe and the other for the remaining volume of included timber after the catastrophe and related contract modifications, to measure the change in unit value caused by the catastrophe. Use the standard Forest Service appraisal method and data in effect 45 days before the rate redetermination for both appraisals.
  - a. Unless there has been a significant change in transportation or marketing conditions, the plant location chosen for the original appraisal should be used as the premise for the rate redetermination. Consider dry kiln facilities. If no dry kiln is available at the original appraisal point, appraise for a transfer of the green lumber to a facility with a dry kiln. Consider a market adjustment, or

appraising to a more distant mill, if the increase in supply due to the salvage harvest will exceed the appraisal location's capacity.

- b. Adjust the base period price with a quality adjustment (compared to sales in the base period) to reflect reduced quality due to char, blue stain, worm holes, or other factors related to damaged timber. In addition, be sure to reflect such factors as reductions in average diameter, changes in grade composition, or changes in overrun.
  - c. Adjust the base period price with a cost adjustment (compared to sales in the base period) to reflect increases in operating costs due to operations in areas that may have been burned, windthrown, and so on. These additional costs include such factors as increased abrasion to equipment due to dust and ash, increased time for fallers to sharpen saws, hazardous conditions, average tree size, volume per acre, reduced load size for truck haul, the cost of kiln drying, need for additional roads, and so on.
  - d. Consider the need for new roads and reconstruction. Make appropriate revisions to specific condition A/AT7 and the schedule of items for changes in costs and additional construction or reconstruction. Appraise all needed roads in both the before and after appraisal with data in effect 45 days before the rate redetermination.
  - e. Consider new conditions and changes in needs for slash disposal, erosion control, and similar requirements. The Knutson-Vandenberg (K-V) plan can be revised, but the base rates cannot be increased. If reforestation needs change due to new sale conditions, increased allocations to reforestation are permissible, even though the base rates cannot be increased.
5. Adjust the bid rate for each species by the change in unit value, caused by the catastrophe to arrive at the redetermined rate. If a negative rate adjustment causes any species rate to be negative, adjust the deficit against the remaining positive-value species on the basis of a sale as a whole. Note that this is an adjustment by species and not an average adjustment. When revising specific condition, A/AT4, adjust the advertised rates, before adjusting the bid premium, to calculate tentative or flat rates. Rates may be adjusted to below existing base rates, but not below \$0.25 per hundred cubic feet (CCF). Base rates can be decreased but cannot be increased. Exhibit 01 shows an example of this procedure. Do not modify base indices.

The contract modification must include a modification of specific condition A/AT4, Timber Payment Rates.

### **IRTC/IRSC Performance Bonds**

Prior to the recent handbook update, Performance Bonds were **OPTIONAL** for Integrated Resource Timber Contracts (IRTCs), were **NOT** required for IRSCs (without construction) and **WERE** required for IRSCs with construction (see Attachment 1).

During the update, the Forest Service proposed to keep it **OPTIONAL** for IRTCs and to **NOT** require them for IRSCs, unless the Contracting Officer required it (see Attachment 2). FTPC did not provide comments regarding this specific issue during the review. The Forest Service did receive 2 comments recommending Performance Bonds be required for IRTCs. The comments came from Rocky Smith and Michelle Dietrich. The Forest Service accepted those comments.

The final handbook language can be found in Attachment 3. Below is some additional information (as the table is a bit mis-leading):

- Performance Bonds **ARE** required for IRTCs and are calculated as:
  - Normally, 10% of the total offer value for included timber, rounded up to the nearest \$100 when the total offer value is less than \$10,000, and rounded to the nearest \$1,000 when the total offer value is \$10,000 or more.
  - A performance bond based solely on contract bid value of timber or forest products may not adequately cover possible damages to the Government and must be sufficient to cover work required after completion of a logging season. Such work includes, but is not limited to, soil erosion control measures, fireline construction, snag felling, brush disposal and road maintenance. Contracting Officers will require higher performance bonds as necessary, and reasons will be well documented. (Summarized from FSH2409.18 – 55.1, #3 – attached)
- Performance Bonds are **NOT** required for IRSCs (without construction).
- Performance Bonds **ARE** required for IRSCs with construction in the amount of the construction pay item.

### **Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPA)**

In the recent BPA solicitations, the Forest Service did not include a performance bond requirement but acknowledges that they could be required in individual calls.

**62 - Exhibit 01**

**Stewardship Contract and Agreement Use Matrix**

Type of Use	CONTRACTS			AGREEMENTS
	Integrated Resource Timber Contract (IRTC) FS-2400-13 Scaled and FS-2400-13T Tree Measurement	Integrated Resource Service Contract (IRSC) for Commercial Services SF-1449 Scaled and Tree Measurement	Integrated Resource Service Contract (IRSC) for Construction SF-33 Scaled and Tree Measurement	
Full NEPA compliance required	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Contracting Officer	Timber	Procurement	Procurement	Timber
Advertise/Solicit	Advertise	Solicit	Solicit	No <sup>1/</sup>
Full and Open Competition allowed	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Less than Full and Open Competition allowed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Best Value required	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Trade Goods for Services	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Must have mandatory and may have optional/elective work activities	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Value of timber greater than service cost	Yes	No <sup>2/</sup>	No <sup>2/</sup>	No <sup>2/</sup>
Fund Service Work with Retained Receipts (SSCC)	No <sup>2/ 16/</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes
Maximum Length of Original Contract/Agreement	10 Years	10 Years <sup>3/</sup>	10 Years <sup>3/</sup>	10 Years <sup>3/</sup>
Payment at Flat Rates	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Payment at Escalated Rates <sup>3/</sup>	Yes	No	No	No
Associated Charges (such as road maintenance, brush disposal, scaling, & so forth.)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Bid Guarantee	No	Optional	Optional	No
Timber Performance Bond required	Yes <sup>5/</sup>	No <sup>6/</sup>	No <sup>6/</sup>	No <sup>6/</sup>
Use of Timber Payment Bond (FSH 6509.11k, sec. 83.3)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
FAR bonding; labor, materials, construction, or performance (Refer to FSH 1509.11, ch. 80)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Reimbursement of Bond Premium (for construction or performance under FAR)	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
Fire Liability limits included	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

**62 - Exhibit 01--Continued**

**Stewardship Contract and Agreement Use Matrix**

Type of Use	CONTRACTS			AGREEMENTS
	Integrated Resource Timber Contract (IRTC) FS-2400-13 Scaled and FS-2400-13T Tree Measurement	Integrated Resource Service Contract (IRSC) for Commercial Services SF-1449 Scaled and Tree Measurement	Integrated Resource Service Contract (IRSC) for Construction SF-33 Scaled and Tree Measurement	
TIM - Report side of the FS-2400-17 <sup>15/</sup>	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Transaction Evidence Appraisal Summary (FS-2400-17)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
SBA Set-asides	No	No	No	No
SSTS Set-asides	No	No	No	No
<u>1/</u> Individual service activities within an agreement may be advertised or solicited by the Cooperator.				
<u>2/</u> It should not be the intent to collect retained receipts under this instrument; however, cases may occur where product value exceeds costs of services at the end of the project.				
<u>3/</u> Terms may be up to 20 years on areas where the majority of Federal lands are in Fire Regime Groups I, II, or III (sec. 62.3).				
<u>4/</u> FSH 2431.36. In the western United States, timber sale contracts that exceed 3 years in length must provide for stumpage rate adjustment, except when flat rates will provide the best value for stewardship contracts.				
<u>5/</u> Require a performance bond to protect the interests of the Government in event Contractor fails to perform compliance work associated with cutting and removing included timber. Refer to FSH 6509.11k, ch. 80; FSH 2456; and FSH 2409.18, ch. 50.				
<u>6/</u> Contracting Officer may require performance and payment bonds pursuant to FAR. Refer to section 63.18 of this handbook; USDA Contracting Desk Book; Acquisition Management Forest Service Procedures, Guidance, and Information (FS PGI), Part 4G37-FAR; FAR 28.106-1; and FSH 6509.11k, ch. 80.				
<u>7/</u> Pursuant to 36 CFR 223.50, periodic payments are optional at the discretion of the Contracting Officer (sec. 61.4).				
<u>8/</u> Since 36 CFR 223.304(a)(8) makes paragraph (d) of 36 CFR 223.49 inapplicable, as of the date of this chapter downpayments are not applicable in an IRTC (sec. 60.3).				
<u>9/</u> Service Contract Act (SCA) wages apply on contracts greater than \$2,500 in value.				
<u>10/</u> Exceptions may apply. Refer to FSH 1509.11, ch. 70.				
<u>11/</u> Road construction for which there is an appraisal allowance.				
<u>12/</u> These are an appraisal item in an IRTC. If there is insufficient timber value to cover cost of roads, it would become an IRSC on contract form SF-33.				
<u>13/</u> See sec. 62.12 for more information.				
<u>14/</u> See sec. 62.11 for more information. Contracts with a term longer than 5 years, pursuant to Scheduled Rate Redetermination special provision.				
<u>15/</u> Only the name of the successful Contractor or Partner and the total value of the timber are to be included on the FS-2400-17 for distribution to the public.				
<u>16/</u> Retained receipts are allowed in special circumstances such as needed to pay excess credits when stumpage is unexpectedly less than planned.				

## 55 - OTHER REQUIREMENTS

### 55.1 - Performance Bonds in Timber Sales

1. The Contracting Officer determines whether or not to require a performance bond (36 CFR 223.35 and FSM 6500) before offering the timber for sale.
2. Except for timber settlement sales, require a performance bond for each contract with an advertised value of timber or forest products equal to or greater than \$2,000 (FSM 2456.12). Performance bonds are optional for timber settlement sales and sales with a product value less than \$2,000, but may be required when Contracting Officer determines a bond is needed to protect the interests of the Government. Conditions in special use permits associated with timber settlement sales generally protect the interests of the government without the need for an additional performance bond. Reference FSH 6509.11k, chapter 80, for additional instructions on performance bonds for timber sales.

Normally the bond will be 10 percent of the bid value, rounded up to the nearest \$100 when the stumpage bid value of the contract does not exceed \$10,000, and rounded up to the nearest \$1,000 when bid value exceeds \$10,000.

3. A performance bond based solely on contract bid value of timber or forest products may not adequately cover possible damages to the Government on a specific sale. The minimum amount of a performance bond must be sufficient to cover work required of the purchaser after completion of a logging season. Such work includes, but is not limited to, soil erosion control measures, fireline construction, snag felling, brush disposal, and road maintenance. For deficit sales, sales with unusual requirements, sales with high logging costs such as helicopter logging, and sales where possible damages to the Government exceed the amount computed upon bid value, timber sale Contracting Officers shall require higher performance bond amounts. Reasons for higher performance bonds should be well documented.
4. State in the prospectus the method of determining the amount of the performance bond and the minimum performance bond required.



## FTPC Fall 2022 Agency/Regional Questionnaire

<b>Q:</b> Agency/Region	<b>A: USFS/Region 6</b>
<b>Q:</b> What factors contributed to, or detracted from, your FY 22 timber program accomplishments?	<b>A:</b> Region 6 continues to rebuild the timber and active management program from FY20/21 fires that affected existing NEPA decisions and active timber sales. In addition to wildfires the Region has experienced an uptick in litigation on both salvage effort and the green timber program. In response to this situation Region 6 implemented a strategic 5-year plan focused on deepening our volume approved under NEPA as well as prepped volume entering each FY. This 5-year plan is aimed at stabilizing the base timber program across the Region to provide more consistent delivery of outputs in the face of uncertainty (fire, litigation, market fluctuations/timing). The goal is for each Forest to have 3 times its annual volume under decision and 1 year of sale prep volume entering each FY (3+1 strategy). We estimate that the minimum delivery for consistent timber outputs will be ~650MMBF by Fiscal Year 2026. We were able to capitalize on BIL funding to invest in areas that contribute to wildfire risk reduction as well as Forests that are poised to make accelerated headway towards consistent and predictable volume. FY22 BIL investments supported NEPA related activities and presale support activities. We expect to see the landscape outcomes of these investments over the next couple of years.
<b>Q:</b> If your unit had no bid sales in FY 22 – 1) why did they go no bid, 2) how much FY 22 no bid volume did you already reoffer and sell, and 3) when do you expect to reoffer remaining FY 22 no bid sales? What is your plan for any unsold no bid sales from previous years?	<b>A:</b> Region 6 had approximately 100MMBF in no bid sales in FY22. Road package size, litigation concerns, appraisal value differences and deterioration of product (particularly for salvage/deck sales), SBA requirements, and inclusion of low value material have contributed to no bids across the Region. Some of this year's no bid volume was contributed from previous FY sales that were re-offered and went no bid again this year. About $\frac{1}{2}$ of the no bid volume has been reoffered and awarded. The remaining balance of no bid sales are being evaluated for re-offer and reworked to respond to suggestions from industry. A few sales are being withdrawn due to deteriorated value of material particularly for post fire deck or salvage materials.
<b>Q:</b> What percent of your FY 22 volume advertised in 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter?	<b>A:</b> 45% of our FY22 advertised volume was in Q4.

<p><b>Q:</b> What is the volume of timber sales withheld or not awarded due to litigation? How are you responding to litigation?</p>	<p><b>A:</b> ~220MMBF across 6 Forests and 23 sales. Litigation occurred on our DT/HT Road Maintenance CEs following the FY20/21 fire season. The Region shifted from CE authorities to EAs to complete that work. The Region is still working through multiple EAs to accomplish this work. The Region is in negotiations on several of the lawsuits, other decisions have been withdrawn and projects are moving forward under different environmental analysis documents, and others we are currently briefing. The Region consistently looks for the most expedient manner in which to move forward on all its timber sale projects in order to get the work done efficiently and as soon as practicable.</p>
<p><b>Q:</b> What problems are you anticipating for your FY 23 timber program? How do you plan on addressing these problems?</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Region 6 anticipates continue challenges to increase NEPA and prep shelf from FY20/21 fires, but also continued need to focus on wildfire response. The “3+1” strategy will bring greater focus on investments in planning and sale prep through both investments in funding and greater focus and monitoring. We will continue to invest significant time and money to ensure the Region reaches its FY26 goal of consistent delivery of a minimum of 650MMBF.</p> <p>In FY22/23 the Region is planning to hire 125 new foresters and forestry technicians. We anticipate a significant investment needed to train and develop newly hired employees, with most new employees within 2 years of graduation. There will be a number of forests that will continue to face challenges with recruitment and hiring. Inability to fill positions has a direct impact on capacity for each unit. The Region is looking to help use contractors or assistance from Enterprise or neighboring units to provide added capacity when and where possible.</p>
<p><b>Q:</b> Are you using DxD, DxP, and Virtual Boundaries?</p>	<p><b>A:</b> Yes. DxD/DxP is used on approximately 49% of our timber sales by volume and virtual boundaries are being utilized extensively on one of the Forests in the Region on green sales, and another 2 for designating interior features that require different treatment than the remaining stands (leave areas for various retention structures). Following the fires of FY20/21 virtual boundaries are being used frequently (4+ forests) for roadside hazard treatment. We regularly use discernable boundaries, roads, ridge lines, or other features easily identifiable and hard boundaries are not being physically painted or marked on the ground.</p>
<p><b>Q:</b> How much funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was allocated to your region for timber related projects? Are you working with the fuels management staff to identify projects which can use timber</p>	<p><b>A:</b> \$7.4M in BIL funding was allocated to the Region for timber related projects. Natural Resources and Fire and Aviation Management in Region 6 are highly integrated and work together frequently on an integrated program of work that produce mutually beneficial outcomes for risk reduction and contribution to timber volume outputs.</p>

harvest to achieve hazardous fuels reductions?																																									
<b>Q:</b> What is the status on hiring/vacancies?	<b>A:</b> The Region participated in the National Collective hiring event for foresters and forestry technicians in FY22 in order fill many of our vacancies. The Region aimed to fill 73 positions, but was only able to fill 34. Total of 22 positions had no applicants. We are planning on building upon the hiring successes started in FY22 and adopting this process as our standard operating procedure to ensure continually and predictably filling important vacancies as they arise throughout the year. This fall the Region has submitted requests for 125 permanent and internship positions in concert with the SAF Convention's National hiring event. Many of the positions included in the SAF event include unfilled positions through the National Hiring effort. A number of other positions remain vacant throughout the region that are key to environmental analysis. Key leadership vacancies, including line officer vacancies will continue into the future due to a high level of retirements and attrition across the Region. Some units are experiencing attrition rates higher than 30% or more.																																								
<b>National Collective Hiring Summary for R6</b>																																									
<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Filled</th> <th>Offered, declined</th> <th>No candidates interested</th> <th>Grand Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>GS-0460-09</td> <td>7</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GS-0460-11</td> <td>6</td> <td>5</td> <td></td> <td>11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GS-0462-06</td> <td>5</td> <td>1</td> <td>1</td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GS-0462-07</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>10</td> <td>19</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GS-0462-09</td> <td>5</td> <td>2</td> <td></td> <td>7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>GS-0462-10</td> <td>6</td> <td>2</td> <td>10</td> <td>18</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Grand Total</b></td> <td><b>34</b></td> <td><b>17</b></td> <td><b>22</b></td> <td><b>73</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Filled	Offered, declined	No candidates interested	Grand Total	GS-0460-09	7	3	1	11	GS-0460-11	6	5		11	GS-0462-06	5	1	1	7	GS-0462-07	5	4	10	19	GS-0462-09	5	2		7	GS-0462-10	6	2	10	18	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>73</b>
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# Federal Timber Purchasers Committee

Spring Meeting  
May 2, 2023  
Denver, Colorado  
Industry-Only Meeting

*"We need to get the purchasers of the Federal timber sales involved so that we could identify what the market needs are, and then we can establish our timber program according to those needs."*

- Former Chief Victoria Christiansen - April 15, 2021



## **FEDERAL TIMBER PURCHASERS COMMITTEE**

### **POLICY STATEMENT ON COMPLIANCE WITH ANTITRUST LAWS IN GENERAL**

Fair and vigorous competition is essential to the maintenance of this country's free enterprise system. In furtherance of this principle, all activities are to be conducted in strict compliance with antitrust laws. Staff, officers, directors, members, and committee members are reminded that they are required to comply with the spirit and requirements of the antitrust laws.

A free exchange of ideas on matters of mutual interest to representatives of forest product manufacturers, distributors, and others is necessary for the success of all meetings. Such an exchange of views is essential to the successful operation of every trade association. It is not the purpose of this policy to discourage the exploration in depth of any matter of legitimate concern to meeting participants. Nevertheless, to ignore certain antitrust ground rules, either through ignorance or otherwise, is to create a hazard businessmen cannot afford.

The Sherman Antitrust Act, The Clayton Act, the Federal Trade Commission Act, and the Robinson-Patman Act comprise the basic federal antitrust laws, which set forth the broad areas of conduct considered illegal as restraints of trade. In general, agreements or understandings between competitors that operate as an impediment to free and open competition are forbidden. The broad language of the Clayton Act suggests the scope of federal antitrust prohibitions by forbidding any "agreement or understanding...to substantially lessen competition or tend to create a monopoly in any line of commerce."

For lumber manufacturers and distributors, the general prohibitions contained in the federal antitrust laws have been particularized in the form of a series of consent decrees which were entered into in 1941 against a number of lumber manufacturing and retailing trade associations. Included in activities and practices which are forbidden, both under the general antitrust laws and these consent decrees, are the following:

- Discussing the fixing or regulating of prices, markups, or the conditions or terms for the sale of lumber or wood products.
- Discussing the establishment of geographic trading areas, allocation of markets or customers, or classification of certain customers as being entitled to preferential treatment by manufacturers of lumber or wood products.
- Discussing or participating in any plan designed to induce any manufacturer or distributor of lumber or wood products to sell or refrain from selling, or discriminate in favor of or against any particular customer or class of customers.
- Discussing limiting or restricting the quantity of lumber or wood products to be produced.
- Discussing or participating in any plan designed to control the means of transportation or channels through which lumber or wood products may be sold.
- Discussing or participating in any plan which has the effect of discriminating against or excluding competitors.

This is, at best, only a general outline of some of the areas which pose antitrust dangers in discussions between competitors and between sellers and their customers. They are provided to guide discussions during meetings, and in connection with social or other gatherings on those occasions.

If any question arises about an item on a meeting agenda, it should be reviewed by legal counsel before the meeting. If the question does not arise until the meeting has begun, or if a questionable topic is about to be discussed in connection with any gathering, whether or not a formal meeting, that discussion should be immediately stopped and not resumed until approved by legal counsel.

## **May 2<sup>nd</sup> FTPC "Industry Only" Agenda**

10:00 am Introductions

FTPC Antitrust Policy

FFRC Review and Outlook

Review FTPC Meeting Book, Discuss Agenda Items, Assign Discussion Leaders

12:00-1:00 Lunch

Review FTPC Meeting Book cont'd

Industry Issue Discovery

FTPC Business – Elect New Chair

FTPC Priorities

2023 Fall meeting location and dates

4:00 pm Adjourn

Meeting Minutes  
October 26, 2022 Fall FTPC Industry-Only Meeting  
Coeur d'Alene, ID

Draft draft draft

Intros and Opening Comments

Andy Geissler called the meeting to order at 9 am and welcomed attendees to the meeting. Sara Ghafouri reviewed the Federal Timber Purchaser Committee Antitrust Policy. Those present in-person for the meeting were:

Ben Wudtke, Intermountain Forest Assoc

Michael Leonard, Rex Lumber

King Williams, Iron Triangle

Steve Brink, California Forestry Association

Galen Smith, Collins

Jay Sandmann, Boise Cascade

Dan Buehler, Neiman Enterprises

Andy Geissler, AFRC (Chairman)

Buck Fullerton, Boise Cascade

Tom Schultz, Idaho Forest Group

Jake Scott, Smith, Currie & Hancock

Ed Martin, Western Forest Products

Lindsey Warness, FRA

Tim O'Hara, FRA/LSFTPC

Sara Ghafouri, AFRC

Bill Imbergamo, Federal Forest Resource Coal.

Zack Miller, Weyerhauser

Nick Jose, Sun Mountain Lumber

Cameron Wolfschlegel, FH Stoltze

Josh Anderson, Vaagen Brothers

Joe Miller, Trinity River Lumber

Paul Pierson, Neiman Enterprise

Brian Fabel, We The Forest

Paul McKenzie, FH Stoltze

Dustin Phillips, Canfor

Molly Pitts, FTPC

Tim Hahn, West Fraser

Lawson Fite, Marten Law

Rex Storm, Associated Oregon Loggers

Carl Harrison, Sierra Pacific Industries

Minutes from the Spring 2022 Industry-only meeting were reviewed. Geissler called for motion, Fullerton motioned, Schultz seconded. Minutes passed.

Imbergamo went through the 2022 Policy and Election Outlook, including information on the headwinds, tailwinds, and what to expect in 2022. The Infrastructure Bill provided \$3B and included new authorities for management including Emergency Action and a Fuel Break CE (13 have been initiated, 5 have been signed). The Infrastructure Bill has significant funding for GNA (\$180M). Schultz asked if reforestation was included within the Infrastructure Bill? Imbergamo said yes, but added that the Forest Service lacks good data on their reforestation needs. Pitts reported that a lot of the Regions during the breakouts reported that they don't have new money yet. They also reported lack of capacity. Their goal is to incrementally increase the work over time.

Discussing headwinds, Imbergamo reported that was not as successful as some groups would have liked, the Administration is still under a lot of pressure to deliver other wins such as Mature and Old Growth, which came directly from the White House. Fortunately, the Forest Service is not supporting the idea of 80 years as a cutoff, and most of the public comments did not support the lack of management. The Forest Service reports that the biggest risk to Old Growth is fire. McKenzie asked if the Forest Service is defending the science – be offensive rather than defensive? Brink asked about the deadlines and expressed concerns that the Forest Service hasn't been working fast enough. Schultz asked if we had a map, since the enviros already have their own map? O'Hara reported that each Region will be hiring 2 people to work on this issue.

Sara Ghafouri shared the legal update, explaining that AFRC plays both offense and defense, enforcing mandates for management and defending NEPA and other tools. Sara reviewed Region 1 volume under litigation and a discussion followed. O&C Act has numerous cases, with hundreds of millions of board feet under litigation, far more than indicated by which sales are delayed. Many of the cases have been consolidated. Ghafouri reviewed the status of litigation against the CEQ NEPA regulations, Forest Service NEPA procedures, and the Endangered Species Act cases, including AFRC and FFRC involvement regulations. Ghafouri reviewed status of listings and critical habitat for species like red tree vole, northern spotted owl, and others. Ghafouri reviewed litigation against several forest plan revisions. Flathead, Custer-Gallatin, Helena-Lewis & Clark. Ghafouri reviewed litigation against Road Maintenance CE and Timber Stand Improvement CE.

Jake Scott gave an update on Covid vaccination requirement in Federal contracts. Mandate was litigated and enjoined. Now that injunction has been lifted and the Safer Federal Workforce Task Force has been directed to update the mandate. Not clear when they would move forward with this and whether it would apply to timber sale contracts.

Scott mentioned executive orders on GHG emissions reductions in federal procurement. 73 page guidance on how to use Federal contracts to promote renewables, etc. net zero by 2050. Agencies will have to issue regulations — including the FS.

The group began reviewing the meeting book and making assignments for industry speakers. Imbergamo noted the absence of Dave Lytle (attending National Leadership Team meeting) and Christine Dawe (unable to attend).

Lindsey Warness asked if the joint meeting was a good time to discuss budgets? Schultz also noted that we need to dig into litigation – how are they address the challenges like hiring and litigation. Group discussed moving budget and authorities discussion up in the agenda.

Appraisal performance measures? Brink — Stewardship proposals will reflect higher costs that are getting missed by the appraisal process. Wholesale lumber indices down significantly and housing forecasts are grim.

After a lunch break, Andy resumed review of the meeting book and agenda for the joint meeting. He noted the BLM has performed well in recent years but was projecting a decline in 2023. It also appears that the BLM timber managers did not receive much of the hazardous fuels funding.

Issues for the Joint:

Appraisals - King Williams and Rex Storm

Catastrophic Modification — we want more volume out of contracts but: purchasers want to move quickly after fires. Purchasers put in substantial funds but cannot get out of contracts (and recover out of pocket expenses). Catastrophic modification B clauses do not allow FS to include out of pocket expenses in calculating the reappraised timber value. Turns out there are inter- and intra- regional differences in paying back out of pocket costs.

Contract Revisions: FS “needs” to revises the timber sale contract, hasn’t been done in 18 years. However, the revision clashes with the handbook and manual revisions. If they complete batch 3 revisions they may have to revisit them again after the contract revision. We should recommend they proceed in tandem.

BPA’s: still waiting to hear how people get on the notification list for BPA opportunities. Need to get the FS to understand that while BPA’s are good, there is limited capacity in the private sector. The sudden, one time availability of substantial work won’t necessarily spur investment in the private sector in needed machinery, etc.

Performance Bonds: lack of surety interest in providing performance bonds to smaller businesses and over more than a few years in length. Perhaps interested in just bonding task orders rather than full, long term projects.

Fire response: Galen Smith said the FS has allowed them to engage in fire response based in certain contract provisions — included fires in the vicinity of the contract, not just in the sale area. Contract provisions AT10, BT7.3, and BT7.43. Is there a need for liability or training requirements? Need to dig into whether someone in the FS is working on it. Also: don’t want to make it mandatory.

WWPA Indices: WWPA provides the indices under contract. That contract expired but was extended by one year. Molly wants to get our recommendations on whether this is necessary. Not a significant interest in discussing changes. FS needs to review cost centers as well as indices.

Brian Fabel, We the Forest. Gave a presentation on the development of their campaign and company.

With no further business, Geissler adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.

# Forest Policy in a Divided Government

## 2023 Outlook



**FEDERAL FOREST**  
RESOURCE COALITION

Bill Imbergamo, Executive Director



National Impact Since 2011: ~\$6 Million Investment:

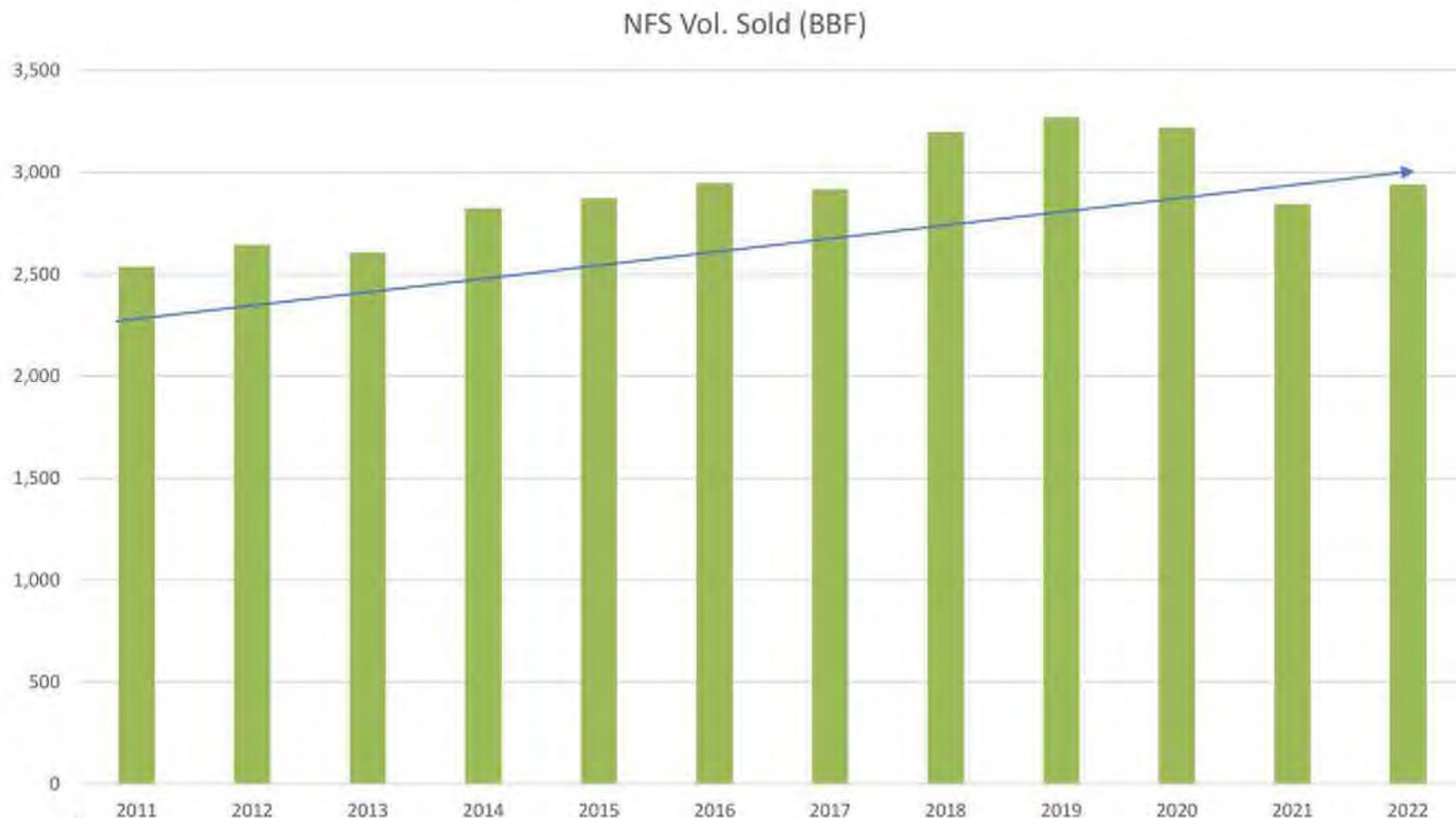
- +4.3 BBF Additional Volume (over 2011 Baseline)
- Over \$273 million in additional stumpage value
- +\$75 million additional NFTM funding cumulative.
- +\$200 million in NFTM funding since 2013 sequester cuts
- 9 Consecutive Years of Increased Timber Funding.

National Impact Since 2011: ~\$6 Million Investment:

**16 New Authorities for expedited management on the National Forests, including:**

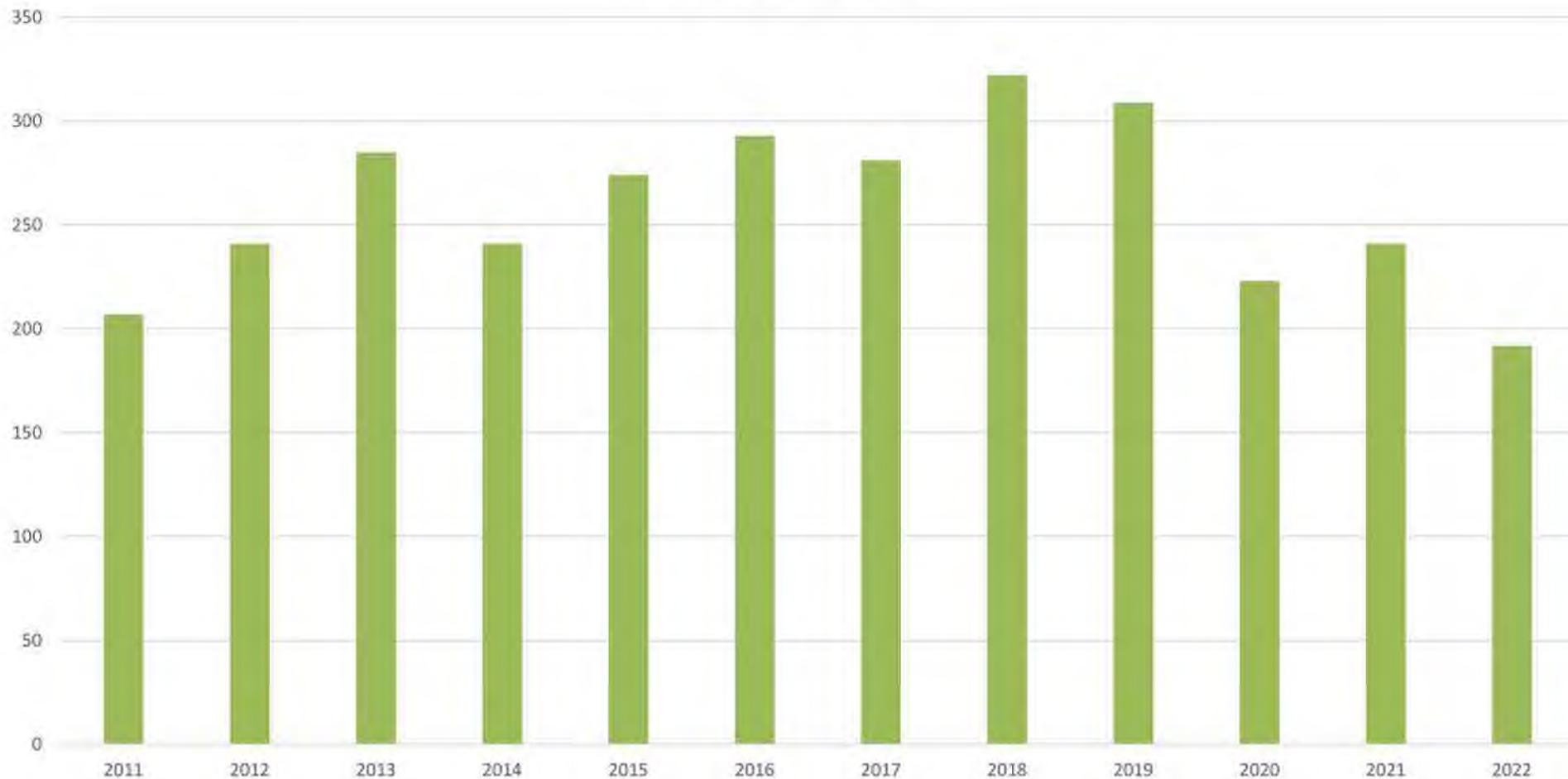
- ✓ **Expedited NEPA** (CE's or Streamlined EA's) available for over 74 million acres of the NFS.
- ✓ **“Fire Funding Fix”** eliminated fire borrowing
- ✓ **Expanded Good Neighbor Authority** to all 50 States, Native Tribes, Counties; Allow States to retain GNA receipts, allow road repair.
- ✓ **Permanent Stewardship Contracting** with enhanced fire liability protections for contractors.

## National Impact Since 2011:

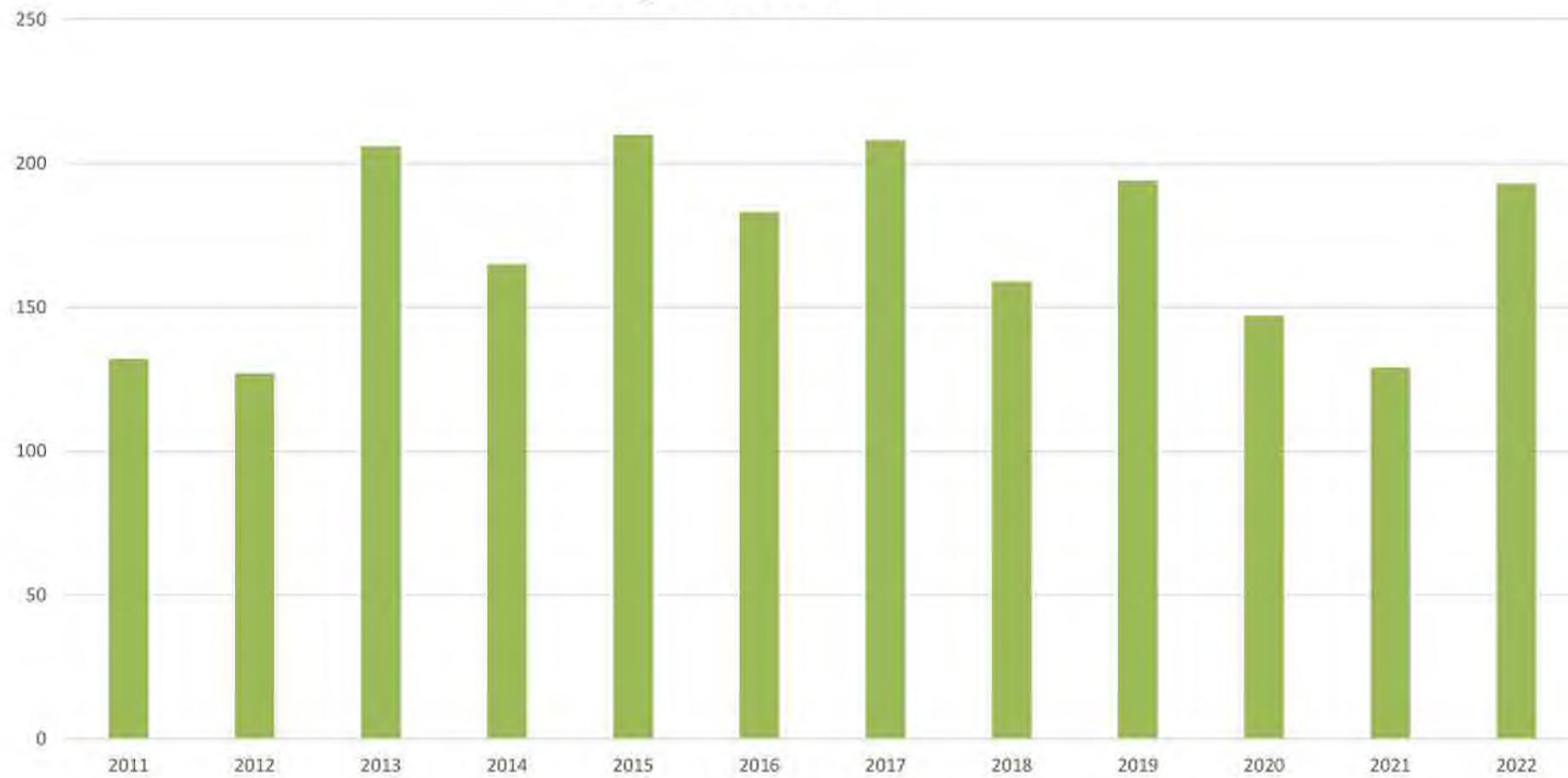




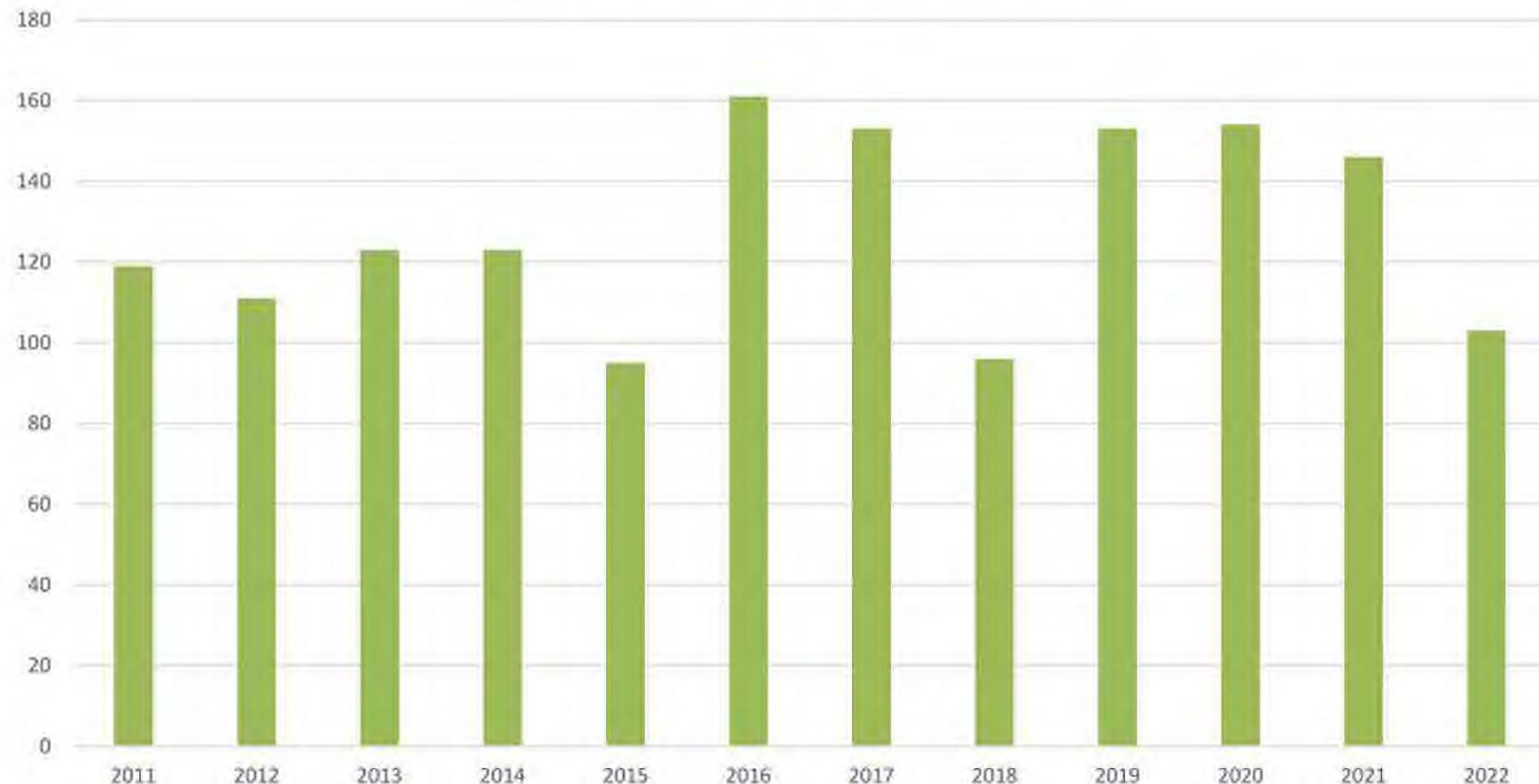
FS Region 2 Vol. Sold:



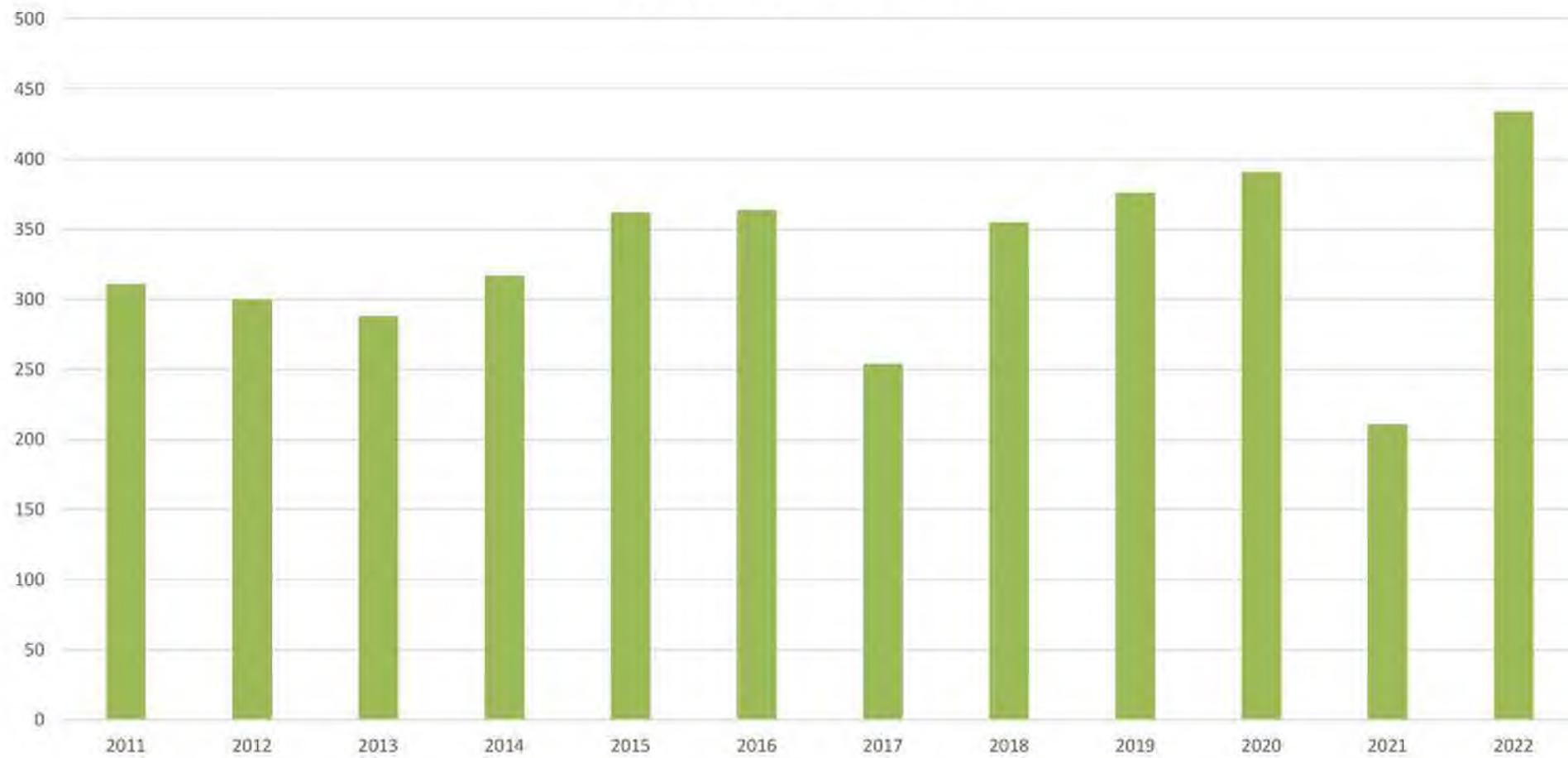
FS Region 3 Vol. Sold:



FS Region 4 Timber Vol. Sold (MMBF)

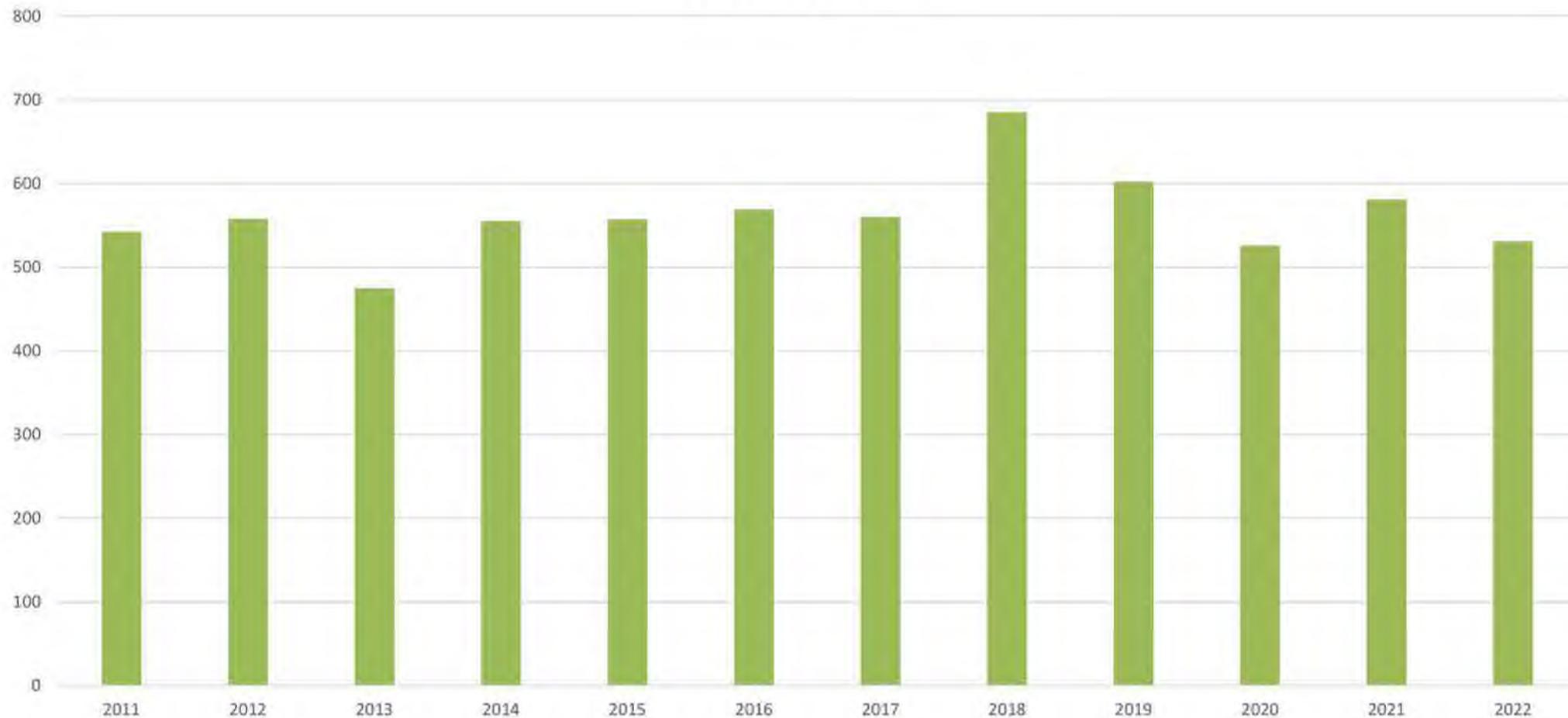


FS Region 5 Vol. Sold (MBF)

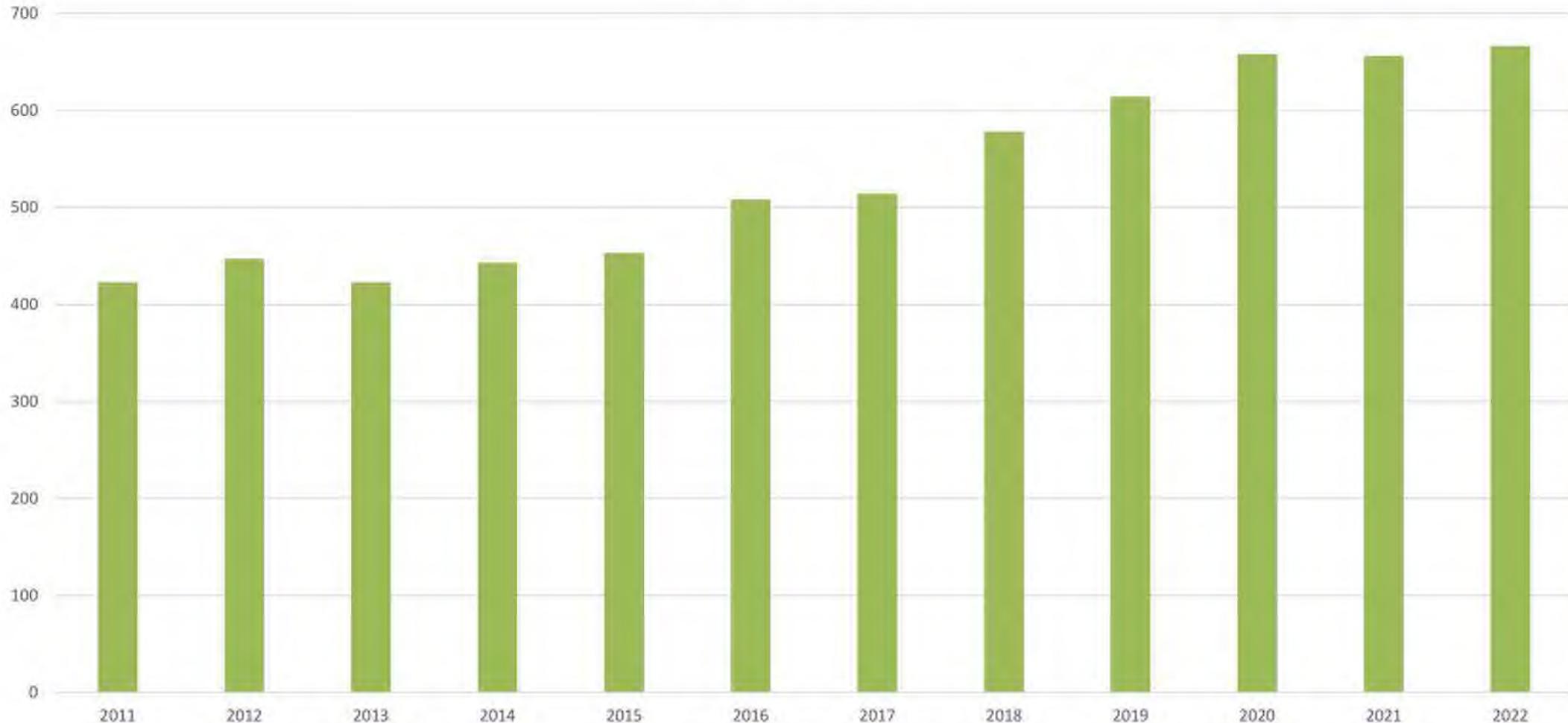




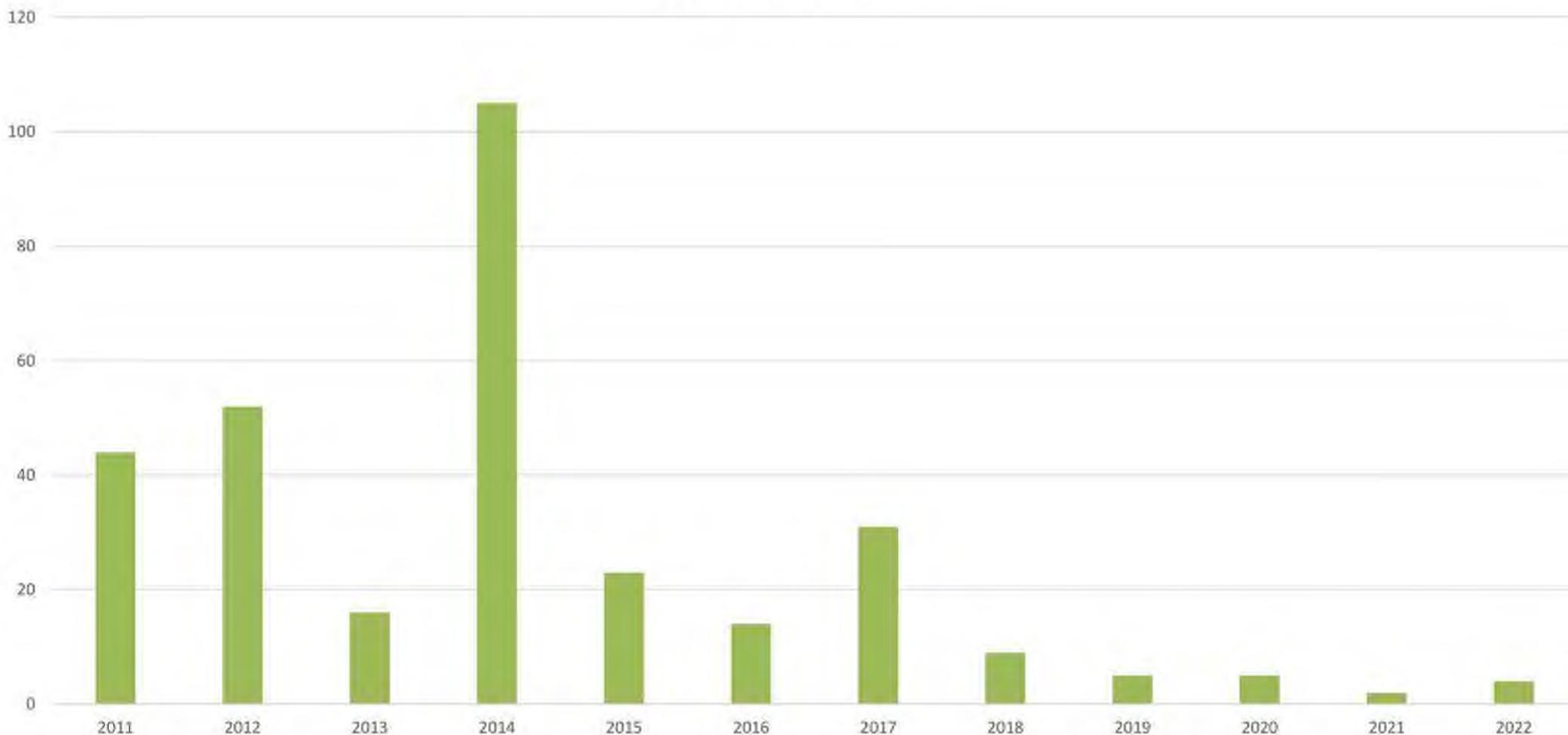
FS Region 8 Vol. Sold:



FS Region 9 Vol. Sold:



FS Region 10 Vol. Sold:



Divided Government:

Divided Congress

(Slightly) Divided Administration

This is NOT a bad thing: Neither side can force the other to accept their worst ideas

Only things that ABSOLUTELY have to happen will happen

Stalemates tend to favor the status quo.

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Most Common Impact:  
Pointless Government Shutdowns



**FEDERAL FOREST**  
RESOURCE COALITION

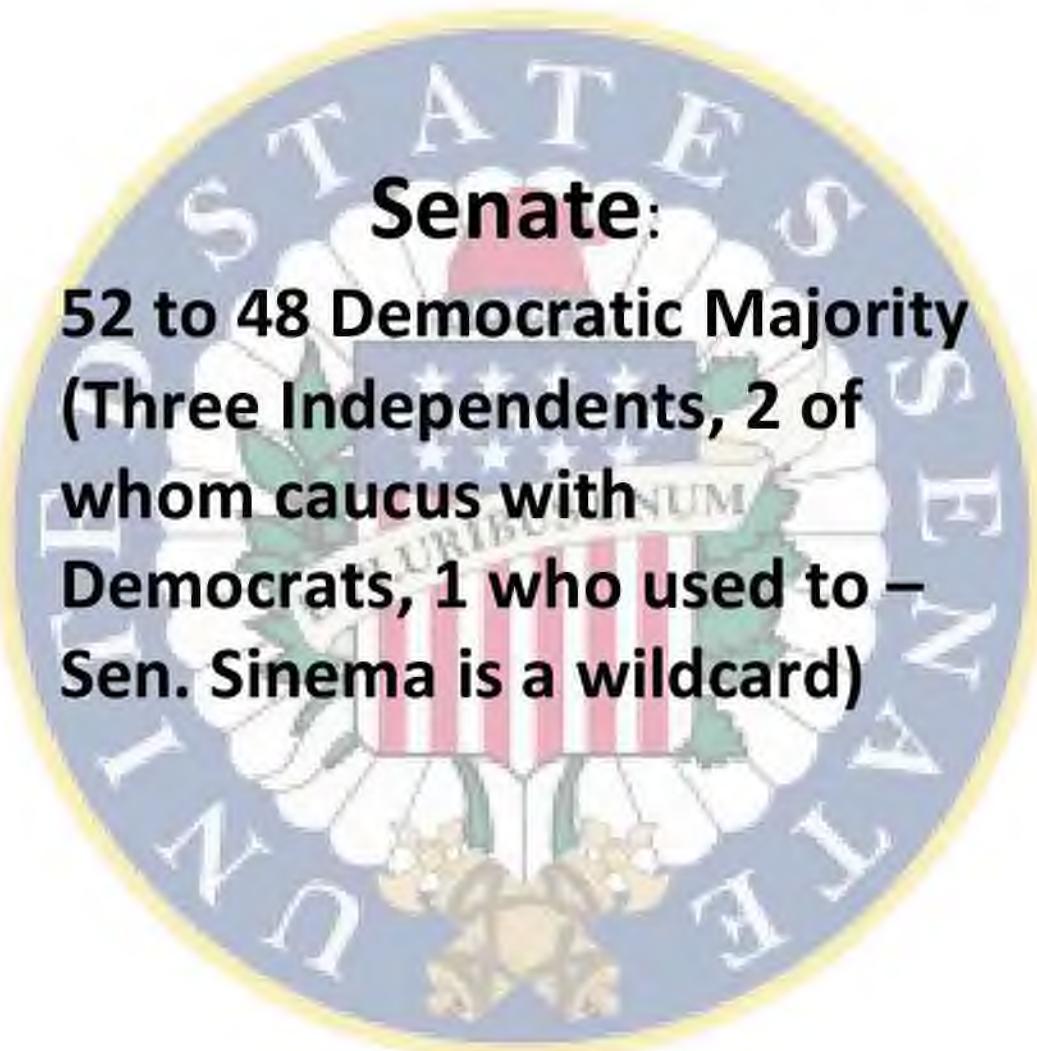
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## Divided Government:





# Divided Government:

1996: GOP Controlled both Houses of Congress, Democrats held White House  
Results: ***21-day Government Shutdown***

2011: GOP Controlled Both Houses, Dems Controlled White House  
Results: ***US Credit Rating Downgraded***

2013: GOP Controlled the House of Representatives, Dems controlled Senate and White House.  
Results: ***16-day Government Shutdown***

2018: GOP Controlled both Houses (2 Seat Maj. in Senate, 47 Seat Maj. in House) & White House  
Results: ***35-day Shutdown (dispute over immigration/border wall funding)***

2023: GOP Controls House, Dems Control Senate & White House  
Results: ***Who Knows?***



## Divided Government:

**1996**: GOP Controlled both Houses of Congress, Democrats held White House  
Results:

***Telecom Reform***

***Welfare Reform***

***HIPPA Enacted***

**2018**: GOP Controlled both Houses (2 Seat Maj. in Senate, 47 Seat Maj. in House) & White House

Results (but House GOP had split between moderates and Freedom Caucus):

***2018 Farm Bill***

***2018 Omnibus (Fire Borrowing Fix, Cottonwood Reform)***



## Divided Government:

**2023: GOP Controls House, Dems Control Senate & White House  
Results: *Who Knows?***

But there are significant challenges and tasks ahead, including:

- **National Defense Authorization** (Annual requirement)
- **2023 Farm Bill** (Every five years)
- **FY 2024 Appropriations** (Annually by September – or not)
- **Debt Ceiling** (June-ish – potential disaster)

These may be the only “action forcing” legislative events this year.



**Good News:**  
**We have strong forestry champions in key positions in both Houses of Congress:**



**Agriculture Committee:**

G.T. Thompson (R-PA) is strongly pro-timber, takes the reins for Farm Bill



**Natural Resources Committee:**

Bruce Westerman (R-AR), professional forester, committed to fundamental forestry reform



**Interior Appropriations**

**Subcommittee:**

Mike Simpson (R-ID) chairs the subcommittee that writes the Forest Service Budget



## Ranking Members



### Agriculture Committee:

David Scott (D-GA) some timber in his district



### Natural Resources Committee:

Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), staunch environmentalist, disinterested in compromise.



### Interior Appropriations

#### Subcommittee:

Chellie Pingree (D-ME) comes from a timber family



## Forestry Subcommittees



**Agriculture Forestry**  
**Subcommittee:**  
Rep. Doug LaMalfa (R-CA)  
Chairman



**Agriculture Forestry**  
**Subcommittee:**  
Rep. Andrea Salinas (D-OR)  
Ranking Member



**Federal Lands**  
**Subcommittee:**  
Rep. Tom Tiffany (R-WI)  
Chairman



**Federal Lands**  
**Subcommittee:**  
Rep. Joe Neguse (D-CO)  
Ranking Member

# Ranking Members in the Senate Are Pro-Timber



## Agriculture Committee:

John Boozman (R-AR)  
significant timber industry in  
his state, 3-Million Acres NFS  
Lands



## Energy & Natural Resources:

John Barrasso (R-WY), ALL timber  
in WY is Federal: pro-forestry,  
has pledged to pursue  
fundamental reforms



## Interior Appropriations

### Subcommittee:

Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)  
has America's largest  
NFS Unit (Tongass)

## **Chairs Same as Last Congress**



**Agriculture Committee:**

Chairwoman Debbie Stabenow (D-MI) tough negotiator, will step down at the end her term (2024)



**Energy & Natural Resources:**

Joe Manchin (D-WV), pro-forestry, skeptical of environmental community



**Interior Appropriations**

**Subcommittee:**

Jeff Merkley (D-OR) keeps the Interior gavel <sup>29</sup>



## Congressional Opportunity: Farm Bill

The “Farm Bill” is a catch-all bill on agricultural price supports, crop insurance, need-based nutrition programs, farm conservation, and forestry provisions.

Enacted every 5 years, the last two Farm Bills have included ***significant forest management Reforms due to FFRC's leadership***, including:

- ***Permanent Stewardship Contracting*** with fire liability limitations for contract holders
- Good Neighbor Authority ***expanded to all 50 States***
- ***3,000 Acre*** Insect & Disease & Fuels Treatment ***Categorical Exclusions***



## Farm Bill: Industry Priorities

### ***Good Neighbor Authority (GNA):***

- Allow States, Counties, and Tribes to utilize revenues generated on non-Federal lands, and update existing Good Neighbor Master Agreements and Project Agreements to use revenue from existing projects for this work.
- Allow new road construction and reconstruction on a limited basis.
- Extend GNA authority and make the above amendments to the GNA for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) as well.



## Farm Bill: Industry Priorities

### ***Stewardship Contracting:***

- Require deposits in the Knutson-Vandenberg Fund for Stewardship End-Results Contracts that include merchantable timber.
- Make retention and/or expansion of existing forest products infrastructure, including logging capacity and wood consuming facilities, in proximity to the National Forests, a co-equal objective of the program
- Allow some Stewardship Contracting retained receipts to be used to pay for required NEPA analysis for the project.



## Farm Bill: Industry Priorities

### ***Farm Bill Categorical Exclusions:***

- Increase the size of the Insect & Disease and Fuel Treatment from 3,000 to 15,000 acres.

### ***Infrastructure Amendments:***

- Amend IIJA authorities to eliminate duplicative, unnecessary, or unhelpful limitations on management.

### ***Cottonwood Fix:***

- Make a permanent fix to clarify that Forest Plans are not ongoing actions and make clear that consultation under the Endangered Species Act Section 7 is not required at the plan level.



## Farm Bill: Industry Priorities

### ***Miscellaneous Ideas***

- Create a cost-share program for creation and maintenance of fuel breaks on non-Federal/private lands
- Strengthen Stewardship Contracting liability protections
- Authorize streamlined “direct sale” for small- to mid-sized Fuels Reduction or Forest Thinning Contracts on certain acres
- Provide clear direction/authority for the post-fire removal of roadside hazard trees



## Farm Bill: Prognosis

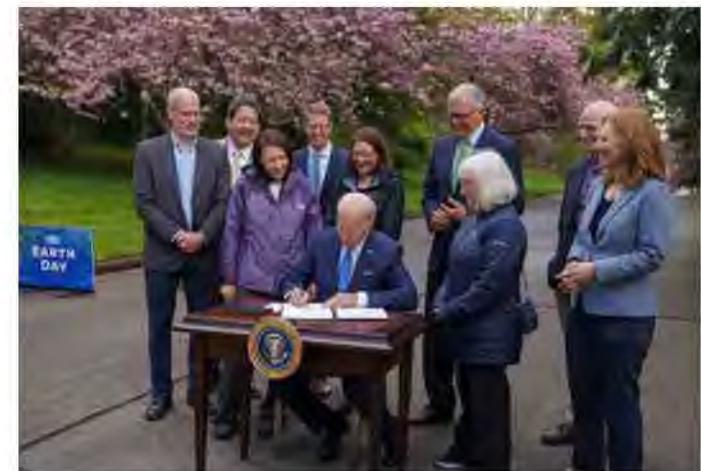
### *Farm Bills Sometimes Don't Make It*

- 1996 Measure failed on the House floor. 2008 Farm Bill enacted over a veto.  
2013 Bill failed on House floor and was extended till 2014.
- Last time a Tea-Party-ish GOP held the House for a Farm Bill, the fight was over food stamps (SNAP). Rerun of this fight is possible, likely even.
- Chairwoman Stabenow has announced her retirement and will not let her swan-song include SNAP cuts.

**Extension through 2024, or longer, not out of the question.**

# Administration Challenge: Old Growth & Mature Forests

- **April 2022** Executive Order Requires Definition, Inventory by April 2023; then calls for “threat assessment” and recommended policies.
- **July 2022:** Request for Information on “Universal Definition Framework” received over 10,000 comments (95 percent point and click form letters)
- **April 2023:** Definition and Inventory, ANPR, Direction to the field released
- **Fall 2023:** Potential rulemaking?





## Old Growth: Management Professionals Urged Caution

“defining old-growth and mature forests is an *immensely challenging* task given the *diversity and complexity of forest ecosystems* on Federal lands across the United States, resulting from *wide variability* in the biophysical environment, previous management, and underlying disturbance processes that shape forest development. *It is critical that this disturbance dimension of mature and old forest development be central to their definition, identification, mapping, and conservation.*” – The Nature Conservancy



## Old Growth: Management Professionals Urged Caution

*“Science does not support a universal framework definition of old-growth or mature forests that can apply to all forest types. If a universal framework definition must be developed, it should **avoid using national-scale prescriptive criteria** but rather dictate a process for developing ecological definitions for mature and old-growth forest types at **a regional scale**.”* – Society of American Foresters





## Old Growth: Management Professionals Urged Caution

“We believe a universal definition, or even a “universal definition framework” *limits the ability of the Forest Service to manage for specific species* and will *lead to less old-growth on the landscape over time*. Forests will mature, decay, and, in many cases, burn... Without active management, *stands experiencing stand-replacing disturbances will not mature into “old-growth”* stands, and with no effort to control brush after such events, they *may not return as forests at all.*” – FFRC



# FEDERAL FOREST

RESOURCE COALITION





# FEDERAL FOREST RESOURCE COALITION



Forest Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



April 2023 | FS-1215a

## Mature and Old-Growth Forests: Definition, Identification, and Initial Inventory on Lands Managed by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management

Fulfillment of Executive Order 14072, Section 2(b)



### Key Findings:

- 112 Million Acres Mature & Old Growth (MOG) on NFS & BLM Lands
- 39 Million Acres of NFS MOG in Roadless/Wilderness (42 percent)
- 91 Million Acres of NFS is MOG overall
- 86 percent of harvest is fuels reduction, stand density reduction, or salvage
- Reforestation needs driven almost entirely by wildfire/other mortality.

## Old Growth: Prognosis

Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR):

Provides an opportunity to begin chipping away at “preservation” strategies – *clear science showing loss of mature forest, habitat for listed species due to large fires/other natural disturbance.*

FFRC will also urge *pro-active planning for disturbance* with a focus on salvage/reforestation on unreserved lands.

Threat: Environmental groups will use the “fact” that almost 60% of MOG is “unprotected” as rationale to oppose proposed fuels reduction or other harvest



## Other Challenges

### *~\$7 Billion in Additional Spending & New Authorities*

Priority firesheds ***did not adequately consider presence of industry*** infrastructure to accomplish the work

***Inadequate use of expedited authorities*** – only approved 8 fuel breaks using new authority, with only 5 more in the works.

Waited 16+ months to issue guidance on “***Emergency Actions***” Authority.

Only obligated about ***1/5<sup>th</sup> of the funding*** in the two measures (~\$7 Billion)

## **~\$7 Billion in Additional Spending & New Authorities**

We helped ensure FS/BLM got significant funding for forest management. Now working to:

Ensure better consideration of ***forest industry infrastructure*** in IIJA implementation

***Expand use of expedited authorities*** – use of Fuel Break CE, Emergency Actions Authority hasn't been aggressive enough.

Only obligated about ***1/5<sup>th</sup> of the funding*** in the two measures (~\$7 Billion)

## ***2023 Timber Sale Program***

Nationally, Q1 timber outputs ***down 9.4 percent*** from Q1 FY 2022.

***Region 1 outputs UP ~25%; Region 4 UP 73%; Region 5 down 51%; Region 6 down 26% (from a 20-year low in outputs)***

Late passage of Appropriations Omnibus + slow administrative action = ***no allocation of timber funds*** to the field until mid-February.

***Will be difficult to catch up*** and hit a 3.4 BBF goal for FY 2023 (ends September 30), but FFRC is working through our technical committee to support FS in meeting this goal

## ***Litigation:***

FFRC partners with AFRC's litigation program to defend forest management:

***FS NEPA Regulations:*** Defending FS 2019 NEPA Regulations in Western District of Virginia (NEPA Adequacy, Restoration CE)

***ESA Regulations:*** Opposing efforts to reverse Trump Admin ESA regulatory reforms (occupied habitat, consideration of economics)

***Fire Retardant:*** FFRC joined industry, local gov't, others, in opposing an effort to enjoin the use of fire retardant while USFS seeks CWA permit

## FFRC and Our Partners Will Engage All Of These Regulatory Initiatives

- FFRC engaging in ***formal policy process (climate, infrastructure, ESA reforms)***, ensuring our voices are heard and our rights to litigate (if necessary) are preserved.
- FFRC partnering with ***industry allies*** to engage stakeholders and drive public involvement (including industry allies/associations in 36 total states)
- Deepening relationships with ***like-minded sportsmen's groups*** (Ruffed Grouse, NWTF, RMEF) to show broad support for management on Forest Service and BLM lands.



[facebook.com/FederalForestResourceCoalition/](https://facebook.com/FederalForestResourceCoalition/)



@FederalForest



[fedforestcoalition.org](http://fedforestcoalition.org)

# **Federal Timber Purchasers Committee**

1901 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Ste 1007 Washington DC 20006

January 5, 2023

Mark Phillip  
Stewardship & Disaster Recovery Branch Chief  
USDA Forest Service  
Procurement and Property Services

Dear Mr. Phillip:

The Federal Timber Purchasers Committee (FTPC) was formed in 1962 at the behest of Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman to assist the Forest Service on matters relating to timber sales and the timber sale contract. As the Forest Service added other contracting mechanisms such as Stewardship, FTPC adapted to also help with these issues.

During the fall FTPC meeting, Procurement and Property Services (PPS) shared with us the G-Z Integrated Resource Stewardship Contract Model for Increasing Pace and Scale. We applaud the Forest Service in their desire to increase their efficiency in contracting as well as to supplement agency gaps in timber sale and stewardship contracting layout to get more work done in a timely manner. We recognize that contracting and sale preparation are major bottlenecks that models such as the G-Z could help address.

Following the December webinar, many questions remained. Below you will find a list of questions and concerns/comments:

## **Questions**

1. What liability does the contractor have for prescribed burning?
2. Prescribed burning requires specific conditions to perform. Contracts have deadlines. What if the conditions are not present during the contract timeline?
3. Is there a possibility of switching to more modern cruising software systems such as Superace?
4. Will virtual boundaries be an option in layout?
5. How will the Forest Service obtain accurate data for conducting appraisals?

6. For the Blue Mile project, what is the age of the timber? How soon will project locations be known?
7. Will real market rates for contractors be applied?
8. Will invasive weed control be included in contracts?
9. How many subcontractors are allowed?
10. Will contract extensions be allowed due to unforeseen circumstances?
11. What happens if a catastrophic event happens after money has already been invested, but no timber has been harvested yet?
12. Will timber rates be adjusted for market conditions?

### **Concerns/Comments**

1. There are concerns regarding taking on the risk of prescribed burning.
2. Transparency and accuracy of appraisals, leading to advertised rates. In-house appraisals often do not align with current industry rates and lag behind market fluctuations.

I have also attached letters from California Forestry Association and Associated California Loggers. Included within each are additional questions and comments/recommendations on G-Z.

We look forward to your response as your answer these questions and also look forward to continuing the dialogue as the G-Z Contracting Model gets further developed.

Sincerely,



Andy Geissler  
Chair

# **Federal Timber Purchasers Committee**

1901 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Ste 1007 Washington DC 20006

January 30, 2023

David Lytle  
USDA Forest Service  
Director, Forest and Rangeland Management and Vegetation Ecology  
201 14<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

Dear Mr. Lytle:

The Federal Timber Purchasers Committee (FTPC) was formed in 1962 at the behest of Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman to assist the Forest Service on matters relating to timber sales and the timber sale contract. As the Forest Service prepares to start reviewing and updating the Forest Service Timber Sale Contracts, we feel this is a great opportunity to provide some initial comments and recommended changes for you to consider.

## **B3.34 Emergency Rate Redetermination (ERR)**

We recommend language that would allow for greater transparency when a purchaser requests emergency rate redetermination, including access to the appraisal that determines the rates. This would include allowing purchasers to request an advisory opinion as to whether their current contracts qualify for ERR without forfeiting the ability to request it again.

## **B7.3 Fire Control and B7.43 Other Fires on Sale Areas**

We recommend adjusting B7.3 and B7.43 to provide clarity for how a Purchaser should and could provide suppression support to the Forest Service in areas adjacent to the "Sale Area." Doing so would allow for rapid response on fires that could impact or are impacting purchased timber sale assets and allow for the creation of direct defense or fire lines around purchased timber sale assets, allowing federal or state fire managers to focus on securing safe evacuation routes and protection of communities. For B7.3, we recommend

initial fire suppression within 25 road miles. For fire suppression reinforcement, we recommend within 100 road miles.

### **B8.22 Catastrophic Modification**

As wildfires become more prevalent in west their impacts to awarded timber sales will also increase. The 2020 fires in Oregon and western Washington impacted 30 awarded timber sales. Region 5 had 22 and 25 awarded timber sales impacted by fire in 2020 and 2021 respectively. This spike in affected contracts places an increased burden on both the purchaser and the local Forest Service staff tasked with addressing the impacts. Those affected Forest Service staff include not only the contracting personnel but also planning staff tasked with assessing alignment with NEPA documents. These burdens have and will likely continue to cause delays in execution of catastrophic modifications described under B8.32. These delays have and will likely continue to cause the loss of timber value due to deterioration.

Currently, the only remedy to a catastrophe within an existing Sale Area is B8.32. This clause provides rate redetermination in preparing a catastrophic modification for the Purchaser's consideration. B8.22 permits for contract termination if rate redeterminations associated with B8.32 and B8.32 warrant such. However, such termination does nothing to provide for a Purchaser's out-of-pocket expenses that resulted from the catastrophe. In fact, B8.342 (a)(ii) explicitly prohibits recouping out-of-pocket expenses when purchaser termination is a result of fire or other natural phenomenon. Examples of out-of-pocket expenses include but are not limited to:

- Sale requirements for road work, with allowance in the appraisal, that the Purchaser completed prior to the catastrophe.
- Delay and move-in and move-outs following the catastrophe.

We recommend B8.22 and B8.342 be rewritten to provide Purchaser out-of-pocket expenses when contract termination is caused by catastrophic disturbances, including wildfire. This change should be applied to all existing timber sale contracts.

Thank you for your consideration. Please reach out if you have questions or need further clarification. We look forward to working with you throughout this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andy Geissler".

Andy Geissler  
Chair



# Federal Timber Purchasers Committee

Spring Meeting  
May 3, 2022  
Denver, Colorado  
Joint Meeting

*"We need to get the purchasers of the Federal timber sales involved so that we could identify what the market needs are, and then we can establish our timber program according to those needs."*

– Former Chief Victoria Christiansen – April 15, 2021



## **FEDERAL TIMBER PURCHASERS COMMITTEE**

### **POLICY STATEMENT ON COMPLIANCE WITH ANTITRUST LAWS IN GENERAL**

Fair and vigorous competition is essential to the maintenance of this country's free enterprise system. In furtherance of this principle, all activities are to be conducted in strict compliance with antitrust laws. Staff, officers, directors, members, and committee members are reminded that they are required to comply with the spirit and requirements of the antitrust laws.

A free exchange of ideas on matters of mutual interest to representatives of forest product manufacturers, distributors, and others is necessary for the success of all meetings. Such an exchange of views is essential to the successful operation of every trade association. It is not the purpose of this policy to discourage the exploration in depth of any matter of legitimate concern to meeting participants. Nevertheless, to ignore certain antitrust ground rules, either through ignorance or otherwise, is to create a hazard businessmen cannot afford.

The Sherman Antitrust Act, The Clayton Act, the Federal Trade Commission Act, and the Robinson-Patman Act comprise the basic federal antitrust laws, which set forth the broad areas of conduct considered illegal as restraints of trade. In general, agreements or understandings between competitors that operate as an impediment to free and open competition are forbidden. The broad language of the Clayton Act suggests the scope of federal antitrust prohibitions by forbidding any "agreement or understanding...to substantially lessen competition or tend to create a monopoly in any line of commerce."

For lumber manufacturers and distributors, the general prohibitions contained in the federal antitrust laws have been particularized in the form of a series of consent decrees which were entered into in 1941 against a number of lumber manufacturing and retailing trade associations. Included in activities and practices which are forbidden, both under the general antitrust laws and these consent decrees, are the following:

- Discussing the fixing or regulating of prices, markups, or the conditions or terms for the sale of lumber or wood products.
- Discussing the establishment of geographic trading areas, allocation of markets or customers, or classification of certain customers as being entitled to preferential treatment by manufacturers of lumber or wood products.
- Discussing or participating in any plan designed to induce any manufacturer or distributor of lumber or wood products to sell or refrain from selling, or discriminate in favor of or against any particular customer or class of customers.
- Discussing limiting or restricting the quantity of lumber or wood products to be produced.
- Discussing or participating in any plan designed to control the means of transportation or channels through which lumber or wood products may be sold.
- Discussing or participating in any plan which has the effect of discriminating against or excluding competitors.

This is, at best, only a general outline of some of the areas which pose antitrust dangers in discussions between competitors and between sellers and their customers. They are provided to guide discussions during meetings, and in connection with social or other gatherings on those occasions.

If any question arises about an item on a meeting agenda, it should be reviewed by legal counsel before the meeting. If the question does not arise until the meeting has begun, or if a questionable topic is about to be discussed in connection with any gathering, whether or not a formal meeting, that discussion should be immediately stopped and not resumed until approved by legal counsel.



## **Federal Timber Purchasers Committee**

### **Purpose, Goals, and Strategy**

The Federal Timber Purchasers Committee was formed in 1962 at the behest of Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman who sought an entity to be the principal point of communication between the Forest Service and the timber industry on matters relating to timber sales and the timber sale contract. Since its creation, the FTPC has, with the help of the Forest Service, functioned continuously to fulfill the role that Secretary Freeman envisioned for it, discussing with the Forest Service, among other things, the structure of the basic timber sale contract and related matters, appropriate modifications thereto, and inconsistent or inappropriate administration of the contract and the program.

Consistent with Executive Order No. 12866, September 30, 1993, which urges federal agencies, even with respect to proposed rulemakings, to "seek the involvement of those who are intended to benefit from and those who are expected to be burdened by the regulation." The FTPC, because of the breadth and talent of its members, remains well equipped to continue the role for which it was created, i.e., to be the place where the Forest Service and BLM can, in the words of the Executive Order, 'explore consensual mechanisms for developing regulations and the like.'

While it primarily focused on contract issues for many decades, the FTPC has evolved into a model collaborative effort between the timber industry and the Forest Service. It provides a forum for airing of issues and gives both the agency and its customers the opportunity to understand each other's internal and external challenges. Once largely a forum for conflict over particular contract clauses, the FTPC serves as a forum where both the Forest Service

and timber industry engage in constructive dialogue with an eye towards resolving disputes.

This approach, with frank but respectful exchanges, has quickly identified and resolved issues which have come up as new authorities have been enacted, and as the focus of the timber program has changed over the years. FTPC has methodically identified issues with new tools like Stewardship Contracts, Stewardship Agreements, Good Neighbor Authority, Designation by Prescription, and worked with great success to effect positive changes.

**Purpose:**

Historically, the role of the FTPC has been to ensure that Federal timber sales are economically and operationally feasible, the terms of the contract are fair, and all timber sold is available for harvest, and to provide support to federal agencies to maximize their ability to meet forest plan timber production goals. As we near the third decade of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, traditional timber sales are no longer the only vehicle by which forest management is accomplished. Indeed, FTPC members now acquire federal timber not only through traditional timber sale contracts but also through Stewardship Contracts and Agreements, as well as contracts let under Good Neighbor Authority.

**Goals:**

To assure that

- The acquisition of federal timber can be accomplished economically and in an operationally feasible manner.
- A process for acquiring federal timber exists that ensures fair competition while avoiding undue burdens on potential contractors.
- Contracts and agreements are understandable, equitable, and secure the rights of the contract holder.
- Timber projects are available to operate during reasonable operating seasons.
- Cruising procedures accurately reflect the volume and quality of designated timber.
- Scaling procedures accurately reflect the volume of delivered timber.
- Billing procedures do not place undue financial or operational burdens on contractors.
- Contracts and Agreements form a favorable legal foundation for resolving disputes.
- The harvest of all timber to be removed can be accomplished

- Federal agencies recognize the importance of forest industry infrastructure and the importance of a stable, federal green timber program for sustained infrastructure viability.

Strategies:

- Provide a unified voice for companies that acquire federal timber
- Provide timely and meaningful input to proposed changes in contracts, agreements, regulations, policies, and procedures concerning the acquisition and harvest of federal timber.
- Provide a forum through which federal agencies and companies that acquire federal timber can meet and discuss issues associated with contracts, agreements, regulations, policies, and procedures that affect the acquisition and harvest of federal timber and the risks associated with doing so.

History:

Upon its creation in 1962, the FTPC was managed by the primary wood products trade association in Washington, DC. In 2011, the FTPC went under the management of the Federal Forest Resource Coalition, a trade association focused exclusively on Federal Land Management.

National Lumber Manufacturers Association (1962 – 1965)

National Forest Products Association (1965 – 1992)

American Forest & Paper Association (1992 – 2009)

Federal Forest Resource Coalition (2009 – Present)

Function:

The FTPC accomplishes much of its' work through the professional work provided by FFRC staff. The FTPC Staff Executive tracks issues under discussion, communicates with program staff at the USDA Forest Service, and ensures that follow up action from meetings is addressed.

The FTPC meets twice annually, usually in towns or cities close to National Forests with active timber sale programs. The Forest Service is invited to the FTPC meeting, and usually conducts parallel, independent meetings involving their timber program staff leaders from both the National office and each Forest Service region. After a day of parallel meetings, the industry and Forest Service (and Bureau of Land Management) hold a joint meeting to find common ground and pursue solutions.

## **May 3<sup>rd</sup> Federal Timber Purchasers Committee Meeting Agenda**

8:30	Welcome, Antitrust Reminder, Introductions
	- Regional Forester Frank Beum
8:45	Opening Comments
	- Andy Geissler, Chair, Federal Timber Purchasers Committee
	- Jim Smalls, USFS
	- Chris Schumacher, BLM
9:00	Timber Program Direction and IIJA/IRA Implementation
	- Chris French
9:45	FS Sale Program
	- FY 2023 1 <sup>st</sup> Half Accomplishments & 2 <sup>nd</sup> Half Outlook
	- FY 2024 Outlook/Targets
10:30	BLM Sale Program
	- FY 2023 1 <sup>st</sup> Half Accomplishments and 2 <sup>nd</sup> Half Outlook
	- FY 2024 Outlook/ Targets
10:50	Break
11:10	Key Agreements
	- NWTF (Timber Transport) - Tom Spezze
12:00	Lunch
1:00	Key Agreements (continued)
	- NFF - Marcus Selig
1:40	Mature and Old Growth EO - Jamie Barbour
2:00	No-Bid Research Paper Presentation - Greg Frey
2:30	BPA Update - PPS (virtual)
2:45	FS General Updates
3:30	Wrap-up and Adjourn

Draft Meeting Minutes

October 27, 2022 Federal Timber Purchasers Committee Joint Meeting with USFS and BLM  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Intros and Opening Comments

Geissler called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. Imbergamo reviewed the FTPC Antitrust Policy.

Those present for the meeting were:

Molly Pitts, FTPC	King Williams, Iron Triangle
Ed Martin, Western Forest Products	Diana Craig, USFS R5
David Haupt, USFS R1	Tami Kerr, USFS R1
Henry Morris, USFS WO	Dave Clay, USFS R1
Galen Smith, Collins Pine	Brian Emerson, USFS R8
Alicia San Gil, USFS R3	Paul Pierson, Neiman Enterprises
Lindsey Warness, FRA	Rick Lint, USFS R8
Michael Spisak, USFS R6	Steve Stadelman, USFS WO
Carl Harrison, Sierra Pacific Industries	Erik Burke, USFS R6
Zack Miller, Weyerhauser	Tim O'Hara, FRA
James McFarland, USFS R9	Rick Hopson, USFS R5
Rex Storm, Associated Oregon Loggers	Paul McKenzie, FH Stoltze
Matt McGriffin, USFS WO	Dustin Phillips, Canfor
David Lawrence, USDS R3	Wade Salverson, BLM
Craig Anderson, USFS R10	Mary Yonce, USFS WO
Rob Barnhart, USFS WO	Andy Geissler, AFRC
Jim Smalls, USFS WO	Bill Imbergamo, FFRC
Kraig Kidwell, USFS WO	Gary Church, USFS R8
Scott Smith, USFS R8	Tim Hahn, West Fraser
Jamie Barbour, USFS WO	Nick Jose, Sun Mountain Lumber
Brian Fabel, We The Forest	Buck Fullerton, Boise Cascade
Jake Scott, Smith, Currie and Hancock	Joe Miller, Trinity River Lumber
Lois Shoemaker, USDS R4	Dan Buehler, Neiman Enterprises
Steve Kuennen, USFS R9	Jay Sandman, Boise Cascade
Elise Boeke, USFS R4	Michael Leonard, Rex Lumber
Matt Standocher, USFS	Rob Tomczak, USFS R1
Steve Henson, Neiman Enterprises	Brie Darr, USFS R10
Dan O'Leary, USFS R10	Rick Truex, USDS R2
Ben Wudtke, IFA	Josh Anderson, Vaagen Brothers
Tom Schultz, Idaho Forest Group	

Following introductions, Geissler provided opening remarks. He noted that the industry is important and Forest Service programs are critical. We are a lot of operators that are currently operating on the margins. The industry is here to help get programs back on track. Unfortunately, FY21 and 22 were disappointing, but we are looking forward. There seems to be a disconnect on prioritization and where the programs are going. We need to understand

how the funding is flowing out to regions and IIJA is being implemented. Hoping to see clear timber targets this year, as well as increasing use of partnerships. Andy acknowledged hiring challenges.

Jim Smalls, Deputy Director, followed up with opening remarks. He apologized for Dave Lytle's absence and explained that Dave was at the National Leadership team meeting. Smalls reviewed his career at the FS before moving into DC leadership roles. Smalls acknowledged the importance of industry to accomplishing management objectives. Smalls said they had an agency target of 3.4 BBF but with no regional targets, came in at 2.92 BBF. Deputy Chief French has said there will be targets for 2023. Smalls explained there is no clear direction on designating additional landscape projects. He also acknowledged that they must rely on partners. They are reorganizing the timber staff, pulling reforestation and nursery program back into the WO. They are also implementing the REPLANT Act. They have brought in a WO biomass coordinator.

Wade Salverson from the BLM provided a few opening remarks. Salverson raised old growth and mature EO, recapping BLM's effort to develop definition and inventory. Explained that they are not at the policy stage yet but shared that there is consensus on the team that the threat to older forests is wildfire, not harvest. Salverson said he will press for management to restore and maintain forests. BLM will also have a reforestation target. Unfortunately, infrastructure funding didn't help BLM in 2022 program.

Steve Henson asked when we will see targets? Smalls reported that he didn't know yet. Imbergamo asked about reforestation needs and an updated map, explaining that the Reforestation Strategy was issued in July of 2022. Smalls reported that Regions are looking at their needs and are supposed to have a reply due on November 4<sup>th</sup>. Salverson reported that BLM doesn't have a narrow definition for reforestation, and they are looking at prioritization on higher productivity sites.

Moving on to the FS Sale Program, Smalls explained that FY23 targets should be out soon. They are looking at all types of funding, including hazardous fuels and state and private forestry. Imbergamo asked about the CR and the plan? Region 8 strategically invested in planning, whereas Region 9 set aside BIL \$\$ to fund FY23. Smalls reported that they are doing 5-year planning, with FY23 pretty much set. Region 9 reported that they are trying to plan a full 10 years, but budgets work on a year-to-year basis. Pitts asked if the Regions are looking at what industry needs? Ali San Gil stated that yes, they work closely with industry. Region 4 reported that they only hit 70% of program target for FY22. They had several no bids, but that volume would roll into FY23 and would be additive. Region 2 is looking at getting targets out soon. Henson asked why if the program is set, why are targets not out? He also asked big picture, what is our role? Region 8 reported that they have looked at the ASQ for each forest. Region 1 reported that only 60% of FY23 has NEPA coverage. Geissler asked about the rationale on the Wildfire Crisis Strategy. Imbergamo discussed risk and the need for a different definition. Storm discussed capacity and explained that this is a new economy and there is a tremendous labor shortage, the worst since WWII. He reiterated the need to look at a new way of doing business. Forest Service has barriers in NEPA/contracting.

Wade Salverson gave a BLM report. 306 MBF total, 27 MBF from Public Domain, balance from O&C. Using GNA particularly on PD lands. O&C target 263 MBF, down from 279 MBF. Salverson said they've lost planning staff limiting their ability to manage is Late Successional Reserves. Geissler praised the BLM for rapid and flexible response to 2020 Labor Day fires.

Pitts then moved the discussion to Blanket Purchase Agreements. Forest Service reported that Region 2 has a contractor list but will be adding additional forests. Region 3 solicitation has closed. Region 5 has 85 contractors on their list. Region 6 will be putting a solicitation out for part of Oregon this winter. The plan is to use BPA on deficit timber sales as well as disaster recovery projects. PPS reported that they are looking to hire 40 people, but so far have only hired 10. They don't plan on using BPAs on large landscape projects. Purchasers expressed concern about not hearing about the solicitations. Pitts asked about no bids or those projects not awarded due to costs? PPS gave a quick presentation on the G-Z concept. Lots of discussion followed. Pitts will schedule a webinar.

Imbergamo opened the topic of Mature and Old Growth. Jamie Barbour then gave a presentation, explaining that they have boiled down the assessment to four methods. They plan on having a definition by February of 2023 and an inventory by April of 2023. The risk assessment is due by summer of 2023. Comments stressed the need to use FIA, calculate carbon by including wood products, avoid zoning, and use forest plans to implement.

Next topic on the agenda was Appraisals. Storm expressed concern with cost centers. Labor is a major issue. Storm also asked if transaction evidence is the best use? Kraig Kidwell discussed legislative and constitutional authority for sales. Makes them a bit hide-bound. Focus has been on accuracy and that was based on assumptions about costs and equipment replacement. Trying to evaluate options to improve and increase flexibility. Trying to get better handle on inflation and stop trailing assessments.

Pitts then moved the discussion on to catastrophic modifications. This is a huge issue in Regions 5 and 6. The group discussed the need to have standing NEPA for catastrophic events. Kidwell discussed contract updates, explaining that the FS wants feedback and FTPC should have at least two opportunities for input.

Next topic was performance bonds. Pitts explained that some smaller purchasers were having trouble securing performance bonds. The group discussed irrevocable letters of credit. Kidwell stated that bonding could be found in 6509.11K - bonding handbook.

Steve Stadelman discussed new authorities. Geissler expressed the need to use the authorities. Imbergamo expressed concern with how slow these new authorities have been implemented.

The Forest Service provided an update on Forest Planning. They are moving to 3 zones and most of the grunt work will be accomplished by the zone teams, rather than the individual Forests. The teams will also have objection personnel and once fully staffed, the 3 teams will include about 150 employees. Pierson asked about the quality of plans. Imbergamo reminded folks that plan implementation and monitoring is just as important as the plan itself.

The group finished up by having a quick discussion about how to facilitate the removal of low value material.

Following wrap-up, the meeting adjourned at 3:30.

**FY23 USFS Timber Volume Status Report to FTPC**  
**Thousand Cubic Feet (MCCF)**

Attachment 1a (as of 04/11/2023)	Period:	Mid-Year	X	Year-End						WO	TOTAL
	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R8	R9	R10		
<b>FY23 Timber Program Funding Allocation (\$000) (1)</b>											
Appropriated Funds (NFTM)	\$3,427	\$1,923	\$2,137	\$1,296	\$2,990	\$5,138	\$6,345	\$6,345	\$1,810		\$31,410
Appropriated Funds (NITX): BIL Provisions 40803(b)11 & 40803(b)14	\$3,000	\$11,413	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$2,000		\$37,413
Earmarked for Priority Landscapes (NITX) and Joint Chiefs (NFTM)	\$741	\$1,013	\$7,820	\$4,374	\$608	\$3,798	\$295	\$157			\$18,806
Salvage Sale Funds (SSSS) (2)	\$19,695	\$1,893	\$1,060	\$3,503	\$8,192	\$14,678	\$2,889	\$12,648	\$620		\$65,179
Knutson-Vandenberg (CWK2) (3)	\$1,491	\$1,646	\$272	\$828	\$931	\$7,549	\$4,194	\$1,849	\$748		\$19,508
<b>Total FY23 Timber Program Funding</b>	<b>\$28,354</b>	<b>\$17,889</b>	<b>\$13,289</b>	<b>\$12,001</b>	<b>\$14,721</b>	<b>\$36,162</b>	<b>\$18,724</b>	<b>\$25,999</b>	<b>\$5,178</b>		<b>\$172,317</b>
<b>FY23 Timber Target and Accomplishment (MCCF)</b>											
<b>FY23 Total Timber Target</b>	<b>850.0</b>	<b>420.0</b>	<b>450.0</b>	<b>294.2</b>	<b>970.0</b>	<b>1,104.0</b>	<b>1,285.2</b>	<b>1,094.8</b>	<b>26.2</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>6,494.3</b>
FY23 NFTM, SSSS, CWK2 & Other Accomp	134.5	70.3	151.9	42.5	224.1	217.8	488.7	367.6	5.3	N/A	1,702.8
FY23 Good Neighbor Authority Accomp	18.4	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	52.1	24.3	39.8	0.0	N/A	136.2
<b>FY23 Total Timber Accomp</b>	<b>152.9</b>	<b>72.0</b>	<b>151.9</b>	<b>42.5</b>	<b>224.1</b>	<b>269.9</b>	<b>513.0</b>	<b>407.4</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>1,839.0</b>
Accomp %	18%	17%	34%	14%	23%	24%	40%	37%	20%	N/A	28%
	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R8	R9	R10	TOTAL	
<b>No Bid Sales (MCCF)</b>											
Cumulative Volume No Bid Sales	3.3	17.1	0.3	10.7	10.8	0.8	161.7	46.7	0.0		251.4
Reoffered Volume Sold (4)	14.3	10.9	4.0	0.1	29.9	64.2	168.8	54.4	0.0		346.7
<b>FY23 Total Accomplishment (based on CCF volume)</b>											
Total Volume	152.9	72.0	151.9	42.5	224.1	269.9	513.0	407.4	5.3		1,839.0
% Sawtimber	79%	54%	25%	18%	47%	94%	42%	37%	68%		51%
% Pulpwood	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	32%	60%	0%		22%
% Fuelwood	0%	18%	36%	70%	10%	0%	1%	2%	32%		8%
% Biomass	0%	0%	12%	0%	25%	4%	0%	0%	0%		5%
% Other Convertible	21%	27%	26%	12%	19%	1%	25%	2%	0%		15%
<b>FY23 Total Accomplishment (based on CCF volume)</b>											
Total Volume	152.9	72.0	151.9	42.5	224.1	269.9	513.0	407.4	5.3		1,839.0
% Timber Sale Contract	79%	49%	-26%	64%	13%	46%	56%	65%	99%		47%
% Timber Permit	0%	16%	100%	36%	10%	1%	2%	2%	1%		12%
% GNA	12%	2%	0%	0%	0%	19%	5%	10%	0%		7%
% Stewardship Contract and Agreements	8%	33%	26%	0%	77%	34%	37%	23%	0%		34%
<b>Stewardship Contracts &amp; Agreements</b>											
Number of SC & SA Awarded	1	2	4	0	14	6	17	13			57
Volume Sold (MCCF)	13.0	23.8	39.4		171.6	91.4	191.1	94.4			624.6
Acres Awarded (includes non-harvest activities)			782		0		231	542	1,394		2,950
Retained Receipts EOY balance (\$000)	\$7,615	\$1,191	\$528	\$3,859	\$10,219	\$20,773	\$12,081	\$7,956	\$799		\$65,022
<b>Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration</b>											
Number of Projects											
Volume Sold (MCCF)	0.0		3.9			41.9	40.5	0.5			86.8
<b>Other Initiatives and Funding Sources</b>											
Good Neighbor Authority Volume Sold (MCCF)	18.4	1.7				52.1	24.3	39.8			136.2
Joint Chiefs Projects Volume Sold (MCCF)								0.3	0.5		0.8
Insect and Disease NEPA Volume Sold (MCCF)	0.1		3.6		0.3	0.6	5.5				10.1

(1) For mid-year reporting, current fiscal year budgets are reported. For year-end report, actual expenditures reported.

(2) Expenditures include local Salvage Sale Funds along with any WO distributions made during the budget process.

(3) Expenditures include local Knutson-Vandenberg K2 Funds along with any WO distributions made during the budget process.

(4) This may include volume no-bid from current and previous fiscal years.

Mid-Year Accomplishment - CCF	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R8	R9	R10	Total
Current Table Data (formulas)										
<b>FY23 - MCCF</b>	<b>R1</b>	<b>R2</b>	<b>R3</b>	<b>R4</b>	<b>R5</b>	<b>R6</b>	<b>R8</b>	<b>R9</b>	<b>R10</b>	<b>Total</b>
Timber Target	850.0	420.0	450.0	294.2	970.0	1,104.0	1,285.2	1,094.8	26.2	6,494.3
Total Accomplishment	152.9	72.0	151.9	42.5	224.1	269.9	513.0	407.4	5.3	1,839.0
Stewardship Contracts and Agreements	13.0	23.8	39.4		171.6	91.4	191.1	94.4		624.6
Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)	18.4	1.7				52.1	24.3	39.8		
CFLR Funded	0.0		3.9			41.9	40.5	0.5		86.8
Insect and Disease NEPA Volume Sold	0.1		3.6		0.3	0.6	5.5			10.1
Joint Chiefs Projects Volume Sold							0.3	0.5		0.8
Percent of Target	18%	17%	34%	14%	23%	24%	40%	37%	20%	28%
<b>FY22 - MCCF</b>	<b>R1</b>	<b>R2</b>	<b>R3</b>	<b>R4</b>	<b>R5</b>	<b>R6</b>	<b>R8</b>	<b>R9</b>	<b>R10</b>	<b>Total</b>
Timber Target	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,000.0
Total Accomplishment	142.2	123.1	104.2	40.2	234.9	372.3	345.6	459.4	0.6	1,822.7
Stewardship Contracts and Agreements	0.4	27.4	39.5		60.6	129.1	73.1	58.2		388.5
Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)	12.2	10.2		0.4		47.0	4.8	73.0		
CFLR Funded	0.3		0.4		2.2	10.9	0.9	2.8		17.5
Insect and Disease NEPA Volume Sold				11.6	0.3	3.2	68.1	4.2		87.3
Joint Chiefs Projects Volume Sold							0.2			0.2
Percent of Target										26%
<b>FY21 - MCCF</b>	<b>R1</b>	<b>R2</b>	<b>R3</b>	<b>R4</b>	<b>R5</b>	<b>R6</b>	<b>R8</b>	<b>R9</b>	<b>R10</b>	<b>Total</b>
Timber Target	920.0	600.0	488.0	296.3	767.9	1,434.5	1,471.7	1,129.0	145.7	7,270.7
Total Accomplishment	206.0	135.1	60.3	64.3	90.3	412.8	395.7	397.3	2.5	1,764.3
Stewardship Contracts and Agreements	32.6	26.8	13.0		35.8	174.6	85.5	49.1		417.4
Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)	27.7	10.9		10.0		20.1	21.1	45.9		135.7
CFLR Funded	31.1		13.3		6.5	0.1	18.8			69.9
Insect and Disease NEPA Volume Sold	10.8	7.1		16.5	0.4	67.4	13.6	0.2		116.0
Joint Chiefs Projects Volume Sold							25.0			25.0
Percent of Target	22%	23%	12%	22%	12%	29%	27%	35%	2%	24%

**FY23 USFS Timber Volume Status Report to FTPC**  
**Million Board Feet (MMBF)**

Attachment 1b (as of 04/11/2023)	Period:	Mid-Year	X	Year-End						WO	TOTAL
	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R8	R9	R10		
<b>FY23 Timber Program Funding Allocation (\$000) (1)</b>											
Appropriated Funds (NFTM)	\$3,427	\$1,923	\$2,137	\$1,296	\$2,990	\$5,138	\$6,345	\$6,345	\$1,810		\$31,410
Appropriated Funds (NITX): BIL Provisions 40803(b)(11) & 40803(b)(14)	\$3,000	\$11,413	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$2,000		\$37,413
Earmarked for Priority Landscapes (NITX) and Joint Chiefs (NFTM)	\$741	\$1,013	\$7,820	\$4,374	\$608	\$3,798	\$295	\$157			\$18,806
Salvage Sale Funds (SSSS) (2)	\$19,695	\$1,893	\$1,060	\$3,503	\$8,192	\$14,678	\$2,889	\$12,648	\$620		\$65,179
Knutsen-Vandenberg (CWK2) (3)	\$1,491	\$1,646	\$272	\$828	\$931	\$7,549	\$4,194	\$1,849	\$748		\$19,508
<b>Total FY23 Timber Program Funding</b>	<b>\$28,354</b>	<b>\$17,889</b>	<b>\$13,289</b>	<b>\$12,001</b>	<b>\$14,721</b>	<b>\$36,162</b>	<b>\$18,724</b>	<b>\$25,999</b>	<b>\$5,178</b>		<b>\$172,317</b>
<b>FY23 Timber Target and Accomplishment (MMBF)</b>											
<b>FY23 Total Timber Target</b>	<b>425.0</b>	<b>210.0</b>	<b>225.0</b>	<b>159.0</b>	<b>485.0</b>	<b>575.0</b>	<b>680.0</b>	<b>680.0</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>3,450.0</b>
FY23 NFTM, SSSS, CWK2 & Other Accomp	69.9	34.7	79.6	23.5	111.8	113.6	262.2	222.2	2.3	N/A	920.0
FY23 Good Neighbor Authority Accomp	8.3	0.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	27.1	13.1	24.5	0.0	N/A	73.9
<b>FY23 Total Timber Accomp</b>	<b>78.2</b>	<b>35.6</b>	<b>79.6</b>	<b>23.5</b>	<b>111.8</b>	<b>140.7</b>	<b>275.3</b>	<b>246.7</b>	<b>2.3</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>993.9</b>
Accomp %	18%	17%	35%	15%	23%	24%	40%	36%	21%	N/A	29%
	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R8	R9	R10		
<b>No Bid Sales (MMBF)</b>											
Cumulative Volume No Bid Sales	1.9	7.6	0.2	5.4	7.0	0.4	87.5	28.9	0.0		138.9
Reoffered Volume Sold (4)	8.0	5.7	2.1	0.1	17.4	33.4	89.5	33.4	0.0		189.5
<b>FY23 Total Accomplishment (based on CCF volume)</b>											
Total Volume	78.2	35.6	79.6	23.5	111.8	140.7	275.3	246.7	2.3		993.9
% Sawtimber	79%	54%	25%	18%	47%	94%	42%	37%	68%		51%
% Pulpwood	0%	0%	1%	0%	0%	0%	32%	60%	0%		22%
% Fuelwood	0%	18%	36%	70%	10%	0%	1%	2%	32%		8%
% Biomass	0%	0%	12%	0%	25%	4%	0%	0%	0%		5%
% Other Convertible	21%	27%	26%	12%	19%	1%	25%	2%	0%		15%
<b>FY23 Total Accomplishment (based on CCF volume)</b>											
Total Volume	78.2	35.6	79.6	23.5	111.8	140.7	275.3	246.7	2.3		993.9
% Timber Sale Contract	79%	49%	-26%	64%	13%	46%	56%	65%	99%		47%
% Timber Permit	0%	16%	100%	36%	10%	1%	2%	2%	1%		12%
% GNA	12%	2%	0%	0%	0%	19%	5%	10%	0%		7%
% Stewardship Contract and Agreements	8%	33%	26%	0%	77%	34%	37%	23%	0%		34%
<b>Stewardship Contracts &amp; Agreements</b>											
Number of SC & SA Awarded	1	2	4	0	14	6	17	13			57
Volume Sold (MMBF)	7.1	12.0	16.8		82.3	47.1	101.9	56.4			323.6
Acres Awarded (includes non-harvest activities)			782		0		231	542	1,394		2,950
Retained Receipts EOY balance (\$000)	\$7,615	\$1,191	\$528	\$3,859	\$10,219	\$20,773	\$12,081	\$7,956	\$799		\$65,022
<b>Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration</b>											
Number of Projects											
Volume Sold (mmbf)	0.0		2.4			21.7	20.0	0.3			44.5
<b>Other Initiatives and Funding Sources</b>											
Good Neighbor Authority Volume Sold (mmbf)	8.3	0.9				27.1	13.1	24.5			73.9
Joint Chiefs Projects Volume Sold (mmbf)								0.2	0.3		0.5
Insect and Disease NEPA Volume Sold (mmbf)	0.0		1.9		0.1	0.4	3.0				5.4

(1) For mid-year reporting, current fiscal year budgets are reported. For year-end report, actual expenditures reported.

(2) Expenditures include local Salvage Sale Funds along with any WO distributions made during the budget process.

(3) Expenditures include local Knutsen-Vandenberg K2 Funds along with any WO distributions made during the budget process.

(4) This may include volume no-bid from current and previous fiscal years.

Mid-Year Accomplishment - MMBF										
Current Table Data (formulas)										
FY23 - MMBF	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R8	R9	R10	Total
Timber Target	425.0	210.0	225.0	159.0	485.0	575.0	680.0	680.0	11.0	3,450.0
Total Accomplishment	78.2	35.6	79.6	23.5	111.8	140.7	275.3	246.7	2.3	993.9
Stewardship Contracts and Agreements	7.1	12.0	16.8		82.3	47.1	101.9	56.4		323.6
Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)	8.3	0.9				27.1	13.1	24.5		73.9
CFLR Funded	0.0		2.4			21.7	20.0	0.3		44.5
Insect and Disease NEPA Volume Sold	0.0		1.9		0.1	0.4	3.0			5.4
Joint Chiefs Projects Volume Sold							0.2	0.3		0.5
Percent of Target	18%	17%	35%	15%	23%	24%	40%	36%	21%	29%
FY22 - MMBF	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R8	R9	R10	Total
Timber Target	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,400.0
Total Accomplishment	74.0	60.1	57.4	22.3	125.6	191.5	183.0	279.0	0.3	993.2
Stewardship Contracts and Agreements	0.2	13.6	18.9		28.1	65.8	38.8	35.6		201.0
Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)	6.8	4.8		0.2		24.4	2.6	45.0		83.9
CFLR Funded	0.2		0.2		1.2	5.4	0.5	1.7		9.2
Insect and Disease NEPA Volume Sold				6.1	0.1	1.7	36.8	2.5		47.2
Joint Chiefs Projects Volume Sold							0.1			0.1
Percent of Target										29%
FY21 - MMBF	R1	R2	R3	R4	R5	R6	R8	R9	R10	Total
Timber Target	460.0	300.0	244.0	160.0	430.0	760.0	780.0	700.0	61.2	3,895.2
Total Accomplishment	109.1	67.7	36.1	33.4	48.4	214.6	212.2	238.6	1.2	961.3
Stewardship Contracts and Agreements	17.5	13.4	6.4		18.4	89.1	45.3	28.0		218.0
Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)	14.2	5.2		5.1		10.5	11.5	28.1		74.6
CFLR Funded	16.7		6.6		3.6	0.1	10.0			36.9
Insect and Disease NEPA Volume Sold	5.8	3.6		7.8	0.2	34.6	7.4	0.1		59.5
Joint Chiefs Projects Volume Sold	-			-		-				-
Percent of Target	24%	23%	15%	21%	11%	28%	27%	34%	2%	25%

**FTPC FOREST SERVICE REGIONAL TIMBER SURVEY SPRING 2023**  
**Region 1:**

**Q1: What percent of your FY23 target was accomplished in the 1st half?  
What factors affected your accomplishment to date?**

R1-18% completed by the end of the second quarter. As of 03/31/2023 only 62% of the planned target is under a signed NEPA decision. Additionally due to lack of engineering staffing regionwide, several sales were pushed to 4th quarter due to delays in the development of road packages.

**Q2: What steps are you taking to accomplish the remainder of your FY23 target in the 2nd half?**

As NEPA decisions are signed or projects are cleared from litigation, sales are being offered. We are estimating that accomplishment will be consistent with where we landed in FY22 (350 MMBF) accomplishing 82% of FY23 assigned target. We will have more clarity in Q3 with some key court and NEPA decisions expected that must fall in place in Q3 for Q4 offers.

**Q3: What is your target for FY24? What steps are you taking to prepare for the FY24 program? Do you anticipate any problems?**

The preliminary target for FY24 is 477MMBF. We anticipate litigation to be an ongoing impact to program delivery. In addition to continuing to push in our large vegetation program, we are utilizing partner and contractor capacity to get additional NEPA accomplished that will increase our flexibility to offer a consistent program regionwide and overcome issues such as litigation.

**Q4: How much timber volume and how many acres analyzed in NEPA documents is currently affected by litigation?**

219.3 MMBF in Idaho, 300.4 MMBF in MT

**Q5: How are external partners (NFF, NWTF, Mule Deer, etc.) being utilized to accomplish timber programs? How much of your target is being sold by external partners?**

To date, all volume accomplished in R1 by external partners has been through state GNA contracts. 20.4 MMBF will be sold in FY23 via GNA. New partner agreements are being established within the Region to accomplish work, including capacity building for our timber program and NEPA pipeline.

**Q6: Did your unit have no bid sales in the 1st Half? If so, how are you responding? If you have carryover no bids from previous years, how are you handling those?**

We had three sales totaling 7.0 MMBF in the first half that went no bid. 4.0 MMBF is already readvertised (no bid SBA set-aside reoffered full and open) while the remaining 3.0 MMBF is being supplemented with BIL funds to address the high skyline costs with low value wood. FY22 fire salvage no bids that are feasible were awarded in 1st quarter. Remaining FY22 no bids are being redesigned to address input from potential bidders.

**Q7: How much funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was allocated to your region for timber related projects?**

Outside of the WCS Landscapes, the region received \$3M of BIL NITX for Mechanical Treatments.

**Q8: Are you working with the fuels management staff to identify projects which can use timber harvest to achieve hazardous fuels reductions?**

Yes, this has always been the case in our larger vegetation management projects. With the increased use of CE authorities, we are increasing coordination to recover wood products whenever and wherever they are available.

**Q9: Does your Region have a BPA? If so, how is it working, and do you anticipate increased volume going out through the BPA?**

Not yet. The Northern Rockies Stewardship BPA was solicited 03/16/23 with plans to capture an initial round of vendor proposals on 04/20/23.

**Q10: How much of the volume you've sold in the first half of FY 2023 was sold under the Good Neighbor Program?**

7.3 MMBF

### **Breakout Session Notes**

**Emergency Actions planned on Kootenai volume? Where are actions planned in R2? What is the turnaround on these is it 2 weeks? Are alternative arrangements being applied in emergency actions? Concern with White House approval affecting speed of delivery.**

FS – Yes but won't be able to cover all of it. WO reply on process – Intake Portal has been deployed to process, routes to EMC first for review, and eventually French.

Two alternative arrangements – 1. Through CEQ (EIS only) 2. Since 2008 alternative arrangements the Chief can issue. R5 issued first and second in FY22 and 23 (one on Seq). 3. Emergency determination/action piece which routes through White House.

### **How will fall down in volume in FY23 affect FY24?**

FS – Courts will be determiner on some of the volume. The rest anticipated to push to FY24.

**NITX funding - 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest of any region given level of fire prone land. Can that decision get revisited in FY24? Need to sustain the industry in R1 vs R3 which has challenges. Request for sharing distribution of budget for transparency. Request for statistics of which emergency actions have been approved.**

FS - WO reply budget. There are other TX funds. We look at TM, TX and this year we included fire money in the PODS. TFPAs GNA funds are in the mix. R1 may get more money but it may come in another color. WO will talk to the regions and follow up on requests budget transparency. FS – R1 will pull info for Denver on emergency declaration requests. Contractor focused capacity expansion has limitations around the amount of work they can take on in the timeframe. In some cases, contractor capacity is a year delay to service FS contracts signed in current FY.

**Contract & Sale concerns loading a lot of risk onto industry - Loading contracts with extra road work, appraisal values that increase associated costs. Concern if targets met that we don't double count.**

FS- will look again at this issue for opportunity. Request for Cameron Wohlschlegel to meet with Smalls with RO staff to review the use case shared (Kootenai etc) to better understand industry side issues. Good to get RO and WO industry feedback.

**Legacy NEPA Helicopter logging projects on shelf - request review of all decisions and look at opportunities to use short term funding injection for industry to conduct helicopter logging in PODS etc.**

**Inflation rate issue - any delay to project delivery is big impact to industry around this.**

**Tethered Logging - request to expand program.**

**FWS staff hires planned with FS funds? Cottonwood effects?**

**Recommendation to contract FWS work.**

FS – trying to minimize impacts. It's a buyers' market so we still see folks training up in FWS and FS positions and then moving on. Region has requested consideration to hire more than we need to address transition and turnover.

**Black Hills update South Otter Project objections?**

FS – objection resolution meeting last week. Second meeting with two plaintiffs scheduled today. Some plaintiffs are not participating.

**Request for addition of priority landscape in Idaho.**

FS- We are not anticipating there to be a call for additional landscape nominations in FY24, at least not at this time.

**FTPC FOREST SERVICE REGIONAL TIMBER SURVEY SPRING 2023  
REGION 2:**

**Q1: What percent of your FY23 target was accomplished in the 1st half?  
What factors affected your accomplishment to date?**

14% of our target was offered in the first half. Lots of snow and late money contributed to this. We are a high elevation region with a short field season that occurs in the third and fourth quarter.

**Q2: What steps are you taking to accomplish the remainder of your FY23 target in the 2nd half?**

Allocating all funds recently received and gearing up for field season. Deployed the timber sale prep strike team and have them scheduled out to assist Forests that were not successful in hiring seasonal workers. 40% of this year's volume offer will go through the Procurement and Property Services shop.

**Q3: What is your target for FY24? What steps are you taking to prepare for the FY24 program? Do you anticipate any problems?**

FY24 target is 244,000 MBF. We will be prepping that volume this field season. Funding needs to be received as soon as possible as approximately 40% of our volume sold went through PPS in FY23 and the expectation is similar for FY24. Contracting deadlines set for April need to be met for this to go smoothly.

**Q4: How much timber volume and how many acres analyzed in NEPA documents is currently affected by litigation?**

None

**Q5: How are external partners (NFF, NWTF, Mule Deer, etc.) being utilized to accomplish timber programs? How much of your target is being sold by external partners?**

GNA is used by every unit in the region. NFF partners are helping with capacity needs. Wyoming state Forest Service and Colorado state Forest

Service will be selling approximately 10% of our volume sold. The Region is working to establish Supplemental Project Agreements under the Keystone Agreements with NFF, NWTF, MDF. Details and dates to execute these SPAs are TBD.

**Q6: Did your unit have no bid sales in the 1st Half? If so, how are you responding? If you have carryover no bids from previous years, how are you handling those?**

5,464 MBF went no-bid in the first half of FY23. 1,900 MBF will be re-offered as a stewardship sale and 2,100 MBF has interest in being sold off the shelf.

**Q7: How much funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was allocated to your region for timber related projects?**

\$4.7 million in NITX for all units, \$2 million in NITX and NIVX for GNA projects with states, additional BIL/IRA funding has been received for timber work associated with Potential Operational Delineations.

**Q8: Are you working with the fuels management staff to identify projects which can use timber harvest to achieve hazardous fuels reductions?**

Yes, R2 has been incorporating fuels objectives into timber contracts since 2018. The new PODs work integration further with multi-year planning and implementation dollars available for the project.

**Q9: Does your Region have a BPA? If so, how is it working, and do you anticipate increased volume going out through the BPA?**

We have a BPA available to all Forests in the region. Approximately 40% of our volume sold offer will go through the BPA this year.

**Q10: How much of the volume you've sold in the first half of FY 2023 was sold under the Good Neighbor Program?**

871 MBF was sold through GNA in the first half of FY23. This will increase to ~20,000 MBF total for the fiscal year.

## **Breakout Notes**

### **How is the region maximizing the flexibility of the funds?**

FS – FY21 transition to salary and expense model changed (reduced) base flexible funding. Still adjusting to the shift to previous flexibility in base program allocations. Comparable amounts of money are coming in BIL IRA etc. They have specific criteria and reporting requirements.

### **Memorandum Concern – language on retaining large trees lacks emphasis on aspect “to the point it supports a fire resilient stand”.**

FS – Several appropriations (all driven by national budget office) are flexible. In some cases, it is flexible in a geographic range. Overall appropriations set to meet the broad needs of forest management.

### **What emergency actions has region requested? Recommend requesting any major thinning need that could be implemented before funding runs out. GMUG example NEPA for PODS. Where is press release?**

FS – Plan to submit 4 requests tied to POD funding. WO press release will come in advance of regional releases.

### **Concerns raised to increase communication with local and state governments where emergency determinations are made. Request for public review projects with no objection or review process.**

**Concern of PODs becoming just a fuel break with potential to burn everything inside. Concern of large POD boundaries setting different expectations and how the associated funding will affect mechanized treatment. Mechanized needs to be a primary tool. Concern of fuels shop vs timber shop being skewed to fuels. Don't set commercial acres aside in PODS with no appeal or objection process.**

FS – emergency action portal set up – new approach. Issue may be more nuanced than description provided. If you are under emergency designation, WO process moves through portal to solution and take action.

### **Is there a feedback loop for Industry on Stewardship Agreements? What about MDA? Concern – What do the Keystone Agreements mean to us? How much are they taking on, so we understand what's coming from**

**them vs FS? If it's a different way of doing business, we need to be prepped for it.**

FS – Working on agreement with WTF. No estimated signature date yet, but heavy work investment underway. Same with NFF. MDA and NFF a lot of the projects tentatively identified to incorporate into agreements. By Denver, more information anticipated.

**Mature and Old Growth Release Today – FS is not always the best at telling the forest health story behind the action. Desire for BLM program to grow program (only 5 foresters in state). How is BLM requesting funds and what do they look like? Request for BLM bat work and review of Black Hills work as use case. Request to work with Ben Wudtke/Hartshorn**

FS – Intent is to describe why we are doing work - to improve forest health. Agency is aware of the 'watch out' to ensure the story of forest health is shared with actions.

BLM – acting representative. GNA projects underway in south with FS. Aiming for 5m mark and continuing to focus on expanding agreements and cross boundary partnerships. Stewardship contracting restarting where it had lapsed. Bat update can be provided post call.

**Tethered Logging – what's happening with implementation in Black Hills?**

FS – Due to lack of tethered logging infrastructure in region a FY23 budget request went in with POD request. Funding just received and will move into planning. Region strategic view is to expand use tied to lack of ridgeline road systems. Monarch pass project.

## **FTPC FOREST SERVICE REGIONAL TIMBER SURVEY SPRING 2023 REGION 3:**

### **Q1: What percent of your FY23 target was accomplished in the 1st half? What factors affected your accomplishment to date?**

The WO assigned a target of 450,000 ccf (225,000 mbf). At the beginning of the FY, the region was planning to accomplish 420,000 ccf (210,000 mbf). At the end of Q2, we are 33% accomplished towards the final target, and about 75% more commercial (non-permit) volume sold than this time last year. Under-staffing and inexperience in the region continue to slow progress. Our sister region (R8) faces similar challenges and Enterprise has limited capacity. NEPA project decisions and/or survey and consultation have delayed implementation of sales on some forests. Some prep/survey contracts and agreements funded with BIL funds have been waiting on availability of funds. Severe winter weather has delayed some field preparation.

### **Q2: What steps are you taking to accomplish the remainder of your FY23 target in the 2nd half?**

We are increasing efforts to share resources across the region and with our sister region (R8). The RF has made it clear she expects employees to work across unit boundaries to complete projects related to WCS, BIL, shared stewardship, and other high priorities. The region is working to improve integration between Forest, Region, and WO (PPS and OGA) to improve project coordination. Apache-Sitgreaves is implementing in Rim Country NEPA while awaiting the decision for Black River NEPA. Forests are funding more ACES employees (approximately 20 total) and looking at use of the national Land Management Integrated Resources (LMIR) BPA and Keystone agreements for sale prep support. NFF and the Coconino NF are entering a stewardship agreement to include approximately 60,000 ccf from 3 sales, with funding from DoD, city of Flagstaff and many other partners. We are still working through the details including whether all will be awarded in FY2023 or some will carry over to FY2024.

### **Q3: What is your target for FY24? What steps are you taking to prepare for the FY24 program? Do you anticipate any problems?**

Target 240,000 mbf. Regional Office specialists are visiting every Forest to provide in-person support for detailed 5-year planning tools to track and avoid common project pinch points such as uncompleted or expired surveys, land lines, transportation issues, etc., and encouraging program managers to take Program Management trainings to be more successful. We are investing in staff, agreements, and contracts to complete required heritage and wildlife surveys and consultations across landscapes where NEPA and project decisions have already been completed. We anticipate using the national LMIR BPA, a regional sale prep IDIQ contract, and Keystone agreements to support timber sale preparation activities and will continue to try to fill positions to the best of our ability. Uncompleted 4FRI phase 1 task orders are being converted into new contracts. Our 5-year plan is currently about 64% of the 2024 target. It is difficult to move sales ahead on the schedule due to required survey and compliance needs so it may be difficult to achieve 240,000 mbf in 2024. We have requested updates to the plans by May 31st and will be evaluating after that time.

**Q4: How much timber volume and how many acres analyzed in NEPA documents is currently affected by litigation?**

None

**Q5: How are external partners (NFF, NWTF, Mule Deer, etc.) being utilized to accomplish timber programs? How much of your target is being sold by external partners?**

AZ DFFM is preparing, offering, and administering timber sales in Arizona under Good Neighbor Authority. NMDF funds, contracts, and administers service contracts using a Participating Agreement to cut, skid, and deck logs that the Forest Service offers and sells using 2400-2 and 2400-4 contracts. Non-government partners including NFF, NWTF, and TNC have entered into stewardship agreements to carry out vegetation management projects including timber harvest. Salt River Project has contributed funding to a stewardship agreement for projects in the CC Cragin watershed. NFF will be offering approximately 60,000 ccf through stewardship agreement in 2023 and/or 2024. It is difficult to track exactly the volume the partners contribute as it is not always identifiable in TIM.

**Q6: Did your unit have no bid sales in the 1st Half? If so, how are you responding? If you have carryover no bids from previous years, how are you handling those?:**

One small deck sale received no bids due to appraisal and haul distance. It will be reappraised and reoffered. Only one carryover no-bid is Baseball 3. It was reoffered twice last year and received no bids. The Gila NF is working with NM Division of Forestry to implement a cut, skid, and deck service contract and the volume will be offered afterwards on a 2400-2 contract.

**Q7: How much funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was allocated to your region for timber related projects?**

\$11.5 million of NITX in FY23. This includes \$1.7 million for GNA/TFPA agreements, \$1 million each for mechanical thinning and fuel break provisions, and the remainder for 4 Wildfire Crisis Strategy Landscapes.

**Q8: Are you working with the fuels management staff to identify projects which can use timber harvest to achieve hazardous fuels reductions?**

Greater emphasis is being placed on integrated planning between timber and fuels at the region and forest levels. Most project plans (NEPA) are not singularly focused on timber or fuels and the treatments are planned in an interdisciplinary setting to use the most efficient means of implementation. Fuels projects awarded using the stewardship BPA may include timber subject to agreement.

**Q9: Does your Region have a BPA? If so, how is it working, and do you anticipate increased volume going out through the BPA?**

We have a stewardship BPA and have just begun to use it. It has its challenges, mainly communication between forest, region, and WO PPS and different timber valuation strategy than IRTC that could become a source of confusion for Offerors. The RO and WO PPS continue to hold meetings with Forest staff and leadership to help understand the different instruments available. The RO and Forests have also participated in two industry roundtables in Arizona and have two more coming up hosted by the US Endowment for Forestry and Communities. We do anticipate increased volume going out through the BPA,

at least while BIL and IRL funding is available. The RO is developing stewardship proposal strategies to improve efficiency of the approval process.

**Q10: How much of the volume you've sold in the first half of FY 2023 was sold under the Good Neighbor Program?**

NM Forestry Division will continue to contract cut, skid, and deck service contracts and the Forest Service will sell the decks. AZ DFFM is working with the Coconino National Forest to offer sales on the Mogollon Rim Ranger District. We are working with the state on the agreement and uncertain at this time if they will be FY2023 or FY2024 offers.

**Regional Breakout Notes**

FY23

- Batch hiring completed, single announcements shift slowed hiring
- 60k stewardship Coconino 3 projects roll into 1. Some may be FY24.
- Working to level staff skills and share resources across units in the region within region and have commitments from R8. Started with timber sale prep in GS 5-7-9

**Has biomass transit assistance helped?**

FS - Apache Sitgraves services mostly 4 FRI footprint. Working relatively well for the company on the subsidies, included SRP agreement. Transit issues remain an issue but they are hopeful with transit work in progress.

**Concerns**

**Infrastructure** – aging

**Pub Safety** – poor contractors and public – more conflicts between recreators and people on haul roads to spur roads

**Capacity** – limited. Roads chokepoint for a lot of sales – trying to resolve road engineering dept capacity to sign off or provide specs etc. Work with other regions for support. Hoping to borrow capacity. Requesting a 2-3 year approach to understanding workload to better level resource.

FS – 5-year timber strategy working on transit plan attached to it. Initial focus major haul routes in place and working back from there to get roads to

standard in advance. Mixed use in some areas is high in haul routes (Rim Country area). Working on a transit plan to address it. Sequencing road treatments close to work to ensure roads aren't upgraded is task order is several seasons behind. Operators moving in and out of sales challenge to manage with OHV. Progress is slow but its recognized.

**Encourage better balance in wildfire crisis landscape and the limits to recreation that allow more treatment. Emphasis on treatment over recreation tied to the values at risk requested.**

### **5-year Timber Plan**

**Transparency and industry partner engagement in the plan process to support their work to attract investment. The FS has a plan we are part of that plan in a public facing website is a real challenge for us. Request to meet with industry on all timber plans. Industry needs to know where they are headed that feedback loop 1-2x year important with the expanded partnerships. Everyone needs to be on same page about where work is happening.**

**Acres of merchantable timber needs to be differentiated from biomass and fuelwood saw timber only 46% of the numbers so important to differentiate.**

**4FRI reports in acres, the other report is volume based. Pick one or the other acres or volume.**

**Capacity - can you shed light on what the regional NEPA staff is thinking about expediting use of emergency NEPA authorities. R3 has most NFTX to this purpose. Is there a strategy to use the authorities Congress gave you?**

FS - Clear direction on emergency authority use on Wildfire Crisis Landscapes (WCL) also in the fire sheds outside those landscapes. More opportunities to get across the landscape faster. We are trying to execute them all. Arizona looking at the 100k acre authority but need to get FAM info. Some CEs are fire oriented but don't address removal.

Changing to an integrated 5-year plan regional level (timber, fuels, heritage etc with spatial component). Roads issues being tackled in stewardship 5-and-10-year stewardship. Still learning on 20-year agreements. Balancing fire and

timber dance on who goes where first being worked through unit levels to manage risk. Regional perspective is increasing strategic approaches and communicate them broadly. Get the knowledge to the units. Providing workshops and trainings on authorities and tools to grow ground application. Culture shift in progress workshops support this. FS schedule is ongoing on 5-year plan, RO conducting unit visits, educating on the process. They hope to be working with externals by the fall on the timber plan. The WCL plan is ahead of it as part of the wildfire crisis priorities. Current status May 31<sup>st</sup> units update 5-year plans and then RO begins review. Plans are far more detailed, and a new process. Back side processing of data in advance of public facing.

**Request to engage public and industry in all timber plans. The more the 5-year plans show the work to be done the easier it will be to grow to meet that contracting work.**

**FTPC FOREST SERVICE REGIONAL TIMBER SURVEY SPRING 2023**  
**Region 4:**

**Q1: What percent of your FY23 target was accomplished in the 1st half? What factors affected your accomplishment to date?**

14% of our target was accomplished in the 1st half of FY23. Capacity is the main factor. Vacancies and lack of mentors and our remaining workforce is at max capacity.

**Q2: What steps are you taking to accomplish the remainder of your FY23 target in the 2nd half?**

Region 4 is currently on track to meet our FY23 volume target of 159 mmbf (294,150 ccf). Eleven GNA contracts, ~28 mmbf, will be prepared and offered between ID and WY enhancing capacity. Contract development is underway for the remaining timber sales to be offered in Q3 & Q4.

**Q3: What is your target for FY24? What steps are you taking to prepare for the FY24 program? Do you anticipate any problems?**

FY24 target is 160 mmbf for R4. At this time we do not foresee any problems; however, although we are trying to fill necessary positions to be successful it has been a slow process. Late snow is also currently affecting access across the region.

**Q4: How much timber volume and how many acres analyzed in NEPA documents is currently affected by litigation?**

Awarded contracts = ~36,400 ccf and 2,095 acres Unawarded contracts = ~45,700 ccf and 2,400 acres The Payette NF signed a new decision lifting suspensions on 3 of their 6 sales under contract affected by the LCBC litigation. A 2nd NEPA decision is planned to be signed this Summer to enable the completion of the remaining 3 sales.

**Q5: How are external partners (NFF, NWTF, Mule Deer, etc.) being utilized to accomplish timber programs? How much of your target is being sold by external partners?**

R4 has 11 GNA contracts being offered the 2nd half of the FY totaling ~28 mmbf (55,074 ccf). We are continuing to expand our relationships with our partners to achieve fuel reduction goals; however, at this time our partners, aside from the States, are not 'removing' material towards our target. We have on-going partnerships/agreements with MDF, NFF, TNC, NWTF, TU, & the Great Basin Institute (GBI).

**Q6: Did your unit have no bid sales in the 1st Half? If so, how are you responding? If you have carryover no bids from previous years, how are you handling those?**

R4 has had 2 no-bid sales totaling ~5.4 mmbf (10,721 ccf). One Stewardship IRTC off the Boise NF (10,360 ccf) and one Uinta-Wasatch-Cache sale (361 ccf) in UT. The Boise will rework their sale but it could be a FY24 reoffer.

**Q7: How much funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was allocated to your region for timber related projects?**

R4 received ~ \$4.6 million towards timber related projects.

**Q8: Are you working with the fuels management staff to identify projects which can use timber harvest to achieve hazardous fuels reductions?**

Within R4 we have been and are working very closely with our fuel's staffs both at the regional and forest level to develop a nimble integrated program of work to achieve hazardous fuel reduction.

**Q9: Does your Region have a BPA? If so, how is it working, and do you anticipate increased volume going out through the BPA?**

Region 4 recently solicited proposals for our BPA and are assembling an evaluation team.

**Q10: How much of the volume you've sold in the first half of FY 2023 was sold under the Good Neighbor Program?**

None of our FY23 volume has been sold under Good Neighbor to date. During the second half of FY23, eleven GNA contracts will be prepared and offered within 4 National Forests totaling ~28 mmbf (55,074 ccf) of timber. Five of the 11 sales are located with the Southern Idaho Landscape (SIL); 4 on the

Boise NF and 1 on the Payette totaling ~16.5 mmbf (31,575 ccf). Idaho will offer 6 GNA contracts and the State of Wyoming will offer 5 contracts.

#### **R4 FTPC Breakout Notes**

##### **No Bids**

FS - IRTC Boise \$ 5m no bid the other was 500k

IRTC not sure if it will go out this year around the rest of the outyear program. Salvage from the fires in Utah remain a big issue and high priority.

##### **SW Idaho Priority Landscape – how much received and what FY24 expectation is for the 2m acre landscape with half FS lands.**

FS – vast majority timber sales are in those landscapes – both forests focused in those landscapes. Does not mean no work happening elsewhere but those landscapes remain priority through FY24. Landscape total received \$32 million in the authority but do not have the volume calc – will bring it to Denver.

##### **Payette has been consistent in past years. Will we see an increase in Payette and Boise programs tied to these designation and additional funding in timber?**

FS Target piece – Matt McGiffin worked with the forests on their capacity for volume and set targets around that. Targets were sent as preliminary discussion point for FY25 not final targets. FY24 are final targets. Monies may not match the location this year. B&P volume has increased, but diff last year this year is from Utah salvage. Some sales held tied to litigation, NEPA underway to get the other three contracts back to work and are also planned to advance FY24 target.

##### **Beyond litigation where are you at on NEPA with the rest of the WCLs?**

FS – Yes NEPA started. Payette has new listing ground squirrel to manage. Both forests have a NEPA plan for outyear work P&B. Currently working off what was signed last year. Planning team and surveys are part of outyear planning in the 32m. Don't know if it covers all acres but they do have 5-year plan NEPA and veg to get the work covered.

##### **Not seeing big advances in volume in year 1& 2 IRA BIL.**

FS – By Fy25 or 26 back to offering more baseline volume on units with dead spruce. Hiring dependent seasonal and FTE workforce challenges.

**How much is Utah vs other states – 60 Utah currently tied to salvage.  
FY24 – Fuel break CE – are more planned for the region in 24 and how taking advantage emergency authority BIL**

FS – yes variety NEPA tools and authorities to get there. Forests aware and incorporating fuel breaks into other projects where feasible. FS to reply in Denver.

**Request as many projects as FS can on BIL CE Authority.**

FS – working in PODS to align and plan use of the NEPA emergency authorities

**Tethered Logging – FTPC desire to see more. Refer to Oregon State study Nez Clear in last month on benefits tethered logging will send FS report. Limited machinery and one line operator – three or four tethered machines in Idaho – question of whether it's a suitable machine tied to soil disturbance. Jeff Adams in Grantsville will have new machine 6-8 week. 5-year harvest plans critical to support the development of the technology for industry.**

FS – Manti large project majority is tethered logging. See more in future but limited by NEPA to apply it. Replacing helicopters with tethered logging that we can see a lot more tethered logging.

Operating on helicopter sale now – using funding for priority landscape with 20- year-old refreshed NEPA was now economically viable with the excess funding to support those older projects never sold, Nez Clear black helicopter sale recommended as action.

BLM -Eastern Idaho Northern Rockies reality – industry losses are a critical challenge. Mule Deer Initiative helpful but overall targets declining. More No Bids anticipated tied to mill closures 100+ miles to small mills. State-wide, no BIL funding for any projects to date, but may change in future. Anticipate fall to declining outyear targets if staffing challenges aren't resolved.

**BLM no bids approach – are you considering stewardship and other authorities?**

BLM – BLM has potentially faster turnaround than FS tied to direction. Some dialog with state but they don't have capacity in eastern Idaho (one CO) 20 years challenge to lock process in but still exploring options

## **FTPC FOREST SERVICE REGIONAL TIMBER SURVEY SPRING 2023 REGION 5**

### **Q1: What percent of your FY23 target was accomplished in the 1st half? What factors affected your accomplishment to date?**

Region 5 has accomplished 112 MMBF of its 485 MMBF target, or 23%. Factors that affected the accomplishments to date include insufficient internal staffing levels and capacity on some forests, lack of industry capacity for burned timber from federal lands, time needed to finish NEPA and other environmental compliance work, and the effects of the 2022/2023 winter/spring storms.

### **Q2: What steps are you taking to accomplish the remainder of your FY23 target in the 2nd half?**

Forest-level staffs and their partners are finishing appraisals and contract packages in anticipation of access to currently snowed-out sale and contract areas and will advertise sales and contracts as access allows. Forests are also assessing potential storm damage to roads and needs for repairs. Forests continue to increase use of IRSCs, BPAs, and Stewardship Agreements to increase capacity. At the regional level, staff is working with the WO to help forest find efficiencies where possible, such as a reduction in cruise standards in select areas. In addition, the Region is capitalizing on budget fluidity, working to align funding to projects that are ready to be delivered through the obligation of funds.

### **Q3: What is your target for FY24? What steps are you taking to prepare for the FY24 program? Do you anticipate any problems?**

In February, the WO gave R5 a preliminary FY24 target of 415 MMBF. The FY24 POW planning process is beginning in the Region, and, at this time, no specific problems are anticipated.

### **Q4: How much timber volume and how many acres analyzed in NEPA documents is currently affected by litigation?**

We do not currently have any volume affected by litigation. There are two current cases on the Los Padres NF, the Reyes Peak Forest Health and Fuels Reduction Project (approximately 755 acres) and the Tecuya Ridge Shaded Fuelbreak Project (1,626 acres).

**Q5: How are external partners (NFF, NWTF, Mule Deer, etc.) being utilized to accomplish timber programs? How much of your target is being sold by external partners?**

Region 5 works with external partners in multiple ways to help accomplish timber-related program work. For example, partners and their sub-contractors are taking on standard timber pre-sale work, such as layout, cruising, and marking, on many forests. Partners also accomplish required environmental compliance work, including NEPA and surveys. Many forests are also working with partners, including NFF, NWTF, California Deer Association, and Mule Deer Foundation, to help implement vegetation management projects under Stewardship Agreements. In the last few years, 5%-33% of our volume target has been/is being sold by external partners (11.2 MMBF of 193 MMBF in FY21, 157.5 MMBF of 412 MMBF in FY22, and 26 MMBF out of 112 MMBF sold so far in FY23)

**Q6: Did your unit have no bid sales in the 1st Half? If so, how are you responding? If you have carryover no bids from previous years, how are you handling those?**

To date, R5 has had a handful of no bid sales: a IRTC contract on the Tahoe NF, which was repackaged and sold with minimal changes to the contract; a small deck sale on the Lassen NF, which was later sold off the shelf; and a fire-salvage sale on the Shasta-Trinity NF, which was reoffered and sold with a smaller volume and acres. A handful of carryover no-bid sales from FY22 are being repackaged as IRSCs under the R5 BPA.

**Q7: How much funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was allocated to your region for timber related projects?**

In FY23, \$10.38 million was allocated for the NWTF SPA on the Klamath NF to reduce wildfire risk and improve forest resilience and habitat conditions and implement a timber transport pilot within the Antelope Fire footprint. In addition, \$2 million was allocated to R5 in FY22 and \$2 million in FY23 to

support Mechanical thinning, timber harvesting, pre-commercial thinning, and control lines/fuelbreaks work.

**Q8: Are you working with the fuels management staff to identify projects which can use timber harvest to achieve hazardous fuels reductions?**

Timber and fuels management staffs work together at all levels in the Region (district, forest, and regional levels) to jointly develop and implement our Regional Vegetation/Fuels Program of Work, including to achieve hazardous fuels reduction.

**Q9: Does your Region have a BPA? If so, how is it working, and do you anticipate increased volume going out through the BPA?**

Yes, R5 has a new BPA, which includes over 100 contractors across the Region. The R5 BPA was just put in place over the winter, and we anticipate increased use of associated IRSCs in Q3 and 4 of FY23 and beyond. We expect to start making awards once projects are accessible post snow melt.

**Q10: How much of the volume you've sold in the first half of FY 2023 was sold under the Good Neighbor Program?**

None. While CalFire does have Good Neighbor Authority agreements in place for fuels reduction activities, unlike some other western states, the State of California and CalFire does not manage public land for timber resources outside the 85,000 acres on 14 demonstration forests and do not have full-time timber management staff like ODF and Washington State DNR.

**Regional Breakout Notes**

**NEPA Concerns – request for more research**

**Working on may affect not likely to affect with programmatic consultation (fisher example).**

**Not shying away from likely to adversely affect – focus/approach is in on designing the project needed on the ground in forest management.**

**Northern Spotted Owl (NSO) issue is challenging.**

**Nurseries – will all come back to capacity? Does it take into account external resources?**

FS - Does not anticipate capacity to get back to the previous levels with available funds. Good down payment but not 100%.

Current inventory in progress of all nationally available nurseries.

**Salvage for replanting purposes vs commercial purposes. What is R5 situation? Recommend leveraging partner capacity to tell the story of full costs (beyond seedlings)**

Focus has been on salvage from fires, but lens is on integrating reforestation and aligning with the California

### **Progress in seed banking?**

FS - American Forest through California Wildfire Task Force.

Working with AF and partners working to build strategies for seed collection to ensure a successful program now for deployment.

Many nurseries are well below capacity (Placerville) and investments need to be made. Nothing was built to accommodate this type of challenge. Working to understand what partners. So much interest from partners is taking time to work through, as a benefit over time. Exploring all options.

### **Contracting Modernization - Action needed with urgency**

FS - Highlighted that more than 20 years of law policy regulation change is going into the effort.

Emergency alternative arrangements to get interim direction in place while longer term modernizations occur

**FTPC FOREST SERVICE REGIONAL TIMBER SURVEY SPRING 2023**  
**REGION 6:**

**Q1: What percent of your FY23 target was accomplished in the 1st half?  
What factors affected your accomplishment to date?**

As of April 1, 2023, Region 6 has awarded 141 MMBF of timber volume through various authorities including, but not limited to; standard FS timber sale contracts (2400-6), Stewardship, and Good Neighbor Authority. This is approx. 25% of the assigned 575 MMBF timber target for the Region for FY23. This is aligned with where the Region and Forest Service nationally is typically for attainment at this time in the fiscal year, attaining approx. 25% of the assigned target midway through the fiscal year. Staffing levels on all Forest units continue to be a challenge. Attrition, retirement, high cost of living, and a competitive market all seem to be factors that are affecting the Forest Service employment rate. The Region has experienced an uptick in litigation for both its salvage and green timber program. We have experienced an unusually wet winter with lots of snow which, in some cases, has limited the access for both Forest Service personnel and industry to access timber sale areas thus delaying sale layout and advertisement.

**Q2: What steps are you taking to accomplish the remainder of your FY23 target in the 2nd half?**

The Regional Office has been making quarterly conference calls with each Forest to discuss their progress. These conferences help to identify any challenges or issues that a forest may have encountered in the previous months and facilitates Forest-to-Forest and Regional Office support. The Agency has made significant investments internally and with partners utilizing BIL funding. These investments include, but not limited to Tribal Forest Protection Act, Good Neighbor Authority, and Stewardship. Through these mechanisms the Agency is able to leverage its workforce and increase its pace and scale. The Region continues to embrace the use of Forest Products Modernization to expedite some of the internal process associated with timber sales (e.g., virtual boundaries, tethered logging systems, DxP, etc.). In FY22/23 the Region is planning to hire 125 new foresters and forestry technicians. We anticipate a significant investment needed to train and develop newly hired employees, with most new employees within 2 years of graduation. Additionally, The Region is looking to add capacity through use of

contractors, assistance from Enterprise, and assistance from neighboring regions to provide added capacity when and where possible.

**Q3: What is your target for FY24? What steps are you taking to prepare for the FY24 program? Do you anticipate any problems?**

The Region's preliminary timber target for FY24 is 653 MMBF. As stated in question 2, the Region continues to utilize multiple authorities to allocate BIL funds to in efforts to build capacity both internally and externally. The Region has a focused effort to utilize group vacancy announcements where Forests share similar vacant positions. This has allowed the human resources department to fill multiple positions across the Region under a single announcement. Region 6 anticipates continuing challenges to increase NEPA and prep shelf stock. The "3+1" strategy will bring greater focus on investments in planning and sale prep through both investments in funding and greater focus and monitoring. We will continue to invest significant time and money to ensure the Region attains its assigned timber target for FY24. The Region recently developed and released an Environmental Analysis and Decision Making (EADM) Guide to streamline NEPA and regulatory compliance as well as make better use of emergency authorities. The uncertainty of wildfire is always a threat to National Forest Service lands. When wildfire occurs on the National Forest it is inevitable that Forest Service staff will need to address the effects of the wildfire. When this happens, focus on projects that are being planned is shifted to address these effects. This delays the planning efforts focused on active management including, but not limited to; NEPA, sale prep, consultation, etc. Largescale, catastrophic fires in 2020 and 2021 affected many outyear timber sale planning efforts on several forests and the Region continues to rebuild and recover after these largescale events. Litigation can cause delays in outyear planning. With an emphasis on Environmental Analysis and Decision Making (EADM) the Region strives to have more focused proposed actions and clear/concise decision rational which should lessen the likelihood of litigation.

**Q4: How much timber volume and how many acres analyzed in NEPA documents is currently affected by litigation?**

In FY 2023, litigation has affected two sales on two forests for a total of 32 MMBF and an estimated 3,200 acres. For the remainder of FY23 we anticipate another seven sales affected totaling another 100 MMBF and 10,000 acres.

**Q5: How are external partners (NFF, NWTF, Mule Deer, etc.) being utilized to accomplish timber programs? How much of your target is being sold by external partners?**

Currently the Region has sold approximately 27 MMBF of timber through the Good Neighbor Authority (5% of total volume sold to date this FY). This number will likely increase in the 2nd half of the fiscal year. This will also likely change as units execute Supplemental Project Agreements that include merchantable timber. A Regional SPA with NWTF is being considered by the Fremont-Winema, Deschutes, and Ochoco national forests. This new SPA would be tiered to the National Master Stewardship Agreement with NWTF. This would provide and increase in pace and scale of implementation on these forests. Volumes and acres of work are being reviewed and not finalized at this time.

**Q6: Did your unit have no bid sales in the 1st Half? If so, how are you responding? If you have carryover no bids from previous years, how are you handling those?**

Yes, Region 6 had a total of 2 newly advertised sales that went no bid in the first half of the fiscal year 2023. One of these sales was readvertised and awarded while the second is delayed due to snow. The Region has been able to readvertise and award 7 of 9 carryover no bid sales from FY 21 and 22. The Regional Office is working closely with the timber staff and contracting officers on the forests where no bids occurred (GP, OLY, and UMA). We are soliciting feedback from industry as to why the sales went no bid and carefully reviewing the contract packages to make any necessary adjustments in order to make sure future contract packages are attractive to prospective purchasers. Forests are expected to focus on any carryover volume from FY 22 early in the fiscal year. Efforts should be made to either advertise or, in the case of no bid, seek industry input, adjust contract packages as needed, and readvertise ASAP.

**Q7: How much funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was allocated to your region for timber related projects?**

In FY22 the Region received \$7.0M in BIL (NITX) funding for timber related projects and \$33.9M in BIL for hazardous fuels reduction work in the wildfire

crisis landscapes (Central Oregon and Central Washington Initiative). In FY23 the Region just recently received \$11.2M in BIL (NITX) funding for timber related projects; \$7.8M in BIL (NIHX) for TFP and restoration fuels biochar work; and \$75.2M in combination of BIL and IRA for continued hazardous fuels reduction work in the wildfire crisis landscapes (Central Oregon and Central Washington Initiative as well as the three newly identified landscapes in Region 6: Colville, Mt. Hood, and Fremont-Winema as part of the Klamath Basin).

**Q8: Are you working with the fuels management staff to identify projects which can use timber harvest to achieve hazardous fuels reductions?**

Yes, timber and fuels staff work together at the Regional and Forest level to develop projects that meet desired outcomes to protect communities and restore landscapes. Commercial and non-commercial treatments are essential to meeting the goals and objectives on the ground. Strategically placed treatments that mitigate fuels based on best available science may have low value material. However, the Region and Forests recognize the importance of local infrastructure and build outyear plans that aim to meet needs on the ground while providing reliable quantities of timber to local industry. Treatments associated with fuels that have marginal timber value may require the use of RTC's, IRSC's, or partnerships to effectively accomplish the work at hand.

**Q9: Does your Region have a BPA? If so, how is it working, and do you anticipate increased volume going out through the BPA?**

Yes, the Region has multiple BPAs across various resource areas. Within the Natural Resources Directorate, Regional Stewardship Blanket Purchase Agreements (BPAs) are used to establish vendor pools per National Forests for procuring forest restoration and vegetation management services. Once established, contractors with BPA awards are contacted via email to notify them of upcoming projects. This has proven to be a valuable tool to expedite treatments by shortening procurement timelines and improving relationships with local contractors and industry. These BPAs can be used for Stewardship projects, disaster recovery projects, and will be a vital tool for increasing pace and scale of treatments in priority landscapes and high risk firesheds. BPA Call Orders may include Integrated Resource Service Contracts (IRSCs) with required timber product removal; service based IRSCs that include optional

Timber Subject to Agreement products to be removed when there is no required timber product removal; or be service contracts in which no timber product removal is included.

**Q10: How much of the volume you've sold in the first half of FY 2023 was sold under the Good Neighbor Program?**

As of April 1, 2023, the Region has sold approximately 27 MMBF with the use of Good Neighbor Authority.

**Breakout Notes**

**FY 23 Targets / Accomplishments**

- Forest Service: 141 MMBf awarded as of April 1 (25%). Typically, the bulk of the offer is in 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> quarters.
- 3 + 1 strategy is intended to provide a longer term and comprehensive view of upcoming offers.

**FY 24 Target**

- Preliminary figure is 653 MMBf
- Investing in hiring, retention, and training

**Regional EADM updates**

- 3 + 1 strategy means 3 years of NEPA ready stock and 1 year of sale prep always accomplished
- Region has recommitted to EADM improvements, guide is targeted at streamlining and modernizing our NEPA efforts. Seeking industry input. The key is meeting legal requirements while reducing redundancy, extemporaneous, and other non-essential information in the documents.
- Working to expand implementation of prep related efficiencies – DxP, virtual boundaries, lidar
- Achieving the 3 + 1 strategy is going to take a while
- Region is considering developing performance metrics related to the implementation of EADM
- Overall, the region is leading in use of the emergency authorities recently given to the Agency by the secretary. Discussion around the ESA effects determinations.

- Region has 2 elevations in process (a situation where the USFWS and the Agency do not agree on the ESA determination)

### **Update utilization specs following Regional review?**

- Region did not have an update to share
- Point was made that the issue has effects that reach into several parts of the contract package (appraisal, cruise, etc.)

### **BLM Program**

- 264 MMBf target, 22% accomplishment YTD.
- Recovering from 2020 wildfire salvage which was essentially unplanned work
- NEPA is a major bottleneck on most districts
- BLM's approach is to maximize volume per planning document and maximize volume/acre removed
- FY 24 target is 245 MMBf
- Discussion of moving from IFPL to IFPAL for fire season, potential risks and impacts to industry to consider.

**FTPC FOREST SERVICE REGIONAL TIMBER SURVEY SPRING 2023**  
**Region 8:**

**Q1: What percent of your FY23 target was accomplished in the 1st half?  
What factors affected your accomplishment to date?**

36%. Region 8 is ahead of the current national accomplishment rate which is at 27%. We have sold about 60,000 MBF more at the end of the first half of FY23 than we had sold at this time last year. As noted in the Fall 2022 meeting, Region 8 is on track to offer more volume prior to the 4th quarter this year. Also, as reported last year at both the Fall and Spring meetings, current inventory on hand still prohibits some Purchasers from bidding on new sales.

**Q2: What steps are you taking to accomplish the remainder of your FY23 target in the 2nd half?**

We held an in-person Natural Resource Staff Officer meeting in Region 8 on April 4th and 5th, the first meeting of this kind since 2018. Ideas were shared on how to decrease no-bids and be successful with increasing our outputs. We anticipate being between 90 and 95% of the 680,000 MBF target at the end of the FY. Our biggest complication currently seems to be the pulpwood market.

**Q3: What is your target for FY24? What steps are you taking to prepare for the FY24 program? Do you anticipate any problems?**

700,000 MBF. Region 8 is continuing to build our sale prep strike team organization for support to the field. Another thing that has happened is a mill in Georgia received a wood innovation grant to make improvements to their head rig, de-barker, and other associated equipment. This mill processes both small and large diameter logs and buys logs from National Forest land. Several forests continue to report that turnover of key personnel is hindering their ability to prepare timber sales. Local and national hiring events help some with promoting internal applicants to new jobs, however they are lacking in bringing new hires into the Forest Service at the entry level. Due to anticipated pulpwood market conditions, the Region is promoting the use of our contract provision for "optional removal" of pulpwood. Some forests currently utilize this extensively, but others have not tried it. We are here to support those who will consider adding it to their contracts. Region 8, in

collaboration with the WO, presented Virtual Boundary training to three forest, including the Geo-Fence type. We are hopeful that some units will be able to implement this in FY 24.

**Q4: How much timber volume and how many acres analyzed in NEPA documents is currently affected by litigation?**

Region 8 does not have any volume affected by litigation currently.

**Q5: How are external partners (NFF, NWTF, Mule Deer, etc.) being utilized to accomplish timber programs? How much of your target is being sold by external partners?**

Partners are being utilized through both Stewardship Agreements and Good Neighbor Authority Agreements to help accomplish our timber program of work. As of 4/8/23, the top two Purchasers of timber in Region 8 are National Wild Turkey Federation (14%) and National Deer Association (7%). The majority of Stewardship Agreements in Region 8 include timber removal, although it is not a requirement to do so. The National Forests and Grasslands in Texas has a long-standing Stewardship Agreement with the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians to do sale preparation for future stewardship sales. Some partners, like the National Wild Turkey Federation, Ruffed Grouse Society, National Deer Association, and The Nature Conservancy, are considering doing more sale preparation and possibly NEPA as service work in future stewardship agreements. Region 8 has sold 38% of volume under some type of stewardship authority, including contracts and agreement sales.

**Q6: Did your unit have no bid sales in the 1st Half? If so, how are you responding? If you have carryover no bids from previous years, how are you handling those?**

Yes, Region 8 has had 8 no-bid timber sales in the first half of FY 23. Five of those are carry over no-bid sales from FY 22 that have been offered in FY 23 and still have not gotten a bid. Stumpage value was reduced on two of these by at least 50%. We had 18 non-salvage no-bid sales we carried over from FY 22 total. Thirteen of those have sold in the first half of FY 23.

**Q7: How much funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was allocated to your region for timber related projects?**

For FY23, Region 8 was allocated \$5,300,000 in BIL funding (NITX).

**Q8: Are you working with the fuels management staff to identify projects which can use timber harvest to achieve hazardous fuels reductions?**

Most of the hazardous fuel reduction treatment in Region 8 is through prescribed burning. Very little of our work is accomplished through mechanical treatment. Fire and timber personnel work closely together at the district level to ensure the two programs compliment one another. Burning an area prior to planning a timber harvest is beneficial, in fact, it is almost crucial in some areas to allow for better access to the area.

**Q9: Does your Region have a BPA? If so, how is it working, and do you anticipate increased volume going out through the BPA?**

Region 8 does not have a BPA for sale prep activities. Region 8 has a BPA for NEPA services that expired on 3/23/23. The National contracting team has multiple options for BPAs to procure NEPA services and is working to create a new BPA specific to Region 8. Forests in Region 8 use these services regularly to accomplish NEPA work and anticipate that will increase.

**Q10: How much of the volume you've sold in the first half of FY 2023 was sold under the Good Neighbor Program?**

As of 4/8/23, Region 8 has sold 5% of its timber volume under GNA, about 13,000 MBF. This includes 7 contracts total in Alabama, Texas, Georgia, Virginia, and South Carolina. Because of the BIL funding, Region 8 has been able to fund work with partners through GNA agreements to help accomplish our timber program: a. Sale preparation in GNA Agreements includes the National Forests and Grasslands in Texas and the Jena Band of Choctaw Indians for \$350,000; and the George Washington-Jefferson NFs and VA Dept of Forestry for \$50,000+. b. Road maintenance of haul roads in GNA Agreements includes the Chattahoochee-Oconee NFs and Georgia Forestry Commission for \$100,000; and the Cherokee NF and the Tennessee Division of Forestry for \$150,000. c. NEPA for timber sales in GNA Agreements includes the Ouachita National Forest and the Arkansas Forestry Division for \$1.1 million.

## **Breakout Notes**

### **No Bids Status**

FS - pulpwood market conditions affecting no bids, 8 in first half FY23. 5 rebids reduced stumpage value but remained no bids. Of 18 non salvage no bids 13 sold. Salvage issue remains, working with region on road packages especially pulpwood heavy sales. Workshops with TMAs FSRs to give attention to sale packaging.

### **Describe FS work on 'packaging'?**

FS - units, road packages, in some cases first thinning are removed from package, all of the above answer. Issue effects different areas differently. Mill infrastructure loss taking pulpwood. Wholistic look stand grouping, components. Market remains same at the mills regardless of who removes the pulpwood and how (IRSC, Stewardship, etc.). Markets strong for all but pulpwood right now and mill availability is the issue.

### **DxP & Virtual Boundaries -- Where industry is more comfortable encourage the use of DxP. Encourage industry delivery of training (builds trust).**

FS - Industry has participated in many workshops and scale is planned. Working to expand trainings R8.

**Wood Market - Lumber crested back to \$400/1000 after pandemic saw \$600/1000, diesel costs, high interest rate environment affecting housing starts, paper industry unstable, packaging more stable. GP announced a 91m project on a local mill Monticello Miss. which should help with residual pulpwood starting FY24. Florida is not leaving pulpwood at present but it's on the horizon.**

**Partners Work MSAs - Concern MSA work uses local bidder lists to solicit bids for the work (direct award concerns). Partners not using same pay system as FS. Recognizing that FS can't control everything but purchasers don't want to use 4 different pay systems.**

FS - does not see increase in agreements. Those units with capacity to use MSAs already using them. FS FTPC local coordination to support this moving forward.

### **Budget – Where is it going?**

FS – funding allocations went out this month. Mainly to partners through Grants & Agreements to build capacity. FS will have numbers at Face to Face.

### **NEPA BPA expired - plans for more?**

FS – in progress on BPA and additional vehicles available. NEPA shelf stock in good shape currently.

### **Appalachian forests – how to bring them back into management without letting key southern forest industry.**

FS – subregional approach means new capacity to support increase in sales and see the program growing under this concept.

**FTPC FOREST SERVICE REGIONAL TIMBER SURVEY SPRING 2023  
REGION 9:**

**Q1: What percent of your FY23 target was accomplished in the 1st half?  
What factors affected your accomplishment to date?**

246,408 MBF/406,830 CCF (As of 04/03/2023) 1. Staffing with appropriate technical expertise, 2. Salvage from blowdown on two units, 3. Issue with heritage compliance requirements on one unit, 4. Late arrival of funding, which affects large purchases, contracts, etc potentially affecting marking/prep contracts, NEPA, paint purchases, etc.

**Q2: What steps are you taking to accomplish the remainder of your FY23 target in the 2nd half?**

1. Nationally a more expedited hiring process has been created for entry level positions within timber and silviculture. The region is utilizing this to hire nearly 200 current and projected vacancies. 2. Region is utilizing its Timber Strike team to fill Forest capacity issues when possible.

**Q3: What is your target for FY24? What steps are you taking to prepare for the FY24 program? Do you anticipate any problems?**

FY 24 680-700MMBF 1. Region is working on filling positions and training in FY23 to support FY24 program. 2. Region continues to utilize its Timber Strike Team to assist units with staffing challenges. 3. Expanding agreements with NGO's to increase capacity. 4. Exploring expanding GNA capacity with States, Counties and Tribes.

**Q4: How much timber volume and how many acres analyzed in NEPA documents is currently affected by litigation?**

Region has two projects currently under litigation. Wayne National Forest - Sunny Oaks Project - 12,400 acres, approximately 22,515 CCF Hoosier National Forest - Houston South Veg. Management and Restoration Project - 4,375 acres of harvest, 13,500 acres of prescribed burning, approximately 34,715 CCF.

**Q5: How are external partners (NFF, NWTF, Mule Deer, etc.) being utilized to accomplish timber programs? How much of your target is being sold by external partners?**

Regionally there are a number of external partners who are engaged in our timber programs including TNC, NWTF, RGS and others. These partners are working at the individual unit level and account for <5% of our annual target. The region is also looking at opportunities to learn from Keystone agreements and utilize partner capacity to meet the demands of the timber program.

**Q6: Did your unit have no bid sales in the 1st Half? If so, how are you responding? If you have carryover no bids from previous years, how are you handling those?**

No bids account for 28,873MBF/46,685CCF in FY23. Individual units continue to work with local industry partners to identify issues leading to no-bid sales and reoffer sales.

**Q7: How much funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was allocated to your region for timber related projects?**

\$5 Million

**Q8: Are you working with the fuels management staff to identify projects which can use timber harvest to achieve hazardous fuels reductions?**

Individual units as well as at the regional level are working to have an integrated approach to project development that combines the use of timber harvesting to achieve fuels management objectives as well as follow up fuels treatments after harvesting.

**Q9: Does your Region have a BPA? If so, how is it working, and do you anticipate increased volume going out through the BPA?**

The region does not have a Regional IRSC BPA for vegetation management activities.

**Q10: How much of the volume you've sold in the first half of FY 2023 was sold under the Good Neighbor Program?**

23,783MBF/38,559CCF or 1% of current volume sold. Most of the states who contribute to our annual program offer sales twice a year and these sales have yet to be advertised or awarded.

### **Breakout Notes**

#### **What happens to losses in FY23?**

- Huron Manasti had condition based NEPA surveys. They plan to update the sales the following year but having the staff to put the sales up is the issue
- Direct hire event to hire lower and higher graded technicians to solution issue is underway.

#### **Why not more DxP to reduce the labor to help industry?**

- Some underway. There is an increase level of effort on the back end of DxP. Saving analysis shows about 30%.
- Not yet in a place to put up what they fell behind on. Double duty Staff Officer TSO.
- Blowdown C-Nicollette was DxP – still some discomfort in culture but pushing fwd with industry to be sure we are doing it.

#### **How does heritage play into your plans – How did that happen**

- Decision is condition based NEPA – working through new approaches to NEPA in Gate 3.

#### **How much are authorities for partners being used (NEPA, marking, etc.)?**

- 10% increase to 20% in recent years. Signing agreement with partner underway to address No Bids (Rough Grouse Society).
- Working on leveraging new Keystone Agreements into SPAs.

#### **Request to use local bidder lists and look at payment structures of partners for burden on purchasers. TNC Ottawa (pay.gov issue)**

#### **Bat listing issues?**

- Full clearance on contracts is in place 6 months into 2024
- Careful attention on BO for outyear performance management.

#### **Chippewa and Superior status?**

- Superior about to go out in coming weeks on adaptive management.

### **Anticipate 66 Superior – why do they seem stuck there?**

- Staffing losses are being backfilled by TNC and other partners, but transition is just initiating. Short certificates in house, housing issues, etc.
- Hiring process streamlining is intended to support resolution for resolution in FY24 season.

### **FY24**

- Anticipate 600-700 range FY24
- Looking to bump up Ottawa but down 20-21 markers and assessing capacity
- Expanding GNA
- DxP and VB require more back-end processing – looking

### **Do you hope to get targets out earlier for FY24 to units?**

- Conversations already started with units and working towards that strategy of an emerging 2-3 year vision for outputs.

### **General**

- Always looking at how to get work done under Forest Products Modernization
- What tools can we give the units to create flexibility
- Supporting counties taking more active roles- innovative pilot potential exists if GNA Authority expanding new Farm Bill.

### **Where are you with deck scaling and DxP?**

- Scaling is mainly piloting in lake states. Involves a big culture shift in load tracking, theft etc. We are really trying to engage with units and their industry partners on understanding best methods to apply locally.
- Balancing act to be sure the right mechanisms are in place. Plan is to run with this. Current status is learning to walk with it.
- Approach to change management is having it owned locally which takes time but is proving to be a success and R8 a good use case

### **Request for more information on Houston South and Sunny**

- Sunny – additional briefs requested by judge on ability to achieve regeneration. Management in oaks to regenerate oaks part of project design
- Houston – public and county - municipal watershed issue

**Request to keep awareness Appalachian Forest issues and appreciate work done ot date.**

- Challenge getting back into places where management has not been done with the "better left standing"
- We are paying attention to what we can do and what industry can do. The support industry has leveraged has had an impact.

**Heard of LSR grant R8 for hiring – can R9 do the same?**

- FS R9 looking into this to see if he can use money available for this.

**FTPC FOREST SERVICE REGIONAL TIMBER SURVEY SPRING 2023  
REGION 10:**

**Q1: What percent of your FY23 target was accomplished in the 1st half? What factors affected your accomplishment to date?**

21%. The Chugach NF awarded two fuelwood sales while the Tongass NF awarded two young-growth sales, two microsales and a settlement sale. The Upper Falls Creek young growth sale was reduced by about half due to an active goshawk nest in one of the proposed harvest units. Planning efforts on one large young growth project were delayed, affecting FY23 implementation timelines. That project has opened up for public comments recently.

**Q2: What steps are you taking to accomplish the remainder of your FY23 target in the 2nd half?**

The Chugach NF continues to mechanically treat areas affected by spruce bark beetle and will offer fuelwood sales from the resulting log decks. The Tongass NF will reoffer one no-bid sale from last year in addition to other small sales from available NEPA cleared project areas. The region continues to be challenged by low NEPA cleared shelf stock due to prior year litigation losses and significant staff turnover on planning teams. However, planning continues on several young growth projects to clear additional volume to offer, with identification of additional project areas targeted later this year.

**Q3: What is your target for FY24? What steps are you taking to prepare for the FY24 program? Do you anticipate any problems?**

Preliminary FY24 Target is 11 MMBF. The Chugach NF continues to increase acres under contract as part of their strategic spruce beetle response. As those acres are mechanically thinned, resulting log decks will continue to be disposed through commercial fuelwood sales and public firewood permits. On the Tongass NF the Thomas Bay young growth project should be ready to implement in FY24. The Tongass is also looking at Determination of NEPA Adequacy authority to offer some replacement volume that was deferred in the FY23 Upper Falls Creek sale due to the goshawk nest buffer. The Thorne Bay Basin Integrated Management Project continues to move through early stages of environmental analysis. State and Private Forestry is conducting tree level assessments this summer of spruce budworm and hemlock sawfly damage for potential salvage sale opportunities for FY24. Both

forests in the Region were successful in hiring additional foresters at the SAF hiring even last fall and will be onboarding those this spring. The Region is currently in the midst of a mass hiring event with a goal to hire an additional 14 permanent positions to support the forest management program.

**Q4: How much timber volume and how many acres analyzed in NEPA documents is currently affected by litigation?**

None at this time.

**Q5: How are external partners (NFF, NWTF, Mule Deer, etc.) being utilized to accomplish timber programs? How much of your target is being sold by external partners?**

Mule Deer Foundation has interest in the Region to conduct non-commercial thinning projects in priority areas. None of our target is being sold by external partners.

**Q6: Did your unit have no bid sales in the 1st Half? If so, how are you responding? If you have carryover no bids from previous years, how are you handling those?**

Zero no bid sales this year. One no bid from late last year is planned for reoffer this summer and based on preliminary conversations with local purchasers is expected to sell at that time.

**Q7: How much funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was allocated to your region for timber related projects?**

While we have received some BIL funds for thinning, we have focused our RTRT funds on pre-commercial thinning in suitable timber base to support our young growth program. Last year over \$2m went to that effort and we anticipate a similar amount in FY23.

**Q8: Are you working with the fuels management staff to identify projects which can use timber harvest to achieve hazardous fuels reductions?**

Yes, but have not identified any projects to date.

**Q9: Does your Region have a BPA? If so, how is it working, and do you anticipate increased volume going out through the BPA?**

No.

**Q10: How much of the volume you've sold in the first half of FY 2023 was sold under the Good Neighbor Program?**

None. Two previously sold GNA sales (combined 34,780 MBF) continue to be administered by the state of Alaska.

### **Breakout Notes**

#### **FY 23 Target/ Accomplishments**

- Currently at 21% of 11 MMBf. Expected to offer roughly 5 MMBf by the end of the year
- Working on small sales on the Big Thorne and Wrangell Island EIS documents
- Doing NEPA planning on young growth for FY 24.
- Current NEPA cleared volume is different from salable volume. Total remaining NEPA cleared salable volume is approximately 5 MMBf out of Big Thorne EIS (old growth). Another 3.5 – 4.5 MMBf on the Wrangell Island EIS (old growth).
- Planning teams are focused on young growth NEPA and smaller sales, which causes concern that medium and large size operators will not have suitable projects to bid on.

#### **FY 24 Target**

- Current young growth planning project with draft EA out for public comment will yield between 12 – 20 MMBF of young growth, depending on selected alternative. Goal is to have some of this offered in FY 24.
- Also plan to continue offering of old growth from existing NEPA shelf stock
- Planning teams have been stood up to work on the young growth NEPA
- Discussion of how to increase planning capacity using outside consultants or the enterprise team.
- General consensus is that industry will struggle to remain viable at current pace without additional planning capacity to increase NEPA shelf stock.

Other items of discussion:

- There is no specific timeline for Tongass plan revision until the formal Assessment stage begins
- Southeast Alaska sustainability strategy for forest management is in the early public input process (SASS-FM)
- Overview of how SASS-FM and forest plan revision processes overlap or are independent of one another.
- There is general confusion about how all the planning efforts are inter-related including the goals and objectives of each effort.
- Reviewed some current R10 budget figures
- Discussed PCT and other service related contract instruments and the outlook for those. Agency and industry agree that there is mutual interest in educating the public on the benefits of PCT.
- Some of the Tongass planning is part of the Pacific Planning Services Group portfolio

FY 2023	Sales through 04/03/2023								
State	Timber Sale		Timber Sale		Good Neighbor		Total		State Target Volume (MBF)
	Volume <sup>1</sup> Offered (MBF)	Timber Sale Value Offered	Volume <sup>2</sup> Sold (MBF)	Other Sawtimber Volume <sup>3</sup> (MBF)	Authority Volume (MBF) <sup>4</sup>	Stewardship Timber Volume (MBF)	Timber Volume Offered (MBF)	State Target Volume (MBF)	
AK	0	\$0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AZ	0	\$0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CA	-67	\$21,161	-67	104	0	0	37	3,000	
CO	0	\$0	0	2	-89	398	312	4,500	
ID	1,351	\$63,886	1,351	37	0	0	1,388	10,700	
MT	3,836	\$631,647	3,836	0	-307	1,064	4,593	8,000	
NV	0	\$0	0	8	0	0	8	0	0
NM	0	\$0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
OR (East)	3	-\$713	3	3	0	0	6	5,900	
UT	0	\$0	0	78	0	0	78	0	0
WY	0	\$0	0	0	0	0	0	4,400	
<b>PD Totals</b>	<b>5,123</b>	<b>\$715,981</b>	<b>5,123</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>-395</b>	<b>1,462</b>	<b>6,421</b>	<b>36,500</b>	
OR (West)	61,000								
<b>Grand Totals</b>	<b>66,123</b>				<b>-395</b>	<b>1,462</b>	<b>6,421</b>	<b>314,500</b>	<sup>58</sup>

## **Bureau of Land Management: Public Domain:**

### **Q1: What percent of your FY23 target was accomplished in the 1st half? What factors affected your accomplishment to date?**

BLM Public Domain BLM public domain forestry has sold above the average for the first half of FY23. Several factors affecting the first half of FY23 include the offering of a few additional sales that were planned for FY22 but did not get offered. Colorado BLM has been developing more sales through GNA and is gaining experience with the tool.

### **Q2: What steps are you taking to accomplish the remainder of your FY23 target in the 2nd half?**

BLM capacity and turnover has been a challenge. Some states are building capacity through GNA with their state forestry partners, and those agreements are becoming more efficient as experience is gained. The BLM is also on its second full year of its salvage strike team which has been helping offices that are understaffed with sale layout, marking, and cruising as well as archeological, wildlife, and botany clearances. The salvage team works on green sales when there is no salvage and travels throughout the BLM. The closing of RY Timber in February has left several Montana BLM offices with uncertainties for the timber sale program going forward.

### **Q3: What is your target for FY24? What steps are you taking to prepare for the FY24 program? Do you anticipate any problems?**

33 MMBF. The BLM is currently working through hiring processes for a number of forester vacancies in field offices and state offices. The BLM will continue to look for opportunities to use GNA to maintain or increase the program. The ESA listing of the whitebark pine has the potential to be a significant challenge. Consultation will be needed across BLM programs, and there are concerns over a consultation bottleneck with FWS. Some sales planned for offering this summer in Montana may be delayed. The lesson learned from the whitebark pine listing is that high level coordination with FWS would benefit in cases where programmatic consultation is an option. Coordination from FWS on the release could allow the agencies time to prepare a programmatic consultation before the listing. Northern long-eared bat is also a concern.

**Q4: How much timber volume and how many acres analyzed in NEPA documents is currently affected by litigation?**

None

**Q5: How are external partners (NFF, NWTF, Mule Deer, etc.) being utilized to accomplish timber programs? How much of your target is being sold by external partners?**

BLM has agreements with NFF, Colorado State Forest Service, Oregon Dept of Forestry, Washington DRN, and Montana DNR. Agreements with Mule Deer, TNC and others are more for precommercial activities, habitat enhancement, and fuels reduction. American Forests is also assisting BLM with cone collection. About 10 to 15% of public domain volume is sold through partners.

**Q6: Did your unit have no bid sales in the 1st Half? If so, how are you responding? If you have carryover no bids from previous years, how are you handling those?**

None

**Q7: How much funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was allocated to your region for timber related projects?**

BLM has not yet received funding in FY23 from DOI for BIL 40804 (Ecosystem Restoration). BLM Fuels has FY23 BIL 40803 (Wildfire) funding but it is unclear how much is going toward timber sales as this support is occurring at the field office level.

**Q8: Are you working with the fuels management staff to identify projects which can use timber harvest to achieve hazardous fuels reductions?**

BLM Fuels has tended to focus more on rangeland fire and sage grouse habitat. With the magnitude of Wildfire BIL funding, the Fuels program is beginning to support more forestry projects. The programs at the state office and field office levels are integrated in most places.

**Q9: Does your Region have a BPA? If so, how is it working, and do you anticipate increased volume going out through the BPA?**

BLM has not tried the BPA

**Q10: How much of the volume you've sold in the first half of FY 2023 was sold under the Good Neighbor Program?**

Colorado and Montana are the most active BLM states that sell timber sales through GNA. Those two states sell about  $\frac{1}{2}$  their target through GNA.

## **Bureau of Land Management: O&C Lands:**

### **1. What percent of your FY23 target was accomplished in the 1st half? What factors affected your accomplishment to date?**

Approximately 22 percent of FY23 target timber volume was offered in the first half of the year. The main factor that led to pushing most planned sales into the second half of the year was the need to work through a backlog of planning green timber sales after the major timber salvage program and other unplanned work related to the 2020 Labor Day Fires in the Northwest Oregon District and in the Roseburg District. Note that an estimated 354 million board feet of timber valued at over \$79 million was included in salvage and hazard tree removal contracts resulting from the 2020 Labor Day fires. According to BLM's timber sale information system, over 237 million board feet of this timber has been harvested to date, leaving an estimated 117 million board feet remaining to harvest. A secondary factor is the re-initiation of Endangered Species Act consultation on two large scale Biological Opinions (one in the Northwest Oregon District and one in the Medford District); planned sales that are covered by those consultation documents have been delayed until that process is complete (more details on this below).

### **2. What steps are you taking to accomplish the remainder of your FY23 target in the 2nd half?**

BLM districts in Western Oregon are prioritizing NEPA work that covers commercial timber harvest projects, and the OR/WA State Office is providing support in all aspects of the timber sale planning process. Additionally, BLM is coordinating with the USFWS to expeditiously complete the re-initiation of consultation process to lift suspensions on active contracts, and to resume offering sales that are covered by the same consultation documents. Finally, the OR/WA State Office is meeting monthly with Western Oregon District managers tracking timber sale planning progress, identifying pinch points, and working to leverage capacity broadly to remove barriers as they are identified.

### **3. What is your target for FY24? What steps are you taking to prepare for the FY24 program? Do you anticipate any problems?**

The FY24 timber target for Western Oregon BLM is currently set at 278 MMbf.

#### **4. How much timber volume and how many acres analyzed in NEPA documents is currently affected by litigation?**

*Short answer: Approximately 114 MMBF and 6,044 acres.* Several adverse court decisions have affected the BLM's timber volume. The Federal District Court for the District of Oregon invalidated the NEPA documentation for the Griffin Half Moon, Lost Antelope, and Pedal Power timber sales. The BLM will revise the NEPA for the first two of those sales. The court's opinion in the Pedal Power lawsuit, however, does not allow a viable timber sale on those acres at this time. The Griffin Half Moon and Lost Antelope sales include approximately 13.2 MMBF over 1,400 acres. The Pedal Power sale includes approximately 3.7 MMBF over 140 acres.

The same court also vacated a USFWS Biological Opinion in the Medford District (due in part to changed circumstances resulting from the 2020 Labor Day Fires) leading to temporary suspension of operations and delayed award of multiple contracts. Those contracts and operations cover approximately 38.4 MMBF and 2,619 unharvested acres. The BLM has, in compliance with the court's order, reinitiated ESA consultation and is working with USFWS to expedite the final Biological Opinion. The Northwest Oregon District was already working on reinitiating ESA consultation with USFWS because of the changed conditions from the 2020 Labor Day fires, and after the court's opinion in the Medford District, accelerated that process. The District has reinitiated that consultation and expects a Biological Opinion in April 2023. In the interim, however, to comply with the provisions and requirements of the ESA, the BLM has temporarily suspended approximately 58.7 MMBF of harvest over 1,885 acres. Once each consultation is complete, the BLM will evaluate the existing NEPA documentation to determine if the documents remain adequate or if additional documentation is needed.

Litigation is ongoing on two large EAs in the Northwest Oregon District (N126 and the HLB Landscape Plan EAs). The BLM is issuing decisions on the N126 project. Decisions from the HLB Landscape Plan are on hold pending the outcome of the ESA consultation described above.

BLM received legal complaint on April 10<sup>th</sup> from KS Wildlands, Cascadia Wildlands, and others for the Medford Late Mungers project.

The courts (District court and the Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit) have upheld the BLM's decision on the North Landscape project (Lakeview District, Klamath Falls Field Office) on challenges similar to those raised in the N126 and HLB Landscape Plan lawsuits. The field office has so far issued 7 decisions from that project, including approximately 26.8 MMBF over 2,676 acres.

The BLM is currently awaiting opinions from the D.C. and Ninth Circuit courts on the RMPs for Western Oregon and the expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument, which affect all 2.5 million acres of O&C lands in western Oregon.

**5. How are external partners (NFF, NWTF, Mule Deer, etc.) being utilized to accomplish timber programs? How much of your target is being sold by external partners?**

BLM is not utilizing external partners for timber accomplishments on O&C lands. None of the target is being sold by external partners.

**6. Did your unit have no bid sales in the 1st Half? If so, how are you responding? If you have carryover no bids from previous years, how are you handling those?**

One new FY23 offered contract has not yet sold (1.7 MMBF DxD reserve thinning in Coos Bay). The district is tentatively planning to reappraise and reoffer in June to take advantage of dry season operations. There is one unsold sale from FY22 (an 8.0 MMBF regeneration harvest also in Coos Bay) that has been reappraised, minimum appraised price dropped substantially, and the district plans to reoffer in April. Lastly, there is a single unsold contract from FY18 (3.4 MMBF thinning sale in Medford) that still needs to work through the protest response/administrative remedies process. The district continues to make some progress on that but is challenged by lack of capacity and no shortage of high priority work. Every other contract BLM has offered in western Oregon since 2019 has sold. Note that districts receive offered volume credit only once when the contract is initially offered, and retaining credit is contingent on moving the sale from offered to sold, and ultimately harvested if possible.

**7. How much funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law was allocated to your region for timber related projects?**

None

**8. Are you working with the fuels management staff to identify projects which can use timber harvest to achieve hazardous fuels reductions?**

Yes, the forestry program in Western Oregon is working closely with the fuels program to increase integration in planning, funding, implementation, reporting and monitoring, and leverage capacity and funding to accomplish projects with mutual beneficial outcomes (accomplishing both fuels and forestry objectives). We have also identified opportunities to utilize fuels funding to support activity fuel reduction work on economically marginal or otherwise deficit timber sales, and to fund stewardship contracts where the timber value would be insufficient to support an economically viable timber sale.

**9. Does your Region have a BPA? If so, how is it working, and do you anticipate increased volume going out through the BPA?**

No.

**10. How much of the volume you've sold in the first half of FY 2023 was sold under the Good Neighbor Program?**

Zero.

## National-Level Partnerships and Keystone Agreements

The Forest Service would not be able to accomplish our goals at scale without partnerships, and even more so in the context of the BIL and IRA. To facilitate effective implementation of BIL and IRA, the Forest Service has entered into several large national-level agreements--or *keystone agreements*--that can be leveraged by regions to fund and facilitate specific projects. Details on executed BIL-funded agreements with details on how to access the agreements can be found via the links in the table below. This table will be updated as more agreements are signed. The National Partnerships Office (NPO) is coordinating implementation of these agreements across deputy area

### Master Stewardship Agreements (MSAs)

MSAs are a unique tool that can be used to:

- Improve, maintain, or restore forest health; improve water quality; improve fish and wildlife habitat; and reduce hazardous fuels
- Exchange goods for services
- Treat large landscapes by bundling several project areas into one agreement and an agreement term up to 20 years

### Participating Agreements (PAs)

PAs can be used by units for:

- Pollution abatement, workforce development, and forestry protection
- Reduction of risk for natural disaster where public safety is threatened
- Restoration of fish and wildlife habitat

Importantly, PAs must provide a benefit to natural or cultural resources

### Other Master Agreements

- In addition to the master stewardship agreements and participating agreements above, the Forest Service has signed a challenge cost share agreement with Forest Trends to provide focused support to select wildfire crisis landscapes and conduct conservation finance and related-industry workshops and forums.
- Beyond the national-level keystone agreements described above, there are many other existing master agreements that could be leveraged in service of BIL work

## Master Stewardship Agreements (MSAs)

## Participating Agreements (PAs)

Partners	More Information
National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF)	<p>Contributing to the Wildfire Crisis Strategy and ecosystem restoration priorities, noting that sustainable forest management relies on a healthy forest products infrastructure, including productive use of forest products generated through restoration activities</p> <p>National Forest Foundation (NFF)</p> <p>Addressing the Wildfire Crisis, increase the scope and scale of hazardous fuels reduction and forest health management to enhance and restore resilient landscapes (e.g. project collaboration, planning and execution activities)</p>

Partners	More Information
Trout Unlimited (TU)	<p>Facilitate projects for watershed restoration, aquatic organism passage, and abandoned mine reclamation for aquatic benefit</p>
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	<p>Active management: site preparation, mechanical thinning, pesticide/ chemical treatment, revegetation, roads, habitat improvement, etc.</p>
USFS Rocky Mountain Region-Supplemental Project Agreement (SPA) forthcoming	<p>Supporting work: collaboration, coordination, convening, assessments, planning, outreach, training and workforce development, etc.</p>
Student Conservation Association (SCA)	<p>Support Wildfire Crisis Strategy and Inflation Reduction Act priorities by providing crews and interns who will focus on fuels and fire work</p>
Mule Deer Foundation (MDF)	<p>Conservation of migration corridors and seasonal habitats, vegetation management, hazardous fuels reduction, road and trail maintenance or decommissioning, and other activities</p>
National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)	<p>Contributes to the America the Beautiful Challenge, which supports projects focus on conserving, connecting and restoring the nation's lands, waters and wildlife</p>



# Mature and Old-Growth Forests: Definition, Identification, and Initial Inventory on Lands Managed by the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management

Fulfillment of Executive Order 14072, Section 2(b)



Old-growth ponderosa pine forest stand on the Fremont-Winema National Forest in Oregon. USDA Forest Service Photo.

# Views of “No-Bid” Timber Sales from the National Forest System (NFS), Volume I

Ranking of Perceptions of Proximate Causes, Underlying Factors, and Proposed Solutions, Based on Closed-Ended Responses from a Survey of NFS Employees

Gregory E. Frey, Philadelphia Wilkens, and Sonia R. Bruck



**Questions/Comments and answers to the G-Z IRSC Contracting Tool as part of the Request for Information (RFI).**

Q. Recommendation for NEPA - For each Region or National Forest determine the NEPA team capacity to complete a proposed landscape project. Most forest in region 5 do not have the capacity or staff. Imbed a NEPA team through the G-Z model to work with a forest NEPA team to stay on schedule and dedication to see a NEPA proposal through from scoping to the record of decision. This is imperative. Hold subject matter experts i.e., specialist to completing reports in a strict timely manner. Do not allow revolving door NEPA team staff to accept details on other forests or regions. Set priorities early in process.

A. The G-Z contracting model is intended to perform services to 1) prepare projects to be implementation ready; and 2) implement those projects to complete the on-the-ground end-results. This model is not intended to perform any pre-decisional NEPA activities. The Stewardship Branch is in coordination with forests discussing this contracting tool while NEPA planning activities are being performed.

Q. The litany of work items would be at the least, difficult for one contractor to fulfill. Any single contractor is a one stop shop for all the tasks associated with the items listed. A contractor would have to name a team of subcontractors in their proposal. This inherently can cause confusion and inefficiency, especially in a large landscape project.

A. Sub-contractors and use of sub-contracting is a normal practice of IRSCs. The only "Specialized Sub-Contractor" required for Go Big G-Z is for the heritage work associated with Item #2 and a licensed engineer for the road reconstruction plan. The FS does intend to allow sub-contractors to perform under the primary contractor. All sub-contractors must be approved by Contracting Officer (CO) prior to starting any work. If award is made to a Large Business, a formal Sub-Contracting plan will be required.

Q. Comparison or transaction evidence in region 5 will not work in any given geographic area, due to market conditions and the glut of sawtimber from mega fire areas and the lack of evidence from bids. Do not leave your local and regional appraisal experts out of this process. Best value proposals with a timber component imbedded in IRSCs is extremely risky for a contractor. Small diameter trees from 4" to 14" are largely considered biomass. Recommendation-explore residual value appraisals. RSV cost analysis tend to be more accurate in the absence of transaction evidence or simply advertised at minimum rates and let the market determine the stumpage price. Do not allow USFS manual direction limit your options.

A. The Agency recognizes the number of transactions, and the associated volume totals, across appraisal groups and appraisal zones FS-wide has decreased significantly, especially in the west as the regions have crafted portfolios of primarily stewardship contracting instruments. Fortunately, pond value data is available across appraisal zones in California and Oregon and the regions' appraisal applications has the capability to perform a residual type of appraisal in the absence of sufficient transactions evidence. Regional appraisers work diligently to produce accurate cost estimates that reflect the additional costs associated with Agency mechanical thinning requirements, including the mandatory cut and removal of small diameter trees.

When including small diameter trees and biomass as mandatory product removal or adding as Timber Subject to Agreement, additional thought is taken to determine best approach to mitigate the risk to best value determinations. Such as splitting up the removal of products (saw vs non-saw) in the Schedule of Items to isolate the deficit cost of biomass removal. For products that the Transaction Evidence Appraisal indicated are deficit, additional market research is conducted and examination of which cost centers are leading to the deficit and how these costs can be mitigated. Residual Value Appraisals (RSV) and IGCE are recalculated together typically in this scenario to reflect the cost estimate of removing the deficit products, while accounting for the recouped delivered pond value of products.

For Go Big G-Z IRSC specifically, the FS reserves the right to determine the best method of appraising the timber value after each cruise is completed. FS intends to use the R6 Transaction Evidence Appraisal system and Residual Value Appraisal together to determine the final Rate for products. All the entries into the Log Cost and Log Haul will be taken directly from the accepted treatment plans developed by the awardee as part of Item 1. Please see the notes section under the Schedule of Items for how Bid Premiums will be applied. Total value offering for products will be utilized to ensure one rate for all products. Cruise and volume determination by awardee have been set to "Tree Measurement" standards to mitigate risk to both parties when utilizing total value offering. This will also provide contractor the maximum flexibility to market and remove all products. The timber cannot be offered as tree measurement due to the use of DxP prescriptions.

As part of the Price Proposal, contractors will be required to provide delivered market value prices for products planned to be delivered and to which facilities. This information provided by all contractors will be used (kept internally to protect proprietary information), coupled with the variable logging cost entries obtained from logging plans produced by the contractor will be used to determine the final timber rates per Timber Treatment Area.

Q. Implementing projects is not the bottleneck, completing NEPA, pre-sale layout and contract prep is.

Focus on developing a prime contractor pool with more specialized targeted skill sets to fill voids in the agency's workforce. This will increase the quality of the projects prepared and implemented and more importantly it will increase the pace and scale of projects that have cleared the NEPA gate.

A. Stewardship Branch has developed the Land Management Integrated Resources (LMIR) BPA to help with this bottleneck. All professional services were included in the BPA scope that were identified as needed for increasing pace and scale on forests that are limited in internal workforce capacity. This BPA is an open and continuous opportunity on SAM.gov. Vendors may submit a proposal at any time to competitively join the BPA vendor pool.

Go Big G-Z IRSC has been designed specifically to overcome the bottleneck of pre-sale layout and contract prep needs prior to implementation without the need for multiple contracts.

Q. The scope of work items are too broad and require a diversity of skills/expertise that no single prime contractor currently possesses. Because of this, the bidder will have to rely on estimates from multiple subcontractors to complete their project proposal, all which will have to be disclosed and described in the technical proposal with enough specificity to allow the Forest service to evaluate the proposal to determine award. When a prime contractor must rely on multiple contractors to complete a project it

expands their risk profile and an allowance for profit and risk will be built into those work items to cover the cost of paying, supervising and potential failure to perform. The scope of this proposal creates a broker middleman business relationship, consequently the more subcontractors in the middle, the likelihood of higher cost to complete the project exists. This proposal vests to much control with one contractor. Both elements expand the risk profile to the government.

The pre-solicitation period and solicitation period have been increased from the required minimum to allow for contractors the needed time to find acceptable sub-contractors, write the proposal and sub-contracting plans. Additional risk associated with prime contractors relying on sub-contractors has been considered. Contractors may also hire employees with specialized skills, such as foresters, rather than use subs. Stewardship Agreements and Good Neighbor Authority are agency examples of success where a partner coordinates and completes the project while utilizing contractors and sub-contractors. The prime contractor must coordinate all work items similarly and bid this contract accordingly based on their analyzed risk profile.

Multiple contracts using a phased approach to limit or decrease the risk to the prime contractor creates additional time lag between phases, additional work on the agency to prep/award/administer more contracts, additional work on industry for quotes/proposal development, and ultimately will not increase pace and scale. The use of Optional Items will allow the FS to award additional Treatment Areas and Units based on the successful completion of the work already awarded and the contractor meeting the desired progress schedule as detailed in the Period of Performance section of the solicitation. Risk profile is reduced to both parties using this approach to ensure awardee is not awarded more work than they can successfully complete by December 31, 2030.

Q. Segment the project into three parts: project design and layout; mechanical treatments; prescribed Fire. This leverages common skill sets and expertise that currently exist in the marketplace. It will also improve the specificity of the proposals submitted which will allow the forest service to make a more accurate determination of best value.

A. The contract and Schedule of Items have been set up similarly to how suggested.

Q. More shovel ready projects create an environment that fosters market certainty, which stimulates the innovation and capital investment in infrastructure necessary to create a durable long-term solution to improving forest resilience.

A. The G-Z model allows forests to concentrate forest staff resources on preparing shovel ready projects outside of the G-Z project area while the primary contractor completes the prep and implementation work. Less FS resources are needed to oversee and administer this contract compared to prepping in-house or utilizing multiple contracts to complete the same results.

Q. Why isn't NEPA included in G-Z? The biggest time consumer is NEPA preparation. Partners/Contractors can do NEPA far quicker than the Forest Service. In R5, it's common for a Forest to take 2 years or more to complete an EA. To increase pace and scale, the Agency has to find a way to dramatically reduce the time to complete the NEPA.

A. The A-Z IRSC contracting model is the tool that includes NEPA through project completion. We have successful examples of A-Z where NEPA through final completion of work has been done. If Forests were to desire this tool, we would work with them to develop it. If the NEPA decision was challenged on an A-

Z, contractor would be held up and contract may need to be Terminated for Convenience. The G-Z concept is an adaptation of the A-Z IRSC where forests already have NEPA decisions ready, but preparation work is the bottleneck.

As stated above, LMIR BPA has been designed to meet the need of increasing capacity where the agency is lacking the internal resources to complete NEPA/prep/etc.

Q. Why does the Forest Service have to do the timber appraisal? The potential bidders are far more informed on market condition than the Forest Service. Transaction Evidence is a joke. The most obvious example is right now. The wholesale lumber indices by species are down over 20% since July 2022. Housing starts nationwide are down 50%. None of any transaction evidence is going to reflect these realities. You would be far better off having a contractor prepare an appraisal with USFS review. Or better yet, set the appraised rate at minimum rates and let the bidders tell you what the market price is. I would expect in a volatile market like we now have, 95% of the time the bidder is not going to agree with the advertised rate.

A. See answer above for the G-Z appraisal procedures. The Agency has a legal requirement to determine an appraised value for trees and portions of trees prior to transfer of ownership of said property from the United States to another party. The Forest Service would be remiss in our fiduciary responsibility to the public and to congress to allow purchasers to appraise the value of federal timber. Our appraised value effectively serves as a reserve price in our auctions and relies on the bidding process to determine the true market price for stumpage. One observation the Agency has made over the last three years is that volatility in the finished goods marketplace has had much less of an effect on stumpage market prices than systemic price inflation. Every region in the Forest Service can input Unusual Adjustments in the Transaction Evidence Calculations. Changing market conditions can be included as an Unusual Adjustment.

Q: Major issue with transaction evidence appraisals is they don't consider current market delivered value.

A: When the Agency transitioned away from residual value appraising to transactions evidence appraising the Agency also transitioned away from manufacturer data collection. Absent a public or independent data source providing pond value/gate value/delivered value, the sum of our transactions evidence base period values is the government's best estimate of total delivered cost of a given appraisal group. G-Z IRSCs will ask for current market delivery value to best utilize both appraisal methods.

Q. With no idea what the treatments are going to be by harvest unit (the recon won't even be done), how are you going to come up with appropriate criteria to evaluate proposals?

A. Contractors will be evaluated based on the Evaluation of Proposals as indicated in the solicitation.

Each Work Item has been analyzed using GIS to estimate gross acres. When GIS did not provide an acceptable estimate, a general gross estimate was used. To answer specifically, the total contract cost will be determined by adding all work items (including sub-items for stepladder pricing) by gross acres/quantities as listed. This will ensure price proposals are evaluated fairly with increased weight on individual unit prices per item.

Technical Proposals that remove/treat the most fuels, from the most acres, in the least amount of time are going to rate the highest in most cases. This is a generalized statement. Please see the Evaluation section of the solicitation for specific trade-off criteria and evaluation factors.

Q. A 6-year, 30,000-acre project seems reasonable. But to conclude this will provide an increase in pace and scale is not clear. Most timber forests are currently doing 5,000+ acres/year of mechanical thinning.

A. The Go Big G-Z IRSC is now >66,000 gross acres. The plan is to have the entire contract completed by December 30, 2030. This project allows limited FS personal to prepare the contract while forest staff can prep other contracts and timber sales. During implementation prep and work completion, forest staff can be concentrating on other projects. This will ensure regular program of work, the 5,000+ acres/year to proceed and continue simultaneously. Effectively doubling or more the pace of treatment.

Q. Evaluators of proposals will have to recognize that RISK will be a sizeable component of a 6-year contract. If a wildfire occurs in the project area after contract award, the contract modification can take over 2 years to complete. By then, the burned timber will no longer produce sawlogs so is worthless. The USFS will appraise that the burned timber has value. All the contractor can do is request termination. This will be a major cause of increased costs.

A. Catastrophic wildfire effects will be analyzed as rapidly as possible for needed contract changes. Supplemental Impacts Reports will be used to the maximum extent possible to allow this contract to be modified as rapidly as possible to ensure products are removed prior to deterioration. The FS will work with awardee to modify the contract bilaterally in the best interest of both parties. Contract Termination for Convenience may be the only recourse for both parties in this situation.

Q. What liability does the contractor have for prescribed burning? Prescribed burning requires specific conditions to perform. Contracts have deadlines. What if the conditions are not present during the contract timeline?

A. No Rx Burning will be performed on Go Big G-Z IRSC. Any burning activities performed by contractors on G-Z contracts will be done under the oversite of a certified Burn Boss and Ignitions Boss (Contracted or FS). Liability for escapes or damage would fall on FS when no negligence on the part of the contractor.

Contract deadlines specific to burning operations would be kept flexible and time extended via modification to accommodate burn windows with no need for "considerations" by either party.

Q. Is there a possibility of switching to more modern cruising software systems such as Superace?

A. Not at this time.

Q. Will virtual boundaries be an option in layout?

A. Yes

Q. How will the Forest Service obtain accurate data for conducting appraisals?

A. From the contractor produced harvest cards of Item 1, FS inspections of stand treatment data, and the market related pond value information requested/required by all proposing contractors. All data will be provided by industry and the contractor.

Q. For the Blue Mile project, what is the age of the timber? How soon will project locations be known?

A. Age of timber is variable due to large treatment area and many different timber stands. There are maps provided with the pre-solicitation and/or solicitation Request for Quotes.

Q. Will real market rates for contractors be applied?

A. Yes, to the maximum extent policy and law allows. See answers above.

Q. Will invasive weed control be included in contracts?

A. It is a possibility for weed control to be included, but not currently included in Go Big G-Z.

Q. How many subcontractors are allowed?

A. No limit on number of subs on a contract. All subs are subject to CO approval. Large businesses are required to have a sub-contracting plan.

Q. Will contract extensions be allowed due to unforeseen circumstances?

A. Yes, when the unforeseen circumstance is an Excusable Delay per FAR 52.212-4(f) - The Contractor shall be liable for default unless nonperformance is caused by an occurrence beyond the reasonable control of the Contractor and without its fault or negligence such as, acts of God or the public enemy, acts of the Government in either its sovereign or contractual capacity, fires, floods, epidemics, quarantine restrictions, strikes, unusually severe weather, and delays of common carriers. The Contractor shall notify the Contracting Officer in writing as soon as it is reasonably possible after the commencement of any excusable delay, setting forth the full particulars in connection therewith, shall remedy such occurrence with all reasonable dispatch, and shall promptly give written notice to the Contracting Officer of the cessation of such occurrence.

Q. What happens if a catastrophic event happens after money has already been invested, but no timber has been harvested yet?

A. Contractor will be paid for work completed on the contract up to the point of the event. Please see answer above for catastrophic events.

Q. Will timber rates be adjusted for market conditions?

A. No adjustments will be made after award of timber products for each Timber Treatment Area has been made. Each treatment area will have a separate cruise, appraisal, and established rates. Each award of timber will capture the current market conditions for that award. So answer is no, but each timber award should be reflective of any adjusted market conditions.

Q. There are concerns regarding taking on the risk of prescribed burning.

A. Rx burning is not included with Go Big G-Z IRSC. This is being heavily analyzed with each G-Z contract on the merits of including vs not. The FS knows the industry concerns over contractor Rx burning and liability concerns. Numerous vendors are available in the market that perform this work successfully and could perform as subs if this is included in any G-Z contracts.

Q. Transparency and accuracy of appraisals, leading to advertised rates. In-house appraisals often do not align with current industry rates and lag behind market fluctuations.

A. The actual appraisal cannot be shared with industry or vendors because it is part of the independent government cost estimate, which per the FAR is off limits externally. The transparency and accuracy leading to market reflective rates is in allowing and requiring proposals to provide current market pond values and contractor will provide the inputs for calculating logging costs.

Q. Would it be possible to have a prospective bidder workshop or a more involved pre-bid meeting?

A. Yes. Already planning on it.

Q. Could the pre-bid meeting be mandatory?

A. No. Can't make it mandatory.

Q. Could a pay item for developing proposals be incorporated?

A. No. Cost of doing business to compete for the award. We can't pay every contractor for preparing their proposal and we can't pay just the awardee for their proposal.

Q. If the contractor did not want to agree to complete the timber removal of one area would they be able to still complete others?

A. Contractors will identify the treatments that each unit needs as part of the Logging Plan or Service Treatment Plan of Item 1. The major tenet of this contract is to remove as much fuel from the landscape as possible and deliver it to market. There will be sub-optimal logging units. Units that will require lower volume or lower quality per acre of mandatory removal than others. Solid reasoning for not agreeing to removal of timber, when needed to meet silvicultural and fuels objectives, will need to be presented by the contractor before awarding the timber for each Timber Treatment Area. Contractor's technical proposals must include a plan to complete all treatment including removal of included timber.

Q. Could the pre-bid meeting be multi-day with one day going over the solicitation?

Yes, we plan on having one in office meeting with a call in during the pre-solicitation and then a pre-bid field meeting once the final solicitation is out.

Q - For bidding on merchantable timber when there is no information on volume, dbh, species mix, etc. followed eventually by a USFS Appraisal when the timber prep work is done. How does a bidder make an upfront bid on the timber when there's no information? Is the bid then adjusted to match an agreed upon appraisal later in the process?

A. Please see the Schedule of Items, the Timber Products table, and notes section. Only Bid Premium offers will be required and evaluated for the unknown estimated product value. Vendors will have the opportunity to view stands and make their own determination of overall project product information. Vendors should have a good idea of the value of timber and the approximate volumes per acre. The FS has incorporated past data of timber sales to establish a range of lowest to highest acceptable advertised timber rates where bid premiums would be fully applied. If the final appraised rates are higher than the maximum range, bid premiums will be incrementally reduced.

## Spreadsheet for tracking Western Fireshead EAD requests in the WO

Project Detail Format										
Categorical	32.3 (11)									
Includes project information that has not yet been accepted (by a Approver)						Search Date:	4/24/23			
Region	PALS Number	Project Name	Forest	State	CE Category	Status	Estimated Acres	Estimated Decision	Decision Date	Description
6	60640	Chemult Fuels Breaks: Highway 97	Fremont-Winema	OR	Fuelbreak	Completed	3,000	23	9/28/22	There is a need to establish and maintain a linear fuel break along Highway 97, Chemult Ranger District.
6	61356	Parkers Mill	Umatilla	OR	32.2(6) & Fuelbreak	In Progress	--	23		This project proposes improving stand conditions, reducing the risk and increase resilience to insect and disease infestations, and address excess fuels.
5	61793	Grizzly Flat Community Fuel Break	Eldorado	CA	Fuelbreak	Completed	2,800	22	6/1/22	A contiguous fuel break would be constructed along Capps Crossing Road, Leoni Road, Caldor Road, and N South road within the Eldorado National Forest east of the Grizzly Flat community.
4	61828	Greys River Roadside Vegetation Treatments	Bridger-Tetons	WY	Fuelbreak	In Progress	--	23		The district proposes various treatments to increase fuel breaks along busy roads. These treatments support fire management that is economically efficient, responsive to land management objectives and provides for public and firefighter safety.
4	61830	Kemmerer Roadside Fuels Treatment	Bridger-Tetons	WY	Fuelbreak	In Progress	--	23		The district proposes various treatments to increase fuel breaks along busy roads. These treatments support fire management that is economically efficient, responsive to land management objectives and provides for public and firefighter safety.
5	61919	The Italian Project	Sierra	CA	605 & Fuelbreak	Completed	2,975	22	5/18/22	This project will reduce fuel loading through site prep; maintain fuel breaks and reforest up to 2,975 acres.
2	61980	Tri-State Telluride O&M Plan revision and Ames Hydro to Burro Bridge vegetation management	GMUG	CO	Fuelbreak	Completed	128	22	6/9/22	Revise O&M Plan and do vegetation management activities between Ames Hydro and Burro Bridge within and adjacent to exiting right-of-way.
6	61998	Lake Cle Elum Fuel Breaks CE	Okanogan-Wenatchee	OR	Fuelbreak	Developing Proposal	--	23		Establish linear fuel breaks around lower Lake Cle Elum to reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire, incorporating existing linear features.
5	62009	UARP Transmission Line Fuel Break	Eldorado	CA	Fuelbreak	Completed	2,418	23	11/21/22	SMUD proposes to create a fuel break on approximately 1,587 acres (16.5 linear miles) in the immediate vicinity of 230kV and 69kV electrical infrastructure near Slab Creek Reservoir, Union Valley Reservoir, and Loon Lake.
5	62359	CalFire Backbone Road Fuel Break Project	Shasta Trinity	CA	Fuelbreak	Completed	73	22	7/7/22	As part of their Backbone Road Fuel Break Project, CalFire would also reduce fuels on NFS lands along approximately three miles of Backbone Road (34N02). The area treated would extend 100 feet from centerline on both sides of the road.
6	62651	Fremont-Winema Reforestation CE	Fremont-Winema	OR	Fuelbreak	In Progress	--	23		The district is proposing to do reforestation activities on 181,700 acres within the burned areas that were identified as needing reforested due to the impacts of wildfires. Additionally, the district is proposing to implement fuels treatments within the project area.
6	62851	Chemult Fuels Breaks: Highway 138	Fremont-Winema	OR	Fuelbreak	Completed	3,000	23	9/28/22	There is a need to establish and maintain a linear fuel break along Highway 138, Chemult Ranger District.
2	62904	Muddy Slide Deck Pile Removal	Medicine Bow-Routt	CO	Fuelbreak	Completed	3,000	23	3/30/23	Removal of slash piles created during the Muddy Slide fire suppression efforts, by using prescribed fire.
6	63008	2022 Roadside Hazardous Fuels Reduction	Willamette	OR	Fuelbreak	In Progress	--	23		The Sweet Home Ranger district proposes to create fuel breaks along Forest Service roads to reduce hazardous fuels adjacent to the Middle Santiam Wilderness and private timber lands.
6	63141	SMRD Shadded Fuel Brekas	Rogue River-Siskiyou	OR	Fuelbreak	On Hold	--	24		Treatments will reduce fuels and protect large residual trees by manually cutting brush and select live trees eight-inch DBH and under, ten-inch DBH and under of dead trees, hand piling, and pile burning within the project footprint.
6	63175	25 Road Fuel Break	Rogue River-Siskiyou	OR	Fuelbreak	On Hold	--	24		The project would establish and maintain fuel breaks along the 25 Road that tie together recent Upper Briggs project (signed in 2019) area treatments to the old Taylor-Klondike Fire control lines and Rum Creek Fire contingency lines

6	63259	Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) Projects	Fremont-Winema	OR	Fuelbreak	Completed	3,000	23	1/3/23	5 separate projects: EFM Shaded Fuel Break, Warner Fuel Break II, Obenchain Forest and Rangeland Health, Bear Wallow All Lands RAC and LFLP 2022 Paddock Butte Project.
6	63368	27 Road Fuel Break Project	Mt. Hood	OR	Fuelbreak	Developing Proposal	–	23		The primary purpose of this project is to reduce the risk of landscape level disturbance by establishing a linear fuel break along National Forest System (NFS) roads.
1	63385	Granite Graves Shaded Fuelbreak	Lolo	MT	Fuelbreak	In Progress	–	23		The project proposes to reduce wildfire hazard by creating a shaded fuelbreak along 3.7 miles of forest system road by use of chainsaws and handpiling of debris.
5	63420	El Dorado Canal Fuel Break	Eldorado	CA	Fuelbreak	In Progress	–	23		Create a Fuel Break by removing vegetation along the El Dorado Canal on the Placerville Ranger District of the Eldorado National Forest.
3	63485	Superior Fuel Break Project	Tonto	AZ	Fuelbreak	Completed	34	23	2/24/23	The purpose of this project is to cooperate with the Town of Superior to create a defensible fire line to the southwest of the community (approximately 2.2 miles long & 100 feet wide). It would follow existing roads from Highway 60 to State Route 177.
2	63489	Pierson Park Fuel Break	Arapaho & Roosevelt	CO	Fuelbreak	In Progress	–	23		Treatments will be conducted primarily along Pierson Park Road (FSR 119), Johnny Park Road (FSR 118), and Forest System Road segments to the northeast and southwest of State Highway 36.
6	63510	Southwest Tiller Fuel Break	Umpqua	OR	Fuelbreak	Developing Proposal	–	23		Establishment of fuel breaks in the southwest Tiller Ranger District.
6	63523	Huckleberry DFPZ	Wallowa-Whitman	OR	Fuelbreak	Developing Proposal	–	23		A Defensible Fuel Profile Zone (DFPZ) project to reduce the fuel loading in strategic areas that would help in the aid in fire suppression on FS along private boundaries, ridgelines and/or road corridors.
5	63700	Mosquito Fire Recovery	Tahoe	CA	32.2(13), 605 & Fuel Break	Developing Proposal	–	23		Cut and remove dead and dying trees caused by the Mosquito Fire of 2022. Salvage and fuel removal activities on approximately 1,050 acres.
4	63759	Ashley Karst Shaded Fuel Break - Red Cloud Loop	Ashley	UT	Fuelbreak	Developing Proposal	–	23		This would be an approximately 2,900-acre fuels reduction project, mostly along the Red Cloud Loop Road. Vegetation treatments would include mastication, mowing, slashing, and piling and burning, as well as falling trees for firewood collection.
5	63814	Sierraville Roadside Fuel Breaks	Tahoe	CA	Fuelbreak	Developing Proposal	–	23		Establishing and maintaining linear fuel breaks adjacent to previously established roads.
5	63836	Truckee Roadside Fuel Breaks	Tahoe	CA	Fuelbreak	Developing Proposal	–	23		Establishing and maintaining linear fuel breaks adjacent to previously established roads.
6	63903	Bluejay Fuel Breaks Project	Fremont-Winema	OR	Fuelbreak	Developing Proposal	–	23		I am proposing to create and maintain linear fuel breaks along system roads by reducing vegetation adjacent to these features within the Bluejay Project area on lands east of State Highway 97 and the Klamath Marsh
6	63906	Ninemile Fuel Break and Timber Stand Improvement Project	Fremont-Winema	OR	Fuelbreak	Developing Proposal	–	23		I am proposing to create and maintain linear fuel breaks along system roads by reducing vegetation and improve timber stands by decreasing trees per acre and fuel loading to levels that allow fire to burn in desirable low severity manner.
5	63938	Sugar Pine Roadside Fuelbreaks Projec	Tahoe	CA	Fuelbreak	Developing Proposal	–	23		Establish and maintain linear fuelbreaks along main access roads and to increase forest resiliency with an emphasis on fuels reduction and salvage.
6	63996	POD 48 Fuels Reduction Project	Willamette	OR	Fuelbreak	Developing Proposal	–	23		Implement the PODs (Potential Operational Delineations) strategy by creating PCls (pre-established control lines) on the Middle Fork Ranger District by reducing fuels along preidentified roadsides and WUI (Wildland Urban Interface) boundaries.



## Wood Innovations Program

**Supporting America's Forests by Creating  
and Expanding Markets for Sustainable Wood  
Products and Wood Energy**

### A TRACK RECORD OF RESULTS 2015 TO 2022

**\$181,378,361**

in funding

across

**545 Wood Innovations and  
Community Wood projects**

**\$81,635,247** in Federal funding

**\$99,743,114** in cooperator funding

#### **Grants To Grow Forests and Rural Economies**

##### **Wood Innovations Grant Program**

Expanding traditional wood projects, advancing wood energy markets, and promoting using wood in construction.

##### **Community Wood Grant Program**

Funding shovel-ready projects to install thermally led community wood energy systems or build innovative wood product facilities.

##### **Wood Products Infrastructure Assistance**

Funding to establish, reopen, retrofit, expand, or improve wood-processing facilities like sawmills close to Federal or Indian lands.

## Environmental Impact

The Wood Innovations Program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service supports agency initiatives like sustainable forest management and the Wildfire Crisis Strategy. Through its grants, the program improves forest and watershed health, **reduces wildfire risk, increases climate change resiliency, and supports wildlife and plant biodiversity.**



U.S. forests store more than **14 billion metric tons** of carbon<sup>1</sup>



National forests provide **drinking water to 180 million people** every day

## Economic and Social Impact

Sustainable forest management supports rural communities, including Tribal communities and underserved communities, and provides career paths in forestry and forest products.

The Wood Innovations Program is sustaining economies by funding projects focused on **jobs, mills and manufacturing, communities, and innovation.**



The forest industry provides over **2.8 million U.S. jobs**<sup>2</sup>



The forest products industry accounts for about 5% of U.S. manufacturing GDP, manufacturing nearly **\$350 billion in products annually**<sup>3</sup>



U.S. forests provide some of the most important **habitats for wildlife and fish**



### Tribal funding 2015–2022:

- 13 Wood Innovations grants
- \$2,725,565 in Federal funding

## Grant Project Case Study Highlight

**WoodWorks makes it easier to design, engineer, and construct commercial and multifamily wood buildings:** The Forest Service is making an investment of over \$2 million annually in WoodWorks to expand mass timber markets and support engineering research and carbon accounting

**Funding for mass timber projects 2015–2022:** 139 grants totaling \$30,990,584 in Federal funding

## More Information

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Visit the  
**Wood Innovations**  
Website



## Legislation To Help Forests and the People Who Depend on Them

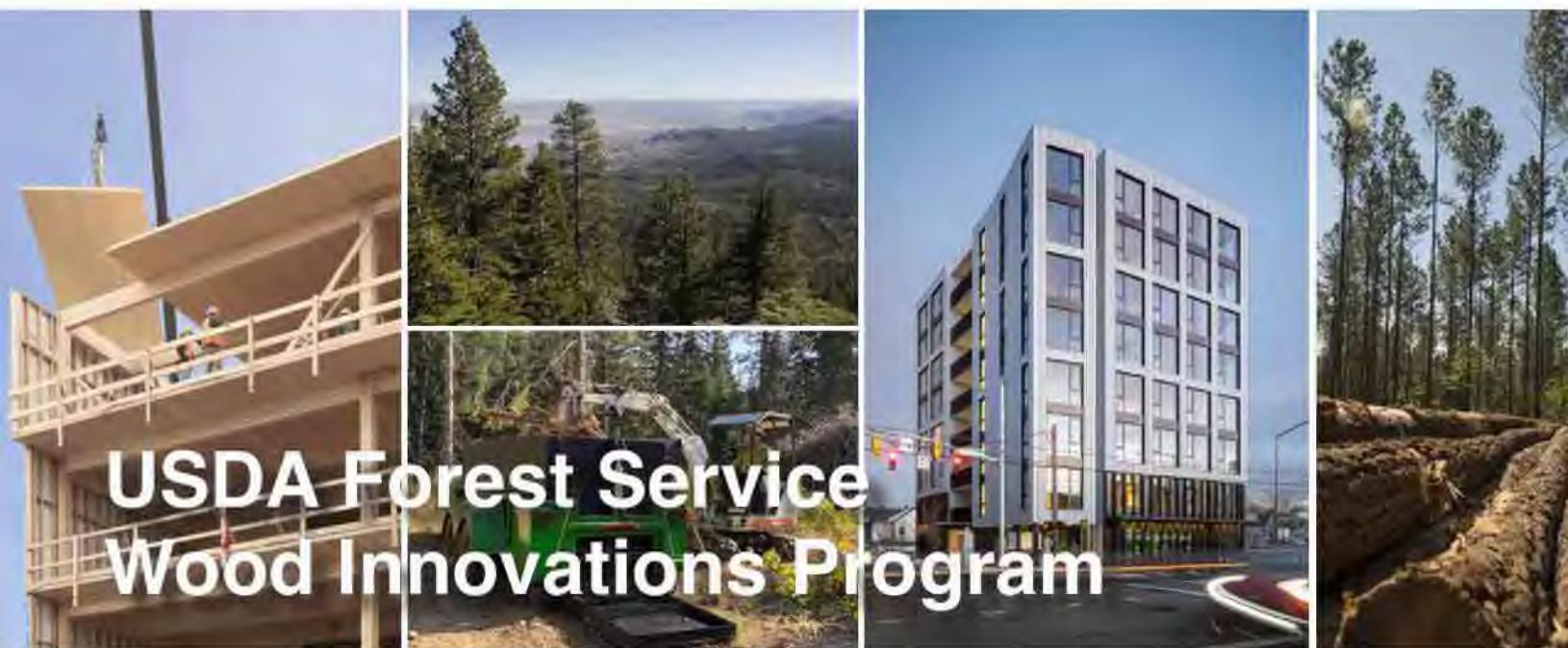
- **Agriculture Improvement Act**
- **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law**
- **Inflation Reduction Act**

Courtesy photo credits (page 1 left to right): Lever Architects, Texas A&M AgriLife, University of Idaho, Sterling Solutions, Freres Engineered Wood, Blue Forest

<sup>1</sup> 2022 International Mass Timber Report

<sup>2</sup> "Society of American Foresters Applauds Passage of FY23 Omnibus Spending Bill." [https://www.eforester.org/Main/SAF\\_News/2022/Society-of-American-Foresters-Applauds-Passage-of-FY23-Omnibus-Spending-Bill.aspx](https://www.eforester.org/Main/SAF_News/2022/Society-of-American-Foresters-Applauds-Passage-of-FY23-Omnibus-Spending-Bill.aspx)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.afandpa.org/about-afpa>



# USDA Forest Service Wood Innovations Program

The USDA Forest Service Wood Innovations Program expands and creates markets for wood products and wood energy that support long-term, sustainable management of National Forest System lands and other forest lands. The program has two national competitive grants programs, as well as project activities funded under discretionary agreements and annual work plans.

State and Private Forestry staff in the Washington Office manage the Wood Innovations Program. The Washington Office staff works with Forest Service units throughout the country, and also works with States, Tribes, private landowners, and other partners to promote healthy, resilient forests and livable communities.

**State and Private Forestry, Washington, DC:** The Forest Service State and Private Forestry national office provides leadership and coordinates national program emphasis areas, develops national partnerships, and provides market and technical support for mass timber, renewable wood energy, and other emerging wood products.

They also provide leadership for the Forest Service Wood Innovations Program grants and strategic investments with partners.

**Forest Service Regions:** Each of the nine Forest Service regions provide technical and market development leadership to the Wood Innovations Program and serve as the key point of contact for program grant recipients in their region. They also link regional priorities with on-the-ground activities and national program focus areas.

**Forest Products Marketing Unit:** The Forest Products Marketing Unit (FPMU) is part of the Forest Service Forest Products Laboratory (FPL). FPMU's focus is to work with FPL researchers, regional Wood Innovations Program managers, and external partners to advance high-value, high-volume wood products and energy markets to support healthy forests and economies.



Oregon Forest Restoration, USDA Forest Service

**Wood Education and Resource Center:** The Forest Service Eastern Region manages the Wood Education and Resource Center (WERC), a key Wood Innovations Program team member. The Eastern Region facilitates interaction and information exchange with the forest products industry to enhance opportunities for sustained forest product production. WERC staff also manage the National Wood Energy Technical Assistance Team, which evaluates and develops community-scale projects using woody biomass for heat or combined heat and power.

## Addressing the Challenge of Hazardous Fuels; Sustaining Forest Health, Diversity, and Productivity

The majority of grants and agreements awarded under the Wood Innovations Program address the nationwide challenge of reducing the risk of catastrophic wildfires, disease, and infestations by retaining or expanding markets for excess biomass and low-value logs removed during forest management activities. The material removed supports traditional markets, new markets, and local economic development, and also reduces emissions from the open-air burning of excess forest biomass.



Wood Innovations Team; USDA Forest Service

### Cover Page Photos:

Albina Yard Construction; photo by Jeremy Bittermann, courtesy LEVER Architecture  
Montana Forest, USDA Forest Service

BurnBoss® Biochar Trial; Courtesy photo by Tom Miles  
Carbon 12, Courtesy photo by Andrew Pogue  
Georgia Harvesting, USDA Forest Service

## Wood Innovations Program Competitive Grants Programs

### Wood Innovations Grants Program

Launched in 2015, the Wood Innovations Grants Program stimulates and expands wood products and wood energy markets. Relevant legislation includes the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334) and Rural Revitalization Technologies (7 U.S. Code [USC] 6601). National focus areas include mass timber, renewable wood energy, and technological development that supports fuel reduction and sustainable forest management.

### Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovation Grant Program

Launched in 2020, the Community Wood Energy and Wood Innovation Grant Program provides funding for grants to install thermally led community wood energy systems or to build innovative wood product manufacturing facilities. The Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 USC § 8113) and annual agency appropriations authorize and fund the grants awarded under this program. The Forest Service expects renewable wood energy systems installed under this program to use the most stringent control technologies. The program places extra emphasis on assisting sawmills in economically challenged areas to retool or add advanced technology.

For more information, visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/science-technology/energy-forest-products/wood-innovation>.

**Draft FTPC R6 Breakout Discussion**

**4/19/2023**

**Prepared by: Eric Burke**

**FTPC: Review FY 23 timber targets and accomplishments.**

FS:-575 MMBF for FY 23.

-As of 4/1 the region sold 141 MMBF (approx. 25%), but there has been a slight increase since then.

-We have had a very wet winter that will have some affects on access to sales.

**FTPC: -selling ¼ of your target in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter is not helpful for us.**

-It would be helpful to get sale prospectus out earlier in the year so that interested purchasers could go and review the project areas

-We have a lot of high value timber under contract that we need to get to.

-The eastside has a limited amount of purchasers and these people get stretched during the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter

FS:- The 3+1 strategy is designed to produce timber volume throughout the year so that we have more 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> qtr sales

-We are meeting frequently with individual forests to discuss progress and forest needs in order to meet 3+1

**FTPC: Discuss FY 24 targets.**

FS: -The region has tentatively been assigned 563 MMBF for FY 24.

-Staffing and hiring continue to be an issue and we know this.

-We are currently using all of our hiring authorities to staff up.

-We are investing heavily in training opportunities for newer employees.

**FTPC: Discuss EADM**

FS: -Dan overviewed 3+1 strategy and intent.

-We are seeking efficiencies with NEPA documents and guide development. This includes streamlining authorities like CE's and Emergency Authorizations.

-We are looking for feedback from industry!

- We are in the process of rolling EADM out to individual units throughout the region in one day sessions.
- We are asking for shorter reports, using templates, etc.

FTPC: We also struggle with staffing. How does the FS expect to increase pace and scale and meet assigned timber targets with such low staffing levels?

FS: -We are now requiring units to have a full briefing with the RF if the Forest wishes to take on complex projects like EIS's.

-We continue to use Forest Product Modernization to our advantage with things like virtual boundaries, etc.

-We are streamlining delegations (example: stewardship authorities to Forest Sups).

-Eric discuss technologies like LiDAR, other FPM tools, and utilizing our partners to assist with timber outputs.

-Increased Line Officer involvement in planning and consultation.

FTPC: How do we get to 3 years of NEPA shelf life?

FS: -Our intent is through the 3+1 strategy and following leaders intent with the rollout of EADM. We have to use these tools if we are going to get there.

FTPC: -How is the FS weighing guidance vs. implementation

FS: -We need to hold Forest accountable and have measures of success with transparency.

FTPC: When a fire burns through an area is there truly a need to redo NEPA and consultation with all agencies? Also, emergency authorities need to be reviewed better prior to roll out.

FS: -We look at these things on a case by case basis as fire intensity can vary.

-We have 14 CE categories and 29 within the nation (*I didn't quite catch this bullet point, needs refinement*).

-We are also striving to streamline our consultation efforts with outside agencies (USFWS, SHPO, NMFS)

FTPC: The FS needs to be coming up with more "no effect" determinations on documents. Providing consultation documents with "not likely to adversely effect" or "may effect" does not help with implementation when the alternative is wildfire.

FS: -We need to look hard at our ESA analysis and consider this more carefully.

-This will take active engagement at the line officer level when it comes to consultation. This includes; post fire "no effect", project effect determinations, and also to challenge the effects determinations.

**FTPC: What is the progress on utilization specs being reviewed/updated?**

FS: -Unfortunately we have not been able to move that forward

-Staffing issues and turnover

-Right now we are currently focusing our energy and time to meeting the timber targets for FY 23 and gearing up for FY 24.

FTPC: We need to be real about how these specs produce quality timber products.

FS: We hear you and we need to put more efforts into this subject.

FTPC: -The utilization specs have a trickle-down effect from planning to implementation and everything in between.

-The FS needs to have a way to delegate log specs down to the Forest level.

FS: This would take extensive efforts and involves changes in land management planning. This is a very complex

**FTPC: Does the FS have a budget to hire outside contractors to help you meet the 575 MMBF target?**

FS: -We are going to be as aggressive as possible in meeting the 575 target, but we realize that it's a high bar to meet.

-Utilizing partnerships and keystone agreements as well as contracting authorities will help.

-It's becoming apparent that we have a higher need than we have people to do the job when it comes to staffing shortages and hiring.