

FS Agreement No. 20-SA-11052007-077

Cooperator Agreement No. _____

**MASTER
STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT**

**Between The
COUNTY OF SISKIYOU, CA
And the
USDA FOREST SERVICE, PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION
Klamath, Modoc, Six Rivers, and Shasta Trinity National Forests**

This Master Stewardship Agreement is hereby made and entered into by and between the County of Siskiyou, hereinafter referred to as “County of Siskiyou,” and the USDA Forest Service, U.S. Forest Service, hereinafter referred to as the “Forest Service,” under the authority and provisions of the Agricultural Act of 2014, Pub. L. 113-79, sec. 8205.

Background: In 2003 Congress authorized the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to enter into stewardship contracts and agreements “to achieve land management goals for the national forests that meet local and rural community needs.” The primary focus of this legislation is to achieve land management goals through stewardship projects awarded under contracts or agreements. Unique to the legislation is the ability to exchange goods for services that meet the land management objectives.

The area addressed in this Master Stewardship Agreement is known as the Siskiyou County Project Area that lies within portions of the Klamath, Modoc, Six Rivers, and Shasta Trinity National Forests, as shown in Exhibit A. This area includes an un-estimated number of acres to be treated during the term of this Master Stewardship Agreement.

Historically Siskiyou County was largely dominated by frequent fires that created forests that were adapted to burn at low to moderate severity. The past century of fire exclusion has severely impacted water supplies, forest health, communities, infrastructure, and threatened species throughout Siskiyou County and beyond. Fire suppression over the last 100 years has resulted in a fire deficit landscape that this partnership is working to mitigate. There is a need for treating fuels and altering forest structure to reduce the impacts of catastrophic wildfire to the communities and infrastructure of Siskiyou County. There also exists the need to improve conditions that will serve to improve vegetation, forage, and upper watersheds in both water quality and quantity capacity.

The goal of this agreement is to work together using a variety of funding and implementation tools to complete a variety of projects including those related to fuels reduction, habitat restoration, and vegetation management in an effort to restore fire resilience at the landscape scale. Fuels reduction projects in Siskiyou County will protect, enhance, and restore forest and watershed health, provide community protection and bring economic benefits to the local area.

I. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Master Stewardship Agreement is to document the cooperative effort between the parties for landscape restoration activities within the Klamath, Modoc, Six Rivers, and Shasta Trinity National Forests that are within Siskiyou County in accordance with the following provisions and the hereby incorporated Template for Stewardship Supplemental Project Agreement (SPA), attached as Exhibit A.

II. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL BENEFIT AND INTERESTS:

The Forest Service is a land management agency dedicated to the wise use and management of National Forest System (NFS) lands, including the responsibility for maintaining and improving resource conditions.

The mission of the Forest Service is this: to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands for present and future generations. As an integral part of this mission, the Pacific Southwest Region's leadership intent and annual prioritization is to retain and restore ecological resilience of National Forest lands to achieve sustainable ecosystems that provide a broad range of services to humans and other organisms. Ecologically healthy and resilient landscapes, rich in biodiversity, will have greater capacity to adapt and thrive in the face of natural disturbances and large scale threats to sustainability, especially under changing uncertain future environmental conditions such as those driven by climate change and increasing human use.

The Siskiyou County Board of Supervisors acknowledges the importance of healthy and resilient ecosystems in and around Siskiyou County for the benefit of all residents, and the industries that rely on the prosperity of the County. The projects developed under this Master Stewardship Agreement are for the purpose of protecting, enhancing, and restoring forest and watershed health, providing community protection and bringing economic benefits to the local area. Projects that would occur under this MSA would include, but not be limited to, removing and thinning trees for hazardous fuel treatments and timber stand improvement; vegetation management to enhance wildlife habitat conditions, hand piling and burning; removal and utilization of timber; prescribed fire to improve forest health; meadow, stream, and riparian restoration and protection; water quality enhancement; noxious weed control; road maintenance, reconstruction, and/or removal; and improvement of recreational opportunities (e.g. trails and campgrounds).

As the intensity and number of catastrophic wildfires increase within Siskiyou County and throughout California and the western United States, an emphasis on protecting the forest and connected watersheds is critical to addressing the needs of the landscape and surrounding communities. Siskiyou County works with several agencies, entities and non-profits, including the Forest Service, in an attempt to restore landscapes, forests and watersheds. Multiple projects and collaborative efforts have been formed to increase the work of our federal and private partners to bring back healthy forests within the Klamath, Shasta Trinity, Six Rivers and Modoc

National Forests. The stewardship projects developed under this Master Stewardship Agreement, aside from the landscape and forest benefits will also serve to protect, enhance and restore river systems throughout Siskiyou County. This will also help bring economic opportunities to the local area through the various projects and related activities as outlined above.

This Master Stewardship Agreement will provide an opportunity for the parties to seek funding to expand partnership opportunities, and to garner new and additional support from partners, including but not limited to the timber industry, Federal and non-Federal entities, tribal entities, and County of Siskiyou's members and volunteers. Mission accomplishment for both parties will be furthered by the restoration of natural resources across the landscape.

All projects conceived under this Master Stewardship Agreement will undergo a collaborative process to determine specific habitat improvements. The collaborative process will ensure that the benefits of undertaking restoration activities are mutually beneficial to County of Siskiyou and the Forest Service as well as being beneficial to a wide diversity of interests involved in collaboration.

Both parties share an interest in improving the ecosystem condition and function of the landscape. A healthy landscape provides a variety of benefits beyond the needs of a single species, and therefore benefits both parties.

It is therefore mutually beneficial for the parties to work together to implement landscape restoration and enhancement projects.

In consideration of the above premises, the parties agree as follows:

III. THE PARTNER SHALL:

- A. LEGAL AUTHORITY. County of Siskiyou shall have the legal authority to enter into this Master Stewardship Agreement, and the institutional, managerial, and financial capability to ensure proper planning, management, and completion of the project, which includes funds sufficient to pay the nonFederal share of project costs, when applicable.
- B. In its discretion, explore opportunities for additional support from other parties for projects associated with the Master Stewardship Agreement.
- C. Coordinate with agencies, contractors and organizations in the implementation of project work associated with this Master Stewardship Agreement.
- D. Coordinate with the Forest Service to develop Supplemental Project Agreements (SPAs) under this Master Stewardship Agreement.
- E. Provide qualified personnel or contractors to implement tasks identified in SPAs under this Master Stewardship Agreement including coordinating and completing design, layout, and preparation that is agreeable by the Forest Service that is required for projects occurring on

National Forest system lands including, but not limited to property boundary surveys, designating treatment units.

- F. Provide a Project Liason who can act as a representative and main contact for the Forest Service for project work conducted under this agreement. The Project Liason should have the ability to direct contractors to ensure that projects are completed to Forest Service specifications, that projects are being completed in a safe manner and that quality and quantity of work are acceptable.

IV. THE U.S. FOREST SERVICE SHALL:

- A. Have the Regional Forester or authorized designee approve all stewardship project proposals.
- B. Complete all necessary National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements.
- C. Inform County of Siskiyou of any changes in stewardship policy, law and regulations.
- D. Recognize County of Siskiyou's contribution, in a manner acceptable to both parties, in news releases, interpretive signs, photographs, or other media as appropriate.
- E. Coordinate with County of Siskiyou to develop SPAs under this master agreement.
- F. Provide a Project Liaison who can act as the representative and main contact for the Forest Service for all project work conducted under this agreement.
- G. Coordinate and complete design, layout, and preparation that is not conducted by County of Siskiyou that is required for projects occurring on National Forest system lands including but not limited to property boundary surveys and designating treatment unit boundaries.

V. IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD BY AND BETWEEN THE PARTIES THAT:

- A. PRINCIPAL CONTACTS. Individuals listed below are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this Master Stewardship Agreement.

Principal U.S. Forest Service Contacts:

U.S. Forest Service Stewardship Coordinator	U.S. Forest Service Grants & Agreements Contact
Name: Tim Howard, Regional Timber Sale Preparation Program Manager Address: 1323 Club Dr City, State, Zip: Vallejo, CA 94592 Telephone: 707-562-8694 Email: tim.howard@usda.gov	Name: Dave Wagner, Grants Management Specialist Address: 1323 Club Drive City, State, Zip: Vallejo, CA 94592 Telephone: 707-562-8712 Email: david.wagner2@usda.gov

<u>Technical Contact</u> Name: Greg Schroer Address: 1323 Club Dr City, State, Zip: Vallejo, CA 94592 Telephone: 707-562-8930 Email: greg.schroer@usda.gov	
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Principal Partner Contacts:

Partner Stewardship Coordinator	Partner Administrative Contact
Name: Elizabeth Nielson Address: 1312 Fairlane Road City, State, Zip: Yreka, CA 96097 Telephone: 530-842-8012 FAX: 530-842-8013 Email: enielson@co.siskiyou.ca.us	Name: Elizabeth Nielson Address: 1312 Fairlane Road City, State, Zip: Yreka, CA 96097 Telephone: 530-842-8012 FAX: 530-842-8013 Email: enielson@co.siskiyou.ca.us

- B. AVAILABILITY FOR CONSULTATION. Both parties will make themselves available at mutually agreeable times, for continuing consultation to discuss the conditions covered by this Master Stewardship Agreement and agree to actions essential to fulfill its purposes.
- C. ANNUAL MEETING. At a minimum, the parties will meet annually to discuss potential stewardship projects and jointly review the active stewardship project proposal list.
- D. SUPPLEMENTAL PROJECT AGREEMENTS. Nothing in this Master Stewardship Agreement obligates either party to offer or accept any project proposals under this Master Stewardship Agreement. Any projects added to this Master Stewardship Agreement must be by mutual consent of the parties through a specific SPA. At a minimum, an SPA must:
1. Include language stating that the SPA will be made a part of this Master Stewardship Agreement thereby subjecting it to the terms of this Master Stewardship Agreement.
 2. Include a map and description of the project area, treatment activities and corresponding treated acres, and other activities which may include other resource related projects.
 3. Specify a method of designating trees for removal.
 4. Describe the desired end result of the project(s).
 5. Specify the exchange of goods for services. The Forest Service may apply the value of timber or other forest products removed as an offset against the cost of services received by County of Siskiyou.
 6. Designate a Forest Service and County of Siskiyou official to monitor their respective responsibilities outlined in the SPA.

7. Include a Financial Plan to identify each parties contributions for projects identified in the SPA.
 8. Identify appropriate bonding requirements.
 9. Include any necessary forest restrictions and closure dates to allow County of Siskiyou to implement and complete the project(s) within the specified timeframes.
 10. Provide necessary direction to County of Siskiyou to ensure compliance with appropriate laws and regulations to fulfill the terms of the SPA.
 11. Identify any reporting requirements.
 12. Be reviewed and approved by a delegated timber contracting officer when forest products will be disposed.
 13. Be reviewed and approved by a Forest Service Grants Management Specialist.
 14. Be mutually agreed to, in writing, by both parties and executed by the designated Forest Supervisor.
- E. PERFORMANCE. The parties will perform in accordance with the approved SPAs.
- F. EXCHANGE OF GOODS FOR SERVICES. SPA(s) may be completed where Forest Service goods are exchanged for County of Siskiyou's services; Forest Service funds are exchanged for County of Siskiyou's services; or a combination thereof.
- G. TECHNICAL AND COST EVALUATION. Best approach determination is the evaluation method used by the Forest Service to approve stewardship agreement technical proposals. Such consideration shall primarily consider criteria other than cost. These non-price criteria include, but are not limited to:
1. The extent of mutual interest and benefit.
 2. The advantages and effectiveness of mutual participation.
 3. Joint expertise.
 4. Past performance.
 5. Technical approach
 6. Factors relevant to cost such as volunteer participation, contribution from other parties, cost sharing, etc.
 7. Ability to utilize, educate and/or train a local workforce.
 8. Benefits to the local community
 9. Ability to complete work in a timely manner.
 10. Experience in performing similar work.
 11. Ability to conduct work in an environmentally sound manner.
- H. METHODS OF APPRAISAL: The value of timber and other forest products shall be determined using Forest Service standard guidelines, methods and techniques.
- I. NOTICES. Any communications affecting the operations covered by this agreement given by the Forest Service or County of Siskiyou is sufficient only if in writing and delivered in person, mailed, or transmitted electronically by e-mail or fax, as follows:

To the Forest Service Program Manager, at the address specified in this Master

Stewardship Agreement.

To County of Siskiyou, at County of Siskiyou's address shown in this Master Stewardship Agreement or such other address designated within this Master Stewardship Agreement.

Notices will be effective when delivered in accordance with this provision, or on the effective date of the notice, whichever is later.

- J. PARTICIPATION IN SIMILAR ACTIVITIES. This Master Stewardship Agreement in no way restricts the Forest Service or County of Siskiyou from participating in similar activities with other public or private agencies, organizations, and individuals.
- K. ENDORSEMENT. Any of County of Siskiyou's contributions made under this Master Stewardship Agreement do not by direct reference or implication convey Forest Service endorsement of County of Siskiyou's products or activities.
- L. USE OF FOREST SERVICE INSIGNIA. In order for County of Siskiyou to use the Forest Service insignia on any published media, such as a Web page, printed publication, or audiovisual production, permission must be granted by the Forest Service's Office of Communications (Washington Office). A written request will be submitted by Forest Service Region/Station/Area to the Office of communication Assistant Director, Visual Information and Publishing Services prior to use of the insignia. The Forest Service Region/Station/Area will notify County of Siskiyou when permission is granted.
- M. NON-FEDERAL STATUS FOR PARTNER PARTICIPANT LIABILITY. County of Siskiyou agree(s) that any of County of Siskiyou's employees, volunteers, and program participants shall not be deemed to be Federal employees for any purposes including Chapter 171 of Title 28, United States Code (Federal Tort Claims Act) and Chapter 81 of Title 5, United States Code (OWCP), and County of Siskiyou hereby willingly agree(s) to assume these responsibilities.

Further, County of Siskiyou shall provide any necessary training to County of Siskiyou's employees, volunteers, and program participants to ensure that such personnel are capable of performing tasks to be completed. County of Siskiyou shall also supervise and direct the work of its employees, volunteers, and participants performing under this Master Stewardship Agreement.
- N. MEMBERS OF U.S. CONGRESS. Pursuant to 41 U.S.C. 22, no member of, or delegate to, Congress shall be admitted to any share or part of this Master Stewardship Agreement, or benefits that may arise therefrom, either directly or indirectly.
- O. DRUG-FREE WORKPLACE.

1. County of Siskiyou agree(s) that it will publish a drug-free workplace statement and provide a copy to each employee who will be engaged in the performance of any project/program that receives Federal funding. The statement must
 - a. Tell the employees that the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensing, possession, or use of a controlled substance is prohibited in its workplace;
 - b. Specify the actions County of Siskiyou will take against employees for violating that prohibition; and
 - c. Let each employee know that, as a condition of employment under any award, the employee:
 - (1) Shall abide by the terms of the statement, and
 - (2) Shall notify you in writing if he or she is convicted for a violation of a criminal drug statute occurring in the workplace, and must do so no more than five calendar days after the conviction.
2. County of Siskiyou agree(s) that it will establish an ongoing drug-free awareness program to inform employees about
 - a. The dangers of drug abuse in the workplace;
 - b. The established policy of maintaining a drug-free workplace;
 - c. Any available drug counseling, rehabilitation and employee assistance programs; and
 - d. The penalties that you may impose upon them for drug abuse violations occurring in the workplace.
3. Without the Program Manager's expressed written approval, the policy statement and program must be in place as soon as possible, no later than the 30 days after the effective date of this Master Stewardship, or the completion date of this Master Stewardship Agreement, whichever occurs first.
4. County of Siskiyou agree(s) to immediately notify the Program Manager if an employee is convicted of a drug violation in the workplace. The notification must be in writing, identify the employee's position title, the SPA number of each project which the employee worked. The notification must be sent to the Program Manager within ten calendar days after County of Siskiyou learn(s) of the conviction.
5. Within 30 calendar days of learning about an employee's conviction, County of Siskiyou shall either:

- a. Take appropriate personnel action against the employee, up to and including termination, consistent with the requirements of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 USC 794), as amended, or
- b. Require the employee to participate satisfactorily in a drug abuse assistance or rehabilitation program approved for these purposes by a Federal, State or local health, law enforcement, or other appropriate agency.

P. **NONDISCRIMINATION.** The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, and so forth.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, S.W., Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (800) 795-3272 (voice) or (202) 720-6382 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Q. **ELIGIBLE WORKERS.** County of Siskiyou shall ensure that all employees complete the I-9 form to certify that they are eligible for lawful employment under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 USC 1324a). County of Siskiyou shall comply with regulations regarding certification and retention of the completed forms. These requirements also apply to any contract or supplemental agreement awarded under this Master Stewardship Agreement.

R. **STANDARDS FOR FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT.**

1. Financial Reporting

County of Siskiyou shall provide complete, accurate, and current financial disclosures of the project or program in accordance with any financial reporting requirements, as set forth in the financial provisions.

2. Accounting Records

County of Siskiyou shall continuously maintain and update records identifying the source and use of funds. The records shall contain information pertaining to the agreement, authorizations, obligations, unobligated balances, assets, outlays, and income.

3. Internal Control

County of Siskiyou shall maintain effective control over and accountability for all Forest Service funds. County of Siskiyou shall keep effective internal controls to ensure that all United States Federal funds received are separately and properly allocated to the activities described in the agreement and used solely for authorized purposes.

4. Source Documentation

County of Siskiyou shall support all accounting records with source documentation. These documentations include, but are not limited to, cancelled checks, paid bills, payrolls, contract documents. These documents must be made available to the Forest Service upon request.

5. Advance Payments

When applicable, County of Siskiyou shall establish and maintain specific procedures to minimize the time elapsing between the advance of Federal funds and their subsequent disbursement.

- S. OVERPAYMENT. Any funds paid to County of Siskiyou in excess of the amount entitled under the terms and conditions of this agreement constitute a debt to the Federal Government. The following must also be considered as a debt or debts owed by the Cooperator to the Forest Service:
1. Any interest or other investment income earned on advances of agreement funds; or
 2. Any royalties or other special classes of program income which, under the provisions of the agreement are required to be returned.

If this debt is not paid according to the terms of the bill for collection issued for the overpayment, the Forest Service may reduce the debt by:

1. Making an administrative offset against other requests for reimbursement.
2. Withholding advance payments otherwise due to County of Siskiyou.
3. Taking other action permitted by statute (31 U.S.C. 3716 and 7 CFR, Part 3, Subpart B).

Except as otherwise provided by law, the Forest Service may charge interest on an overdue debt.

- T. AGREEMENT CLOSEOUT. Within 90 days after expiration or notice of termination the parties shall close out the award/agreement.

Any unobligated balance of cash advanced to the Recipient/Cooperator must be immediately refunded to the Forest Service, including any interest earned in accordance with 7CFR3016.21/2CFR 215.22.

Within a maximum of 90 days following the date of expiration or termination of this grant, all financial performance and related reports required by the terms of the agreement must be submitted to the Forest Service by the Recipient/Cooperator.

If this agreement is closed out without audit, the Forest Service reserves the right to disallow and recover an appropriate amount after fully considering any recommended disallowances resulting from an audit which may be conducted later.

- U. RETENTION AND ACCESS REQUIREMENTS FOR RECORDS. County of Siskiyou shall retain all records pertinent to this Master Stewardship Agreement for a period of no less than three years from the expiration or termination date. As used in this provision, records include books, documents, accounting procedures and practice, and other data, regardless of the type or format. County of Siskiyou shall provide access and the right to examine all records related to this Master Stewardship Agreement to the Forest Service Inspector General, or Comptroller General or their authorized representative. The rights of access in this section must not be limited to the required retention period but must last as long as records are kept.

If any litigation, claim, negotiation, audit, or other action involving the records has been started before the end of the 3-year period, the records must be kept until all issues are resolved, or until the end of the regular 3-year period, whichever is later.

Records for nonexpendable property acquired in whole or in part, with Federal funds shall be retained for 3 years after its final disposition.

- V. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA). Public access to Master Stewardship Agreement records must not be limited, except when such records must be kept confidential and would have been exempted from disclosure pursuant to "Freedom of Information" regulations (5 U.S.C. 552).

Public access to culturally sensitive data and information of Federally-recognized Tribes may also be explicitly limited by P.L. 110-234, Title VIII Subtitle B §8106 (2008 Farm Bill).

- W. TEXT MESSAGING WHILE DRIVING. In accordance with Executive Order (EO) 13513, "Federal Leadership on Reducing Text Messaging While Driving," any and all text messaging by Federal employees is banned: a) while driving a Government owned vehicle (GOV) or driving a privately owned vehicle (POV) while on official Government business; or b) using any electronic equipment supplied by the Government when driving any vehicle at any time. All cooperators, their employees, volunteers, and contractors are encouraged to adopt and enforce policies that ban text messaging when driving company owned, leased or rented vehicles, POVs or GOVs when driving while on official Government business or when performing any work for or on behalf of the Government.
- X. PUBLIC NOTICES. It is Forest Service's policy to inform the public as fully as possible of its programs and activities. County of Siskiyou is/are encouraged to give public notice of

the receipt of this award/Master Stewardship Agreement and, from time to time, to announce progress and accomplishments. Press releases or other public notices should include a statement substantially as follows:

"Pacific Southwest Region of the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, and the County of Siskiyou, CA....."

County of Siskiyou may call on Forest Service's Office of Communication for advice regarding public notices. County of Siskiyou is/are requested to provide copies of notices or announcements to the Forest Service Program Manager and to Forest Service's Office Communications as far in advance of release as possible.

- Y. FUNDING EQUIPMENT AND SUPPLIES. Federal funding under this Master Stewardship Agreement are not available for reimbursement of County of Siskiyou's purchase of equipment and supplies. Equipment is defined as having a fair market value of over \$5,000 per unit and a useful life of over one year.
- Z. CONTRACT REQUIREMENTS. Any contract under this agreement must be awarded following County of Siskiyou's established procedures, to ensure free and open competition, and avoid any conflict of interest (or appearance of a conflict). County of Siskiyou shall maintain cost and price analysis documentation for potential Forest Service review. County of Siskiyou is encouraged to utilize small businesses, minority-owned firms and women's business enterprises.
- AA. TRAINING, EVALUATION, AND CERTIFICATION OF SAWYERS.

Any of the cooperator's employees, and any participants and volunteers engaged on behalf of the cooperator and Forest Service, who will use chain saws or crosscut saws on National Forest System lands to conduct the program of work contained in this agreement must be trained, evaluated, and certified in accordance with Forest Service Manual 2358 and Forest Service Handbook 6709.11, section 22.48b. The cooperator is responsible for providing this training, evaluation, and certification, unless the Forest Service and the cooperator determine it is not in the best interest of the partnership. In these circumstances, the Forest Service, upon request and based on availability of Agency funding and personnel, may assist with developing and conducting training, evaluation, and certification of the cooperator's employees, and any volunteers and participants engaged on behalf of the cooperator and the Forest Service, who will use chain saws or cross cut saws on National Forest System lands.

- BB. GOVERNMENT-FURNISHED PROPERTY. County of Siskiyou may only use Forest Service property furnished under this Master Stewardship Agreement for performing tasks assigned in this Master Stewardship Agreement. County of Siskiyou shall not modify, cannibalize, or make alterations to Forest Service property. A separate document, Form AD-107, must be completed to document the loan of Forest Service property. The Forest Service shall retain title to all Forest Service-furnished property. Title to Forest Service property must not be affected by its incorporation into or attachment to any property not

owned by the Forest Service, nor must the property become a fixture or lose its identity as personal property by being attached to any real property.

Partner Liability for Government Property.

1. Unless otherwise provided for in the Master Stewardship Agreement, County of Siskiyou shall not be liable for loss, damage, destruction, or theft to the Government property furnished or acquired under this contract, except when any one of the following applies—
 - a. The risk is covered by insurance or County of Siskiyou is/are otherwise reimbursed (to the extent of such insurance or reimbursement).
 - b. The loss, damage, destruction, or theft is the result of willful misconduct or lack of good faith on the part of County of Siskiyou's managerial personnel. County of Siskiyou's managerial personnel, in this clause, means County of Siskiyou's directors, officers, managers, superintendents, or equivalent representatives who have supervision or direction of all or substantially all of County of Siskiyou's business; all or substantially all of County of Siskiyou's operation at any one plant or separate location; or a separate and complete major industrial operation.
2. County of Siskiyou shall take all reasonable actions necessary to protect the Government property from further loss, damage, destruction, or theft. County of Siskiyou shall separate the damaged and undamaged Government property, place all the affected Government property in the best possible order, and take such other action as the Property Administrator directs.
3. County of Siskiyou shall do nothing to prejudice the Government's rights to recover against third parties for any loss, damage, destruction, or theft of Government property.
4. Upon the request of the G&A Specialist, County of Siskiyou shall, at the Government's expense, furnish to the Government all reasonable assistance and cooperation, and the execution of Master Stewardship Agreements of assignment in favor of the Government in obtaining recovery.

CC. OFFSETS, CLAIMS, AND RIGHTS. Any and all activities entered into or approved by this Master Stewardship Agreement will create and support afforestation/ reforestation efforts within the National Forest System without generating carbon credits. The Forest Service does not make claims of permanence or any guarantees of carbon sequestration on lands reforested or afforested through County of Siskiyou's assistance. The Forest Service will provide for long-term management of reforested and afforested lands, according to applicable Federal statute regulations and forest plans.

DD. FOREST SERVICE ACKNOWLEDGED IN PUBLICATION AND AUDIOVISUALS. County of Siskiyou shall acknowledge Forest Service support in any publications, audiovisuals, and electronic media developed as a result of this Master Stewardship Agreement.

EE. NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT – PRINTED, ELECTRONIC, OR AUDIOVISUAL MATERIAL. County of Siskiyou shall include the following statement, in full, in any printed, audiovisual material, or electronic media for public distribution developed or printed with any Federal funding.

"In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.)"

To file a complaint alleging discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington DC 20250-9410 or call toll free voice (866) 632-9992, TDD (800)877-8339, or voice relay (866) 377-8642. USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

If the material is too small to permit the full statement to be included, the material shall, at minimum, include the following statement, in print size no smaller than the text:

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider."

FF. REMEDIES FOR COMPLIANCE RELATED ISSUES. If County of Siskiyou materially fail(s) to comply with any term of the Master Stewardship Agreement, whether stated in a Federal statute or regulation, an assurance, the Master Stewardship Agreement, the Forest Service may take one or more of the following actions:

1. Temporarily withhold cash payments pending correction of the deficiency by County of Siskiyou or more severe enforcement action by the Forest Service;
2. Disallow (that is, deny both use of funds and matching credit for) all or part of the cost of the activity or action not in compliance;
3. Wholly or partly suspend or terminate the current Master Stewardship Agreement for County of Siskiyou's program;
4. Withhold further awards for the program, or
5. Take other remedies that may be legally available, including debarment procedures under 2 CFR part 417.

GG. TERMINATION BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT. This Master Stewardship Agreement may be terminated, in whole or part, as follows:

- When the Forest Service and County of Siskiyou agree upon the termination conditions, including the effective date and, in the case of partial termination, the portion to be terminated.
- By 30 days written notification by County of Siskiyou to the Forest Service setting

forth the reasons for termination, effective date, and in the case of partial termination, the portion to be terminated. If the Forest Service decides that the remaining portion of the Master Stewardship Agreement must not accomplish the purpose for which the Master Stewardship Agreement was made, the Forest Service may terminate the award upon 30 days written notice in its entirety.

Upon termination of an Master Stewardship Agreement, County of Siskiyou shall not incur any new obligations for the terminated portion of the Master Stewardship Agreement after the effective date, and shall cancel as many outstanding obligations as possible. The Forest Service shall allow full credit to County of Siskiyou for the Forest Service share of obligations that cannot be canceled and were properly incurred by County of Siskiyou up to the effective date of the termination. Excess funds shall be refunded within 60 days after the effective date of termination.

- HH. ALTERNATE DISPUTE RESOLUTION – PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT. In the event of any issue of controversy under this Master Stewardship Agreement, the parties may pursue Alternate Dispute Resolution procedures to voluntarily resolve those issues. These procedures may include, but are not limited to conciliation, facilitation, mediation, and fact finding.
- II. DEBARMENT AND SUSPENSION. County of Siskiyou shall immediately inform the Forest Service if they or any of their principals are presently excluded, debarred, or suspended from entering into covered transactions with the Federal government according to the terms of 2 CFR Part 180. Additionally, should County of Siskiyou or any of their principals receive a transmittal letter or other official Federal notice of debarment or suspension, then they shall notify the Forest Service without undue delay. This applies whether the exclusion, debarment, or suspension is voluntary or involuntary.
- JJ. COPYRIGHTING. County of Siskiyou is/are granted sole and exclusive right to copyright any publications developed as a result of this Master Stewardship Agreement. This includes the right to publish and vend throughout the world in any language and in all media and forms, in whole or in part, for the full term of copyright and all renewals thereof in accordance with this Master Stewardship Agreement.

No original text or graphics produced and submitted by the Forest Service must be copyrighted. The Forest Service reserves a royalty-free, nonexclusive, and irrevocable right to reproduce, publish, or otherwise use, and to authorize others to use the work for Federal government purposes. This right must be transferred to any subcontracts.

This provision includes:

1. The copyright in any work developed by County of Siskiyou under this Master Stewardship Agreement.
2. Any right of copyright to which County of Siskiyou purchase(s) ownership with any Federal contributions.

KK. PUBLICATION SALE. County of Siskiyou may sell any publication developed as a result of this Master Stewardship Agreement. The publication may be sold at fair market value, which is initially defined in this Master Stewardship Agreement to cover the costs of development, production, marketing, and distribution. After the costs of development and production have been recovered, fair market value is defined in this Master Stewardship Agreement to cover the costs of marketing, printing, and distribution only. Fair market value must exclude any in-kind or Federal government contributions from the total costs of the project.

LL. When County of Siskiyou is seeking bids for product removal and/or stewardship items, both parties agree that the product rates and stewardship item costs used at the approval of the SPA may be based upon tentative value and planned costs. Both parties agree to establish actual rates for both product and stewardship items prior to commencement of operations. County of Siskiyou will notify the Forest Service in writing 30 days in advance to request appraisal prior to seeking formal bids. Both parties agree to modify the SPA with these actual values and costs. Modified product values shall be greater than or equal to the reappraised rates and value.

Post commencement of work, if there is a change from the established stewardship item rates, the SPA will be modified to increase or decrease the amount of services provided by County of Siskiyou, accordingly. Post commencement of work product value rate redeterminations are subject to authorizing regulation.

MM. MODIFICATION. Modifications within the scope of this Master Stewardship Agreement must be made by mutual consent of the parties, by the issuance of a written modification signed and dated by all properly authorized, signatory officials, prior to any changes being performed. Requests for modification should be made in writing, at least 30 days prior to implementation of the requested change. The Forest Service is not obligated to fund any changes not properly approved in advance.

NN. COMMENCEMENT/EXPIRATION DATE. This Master Stewardship Agreement is executed as of the date of the last signature and is effective through **July 31, 2030** at which time it will expire. The expiration date is the final date for completion of all work activities under this agreement.

OO. AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES. By signature below, each party certifies that the individuals listed in this document as representatives of the individual parties are authorized to act in their respective areas for matters related to this Master Stewardship Agreement. In witness whereof, the parties have executed this Master Stewardship Agreement as of the last date written below.

MICHAEL N. KOBSEFF, Chair of the Board
County of Siskiyou

Date

ATTEST:
LAURA BYNUM
Clerk, Board of Supervisors

By: _____
Deputy

RANDY MOORE, Regional Forester
USDA Forest Service, Pacific Southwest Region

Date

The authority and format of this Master Stewardship Agreement have been reviewed and approved for signature.

CONSTANCE ZIPPERER
USDA Forest Service Grants Management Specialist

Date

Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0596-0217. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 4 hours per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

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