

# TONGASS COLLABORATIVE STEWARDSHIP GROUP

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History and Next Steps

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The Tongass Collaborative Stewardship Group (TCSG) works to enhance ecological, social, and economic well being in Southeast Alaska by supporting collaboration among practitioners of land management and resource stewardship.

With a young growth strip thinning project near Hollis as a backdrop, field trip participants consider how to most effectively coordinate and ensure support for the transition at the local, regional, and national scales. *(Photo courtesy of David Albert)*



# Stewardship contracting

## Focus on Restoration

Improve the resource conditions of the project area

### Examples

- Thinning to improve wildlife habitat
- Fixing red pipes
- Road work to stop erosion
- Add wood to streams improve fish habitat
- Treat invasive weeds



## Must Collaborate



Allows 'Goods' to be traded for 'Services'



## Allows for Use of 'Retained Receipts' on Other Projects



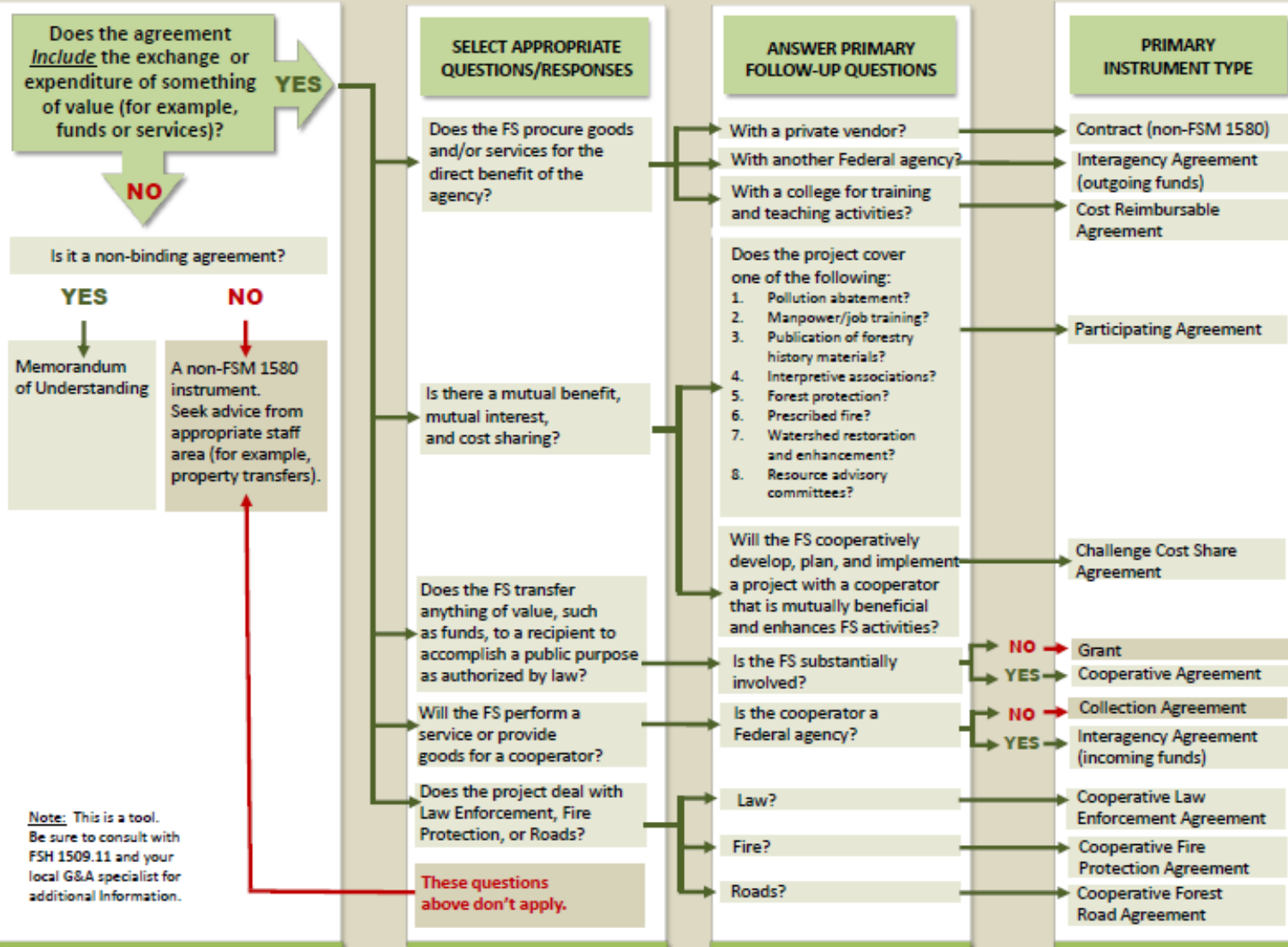
## Allows Projects to Be Bundled

- Agency efficiency
- Contractor efficiency





# THE AGREEMENTS' DECISION TREE





## Ecosystem Workforce Program



### A QUICK GUIDE FOR CREATING HIGH-QUALITY JOBS THROUGH RESTORATION ON NATIONAL FORESTS

WINTER 2012

**F**orest Service policies and programs promote the integration of forest and watershed restoration with local economic development. For example, the Collaborative Landscape Restoration Program, stewardship contracting, and the Watershed Condition Framework all explicitly link rural community benefit and restoration. By providing opportunities for local businesses to restore and manage ecosystems, national forests and grasslands and their partners can help create jobs and build community capacity for watershed stewardship. However, you and your collaborators may not have deliberate strategies to make this happen. The purpose of this quick guide is to help you, as a national forests and grasslands staff person, work with key stakeholders and partners to develop and implement strategies to create jobs from restoration using tools already at your disposal.

#### Resources

Conducting a workforce assessment and planning a high-quality jobs program: <http://awp.uoregon.edu/resources/workforce-quality-jobs/>

Building a restoration workforce training program: <http://awp.uoregon.edu/resources/contracting-owt/>

Monitoring the economic impacts of ecosystem restoration and stewardship: <http://awp.uoregon.edu/economy>

Using best value and stewardship contracting, from Sustainable Northwest: <http://www.sustainablenorthwest.org/resources/publications/Best%20Value%20Guidebook.pdf>

#### Creating and implementing a high-quality jobs program

Developing and implementing a high-quality jobs program involves several steps. Typically, you and your partners will need to assess the workforce and business capacity in your area; develop and implement a plan to build business and workforce capacity and modify agency employment, contracting, and agreement strategies to increase local benefit; monitor outcomes of your plan; and learn and adapt.

##### 1. Build collaborative partnerships

To be successful, job creation and economic development typically involves collaboration and coordination among many entities. Forest Service personnel will need to partner with other government, nongovernmental, and educational entities to accomplish these activities. These may include workforce development agencies, community colleges, nonprofit organizations, educational programs, and natural resource collaboratives. In addition, multiple staff members on your national forest or grassland may need to be involved, including those responsible for land management as well as contract and agreement development.

There are some activities that national forest personnel can effectively undertake, such as providing contracting data for a workforce assessment, modifying contracting practices, developing seasonal employment strategies, or providing projects for training programs. In other cases, personnel may lack the authority to take the lead, such as to collect data about contractors



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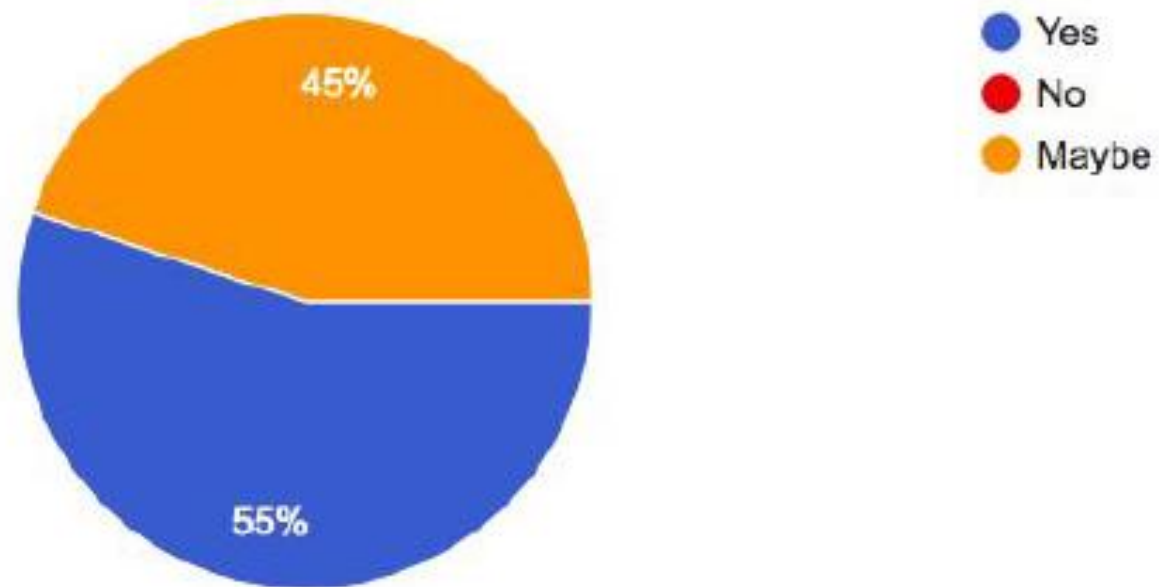
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# Lessons in collaboration

- *Start early*
- *Clearly Identify Roles and Expectations*
- *Facilitation*
- *Committed Leadership*
- *Openness and Transparency*
- *Commitment to the Process*

## Should the TCSG continue to operate in Southeast Alaska?

20 responses





- A communication network for practitioners working on collaborative natural resource management
- USFS is primary “target”, “benefactor”, etc.; but should include all landowners and partners
- Consider broadening focus from collaborative restoration to include other forest programs (i.e. tourism, recreation, timber, planning)
- Differs but with overlap from SEAKFHP; SSP; TTC
- The current decision-making structure does not support effective/efficient decision-making

