

NEWS



Forest Service

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE, October 6, 2003
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LAS 04-01

FOREST SERVICE EMPLOYEES WILL CONTINUE TRAIL, FACILITY AND GROUNDS MAINTENANCE WORK UNDER COMPETITIVE SOURCING

Susanville, Calif., Oct. 6, 2003--Lassen National Forest (NF) employees will continue to do maintenance work on trails, facilities and grounds, following competitive sourcing studies comparing the costs to those of private sector contractors.

“I am pleased that our in-house performance of these duties can be done at a lower cost than contractors, ensuring that taxpayers are getting the most for their money,” said Lassen NF Supervisor Ed Cole. “The 15 skilled and efficient employees doing these jobs on this forest will all continue their fine work in these areas.”

On all 18 NF's in California, duties of a total of 535 employees, whose jobs also include other duties, were studied in strict compliance with guidelines established by the Office of Management and Budget, USDA and FS to ensure accuracy, consistency and fairness. These employees will now work under a Letter of Obligation, which is essentially the government's contract to accomplish the work.

As the government-wide competitive sourcing studies continue, decisions are expected in early December on vehicle fleet maintenance and roads maintenance. These studies, which are more complex than those leading to today's announcement, include development of a Most Efficient Organization (MEO) as the basis for in-house bids. These MEO's are typically smaller than the existing organization, so changes in the fleet and roads maintenance workforce are expected whether the work stays in-house or goes to private sector contractors.

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