

# Ecosystem Workforce Program

**WORKING PAPERS**

## Forest and Watershed Restoration and Maintenance Opportunities and Capacity In the Siuslaw Basin

EWP WORKING PAPER NUMBER 16, WINTER 2006

*Carrie Stone*

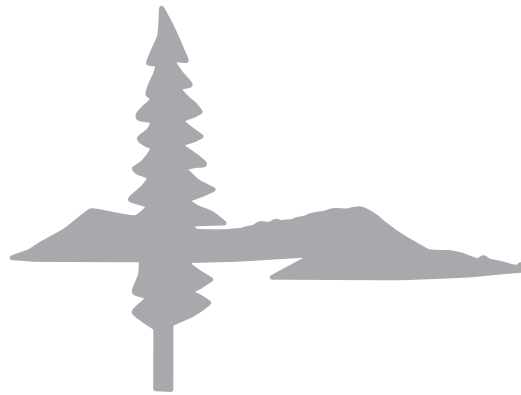
**Ecosystem Workforce Program, University of Oregon**

*Shiloh Sundstrom*

**Siuslaw Institute**

*Cassandra Moseley*

**Ecosystem Workforce Program, University of Oregon**



Institute for a Sustainable Environment



UNIVERSITY OF OREGON

### **About the Authors**

*Carrie Stone* is a graduate student in Community and Regional Planning in the Department of Planning, Public Policy, and Management at the University of Oregon.

*Shiloh Sundstrom* is from the Siuslaw Basin and is currently a graduate student at Oregon State University, College of Forestry.

*Cassandra Moseley* is the director of the EWP.

### **Acknowledgements**

This project was made possible by funding from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and the Ford Foundation.



### **Ecosystem Workforce Program**

#### **Institute for a Sustainable Environment**

5247 University of Oregon

Eugene, OR 97403-5247

541-346-4545

Fax 541-346-2040

<http://ewp.uoregon.edu>

[ewp@uoregon.edu](mailto:ewp@uoregon.edu)

# Forest and Watershed Restoration and Maintenance

## Opportunities and Capacity in the Siuslaw Basin

### **Introduction and Purpose**

This report is designed as a tool to develop strategies to increase the local economic benefit from forest and watershed restoration activities in the Siuslaw Basin. This information can be used as a background information to help identify areas of opportunity for local contractors as well as draw attention to current federal contracting trends.

The report has four major parts. First, it analyzes the distribution and types of service and construction contracts awarded by the Siuslaw National Forest and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Eugene District from 2001 to 2005, specifically examining the distribution of service and construction contracts to firms local. Second, it assesses the contracting activity of non-profit organizations that undertake restoration activities. Third, the document reports projections of upcoming restoration work. Finally, it discusses local contracting capacity to perform restoration work in the basin.

### **About the Siuslaw Basin**

The Siuslaw Basin is a geographically diverse watershed with valleys in the eastern area, steep slopes in the Coast Mountain Range, and dunes and wetlands near Florence. It covers approximately 504,000 acres and is located on the central Oregon coast. The basin, historically covered by fast-growing conifers, mainly consists of younger trees due to clearcut timber harvesting activities (Kauffman, Toth, and Sundstrom 2005).

The majority of the Siuslaw Basin is publicly owned. The Forest Service manages around 25 percent, the Bureau of Land Management, 25 percent, and the State of Oregon, 7 percent. Private industrial and non-industrial owners control the rest of the area—approximately 40 percent (Kaufman, Toth, and Sundstrom 2005).

### **Federal Forest Management Contracting**

The Siuslaw National Forest as a whole awarded \$12.17 million in forest and watershed related service and construction contracts from 2001 through 2005. The total annual contract value awarded peaked in 2002 at \$3.1 million. However, between 2002 and 2005 total contract value declined by 64 percent. Local contractors received 4 percent of the total contract value awarded between 2001 and 2005. The majority of these contracts utilized heavy equipment and machinery. Semi-local contractors—those located outside the region but still nearby—received 10 percent of the total contract value awarded. Like local contractors, the majority of these jobs utilized heavy equipment and machinery.

Local contractors were awarded 9 percent of national forest contracts that were performed in the Basin, a higher percentage than was the case for the forest as a whole. For these contracts, local contractors were most competitive in road work and weed control.

The BLM Eugene District awarded \$2.4 million worth of contracts between 2001 and 2006 that were valued over \$25,000. Local firms did not receive any of these service and construction contracts during 2001-2005. Semi-local firms received a few contracts, but non-local firms were the most competitive in every contract category.

### **Non-Profit Restoration Contracting**

We were able to identify a total of \$2.9 million of worth of grants awarded to local non-profits for watershed restoration and monitoring work from 2001 to 2007. Grants awarded to the Siuslaw Watershed Council (SWC), Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), and other non-profits ranged from stream work, tree planting, restoration and enhancement activities, and other types of work. Most of this work was contracted out.

## **Upcoming Restoration Activities**

We spoke with staff from Siuslaw Watershed Council, SWCD, and National Forest to determine likely restoration activities to take place in the Siuslaw Basin over the next five years. The projected activities are based on people's estimates, not on funding commitments (Table 1). Many of the jobs listed in the table below are within the capacity and expertise of local contractors, although some of the jobs require specialized skills or licenses.

## **Local Contractor Capacity**

Eighteen local contractors were interviewed by phone to determine local work capacity, experience, and interest. Contractors answered questions about types of equipment they owned, typical crew sizes, and interest in new types of work, ways to improve local work opportunities, and assistance and training needs. Contractors revealed a diversity of experience and interest.

There are local businesses that have heavy equipment and have interest or experience activities such as in stream restoration, road building and maintenance, and logging. Additionally, there is a capacity and interest for scientific monitoring activities as well as project management and development. Most of the firms are small with few employees. This works well for smaller contracts but may hinder their participation in larger, labor-intensive projects. However, many of the contractors seemed eager to expand if work was steady and available. The diversity of experience, willingness to expand, and interest in a variety of work suggests that local contractors are willing partners in the development of an ecosystem restoration industry in the Siuslaw Basin.

## **Conclusions**

This report revealed that there are likely some opportunities for local contractors to increase their work capacity within the Siuslaw Basin. The majority of National Forest and BLM contracts have historically been awarded to non-local firms, but there may be potential to increase the local awards, particularly in the equipment category. The assessment of upcoming restoration activities forecasts a variety of future work. Work especially suitable for local contractors includes roadwork, stream restoration/fish habitat improvement, and meadow mowing.

**Table 1 - Upcoming Restoration Activities in the Siuslaw Basin**

<b>Type of Work</b>	<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Expected work (estimates only)</b>
Upland restoration/tree thinning	Siuslaw National Forest (stewardship contracts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Non-vegetation restoration jobs.</li> <li>▪ Precommercial thinning activities on 800 to 1,000 acres per year for the next three years.</li> </ul>
Culvert replacement	Watershed Council as well as possible state funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Two to three culvert replacement projects per year.</li> </ul>
Road closure and decommissioning	Siuslaw National Forest (stewardship contracts)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Two to three decommission projects in the next five years.</li> <li>▪ Ten fill-and-removal projects in the next five years.</li> <li>▪ 100 miles of closure and water bar work in the next five years.</li> </ul>
Upland tree planting	Siuslaw National Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 400 acres of upland tree planting per year for the next three years.</li> </ul>
Riparian tree planting	SWCD Siuslaw National Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Riparian tree provider (around 1,000 to 2,500 trees per year).</li> <li>▪ Volunteers do majority of tree planting, but a small amount of projects are paid.</li> </ul>
Tree release	Siuslaw National Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 80 acres of riparian tree release in the next seven years.</li> </ul>
Noxious weed removal/abatement	Siuslaw National Forest Watershed Council SWCD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Scotchbroom, blackberry, and Japanese knotweed, gorse weed removal, to be removed in multiple ways.</li> </ul>
Estuary restoration	SWCD Watershed Council Ecotrust	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Number of jobs is unknown at this time, but estuary restoration work is likely to continue for several years.</li> </ul>
Stream restoration/fish habitat improvements	Siuslaw National Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ One large-scale stream restoration in the next three to five years.</li> <li>▪ Two to three excavator-based log placements over the next five years.</li> </ul>
Fencing	SWCD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ 1/4 mile of fencing per year.</li> </ul>
Meadow mowing	Siuslaw National Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Likely to continue to contract 100 acres of mowing per year to maintain meadow elk habitat.</li> </ul>
Planning, assessment, monitoring, project management	Watershed Council SWCD Siuslaw National Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Jobs include the development, management, assessment, and monitoring of restoration projects.</li> </ul>

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**ONE: PURPOSE AND METHODS ..... 1**

**TWO: ASSESSMENT OF FEDERAL CONTRACTS -  
SIUSLAW NATIONAL FOREST..... 3**

**THREE: ASSESSMENT OF  
FEDERAL CONTRACTS - BLM ..... 11**

**FOUR: ASSESSMENT OF SWCD,  
WATER COUNCIL, AND NON-PROFIT FUNDING ..... 13**

**FIVE: UPCOMING RESTORATION ACTIVITIES..... 15**

**SIX: ASSESSMENT OF LOCAL  
CONTRACTOR CAPACITY IN THE SIUSLAW BASIN ..... 19**

**APPENDIX A: SIUSLAW BASIN LOCAL AREA  
TOWNS AND CITIES ..... 24**

**REFERENCES..... 25**

## LIST OF TABLES AND FIGURES

### Tables

1. Upcoming restoration activities within the Siuslaw Basin.....	iii
2. Service and Construction Contracts Categorized into Labor Types.....	1
3. Forest Service Contracts Performed in the Siuslaw Basin, 2001-2005.....	6
4. Siuslaw Watershed Council Restoration Grants, 2001-2007.....	13
5. Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District Restoration Grants 2001-2007.....	13
6. Stewardship Fund Project - Other Non-Profits 2001-2006.....	14
7. Contractor Experience by Work Activity, Siuslaw Basin, 2006.....	19
8. Heavy Equipment Belonging to Siuslaw Basin Contractors, 2006.....	20
9. Labor Intensive and Technical Equipment Belonging to Siuslaw Basin Contractors, 2006.....	20

### Figures

1. Percentage of Total Contract Value by Location Siuslaw National Forest, 2001-2005.....	4
2. Total Value by Work Type and Year Siuslaw National Forest, 2001-2005.....	4
3. Total Value by Location and Work Type Siuslaw National Forest, 2001-2005.....	7
4. Total Number of Contracts per Year Siuslaw National Forest, 2001-2005.....	7
5. Number of Contracts in Each Size Class Siuslaw National Forest, 2001-2005.....	8
6. Average Contract Price per Year Siuslaw National Forest, 2001-2005.....	8
7. Contracted Labor-Intensive Forest Restoration and Maintenance Work Siuslaw National Forest, 2001-2005.....	9
8. Contracted Equipment-Intensive Forest Restoration and Maintenance Work - Siuslaw National Forest, 2001-2005.....	10

# Chapter One: Purpose and Methods

## Purpose of This Report

This report is a tool to help develop strategies to increase the amount of forest and watershed restoration and maintenance opportunities for contractors and workers in the Siuslaw Basin. This information will help identify areas of opportunity for local contractors as well as draw attention to current federal contracting trend. The purpose of this report is to:

- Determine the types and distribution of service and construction contracts awarded to local, semi-local, and non-local contractors.
- Estimate the capacity of local contractors to provide service and construction contracts within the Siuslaw Basin.
- Assess the types and availability of upcoming restoration activities within the Siuslaw Basin.

## Methods

We performed an analysis of service and construction contracts awarded by the Siuslaw National Forest and Bureau of Land Management Eugene District from 2001 to 2005 to accomplish the tasks outlined above. We also assessed the potential for future restoration jobs to gain a sense of job availability within the Siuslaw Basin. Finally, we interviewed 18 local contractors to assess their interests, abilities, and needs to perform work within the Siuslaw Basin.

## Assessment of Federal Contracting

The analysis of service and construction contracts identified the location of firms awarded service and construction contracts in the Siuslaw National Forest and Bureau of Land Management Eugene District. Contractors were placed into three categories depending on their geographic location. Contractors located in the Siuslaw Basin miles were deemed “local.” Contractors located in communities near the Basin were identified as “semi-local.” More distant contractors were labeled as “non-local.” See appendix A for a complete categorization of communities. Contractors were categorized as “unknown” if address information was unavailable.

Service and construction contracts require a variety of labor, equipment, and skill. Three categories were created to help classify the type of skill required for the various contracts (Table 2). Jobs that rely on the operation of equipment and heavy machinery fall into the “equipment” category. The “labor” category represents jobs that are dependent upon physical labor. The “technical” category includes jobs that require advanced knowledge about a particular subject. Service contract jobs that could not be categorized are labeled as “unknown.”

**Table 2 - Service and Construction Contracts Organized into Labor Types**

Equipment	Fertilization, habitat improvement, mowing, weedeating, weeding, campground improvement, boardwalk repair, toilet installation, road work, seed production, subsoiling, trail work
Labor	Fencing, culvert/tide gate repair, install fish passages, log scaling, herbicide, inoculation, brushing, pruning, riparian revegetation, tube maintenance, site preparation, snag and down wood creation, tree topping, thinning, habitat enhancement, tree planting, underplanting, tubing, tree cutting, tree seedling and seedling protection, tube installation and maintenance
Technical	Air quality analysis, log scaling, invasive species monitoring, botanical surveys, cadastral survey, stand exam, wetland assessment, wildlife surveys, vegetation mapping
Unknown	Unknown



## **Assessment of Upcoming Restoration Work**

To gain a sense of restoration activities that are likely to take place in the Siuslaw Basin over the next five years, we contacted staff from Siuslaw Watershed Council, Soil and Water Conservation District and National Forest. We spoke to a total of 13 people. We asked individuals from these agencies and organizations open-ended questions to gain their estimate on potential restoration work within the Siuslaw Basin. All information gathered are estimates only, as funding has not been established to date for many of the potential projects.

## **Assessment of Local Contracting Capacity**

To gauge the capacity of local firms, we interviewed 18 local contractors. Names of local firms engaging in restoration activities throughout the Siuslaw Basin were gathered from a variety of sources. Over the last five years the Siuslaw National Forest has contracted with 8 local contractors, seven that are currently doing business. The Eugene District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has not awarded any local contracts valued over \$25,000 and we do not have any information about BLM contracts less than \$25,000. However, through word of mouth we were able to interview two contractors who have dealt with the BLM in the past or hold a current BLM contract. In the non-profit sector, the Siuslaw Watershed Council and Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District have contracted with at least 10 local contractors to develop and implement a variety of restoration and monitoring activities over the past several years. One of these contractors was also used by the SNF in the past five years. Additionally, two other contractors were added to the list by the interviewer based on his knowledge of local contractors. All together the names of 22 contractors were gathered. By no means was this a comprehensive list of contractors in the Siuslaw Basin as it is extremely difficult to determine that total number, although the effort was made to include as many as possible. Of the 21 contractors contacted, a total of 18 contractors responded and were interviewed for the project.

# Chapter Two: Siuslaw National Forest Contracting

## Purpose

The following section analyzes information on federal service and construction contracts in the Siuslaw National Forest. The analysis contains information on local contracting trends, including:

- The size and type of contracts awarded by the Siuslaw National Forest.
- Trends on what kinds of work local, semi-local, and non-local firms captured.

## Findings

The Siuslaw National Forest awarded \$12.17 million in service contracts from 2001-2005 for activities associated with land management. The annual value of contracts awarded declined from a peak of \$3.1 million in 2002 to \$1.88 million in 2005. This represents a decline of 64 percent from 2002 to 2005. It is not known how much of this decline is an artifact of incorporating service work in stewardship contracts and how much is an actual reduction in the amount of service work implemented.

Between 2001-2005, local contractors received 4 percent or \$421,000 of the total contract value awarded and semi-local contractors received 10 percent or \$1.2 million of the total contract value awarded (Figure 1). Non-local contractors secured the majority of the contracts amounting to \$10.3 million or 85 percent of the total contract value awarded.

## Contracts by Work Type

Placing the service and construction contracts into equipment, labor, and technical categories helps to identify the types of jobs that local and semi-local firms are most competitive. The majority of the total contracts were equipment-intensive, with 60 percent of the total contract value awarded. The labor category was the second largest category, representing 30 percent of the total contract value awarded. The technical category represented just 3 percent of the total contract value awarded (Figure 2).

Local contractors received 4 percent of the total contract value awarded in the equipment category (Figure 3). Although this percentage may seem small, equipment contracts represented 78 percent of the total contract value awarded to local companies. Local contractors captured less than 1 percent of the total labor contract value awarded. Labor contracts represented 7 percent of the total contract value awarded to local companies. Local contractors received 5 percent of the technical contract value awarded. Technical contracts comprised 5 percent of the total contract value awarded to local companies.

Fourteen of 17 equipment contracts for local contractors were jobs related to roadwork. Jobs ranged from road striping, road maintenance, culvert replacement, to road decommissioning. The three labor contracts awarded to local firms included thinning, habitat improvement, and tree planting and cutting. The four technical contracts captured by local firms included cadastral surveys and a stand exam.

Semi-local firms were most competitive in the equipment category. Semi-local contractors captured 13 percent of the total equipment contract value awarded. This represented 76 percent of the total contract value awarded to semi-local companies. The semi-local companies received 2 percent of the total labor contract value awarded. Labor contracts amounted to 5 percent of the total contract value awarded to semi-local companies. Semi-local firms were more competitive than local firms in the technical category. They received 14 percent of the total technical contract value awarded. Technical contracts represented 5 percent of the total contract value awarded to semi-local companies.

Of the eight equipment contracts captured by semi-local firms, three were for roadwork, three were habitat improvement jobs, one was for plant control, and one was for recreation improvements. Three of the eight equipment contracts captured by semi-local firms were for roadwork. Semi-local firms captured 6 labor contracts. Labor contracts ranged from plant control, mowing, brushing, and tree planting. Semi-local firms received six technical contracts which included a biological survey and snag creation. Overall, non-local firms were competitive in all work type categories.

Figure 1 - Percentage of Total Contract Value by Location - Siuslaw National Forest, 2001-2005

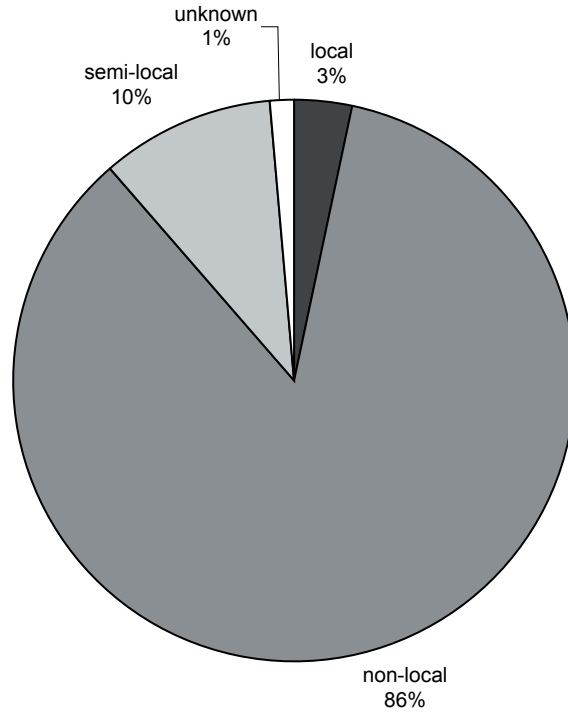
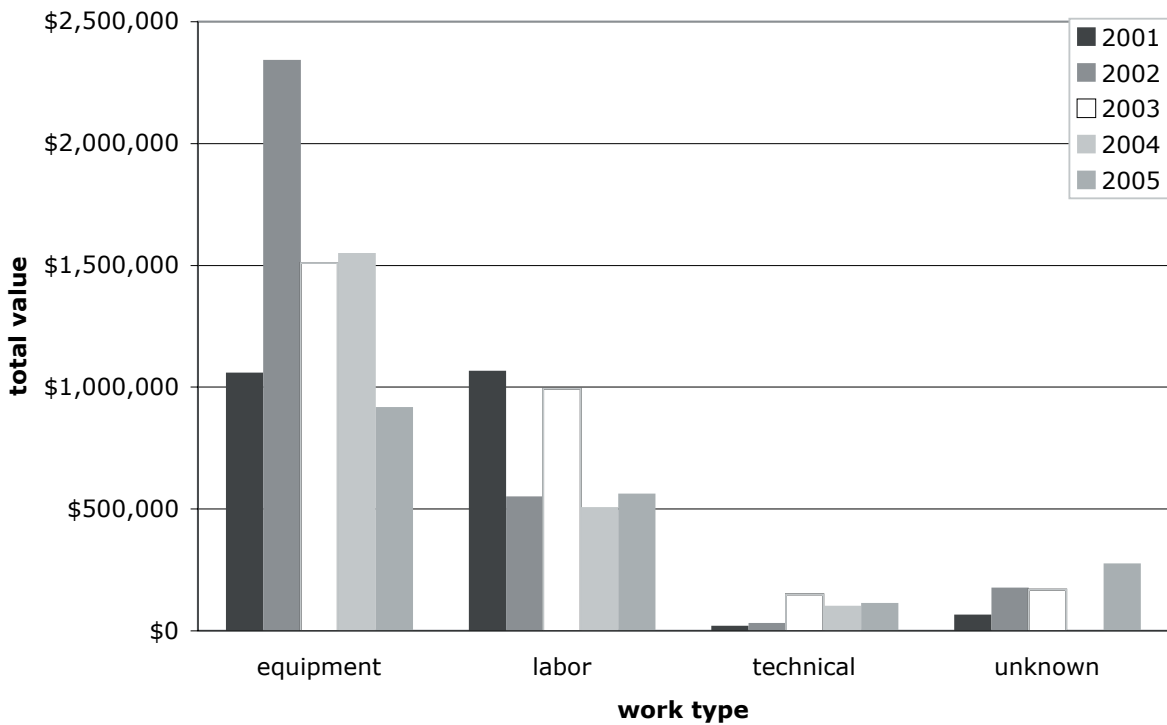


Figure 2 - Total Value by Work Type and Year - Siuslaw National Forest, 2001-2005



They received 82 percent of the total equipment contract value, 97 percent of the total labor contract value, and 75 percent of the total technical contract value awarded.

## Number and Value of Contracts

In addition to examining contracts by work type, contracts were also analyzed by the total number of contracts awarded and the value of contracts awarded to local, semi-local, and non-local firms. This analysis helps determine the sizes of contracts local contractors are most competitive at capturing.

Between 2001 and 2005, the Siuslaw National Forest awarded between 41 and 52 service and construction contracts each year (Figure 4). The total number of contracts awarded during the five-year period remained fairly constant even though the total contract value awarded decreased.

Local firms received 26 out of the total 235 awarded contracts from 2001-2005. Twenty-one of the 26 contracts captured by local contractors were less than \$25,000. Local firms did not capture any contracts valued over \$100,000 (Figure 5).

Semi-local firms captured 26 out of the total 235 contracts awarded from 2001-2005. Twenty of the 26 contracts were worth less than \$25,000. Unlike the local firms, semi-local contractors were able to capture six contracts worth over \$100,000.

Non-local firms captured 174 of the total 235 awarded contracts from 2001-2005. Non-local firms secured 87 contracts worth less than \$25,000. They captured 53 of 60 contracts valued between \$25,000 and \$99,999. Non-local firms received 34 of the 40 contracts valued over \$100,000.

The average contract value was lower for local contractors. The average contract value for local contractors was \$16,560. Semi-local contractors had a higher average contract value at \$49,368. Not surprisingly, non-local contractors had the highest average contract value at \$61,560.

Although non-local contractors had the highest average contract value, it is interesting to note that the yearly average of non-local contracts steadily declined from 2001-2005. The average non-local contract value in 2001 was \$70,681 and in 2005 it was \$46,911 (Figure 6). On the other hand, semi-local contractors saw an increase in average contract value from 2001-2004. The average 2001 contract value was \$12,198 and the average 2004

contract value was \$87,312. However, semi-local average contract values dramatically declined in 2005 with an average value of \$5,343. The average local contract value fluctuated during the 2001-2005 period. Local contractors saw an increase in average contract value in 2002 and 2003, but by 2005 the local contract value was below the 2001 average contract value.

Figures 7 and 8 illustrate the type and size of contract value distribution described above. Figure 7 explains the distribution of contracts in the labor category per town. Each circle represents the total value awarded to contractors in that community. The majority of the contractors who received contracts in the labor category are located along the Interstate-5 corridor with a scattering of awards elsewhere. Figure 8 shows the distribution of equipment contracts. Although the majority of the contracts are still along the dv corridor, local communities captured more value than was the case for labor-intensive contracts.

## Contracts Awarded Within the Siuslaw Basin

Siuslaw National Forest contracts that were performed in the basin were analyzed. Activities included instream habitat work, meadow mowing, riparian and forest reforestation and thinning activities, a variety of road work activities, weed control as well as a variety of other tasks such as surveying (Table 3). Contractors located in the Siuslaw Basin were awarded 9 percent of the total value of these contracts. Semi-local contractors obtained 6 percent of contract value and non-local contractors, 83 percent. Local contractors captured 66 percent of the meadow mowing value, 31 percent of the weed control value, and 17 percent of the value of the road work. Local contractors were less competitive in instream habit, thinning and reforestation activities, and surveying.

## Conclusions

Overall trends for the total annual contract value awarded between 2001 and 2005 show that contract spending declined. This is despite the fact that the number of total contracts awarded during this period has remained fairly constant (ranging between 41-52 annual contracts).

Non-local firms captured the vast majority of the total contract value and total number of contracts

awarded. However, it is important to note that the average annual contract value awarded to non-local firms declined during the study period while the average annual contract value awarded to local firms increased.

Of the three work types, local contractors captured the most equipment-intensive contracts and the least labor-intensive contracts.

**Table 3 - Forest Service Contracts Performed in the Siuslaw Basin, 2001-2005**

<b>Activity</b>	Total Contract Value				<i>Total</i>
	<i>Local</i>	<i>Semi-Local</i>	<i>Non-Local</i>	<i>Unknown</i>	
Instream Habitat Work	6,970	-	1,008,816	-	1,015,786
Meadow Mowing	10,265	-	-	5,265	15,530
Riparian/Upland Forest Work	22,080	58,541	992,627	-	1,073,248
Road Work	259,456	182,779	1,051,572	69,340	1,563,147
Weed Control	38,300	-	85,210	-	123,510
Other (primarily surveying)	13,770	-	168,831	10,010	192,611
<b>Total</b>	<b>350,841</b>	<b>241,319</b>	<b>3,307,056</b>	<b>84,615</b>	<b>3,983,832</b>

Figure 3 - Total Value by Location and Work Type - Siuslaw National Forest, 2001-2005

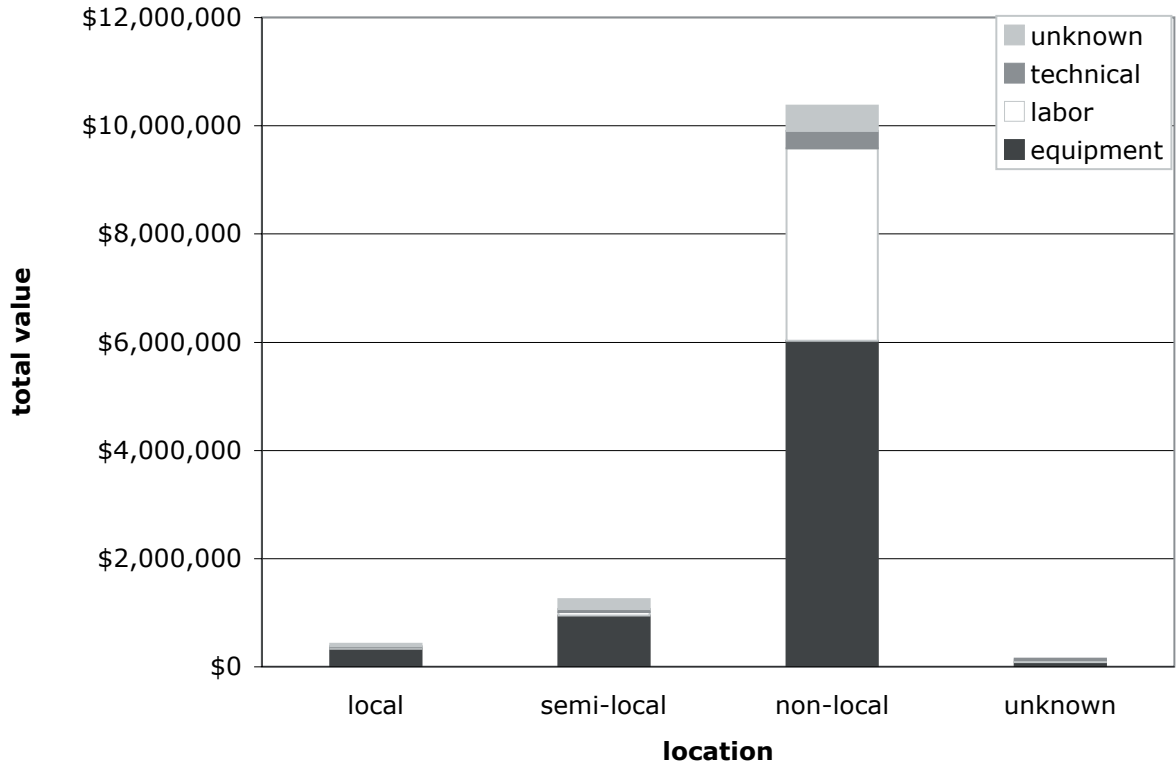


Figure 4 - Total Number of Contracts per Year - Siuslaw National Forest, 2001-2005

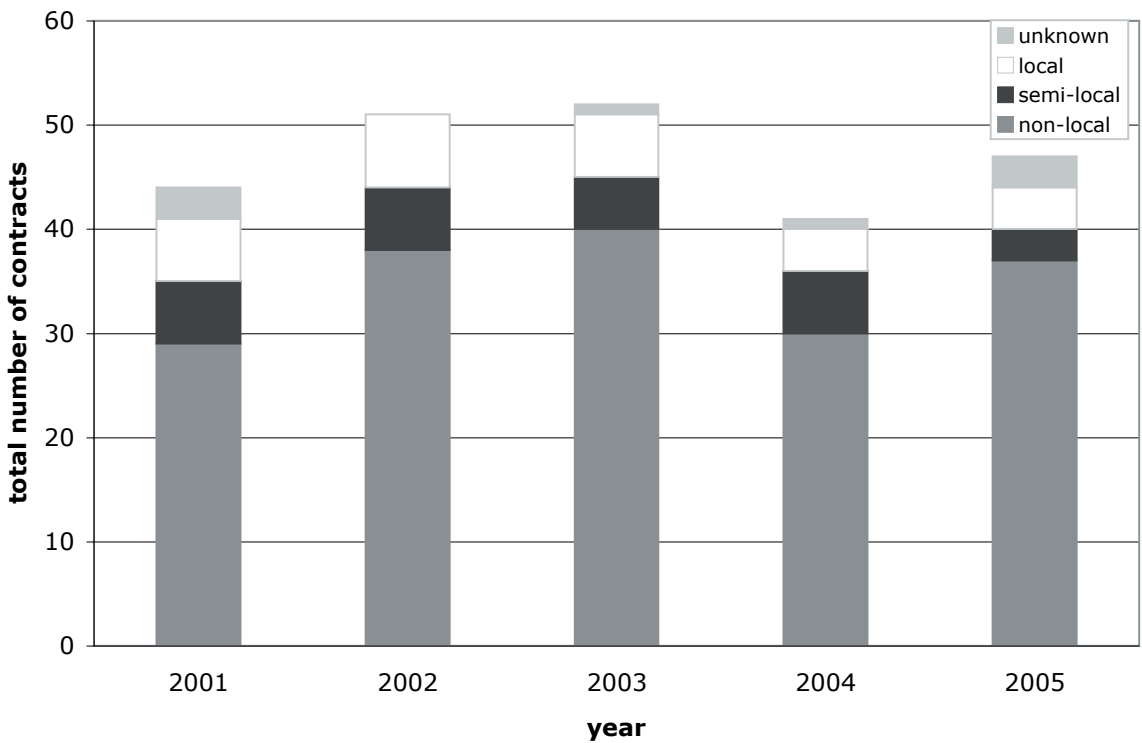


Figure 5 - Number of Contracts in Each Size Class - Siuslaw National Forest, 2001-2005

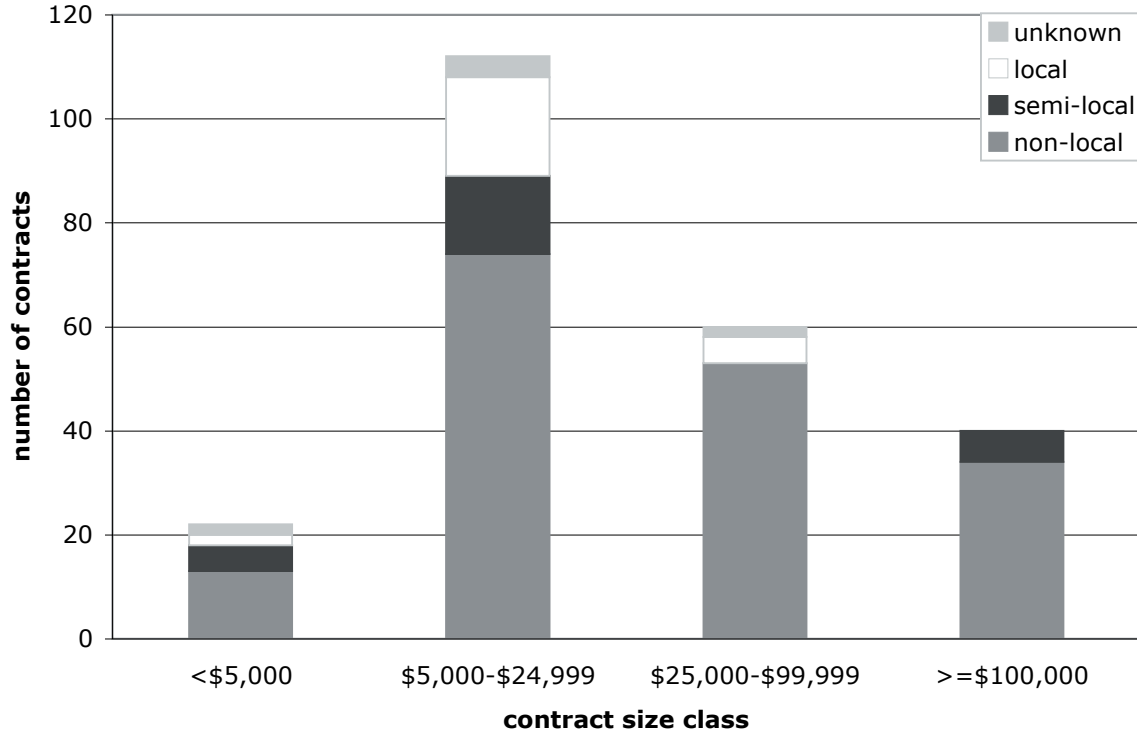


Figure 6 - Average Contract Price by Year - Siuslaw National Forest, 2001-2005

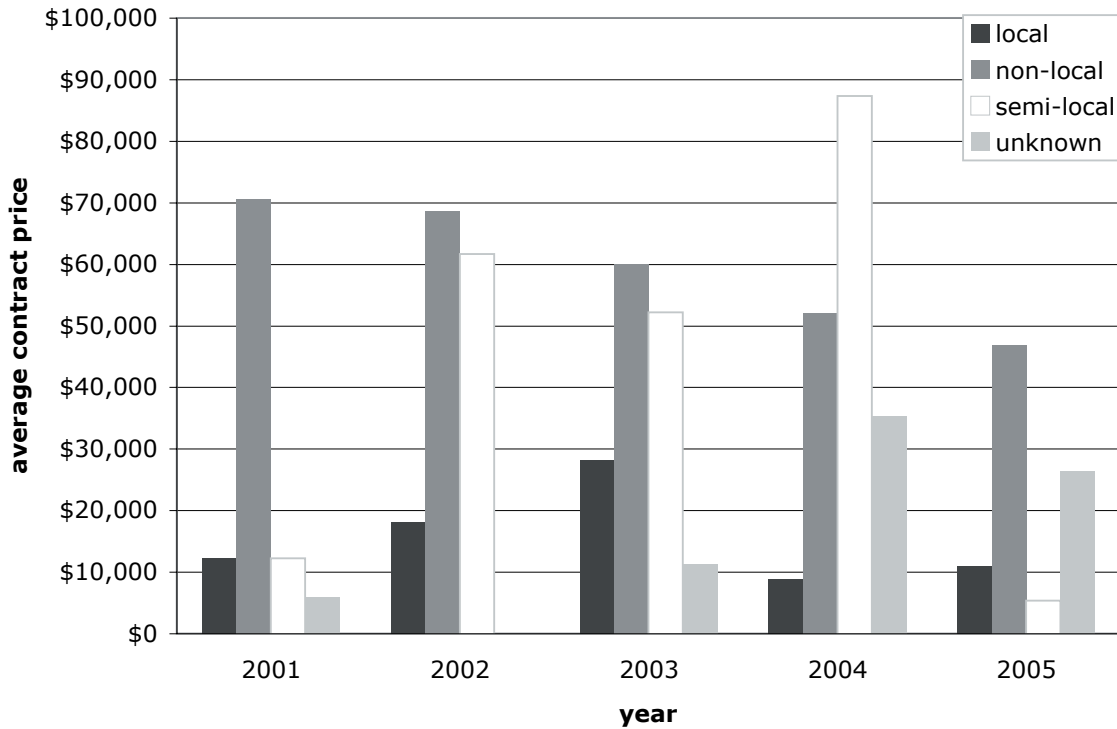


Figure 7 - Contracted Labor-Intensive Forest Restoration and Maintenance Work  
 Siuslaw National Forest, 2001-2005

**Contract totals per town**

- <\$10,000
- \$10,000 - \$49,999
- \$50,000 - \$99,999
- \$100,000 - \$499,999
- >\$500,000

- Siuslaw National Forest
- County Boundaries
- Interstate Highways

Not shown on this map:  
 \$25,193 in contract value  
 is located east of the area shown.  
 \$49,325 in labor contract value  
 without a zip code association

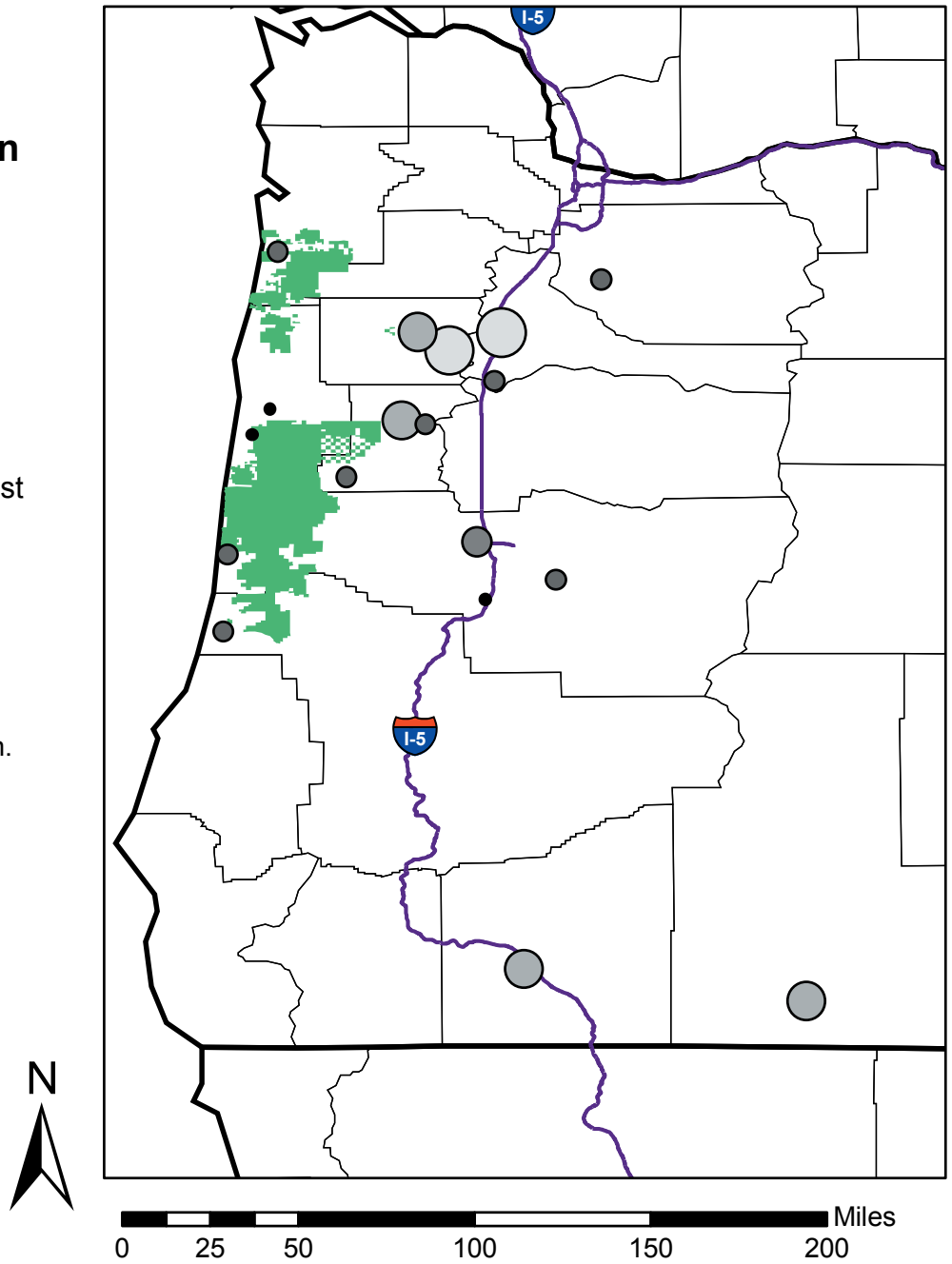
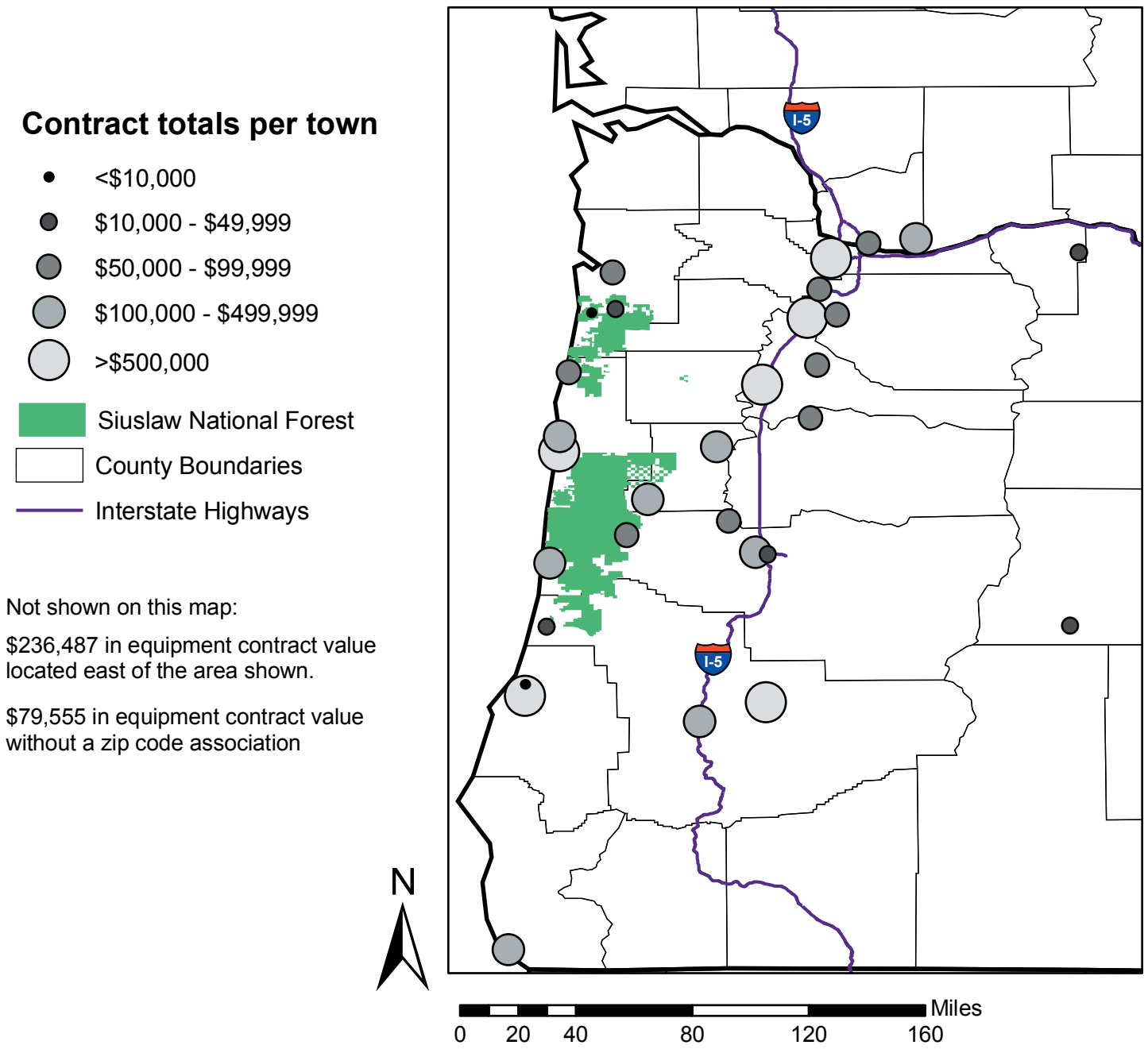




Figure 8 - Contracted Equipment-Intensive Forest Restoration and Maintenance Work  
 Siuslaw National Forest, 2001-2005



# Chapter Three: Eugene District BLM Contracting

## Purpose

The following section analyzes information on Bureau of Land Management (BLM) contracts in the Eugene District. The analysis contains information on local contracting trends, including:

- Trends on what kinds of work local, semi-local, and non-local firms captured.
- Overall BLM contract trends.

## Findings

The BLM Eugene District awarded \$2.4 million in service and construction contracts from 2001-2005. However, this amount does not include the indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contracts. Contractors make a per-unit bid on IDIQ contract. The BLM subsequently gives the winning bidders task orders to complete specific activities. Data for the final value was not available for most of these contracts.

The annual value of contracts awarded fluctuated during the study period. The year with the highest total awards was 2005 with a total non-IDIQ contract value of \$843,000. Between 2001-2005, local contractors did not receive any non-IDIQ contracts. Non-local contractors secured the majority of the contracts, 19 of the 24 non-IDIQ contracts. Semi-local contractors received 5 of the 24 non-IDIQ contracts.

## Contracts by Work Type

Placing the service and construction contracts into equipment, labor, and technical categories helps to identify the types of jobs that local and semi-local firms are most competitive. Eighty-two percent of non-IDIQ contract value was for equipment-intensive activities. Labor-intensive contracts accounted for 17 percent non-IDIQ contract value awarded. The technical activities were about 2 percent of the total non-IDIQ contract value awarded.

Semi-local firms were most competitive in the equipment category, receiving 7 percent of the total

labor non-IDIQ contract value awarded. Equipment contracts amounted to 60 percent of the total non-IDIQ contract value awarded to semi-local companies. Semi-local contractors captured 5 percent of the total labor contract value awarded. This represented 40 percent of the total contract value awarded to semi-local companies. Semi-local firms did not receive any of the non-IDIQ technical contracts.

Equipment contracts captured by semi-local firms ranged from campground improvements to chip rock, seal, and stockpiling. Labor contracts captured by semi-local firms included seed and cone extraction and storage.

Non-local firms captured 91 percent of the total equipment non-IDIQ contract value awarded, 70 percent of the total labor non-IDIQ contract value awarded, and received the only non-IDIQ technical contract awarded.

## IDIQ Contracts

The BLM Eugene District awarded 22 IDIQ contracts from 2001 to 2005. The amount of IDIQ contracts awarded per year varied significantly from one to eight contracts awarded per year. The BLM awarded seven contracts in 2001; in 2004, just one IDIQ contract was awarded. In 2005, the BLM awarded eight IDIQ contracts.

Local contractors did not receive any IDIQ contracts during this period. Semi-local contractors secured five IDIQ contracts. Four of them were for labor-intensive activities and one was a technical contract. Semi-local contractors were most competitive in the labor category, receiving 40 percent of the IDIQ labor contracts. Labor contracts included tree marking and plant control. Semi-local contractors did not secure any IDIQ equipment contracts.

Non-local contractors received 14 of the 22 IDIQ contracts. Non-local contractors secured all four of the IDIQ equipment contracts. Equipment contracts included road decommissioning. Non-local contractors received five of the 10 IDIQ labor contracts. Labor contracts included: tree marking, invasive plant control,

weed cutting, pre-commercial thinning, and cone collection. Non-local firms secured three of the six technical IDIQ contracts. Technical contracts included plant surveys and a timber stand exam.

## **BLM 2006 Contracts**

By summer 2006, there were Eugene District BLM had planned 13 contracts for 2006. There were nine equipment contracts, three labor contracts, and one multi-task project. Equipment contracts include roadwork, slashing, habitat improvement, and stump removal. Labor contracts include tree marking, plant control, and seed and cone extraction and storage. The BLM Eugene district had awarded six of the 2006 contracts. Semi-local and non-local firms received three contracts each.

## **Conclusions**

The majority of the BLM Eugene District contracts (including IDIQ and 2006 contracts) were either equipment or labor contracts. This amounted to a total of 27 equipment contracts and 22 labor contracts awarded for 2001-2006 valued over \$25,000. During this same period, the District had awarded seven technical contracts.

Equipment contracts are the majority—82 percent—of the total non-IDIQ contract value awarded. There were 14 equipment contracts awarded and nine labor contracts awarded. Labor contracts represent 17 percent of the total non-IDIQ contract value awarded.

Semi-local received the most number of contracts (both IDIQ and non-IDIQ) awarded in the labor category. However, when looking at total value of non-IDIQ contracts, semi-local firms secured more funding in the equipment category.

Local firms did not receive any of the BLM Eugene District service and construction contracts during 2001-2005. Non-local firms were the most competitive in every contract category. Non-local firms received the most number of contracts awarded (both IDIQ and non-IDIQ) as well as the most total value of non-IDIQ contracts awarded.

# Chapter Four: Non-Profit Restoration Work

## Purpose

The following section analyzes information on restoration projects performed by the Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Siuslaw Watershed Council (SWC), and other non-profits from 2001 through 2007. These projects were partially or fully funded by a range of sources, many projects included multiple funding sources and matching funds. The analysis contains information on non-profit restoration spending trends, including identification of types of restoration work and the sources of funding.

## Findings

The Siuslaw Watershed Council received a total of \$1.5 million in restoration grants between 2001 and 2007 (Table 4). The council received the most money (\$1.1 million) for stream restoration. Stream enhancement projects were the second largest project type at \$211,000. The council received one grant for tree planting and two grants for wetland restoration.

Funding for SWC projects came from several different sources. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), the Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Forest Foundation funded the stream restoration projects. OWEB, FWS, and Forest Service funded the stream enhancement projects. OWEB funded the tree planting projects and the Bonneville Power Administration and FWS funded the wetland restoration projects.

**Table 4 - Siuslaw Watershed Council Restoration Grants, 2001-2007**

<i>Type of Work</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Total Value</i>
Stream Enhancement	7	\$211,391
Stream Restoration	15	\$1,118,259
Tree Planting	1	\$51,577
Wetland Restoration	2	\$75,121
TOTAL	33	\$1,456,348

The total value for Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District projects between 2001-2007 was \$998,751 (Table 5). During this period, they received 33 grants. Riparian enhancement jobs represent the highest total value of grants at \$878,896. The Forest Service, OWEB, BLM, Oregon Department of Agriculture, FWS, and NFF funded riparian enhancement projects. SWCD received five fish passage improvement grants for a total of \$94,000. OWEB and the Forest Service funded these projects. SWCD obtained four estuary restoration projects, funded by Environmental Protection Agency, OWEB, and USFS.

Neither the watershed council or district appeared to receive RAC funds from the County Payments legislation.

**Table 5 - Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District Restoration Grants, 2001-2007**

<i>Type of Work</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Total Value</i>
Estuary Restoration	4	\$22,363
Fish Passage Improvement	5	\$93,542
Riparian Enhancement	23	\$878,896
Stream Restoration	1	\$3,950
TOTAL	33	\$998,751

The Siuslaw Stewardship fund comes from the retained receipts from stewardship projects on the Siuslaw National Forest in the Basin. Funds are used for projects that promote watershed and community health in the Siuslaw Basin. The Coastal Initiative is a multi-year, large-scale watershed restoration project covering several coastal watersheds including the Siuslaw. Excluding the watershed council and the district, there were 11 stewardship and coastal initiative awards between 2001-2006. (The council and district grants from the Stewardship Fund and Coastal Initiative are in the numbers reported above.) These projects included: a biological assessment, biological monitoring, fish passage improvement, invasive plant eradication, economic development assessment, nursery supply, riparian enhancement, and stream restoration (Table 6). In addition to the council and the district, the non-profits who received stewardship and initiative were:

- Cascade Pacific Resource and Conservation Development
- Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District
- Nestucca-Neskowin Watershed Council
- Siuslaw Institute
- Siuslaw Stewardship Group
- Stewardship Pilot
- The Nature Conservancy
- Tsalila Partnership

ing category at \$881,296 for projects between 2001-2007. Stream enhancement and fish passage improvement projects are the third and fourth funding generators at \$215,341 and \$181,830 respectively. The remaining project categories ranged from \$22,363 to \$75,121 in total funding.

**Table 6 - Stewardship Fund and Coastal Initiative Funding - Other Non-Profits 2001-2006**

<i>Type of Work</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Total Value</i>
Biological Assessment	1	\$128,930
Biological Monitoring	1	\$27,600
Fish Passage Improvement	2	\$88,288
Invasive Plant Eradication	1	\$47,968
Monitoring and Assessment	1	\$23,640
Nursery Supply	2	\$37,691
Riparian Enhancement	1	\$2,400
Stream Restoration	2	\$53,265
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>\$409,782</b>

Unfortunately, we were not able to specifically determine how much of these funds were spent using contractors or where the contractors were located. However, it does appear that most of the funds for on-the-ground restoration and monitoring work was done with contractors, with a smaller amount implemented using volunteers or in-house staff. Conversations with watershed council and district staff suggest that these two organizations use both local and non-local contractors.

## Conclusions

The restoration projects performed by the various non-profits were classified into 12 different categories. Stream restoration projects generated the most funding amounting to \$1,171,524 between 2001-2007. Riparian enhancement projects represent the second largest fund-

# Chapter Five:

## Upcoming Restoration Activities

### **Purpose**

The following identifies the restoration activities that are likely to take place in the Siuslaw Basin over the next five years. It includes information about the Siuslaw Watershed Council, Soil and Watershed Council, and National Forest. It does not include information about private industrial landowners or the BLM. The projected activities described here are based on people's estimates and projections, not on funding commitments.

### **Upland Restoration-Tree Thinning**

The Forest Service is shifting its planning efforts for upland restoration and timber harvest to the Alsea basin, where it will be focused for the next 10 years. Likely, there will not be much in the way of vegetation management via timber sales in the Siuslaw for the next 10 years. Over the next several years, however, there will be non-vegetation restoration activities funded with the money left from the stewardship contracts. In addition, there is still significant need for precommercial thinning on national forest lands in the Basin and estimates are that the forest might do something like 800 to 1,000 acres per year for the next three years. In addition, there may be a second stewardship project, with planning beginning sometime in the next few years.

### **Culvert Replacement**

The watershed council has prioritized 19 culverts for replacement. All of the high-priority culverts have been replaced on Forest Service lands. Over the next several years, there may be about 2 to 3 culvert-replacement projects per year in the basin. To date, Lane County Public Works crews have implemented the major nonfederal culvert replacement projects. The County will do some of the culvert projects in the future as will some of the industrial landowners road crews. However, there is now a need for the watershed council to find a contractor that can replace these culverts in a way that ensures that stream restoration takes place. There does not appear to be a local contractor that can to this work

and the watershed council is considering using contractors from Vancouver, WA, or elsewhere.

The state has \$1 billion for culvert work available statewide. Additional research is needed to determine if this can be translated into local restoration opportunities.

### **Road Closure and Decommissioning**

The Siuslaw NF has a significant road maintenance backlog, but limited funds to address roads issues. Much of the maintenance activities have been funded through the Payments to Counties legislation over the past several years. It is unclear if this federal legislation will be reauthorized.

The emphasis of the national forest is to water-bar and close roads that are not on major transportation corridors. There will also be some decommissioning activity. Currently, much of the decommissioning and closure work done as part of the stewardship contracts and timber sales, although some will be done outside of stewardship contracts and sales, though traditional construction contracting mechanisms. The forest no longer has its own road maintenance crew.

A major wave decommissioning and closures has recently been completed. However, there will likely be more as the remaining stewardship projects are completed. There will likely be 2-3 decommissioning projects in the next 5 years as well as 10 fill-and-removal projects and 100 miles of closure and water bar work to be done in the next 5 years.

### **Upland Tree Planting**

When the Forest Service undertakes tree thinning, tree planting often follows. As the Siuslaw National Forest shifts its thinning efforts to the Alsea, upland tree planting activities in the Basin will likely decline here and increase in the Alsea. It's estimated that the Forest Service might do about 400 acres of upland tree planting annually over the next 3 years. The Forest Service gets its conifer trees from its own

J. Herbert Stone Nursery in Jacksonville. Sometimes it purchases non-conifer trees from outside vendors.

## Riparian Tree Planting

The watershed council has an annual free tree distribution program, in which landowners get trees from the watershed councils to plant on their lands. Landowners or other volunteers plant these trees. In addition, the watershed council also does some projects that involve paying for tree planting. Watershed council distributes about 10,000 native plants and trees a year through the Siuslaw Riparian Restoration project.

The SWCD primarily uses contractors to implement its tree planting projects because they feel that it is more likely that the trees will get planted. The district has used a number of local and Willamette Valley-based contractors to plant their trees.

The SWCD plants something like 1,000 to 2,500 potted trees a year. One of the challenges they face is finding a good supply of trees locally of good quality, especially trees in pots. One barrier to finding high-quality, local suppliers is that the timing of grant funding makes it difficult to order trees in advance.

The Forest Service also undertakes riparian tree planting.

## Tree Release

For tree planting to be effective in the Siuslaw, it needs to be followed by maintenance. In recent years, the Forest Service has maintained a crew of 6 people out of the Mapleton Forest Service upper compound. One of the activities that this crew has performed riparian tree release activities on the national forest. Currently, the Forest Service also contracts out some riparian release work. Over the next 7 years, at least, there will likely be about 80 acres a year of riparian tree release work on the national forest.

In November 2007, the Mapleton District of the Siuslaw National Forest will be moving to Waldport and it is unclear whether this crew will be maintained out of Mapleton.

In addition, the forest service has supervised watershed council and, and increasingly, youth conservation corps crews to undertake on riparian tree release on the trees that have been given away through the watershed

council tree-planting program. The council typically pays the Oregon Youth Conservation Core between \$8,000 - \$10,000 a year for their release services.

## Noxious Weed Removal and Abatement

The national forest, watershed council, and SWCD are all working on noxious weed removal, including Scotchbroom, blackberry, and Japanese knotweed, gorse weed. This work is implemented in a number of different ways.

Some of the removal is done by hand and some involves chemical application and thus a pesticide applicators license. The watershed council has a 'no chemical policy' and therefore does not participate in the implementation of projects involving herbicide application.

The Forest Service has been using prison crews to pull Scotchbroom. This has been funded by Payments to Counties. The Forest Service gorseweed abatement out near the dunes involves herbicides and is done by a contractor. The Forest Service expects to double its Japanese Knotweed removal activity in the coming years.

The SWCD is conducting a Japanese Knotweed assessment, but is currently raising money for abatement. The SWCD has been using a small Eugene-based contractor to implement these projects; qualified contractors are relatively rare.

## Estuary Restoration

The SWCD, watershed council, and Ecotrust are currently involved in an effort to undertake estuary restoration, funded through a grant from the EPA. They have completed a prioritization of areas for restoration and are currently in conversation with landowners to attempt develop and implement projects. This effort is going much more slowly than was hoped, so it is not currently clear how many projects will ultimately be undertaken. There is likely to be a two-landowner project within the next couple of months. Estuary restoration work will likely continue for several years, well beyond the end of the EPA-funded project. But, undertaking new projects may depend on a change of land ownership. Newcomers who are not planning to graze or farm appear more interested in restoration than do the

long-term residents with agricultural operations. Activities will might include tide gate removal, dike removal, riparian planting. With the exception of the planting, these are largely activities involving heavy equipment.

## **Stream Restoration and Fish Habitat Improvements**

The Forest Service might do one large-scale stream restoration project analogous to Karnousky Creek in the next 3-5 years, probably in Five Mile Creek (although what the project will involve has not yet been determined). However, as part of the remaining stewardship contracting projects as well as other activities, the Forest Service will likely do a number of log placement projects. Much of that will be done via helicopter but the forest might undertake something like 2-3 excavator-based log placements or with over the next five years.

## **Fencing**

The Soil and Water Conservation District will likely continue to be focused on working with agricultural landowners to improve water quality by encouraging them to fence cattle out of streams and restore native riparian vegetation. (See tree planting above for information on that activity.)

Riparian fencing is seen as a priority for increasing water quality by removing cattle from streams and allowing native vegetation to grow. However, in narrow valleys with high winter water, fencing that is far enough from the winter stream change to not be damaged in the winter, often leaves farmers with little pasture. Thus, wiling landowners for fencing projects are be few and far between. One estimate is that the SWCD undertakes about ¼ mile of fencing a year.

Fencing and riparian planting are largely funded through federal cost share programs. Sometimes, the landowner performs the fencing or planting activities as their matching contribution. Other times, the landowner contributes funds and they SWCD hires a contractor to implement the project. Increasingly the SWCD uses contractors to implement the projects except when a landowner seems particularly skilled or interested.

## **Meadow Mowing**

The Forest Service will likely continue to contract about 100 acres of mowing per year to maintain meadow elk habitat.

## **Planning, Assessment, Monitoring, Project Management**

Both the Watershed Council and the Soil and Water Conservation District make use of contractors to develop, manage, and monitor restoration projects as well as conduct assessments. Some activities taking photographs, snorkeling, collecting macroinvertebrates, water quality, fresh water mussels, and effectiveness monitoring.

The Forest Service's Mapleton-based crew undertake monitoring activities such as snorkeling, fish presence-absence completed culvert projects. This crew also gets involved with project design.

## **Funding for Restoration in the Basin**

The restoration activities described are funded through a variety of sources, which have varying levels of stability and time horizons.

The Siuslaw Stewardship Project has, over the last several years, generated significant funding for both private and public land restoration activities. The Siuslaw Stewardship fund currently has \$240,000 in it for private land restoration and will likely to include about \$500,000 more after the remaining stewardship contracts are complete.

Currently, the largest area of insecurity is the Payments to Counties funding, which has over the past several years provided funding for roads maintenance as well as other restoration activities on national forest and BLM lands. This legislation is scheduled to expire at the end of the 2006 federal fiscal year, unless Congress reauthorizes it. Although broadly supported by Western Members of Congress, the Administration appears to oppose reauthorization and the bill is currently stalled because Congress has not found a way to pay for the legislation. Currently, the most likely scenario appears to be a one-year extension.

OWEB provides funding for high priority restoration projects that will restore salmon habitat in statewide.



OWEB has dedicated lottery funds for salmon-related restoration activities. This funding is moderately competitive.

The Farm Bill provides funding for a variety of cost share programs, including those that the SWCD uses to fund fencing and tree planting on agricultural lands. The Farm Bill is up for reauthorization in 2007. Undoubtedly, the Farm Bill will be reauthorized but discussion of the particulars are still in the very early stages.

# Chapter Six: Local Contractor Capacity

## Introduction and Purpose

This chapter discusses the results of interviews with Siuslaw Basin contractors. The purpose of the interviews were to:

- Determine local contractor size, experience, and equipment assets.
- Gauge contractors' interest in participating in federal contracts and other work opportunities (private and non-profit).
- Identify barriers preventing increased local participation in federal and other work opportunities in the Siuslaw Basin.
- Collect contractors' suggestions about training and assistance that could improve their ability to engage in local work opportunities.
- Gather contractors' ideas for increasing local participation in local work opportunities.

## Work Experience and Location

The contractors were asked what types of work they had done in the last three years and what kinds of work they would be interested in for the future. The 18 contractors surveyed showed a diversity of experience, having worked on various equipment intensive, labor-intensive and technical activities (Table 7). Six of the contractors reported using heavy equipment for road building and maintenance as well as in excavation for stream channel and wetlands restoration. Five contractors had experience doing stream restoration including building fish structures, bank stabilization, and noxious weed control. Seven contractors engaged in various aspects of logging including pre-commercial and commercial thinning, falling timber, and reforestation, as well as timber cruising, layout, and marking trees for thinning operations. Of the technical contractors, two engaged solely in land surveying activities. Three of the firms interviewed conducted scientific monitoring activities including riparian restoration monitoring and rapid bio-assessments of salmonid populations, as well as water quality assessment using river mussels as an indicator.

Two contractors engaged mostly in project development and management on projects throughout the Siuslaw Watershed dealing mostly with stream restoration, noxious weed control, and riparian planting.

**Table 7 - Contractor Experience by Work Activity, Siuslaw Basin, 2006**

Category	Number of Experienced Contractors
<b>Road Building and Maintenance</b>	<b>6</b>
- Road construction	5
- Road maintenance	4
- Culvert work	1
<b>Stream Restoration</b>	<b>6</b>
--Stream channel & wetlands restoration	2
- In-stream restoration (fish structures and bank stabilization)	4
- Noxious weed control	2
<b>Logging, Thinning, and Reforestation</b>	<b>8</b>
- Falling timber	4
- Pre-commercial thinning	1
- Commercial thinning	2
- Reforestation	1
- Marking trees for thinning	2
- Timber cruising	1
- Chipping for biomass production	1
- Cat/skidder logging	2
- Tree trimming	1
- Yarder logging	1
<b>Survey and Monitoring</b>	<b>5</b>
- Fish surveys	1
- Riparian planting monitoring	1
- Land surveys	2
- Biological monitoring	1
<b>Project Management and Development</b>	<b>4</b>
- Riparian planting	2
- Noxious weed control	2
- Stream restoration	1
- Developing data collection protocol	2
<b>Other</b>	<b>1</b>
- Cone collecting	1

Number of Contractors Surveyed = 18

When asked about kinds of work they would like to do in the future most of the contractors wanted to continue doing what they already do but were open to new things. Many of the heavy equipment operators were interested road building and maintenance and showed an interest in doing more stream restoration work. Most of those with logging experience want to continue doing so and were interested in doing thinning projects. The technical and labor-intensive contractors were eager to see more monitoring and land surveying projects and were interested in doing more project development and management both in terms of monitoring projects and restoration projects.

All of the contractors reported doing work locally and most have done work throughout Western Oregon and some have worked throughout the Pacific Northwest. Almost all of the contractors preferred working closer to home and would like to see more local opportunities in the future for this reason. Where contractors' work was mostly dictated by the availability of work in their specialty. They work for a variety of landowners including federal agencies (BLM, FS), private industrial landowners, private non-industrial land owners and some county and state governments.

## Equipment and Capital

Seventeen of the contractors were asked to list the types of equipment they owned and leased. In addition to listing their equipment all but one of the respondents said they had access to capital if they needed additional equipment or operating capital. Table 8 lists the heavy equipment owned by contractors and Table 9 lists the labor-intensive and technical equipment owned by contractors. Not all contractors owned all equipment listed and this is by no means a comprehensive list of equipment owned by Siuslaw Basin contractors as the list is based on informal answers rather than detailed inventories. Clearly, there is a striking difference between the types of equipment needed for the logging, roadwork, and much of the stream restoration work versus the equipment used in labor-intensive or technical work. All but one of the respondents had computers with Internet access either in their home or office.

**Table 8 - Heavy Equipment Belonging to Siuslaw Basin Contractors, 2006**

---

Backhoes
Cats
Draft horse teams
Dump trucks w/ trailers
Excavators
Fire/water truck
Hydraulic chippers
Log trucks w/ self loaders
Lowboy trailers
Pickups
Pup trailer
Road grad
Roadside brush mower
Rubber tired logging arch for horse logging
Skidders
Tilt deck trailers
Vibratory rollers
Yarder

---

Number of Contractors Surveyed = 17

**Table 9 - Labor Intensive and Technical Equipment Belonging to Siuslaw Basin Contractors, 2006**

---

4WD trucks
ATVs
Camera
Chainsaws
Computer and printer
First aid kits
Masks and snorkels
Motorcycles
Personal fire equipment
Pickup trucks
Professional forestry tools
Range finders
Survey Equipment
- Electronic total stations
- GPS units
Tape measures
Tree bags
Tree climbing equipment
Tree planting equipment
Wetsuits

---

Number of Contractors Surveyed = 17

## Workforce

The survey asked contractors about the size of their typical crew. A majority of heavy equipment contractors cited crews of four or less with one contractor citing a crew of eight and another a summertime crew of 19 and a wintertime crew of 8 to 19. Only one labor-intensive contractor cited crews over five and those were 10 to 12 for tree planting crews and 5 to 8 for pre-commercial thinning crews. Timber crews were typically cited as one to two people and responses for the monitoring and surveying crews included one person for the riparian monitoring, two people for surveying, and two crews of two for the rapid bio-assessments. When asked about the largest crew size they would feel comfortable employing on a single job six of the contractors cited crews of 10 or more people and six others ranged from two to seven per crew. Two contractors were comfortable with crews of at least 15 people. Contractors were asked if they had difficulty in getting or keeping skilled employees. Six of the respondents said they had difficulty because of the seasonal and part-time nature of the work, lack of skilled workers who can do multiple tasks, and the difficulty in finding specialty people, particularly when it comes to land surveying.

## Licensing, Bonding, and Insurance

Most of the heavy equipment operators surveyed said that they or their employees as having commercial drivers licenses. Seven contractors were licensed contractors with the State of Oregon, several others were not and did not think it applied to their businesses and one land surveyor mentioned being a licensed land surveyor. One company was licensed as a Farm Labor Contractor with Forestry Endorsement as well as being licensed under the Migrant and Seasonal Worker Protection Act (MSWPA). None of the contractors were licensed to apply pesticides and herbicides. Most of the contractors were not listed on Pro-Net, however seven contractors were registered in the Central Contractor Registration ([www.ccr.gov](http://www.ccr.gov)) required of all federal contractors.

Contractors were asked to provide an estimate of their maximum bonding capacity for securing contracts and five did so. Bonding capacity for the five contractors ranged from \$200,000 up to \$3,000,000. All five contractors were bonded through private companies. Six other contractors claimed liability insurance including three with loggers' insurance.

## Experience and Interest with Contracting

Contractors were asked a series of questions about the types and structures of contracts and subcontracts they have experience with and are interested in for the future. Four of the heavy equipment contractors had experience being a prime contractor on large projects and three more expressed interest in doing so in the future. Five of the labor-intensive and technical contractors had experience being a prime contractor on large projects and three others expressed interest in doing so in the future. Seven of the heavy equipment contractors and seven of the labor-intensive and technical contractors had experience being a subcontractor for a large project in the past.

## Federal Contracting

Twelve of the contractors had experience being a primary contractor for a federal land management agency and one of the contractors currently holds a mail carrier contract with the U.S. Postal Service. The contractors identified a number of barriers that could prevent them from participating in more federal contracts. These included:

- HUB Zone and disadvantaged [8(a)] set-asides make it hard to compete against non-local firms.
- Rules and regulations and paperwork can be complicated.
- Not always knowing what projects are available.
- Small business set-asides are meaningless when they benefit large operations that have few employees but extensive abilities due to technology.
- Current contracting mechanisms are making it harder for small proprietors to compete with larger companies.
- Most thinning sales are more than 1 million board feet and therefore too large for small businesses to handle.
- Bonding levels could be a problem. For example, 100 percent performance bond for larger project might limit the ability of smaller firms to bid on projects.

Most of the contractors had experience with some aspects of bidding on federal contracts, including seven with experience with both federal invitations for bids and requests for quotes, and six reporting experience with reports for proposals, and six with negotiated contracts.

## Private and Non-Profit Contracting

Almost all of the contractors had participated in contracts on private land and most cited word of mouth as the primary way they get their work combined with some advertising. Nine of the contractors have worked with non-profit organizations including the Siuslaw Watershed Council and the Siuslaw Soil and Water Conservation District and many of those who had not expressed interest in doing work for non-profits in the future.

## Contract Structure

When asked about the duration of contract that was most appealing to them, the heavy equipment contractors tended to want contracts a few months in length and some were open to contracts up to 1-2 years in length. Most of the labor-intensive and technical contractors wanted longer contracts up to several years although one of the land survey companies preferred short contracts, even a few days of work. Contractors were asked what size of contracts they preferred and answers varied greatly from as little as \$10,000 for tree marking up to \$1,000,000 for heavy equipment work and most of the respondents said it did not matter as long as it was within their capacity. Many of the contractors liked the idea of bigger contracts but stressed that bigger contracts are often more complicated. According to one contractor, “million dollar contracts come with a million headaches.” The contractors engaged in monitoring activities felt long-term contracts were better because they allowed for more accurate data collection. For example, one of contractors said a multi-year contract of approximately \$250,000 was needed for the in-depth type of monitoring required to fully understand water quality problems facing the Siuslaw Watershed.

Most all of the contractors interviewed were open to contracts that involved multiple tasks and many said they enjoyed projects with more than one task. However, three of the contractors stressed that contracts with

too many tasks including stewardship contracts and some commercial thinning sales made it hard for smaller contractors to compete against larger firms that have a greater capacity for completing multiple tasks or using sub-contractors.

## Contractors’ Suggestions for Improving Local Work Opportunities

We asked contractors for their suggestions about how to improve work opportunities for Siuslaw Basin contractors like themselves. Their responses included:

- Release more federal timber through smaller sales.
- Better communication to make it easier for contractors to find out about local bid opportunities, and offering training about bid opportunities.
- Offer a consistent supply of work throughout the year.
- Forest Service should post jobs on FedBizOpps not just their own website.
- Sharing of information with other contractors and non-profits in other watersheds to see what they are doing in terms of restoration work and monitoring.
- Create more local opportunities for technical contractors (land surveying, biological monitoring).
- Organizations and institutions should seek out private funding for important monitoring activities.

## Assistance and Training Needs

Contractors were asked if they had any particular training needs for the current season or for work they would like to do in the future. Five of the contractors expressed interest in training and were eager to pick up new skills that could help them get more work. Their responses included:

- Training in computer software including GIS and other mapping software, Excel, and Microsoft Word.

- Training in doing stream surveys and other biological monitoring activities.
- Learning how to do stream restoration projects.
- Training to speak Spanish.

## **Conclusions**

The assessment of local contractor capacity shows a diversity of experience and interest. There is a significant capacity to handle work requiring the use of heavy equipment in many aspects of stream restoration, road building and maintenance, and logging type work. Additionally, there is a capacity and interest for scientific monitoring activities as well as project management and development. Most of the firms are rather small with few employees. This works well for smaller contracts but may hinder their participation in larger, labor-intensive projects. However, many of the contractors seemed eager to expand if work was steady and available. The diversity of experience, willingness to expand, and interest in a variety of work suggests that local contractors may be willing partners in a high skill, high wage ecosystem restoration industry throughout the Siuslaw Basin.

**Siuslaw Basin – Local Area Towns and Cities**

Local Cities and towns in the Siuslaw Basin:

Acme	Florence	Penn	Vaughn
Ada	Globe	Point Terrace	Walton
Alpha	Greenleaf	Reed	Westlake
Beecher	Horton	Richardson	
Betzen	Joler	Shannon	
Blachly	Linslaw	Siuslaw	
Cushman	Lorane	Star Camp	
Deadwood	Mapleton	Swisshome	
Farnham Landing	Minerva	Tide	
Firo	Nekoma	Tiernan	
Flagg	Noti	Triangle Lake	

Semi-Local Communities within 2nd tier restoration trading circle, including portions of Western Lane, Northern Coos, Western Douglas, Benton, and Southern Lincoln Counties.

Alpine	Dunes City	Heceta Beach	South Beach
Alsea	Eddyville	Monroe	Sulphur Springs
Ash	Elk City	Newport	Tidewater
Bellfountain	Elkton	North Fork	Toledo
Burnt Woods	Elmira	Ona	Veneta
Cheshire	Gardiner	Reed	West Eugene
Cottage Grove	Glenada	Reedsport	Walker
Creswell	Goldson	Saginaw	Waldport
Crow	Gunter	Scottsburg	Winchester Bay
Curtin	Hartan	Seal Rock	Yachats
Divide	Hauser	Siltcoos	Yaquina

## REFERENCES

Kauffman, Marcus, Nancy Toth, and Johnny Sundstrom. 2005. *Voices from the Siuslaw*. The Watershed Research and Training Center and the Siuslaw Institute.