

Why Do Members of the Wood Products Industry Support the Forest Jobs and Recreation Act?

The Forest Jobs and Restoration Pilot Initiative would:

- Direct the Forest Service to harvest more timber and accomplish more restoration work by **setting enforceable acreage requirements** for mechanical treatment.
- **Maintains the infrastructure of the wood products manufacturing facilities** that provide economic stability to local communities.”
- Requires use of Stewardship Contracts to accomplish restoration objectives, resulting in family wage jobs and **more predictable flow of wood products**.
- **Reduces the controversy and gridlock** that has constrained the Forest Service and limited land management activities.
- Is supported by the commitment of mainstream conservation groups to work cooperatively with the wood products industry.

How will this bill result in a more predictable flow of wood products?

For the Beaverhead- Deerlodge National Forest and Three Rivers Ranger District, the bill directs the Forest Service to conduct stewardship logging on 100,000 acres over the course of 15 years, guaranteeing a flow of wood fiber to the mills.

Also, by using funds generated from the sale of wood products for the various restoration activities on a particular project, the Forest Service is not as dependent on congressional appropriations to accomplish restoration work and related timber harvest activities.

How will the bill stop appeals and litigation that have happened in the past?

Advisory committees working with the Forest Service will help design stewardship projects. These committees would include broad representation from diverse forest user groups. The focus is on building good projects that will be widely supported by diverse interests who all have a stake in the outcome. Several mainstream conservation groups have committed to working cooperatively to build good projects, and if necessary, defend those projects.

Also, the legislation prevents appeals that pertain to a specific part of a project from interrupting the entire project. If an appeal is filed and further environmental analysis is required, then only the part of the project that is relevant to the appeal will be stopped.

How will restoration projects be funded?

Partnerships are productive. Already, our partners in the Blackfoot and Clearwater River watersheds have been rewarded for their collaborative work. In August of 2010, Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack announced over a million dollars in funding for the first year of restoration work in those watersheds, and a full ten years of steady funding is scheduled to follow. If timber companies, conservation groups, and recreation clubs continue working together, then federal funding will follow.

The timber provisions only last for 15 years. How will the timber industry be protected into the future?

If the legislation is successful at accomplishing restoration work and generating timber for local mills, then it could be re-authorized by Congress. At a minimum, many of the successful practices and tools required by the bill can continue to be used by the Forest Service, local communities, industry, and conservation groups after legislative mandates have expired.

What is stewardship contracting? What are some specific projects?

Stewardship contracting uses funds generated from the sale of timber in the project area to accomplish additional work on forestland. Stewardship contracts have a record of success in Montana and projects typically include culvert replacement, trail restoration, and road rehabilitation in areas of high road densities necessary to protect fish and wildlife. Federal funding sources can also be used to fund stewardship contracts and create family-wage jobs by investing in innovative projects that revitalize watersheds and wildlife habitat.

What are the requirements for these projects?

Specific projects are directed to priority landscapes needing restoration with the goal of reducing road densities, improving wildlife habitat, stabilizing stream banks, and reducing the risk of fire, insects and disease within the Wildland Urban Interface. Large landscape projects will limit the number of entries into an area, new permanent roads are not allowed, and access roads must be reclaimed when the project is completed.