**Pooled Receipts Funding Program**

**Frequently Asked Questions**

**What is the funding timeline?**

Proposals for project work to take in fiscal year 2018 are due June 30. The Review Committee will rank proposals and provide input to the Forest Supervisor in July. The Regional Forester’s funding decisions will be made in late summer.

**Where/to whom should applications be submitted?**

Applications should be submitted to Charley Streuli, Forest Staff Officer for the Tongass National Forest: cstreuli@fs.fed.us, 907-772-5882.

**What is the primary objective of the program?**

The overarching purpose of the stewardship contracting authority, including the use of retained receipts, is to improve watershed conditions while meeting local and rural community needs. Priority projects for the Retained Receipts Funding Program are those that **clearly restore, maintain, and/or enhance habitat, ecological function, water quality, soil productivity, forest health, and/or watershed condition.**

**Who is eligible to submit a project proposal?**

Any entity operating in Southeast Alaska, including: Tongass National Forest Districts, City Governments, Tribal Governments, NGOs, ANCSA Corporations, private landholders, and State and Federal agencies. Project proposals for this round of retained receipts will be limited to National Forest System Lands, or adjacent lands with a clear nexus that will improve habitat on National Forest System Lands within the same watershed (e.g. stream restoration where the stream flows through multiple ownership jurisdictions).

**What makes a successful proposal?**

The attached ranking criteria is a great way to guide your project proposal. In general terms, successful project proposals will be well thought out, will significantly enhance the ecologic and social value of the project area, and will show a high degree of collaborative effort (i.e. land managers and community members working together to share information, resources, and priorities). A letter of support from the relevant USFS District Ranger is not required but is encouraged.

**Is there a collaboration requirement?**

The USFS Handbook Chapter 60: Stewardship Contracting, states that: “*While the enabling legislation does not specifically mention collaboration in stewardship contracts, the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture have directed the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to involve States, counties, local communities, and interested stakeholders in a public process to provide input on implementation of stewardship contracting projects* (61.12). The handbook also states: “*Collaboration must be a part of stewardship contracting project planning and continue throughout the life of the project.”* (60.3)

**Who may receive Retained Receipts funding in order to implement project work?**

Project funding will be allocated to Ranger Districts. From there they may either be spent directly by the District or, through use of a stewardship agreement, be transferred to a partner implementing project work.

**How will proposals be selected for funding?**

A regional collaborative group made up of a 6-member review committee comprised of Forest Service, State, non-profit, Alaska Native and community members will review and recommend projects. The goal is to establish a diverse Review Committee with representation from across Southeast and from a variety of land management backgrounds. A call for committee members will be issued in June. Review Committee members will not be eligible to submit project proposals.

The Review Committee will read project proposals and rank them according to the score-card attached. This information will be compiled and the Review Committee will provide input on project priorities to the Forest Supervisor.

The Forest Supervisor will make a recommendation to the Regional Forester regarding prioritization and funding allocation. Decision-making authority rests solely with the Regional Forester.