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Competitive Sourcing Impacts Local Forest Service Jobs, Fleet Maintenance to be Contracted to Private Firm

Yreka, CA – As part of ongoing efforts to make government more efficient, two jobs now held by Klamath National Forest employees will be done by a contractor, while an additional four positions will be restructured as a result of cost effectiveness studies of road and vehicle fleet maintenance as directed by the Office of Management and Budget (the federal office responsible for budgeting administration procedures of all federal agencies.)

“These region-wide detailed studies have found that it is to the government’s advantage to continue our road maintenance work in-house, through use of a Most Efficient Organization (MEO), while it is most cost effective to contract out for our fleet maintenance,” said Peg Boland, Klamath National Forest supervisor. The private firm that won the contact for all fleet maintenance throughout California is SERCO Management Services, an international company. MEO’s are typically smaller than the existing organization, so changes in the local road maintenance workforce may occur as well.

A total of 219 employees (139 in road maintenance and 80 in vehicle fleet maintenance) on the 18 National Forests in California are affected by today’s announcement. The Klamath National Forest employs four of those in road maintenance and 2 in fleet maintenance. The decision follows competitive sourcing studies that compared the existing costs to those of private sector contractors. The Forest Service will provide assistance to affected employees throughout the process.

“I greatly appreciate the professionalism of our employees, including those in fleet and road maintenance,” added Boland. “I am very concerned about the effects on our employees.” Each affected employee has been personally contacted, and will be provided information about

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possible transfers to new positions or taking on new duties, and other options such as early retirement. The Forest will continue to work closely with employees to help each one make the best possible decision.

Road and fleet work duties were studied in strict compliance with guidelines established by the Office of Management and Budget, the USDA and the Forest Service to ensure accuracy, consistency and fairness. The transitions are expected to take about six months. More than 5,000 permanent employees work in the 18 National Forests and the Pacific Southwest Regional Offices throughout California.

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