

SESSION NOTES

SESSION NAME: NEW TOOLS FOR MORE EFFECTIVE
IMPLEMENTATION: FARM BILL AUTHORITIES

DAY & TIME: 10/20 11:45

SPEAKER #1 NAME:

- Tera Little

MAJOR POINTS:

- Farm Bill tools make up a large proportion of the tools used to get work done in priority landscapes
- USFS is trying to engage with the public more meaningfully during the Categorical Exclusion process
 - This is where they could use the help of County Commissioners
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LESSONS/BIG TAKEAWAYS:

- The Service needs to hear the human stories when they are making their decisions.
- Really want Commissioners to get involved early, and meaningfully

SPEAKER #2 NAME:

- Mo Bookwalter

MAJOR POINTS:

- Farm Bill tools incentivize partnerships, and allow Governors to identify high priority areas to the Service
- Forests in Focus Investments are how MT gets involved financially with Nat'l Forest projects
 - Helps “fill the gaps” in USFS funding in order to speed projects up

LESSONS/BIG TAKEAWAYS:

- Utilizing Farm Bill Authorities, and some strategically allocated state funds, can make a real, tangible difference with projects, specifically by moving projects more quickly.
- We need to push these Authorities to see what all can be accomplished.

REFERENCED MATERIALS:

[See Farm Bill Power Point](#)

FULL DISCUSSION – MAJOR POINTS

- USFS doesn't want to use the same tool for every project. The toolbox is expanding, and the Service wants to take advantage of the right tool for the right job.