



## Load Accountability FACT SHEET

October 29, 2019

### What does this work respond to?

- One of the nine action items identified at the 2017 Accelerating Restoration Implementation Workshop.
- Operational and economical strains on contractors and partners due to a lack of certified scales across the footprint, in addition to an antiquated approach to load tracking. Federal regulation and Forest Service national policy require state-certified scales to measure product for payment and load tickets to transport and remove product off national forest lands.
- Challenges for local industry associated with implementing weight scaling.

### What was done?

#### ◆ Internal and external education on weight scaling:

- Informed scaling locations of the requirements for weight scales and the process when weighing scaled loads via Weighing Service Agreements. Important topics included:
  - Required state-certified scales.
  - Procedures to follow for weighing and accountability.
  - For scaling locations facing capacity issues, options were provided to facilitate compliance, allowing an electronic system that accounts for weights/loads and provides bi-monthly outputs to the Forest Service to be used in lieu of a Weigh Master to occupy the weigh station.
- Trained Forest Service employees on the Scale Explanation program to help account for scale tickets, 100 percent weigh, and load counts.

#### ◆ Efforts to allow for efficient and effective use of Load Count systems:

- Updated the Weighing Service Agreements to include load count.
- Establish baseline data to allow for load counts by tracking sales first with 100 percent scale. Two types of load counts are possible:
  - True load count — using average loads for all truckloads coming off the sale based on baseline data as described above.
  - Load count using actual gross and average tare weight to calculate net weight.

#### ◆ Efforts to modernize transport permits (load tickets)

- Ordered new scale tickets to use with barcodes, but scaling locations and Forest Service does not have the technology to use them. Initiated the Product Accountability project with the National Technology and Development Program (NTDP).





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### Product Accountability Report Summary and Highlights:

- Represents efforts between the Forest Service and National Technology Development Program (NTDP).
- Report is still under review at NTDP.
- Requirements statements; A single system:
  - That tracks all load tickets, not just local or regional load tickets.
  - Used by law enforcement, sale administrators, and resource administrators.
  - That works with all sale types including log scaled, tree measurement, and weight measurement.
  - That is accepted and used by purchasers and operators.
  - That has vendor delivered development, installation, support, and training.
- Forest Service requirements for electronic load tracking include:
  - Technical – Compatibility with Forest Service systems, service across the agency, data storage, compatibility with mobile devices, etc.
  - Functional – provides at least the same level of data as traditional ticket books
  - Operational – installation, monitoring, support, and training, etc.

### NTDP Recommendations

- Solicit contract for purchase of commercial, off-the-shelf (COTS) system designed to track and manage loads.
- Purchase under a pilot program to test capabilities to:
  - Work on both scaled and tree measurement sales.
  - Work offline and online.
  - Operate on commonly used mobile devices and operating systems.
  - Record and manage the information required by the Forest Service for timber sale administration.
- Potential challenges:
  - IT acquisition over \$25,000 requires Advanced Acquisition Request (AAR) and funding identified in IRBD funding.
  - Due to fiscal year cycle and requirements for AAR, the earliest the contract could be advertised is FY21.

