

# The Good Neighbor Authority in Washington: Growing Resilient Forests and Partnerships

TREVOR MCCONCHIE

MATT UGALDEA

WA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**NATURAL RESOURCES**

# Presentation Overview

- ▶ GNA timeline in Washington
- ▶ Why did the DNR enter into this agreement
- ▶ Where is this tool being currently implemented
- ▶ What types of activities will the DNR implement under the GNA
- ▶ Who will implement the projects under the GNA and how
- ▶ What barriers exist and what are the next steps
- ▶ Q and A



# GNA Timeline in Washington

- ▶ March 2017 – DNR and USFS enter into GNA Master Agreement
- ▶ March to June 2017 – DNR explores potential on the 3 dry-side National Forests
- ▶ June 2017 – DNR signs first Supplemental Project Agreement (SPA) with the Gifford Pinchot National Forest
- ▶ July 2017 – DNR and Colville National Forest on track to sign second SPA
- ▶ July onward – Continue exploring both eastside and westside National Forests



# Why the GNA?

- ▶ Commissioner Franz's priorities
  - ▶ **Forest Health** – Manage current and expected forest health concerns in Washington state
  - ▶ **Wildfire** – Manage fire dependent forests to restore fire resilience, protect communities and trust assets, and reduce catastrophic wildfires on the landscape
  - ▶ **Economic growth and rural development** – Bring additional economic opportunities to communities dependent on natural resources
  - ▶ **Partnerships** – Strengthen and encourage development of existing partnerships and building new partnerships

## Additive = Increasing Pace and Scale

- ▶ **Additive Capacity and Effect** – Bring new bodies and efficient state resources to support implementation and future planning to the USFS, while not impacting the State trust lands mandate



# Where are we implementing the GNA today?

- ▶ Gifford Pinchot National Forest
  - ▶ **Bear Creek Restoration Thinning:** SPA Signed - Short-term, additive capacity to help USFS staff complete a timber sale currently underway. ~2 months: Boundary layout, tree marking, cruising, and road layout summer 2017.
- ▶ Colville National Forest
  - ▶ **Block of Nine Thinning:** “Full service SPA” signing soon. DNR will provide additive capacity to conduct a thinning sale originally never to be completed. DNR will complete all presales work, contract design, auctioning, sale administration, and closeout. Program Income will be generated to pay for DNR staff time and be reinvested back into the forest for new GNA projects.



# What types of Activities?

- ▶ **Depends on the needs of each forest and DNR's capacity**
  - ▶ Projects that serve the greatest good
  - ▶ Commercial restoration projects to generate Program Income (PI) = staff/more projects
  - ▶ Non-commercial projects (stewardship/service-work type projects)
  - ▶ Projects that align with the Commissioners priorities and benefit State trust lands
  - ▶ Projects located in Prioritized Landscapes associated with the Forest Health 20 Year Plan
  - ▶ Projects with approved Environmental Assessments
  - ▶ Exploration of aquatics and recreation projects
  - ▶ Exploration of Categorical Exclusions
  - ▶ Exploration of State and/or Third Party planning



# Who will implement projects and how under the GNA?

## ▶ Supplemental Project Agreements (SPA)

- ▶ Between the DNR and national forest – up to 10 years long
- ▶ DNR may implement the work using state staff
- ▶ DNR may use state contracting mechanisms to contract out work under the SPA (ex. DNR will use a state timber sale contract to conduct the Block of Nine sale on the Colville)

## ▶ Funding

- ▶ State Funds – State budget appropriated funds
- ▶ Federal Funds – Federal granted appropriated funds
- ▶ Program Income – generated by commercial GNA projects
- ▶ Third Party – In kind funds



# Barriers and Next Steps

## Barriers

- ▶ **Funding**
  - ▶ Lack of sufficient funds to build program
- ▶ **Staffing**
  - ▶ Limited staff capacity currently slows project development
  - ▶ Program Income generation will increase staff capacity

## Next Steps

- ▶ **Program Development** – how GNA fits into the DNR and where we partner already with R6 (Joint Chiefs, Fire, forest collaboratives)
- ▶ **Developing Project Queue** – the more projects, the better
- ▶ **Planning** – how to realize an increase in pace and scale





# Thank you

## Questions?

[WWW.DNR.WA.GOV/GNA](http://WWW.DNR.WA.GOV/GNA)



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**NATURAL RESOURCES**



# Good Neighbor Agreements U.S. Forest Service and State of Washington DNR June 27, 2017



David Lawrence  
Timber Sales Prep, Contracts, & Reporting  
US Forest Service, Washington, DC



# What is Good Neighbor?

In a nutshell:

Partnerships between the Forest Service and states to accomplish authorized restoration services across land jurisdictions.



Credit: Evergreen Magazine

# Why is GNA important?

- Ability to work across jurisdictional boundaries and treat the landscape in a mixed ownership setting
- Foster a collaborative approach to address land management challenges
- Ability to leverage state resources to increase capacity to accomplish work on National Forests



# Good Neighbor Authorities

- 2014 Farm Bill: Provides the FS and BLM permanent authority. (Primary implementation authority)
- 2014 Appropriations Act: Renews and expands the expired Colorado Good Neighbor Authority to all states with National Forest land through FY18.



Artwork: Good Neighbors by Tim Cox

# GN Agreements

GNA templates incorporate partnership elements and Federal Assistance regulations

- Includes elements of partnership agreements i.e. collaborative approach without a matching requirement
- Incorporates grant regulations as a regulatory framework e.g., states follow their own procurement policies for sub-contracts (see 2 CFR 200)
- Allows timber receipts to fund restoration work
- Farm Bill agreements up to 10 years



# Key Common Requirements

- ✓ The Forest Service must retain responsibility for any decision required to be made under National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) (NEPA) on Federal Lands.
- ✓ Must be implemented according to Forest Land Management Plans, NEPA decisions, and other applicable laws including Endangered Species Act and National Historic Preservation Act.
- ✓ Farm Bill agreements may extend to 10 years



# Authorized Restoration Services

Similar and complementary forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration services including:

- 🌲 activities to treat insect and disease infected trees;
- 🌲 activities to reduce hazardous fuels; and
- 🌲 any other activities to restore or improve forest, rangeland, and watershed health, including fish and wildlife habitat.
- 🌲 timber sales



# Timber Sales

- 🌲 Specific exemptions to NFMA authorize the FS to permit the state to designate timber for harvest and to administer the harvest of NFS timber.



Credit: USFS

- 🌲 FS retains responsibility for NEPA decisions and must provide or approve all silviculture prescriptions and marking guides.

# Limitations

- No new construction
- No projects in wilderness, wilderness study areas or areas where vegetation removal is otherwise prohibited
- No road reconstruction in Farm Bill GNA
- No timber sales in Appropriations GNA
- The two authorities cannot be combined into one agreement.



# Authorized Restoration Services

Examples include:

- Road decommissioning for watershed or wildlife habitat improvement
- Cutting, piling, burning, removing, or otherwise treating hazardous fuels
- Timber sales to treat insect or disease infected stands
- Project support such as sale preparation, biological assessments, heritage surveys, environmental analysis
- Temporary road construction necessary to implement projects (must be decommissioned upon completion)



# Funding Sources

\$ Outgoing funding only (no collection authority)

\$ Federal funds according to budget authority

\$ Program income from timber sales



\$ State or other Partner funds

# Interim Implementation Instructions

- Initial policy direction provided by WO Forest Management and Grants & Agreements
- Forest Service Handbooks will follow applying lessons learned
- On FM FSweb
- On AQM Fsweb
- Attached here:

Page 1 of 10

 **GOOD NEIGHBOR TIMBER SALES  
INTERIM IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS  
ENCLOSURE WITH FOREST MANAGEMENT  
DIRECTOR'S LETTER TO REGIONAL FORESTERS  
FILE CODE 2400 DATED JULY 4, 2018**

Table of Contents

0.1 - Authority	3
0.2 - Objectives	3
0.3 - Policy	3
0.4 - Definitions	4
0.5 - References	4
<b>1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF NEIGHBOR TIMBER SALE PROJECTS</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1 - Environmental Funding	5
1.2 - Compliance with Existing Plans and Regulations	5
1.3 - Subsidies of Project Area	6
1.4 - Collaboration	6
1.5 - Example of Additional Reclamation Services	6
1.6 - Management of Funds Incurred in Project Implementation	7
1.7 - Exclusion to Additional Reclamation Services	7
1.8 - Timber Sale Structure of Offer	8
1.9 - Forest Service as Offeror	8
1.10 - State as Buyer	8
<b>2. PROCEDURES FOR GOOD NEIGHBOR TIMBER SALE PROJECTS</b>	<b>8</b>
2.1 - Field Preparation	8
2.1.1 - Response to National Forest Management Act of 1976, Section 14	8
2.1.2 - User Service System Plan	8
2.2 - Timber Sale Study	10
2.3 - Determination of Appraisal Value	10
2.4 - Preparation and Approval of Negotiation	11
2.4.1 - Sale Area Agreement (SAA)	11
2.4.2 - Purchase and Sale (P&S)	11
2.5 - Contract - Agreements	12
2.5.1 - Terms of Compliance	14
2.5.2 - Free Liability	14
2.5.3 - Timber Salvage Policy Act	14
2.5.4 - Title Passage	14
2.5.5 - Debarment and Suspension	14
2.6 - Timber Sale Case 1.4	14
<b>3. MONITORING, REPORTING AND REPORTING ON TIMBER SALE PROJECTS</b>	<b>15</b>
3.1 - Timber Subsidies Manager (TSM)	15
3.2 - Timber Sale Accounting	15
3.3 - Advance Payment	16

Page 1 of 10

 **GOOD NEIGHBOR TIMBER SALES  
INTERIM IMPLEMENTATION INSTRUCTIONS  
ENCLOSURE WITH FOREST MANAGEMENT  
DIRECTOR'S LETTER TO REGIONAL FORESTERS  
FILE CODE 2400 DATED JULY 4, 2018**

Table of Contents

0.1 - Authority	3
0.2 - Policy	3
0.3 - Definitions	4
<b>1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF NEIGHBOR TIMBER SALE PROJECTS</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1 - Environmental Funding	5
1.2 - Compliance with Existing Plans and Regulations	5
1.3 - Subsidies of Project Area	6
1.4 - Collaboration	6
1.5 - Example of Additional Reclamation Services	6
1.6 - Management of Funds Incurred in Project Implementation	7
1.7 - Exclusion to Additional Reclamation Services	7
1.8 - Timber Sale Structure of Offer	8
1.9 - Forest Service as Offeror	8
1.10 - State as Buyer	8
<b>2. PROCEDURES FOR GOOD NEIGHBOR TIMBER SALE PROJECTS</b>	<b>8</b>
2.1 - Field Preparation	8
2.1.1 - Response to National Forest Management Act of 1976, Section 14	8
2.1.2 - User Service System Plan	8
2.2 - Timber Sale Study	10
2.3 - Determination of Appraisal Value	10
2.4 - Preparation and Approval of Negotiation	11
2.4.1 - Sale Area Agreement (SAA)	11
2.4.2 - Purchase and Sale (P&S)	11
2.5 - Contract - Agreements	12
2.5.1 - Terms of Compliance	14
2.5.2 - Free Liability	14
2.5.3 - Timber Salvage Policy Act	14
2.5.4 - Title Passage	14
2.5.5 - Debarment and Suspension	14
2.6 - Timber Sale Case 1.4	14
<b>3. MONITORING, REPORTING AND REPORTING ON TIMBER SALE PROJECTS</b>	<b>15</b>
3.1 - Timber Subsidies Manager (TSM)	15
3.2 - Timber Sale Accounting	15
3.3 - Advance Payment	16

# Useful Links

❖ 2014 Farm Bill:

<https://beta.congress.gov/113/plaws/publ79/PLAW-113-publ79.pdf> (TITLE VIII—FORESTRY; Subtitle C—Reauthorization of Other Forestry-Related Laws; Sec. 8206. Good neighbor authority)

❖ Forest Service Farm Bill Information:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/farmbill/>

❖ Forest Service GNA Information:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/farmbill/gna.shtml>

❖ Circulars: <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2014-title2-vol1/pdf/CFR-2014-title2-vol1-part200.pdf>



# Good Neighbor Authority



for the greatest good

# Why are we using this?

- Expand capacity
- No match requirement
- Program income can be used to do more work
- Use state contracting authorities rather than Federal
- Ability to work across jurisdictional boundaries
- Fosters a collaborative approach to address land management challenges
- Provides the opportunity to strengthen the Federal/State partnership



for the greatest good

# What else could we do?

- Utilize the services of a state biologist
- Conduct emergency stabilization work
- Stand improvement or general forest thinning
- Prescribed burning
- Reforestation
- Piling, removing, or burning slash
- Instream fish structures
- Developing wildlife water sources
- Installing duck boxes
- Seeding for soil stabilization
- Decommissioning existing roads
- Road maintenance
- NEPA



for the greatest good

# Questions?



for the greatest good