

Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)

Growing resilient forests and partnerships on federal lands

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Forest Service are increasing the pace and scale of forest health treatments and restoration projects in forests across Washington state through the mutual benefits of an agreement called the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) between the two agencies.

This authority allows for a variety of projects in Washington's forests, including mechanical forest thinning and controlled burning to reduce wildfire risk, planning, surveying and monitoring, timber sales, road decommissioning, habitat restoration and more.

BACKGROUND

The GNA was authorized permanently by Congress in the 2014 Farm Bill to allow state agencies to enter into agreements with the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The GNA authorizes the state to act as a trusted agent of the federal government to accomplish a variety of forest, range, and watershed restoration services in national forests with the additional benefit of using state processes, which are sometimes more efficient, to carry out those projects.

The agreement represents an important step toward mobilizing the work required to meet goals established in the state's 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan.



Salmon spawn in Adams County

WE NEED RESTORATION

There are more than 2.7 million acres of unhealthy forests in Washington that have grown unnaturally dense from past management practices and more than a century of fire suppression. Restoring forests improves their natural resilience to wildfire, insect infestation and disease, and improves fish and wildlife habitat.

GNA OPPORTUNITIES

In Washington, this Good Neighbor Authority agreement can provide opportunities to:

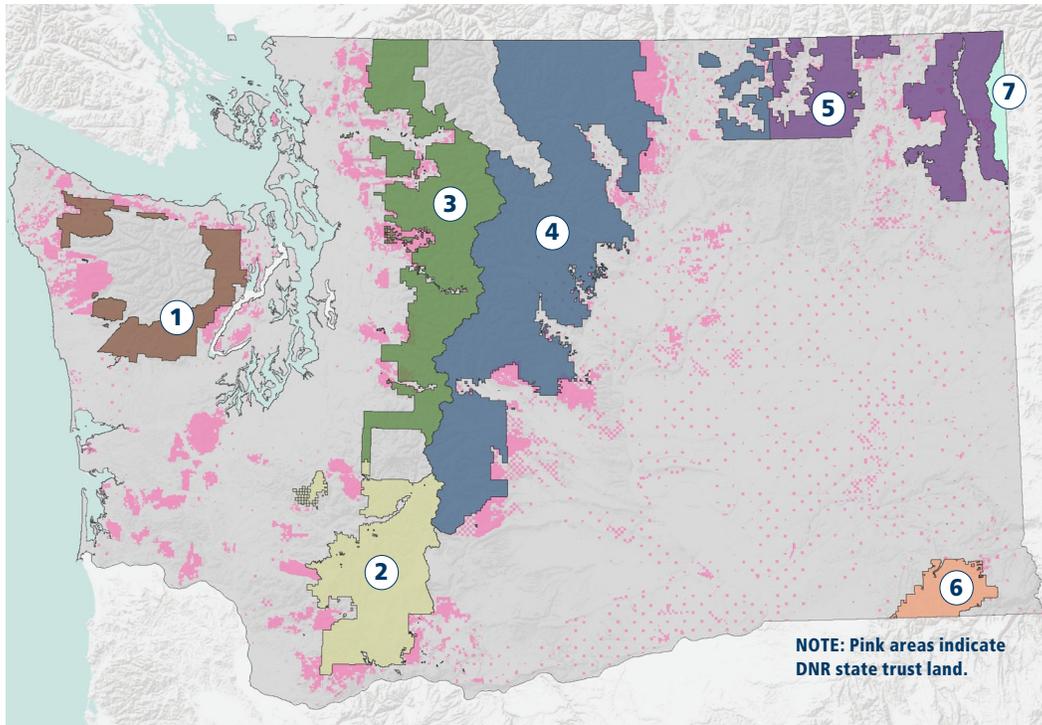
- Reduce hazardous fuels that contribute to increased wildfire risk
- Increase forest resilience to insects and disease
- Accelerate habitat restoration efforts
- Increase coordination and planning through state and federal partnerships
- Increase economic opportunities in rural communities near forests



This thinned forest in north central Washington has been restored to a more natural, wildfire resilient state.



GNA work will support every National Forest in Washington



1. Olympic National Forest: Removing barriers to fish and other aquatic life, supporting the development of mature forests, and riparian monitoring on state land, the Olympic National Park and Olympic National Forest.

2. Gifford-Pinchot National Forest: Commercial and non-commercial forest restoration to enhance the development of old-growth characteristics.

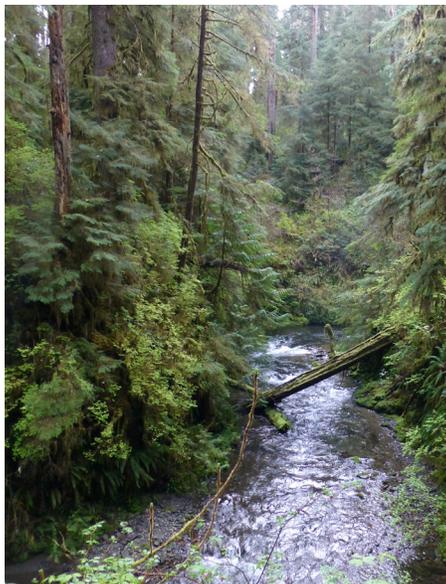
3. Mount Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest: Innovated approaches to the Bandera Restoration Thin that retooled a three-time no-bid project to successfully award a sale.

4. Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest: Commercial and non-commercial restoration and fuels reduction.

5. Colville National Forest: Work includes National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental planning with the forest, tribes, local forest collaborative and other entities on a more than 90,000-acre high-priority forest restoration area.

6. Umatilla National Forest: Developing restoration projects to help achieve forest health objectives.

7. Idaho Panhandle National Forest: Beginning talks to expand GNA implementation in the near future.



GNA ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

- 12 restoration timber sales as of June 2020 on four of the five major national forests in Washington
- 36.4 million board feet of timber sold during the last three fiscal years (2018, 2019, 2020)
- More than 3,000 acres of fuels reduction work done, with 1,600 acres planned in the near future
- Six projects completed, with 20 underway and 20 planned

GOALS FOR 2021-23 BIENNIUM

- 11,500 acres of work on federal land that advances goals of the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan
- At least 26 million board feet of timber produced from federal lands statewide
- Complete at least five projects in western Washington priority areas, in line with the 2020 Forest Action Plan



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// THIS AGREEMENT IS AN IMPORTANT TOOL THAT BRINGS US TOGETHER AROUND SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES AND MAKES PROBLEM SOLVING THROUGH COLLABORATION POSSIBLE. WE CAN GET FARTHER BY WORKING TOGETHER THAN APART."

HILARY FRANZ
Commissioner of Public Lands

MORE INFORMATION

Trevor McConchie
Assistant Division Manager
Federal Lands Program
Trevor.McConchie@dnr.wa.gov
(360) 688-0321
www.dnr.wa.gov/GNA

