



NEWS RELEASE

Idaho doubles effort to increase federal land management, expands 'Good Neighbor Authority' to federal rangelands

June 28, 2018

(BOISE) – The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) will **more than double the number of its employees dedicated to implementing "Good Neighbor Authority" projects on federal lands** after the State's new fiscal year starts July 1.

Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) enables federal agencies to utilize the State of Idaho's streamlined contracting processes and land management technical resources to increase the pace and scale of land and watershed improvement projects on federal lands. The **increased management activities reduce wildfire risk, promote healthy landscapes, and support jobs and Idaho's economy.**

The number of GNA positions at IDL will increase from five to 13 after July 1. **One new position will focus solely on working with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to implement GNA projects on federally owned rangelands, a first for Idaho.** The GNA projects in Idaho so far have taken place on federally owned forests managed by the U.S. Forest Service.

The new employees are funded through GNA timber sale receipts and federally appropriated funds, not the General Fund.

Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter and the State Board of Land Commissioners recommended the staffing increases, and the Idaho Legislature unanimously approved the changes during the 2018 legislative session earlier this year. Governor Otter and the Idaho Legislature also approved almost \$4 million in additional spending authority that allows IDL to use the income generated by GNA projects to add more federal land restoration work.

To date, three GNA timber sales have sold in Idaho, generating 13 million board feet of timber on approximately 850 acres of federal lands. **The additional staffing at IDL after July 1 will help complete the 29 additional proposed GNA projects throughout the state, covering 22,000 federal acres.**

The Forest Service and BLM retain authority to oversee the projects and make decisions. **All GNA projects require a collaborative planning process and must comply with all applicable federal laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act.**

The goal is to double the amount of federal timber harvested and double the number of federal acres treated in Idaho through GNA by 2025.

Private industry, the State of Idaho, and the federal government contributed seed money to start the GNA program in Idaho. Within a few years, Idaho's GNA program is expected to fund itself from timber sale revenue. Program income beyond administrative costs helps to pay for future restoration projects on federal lands.

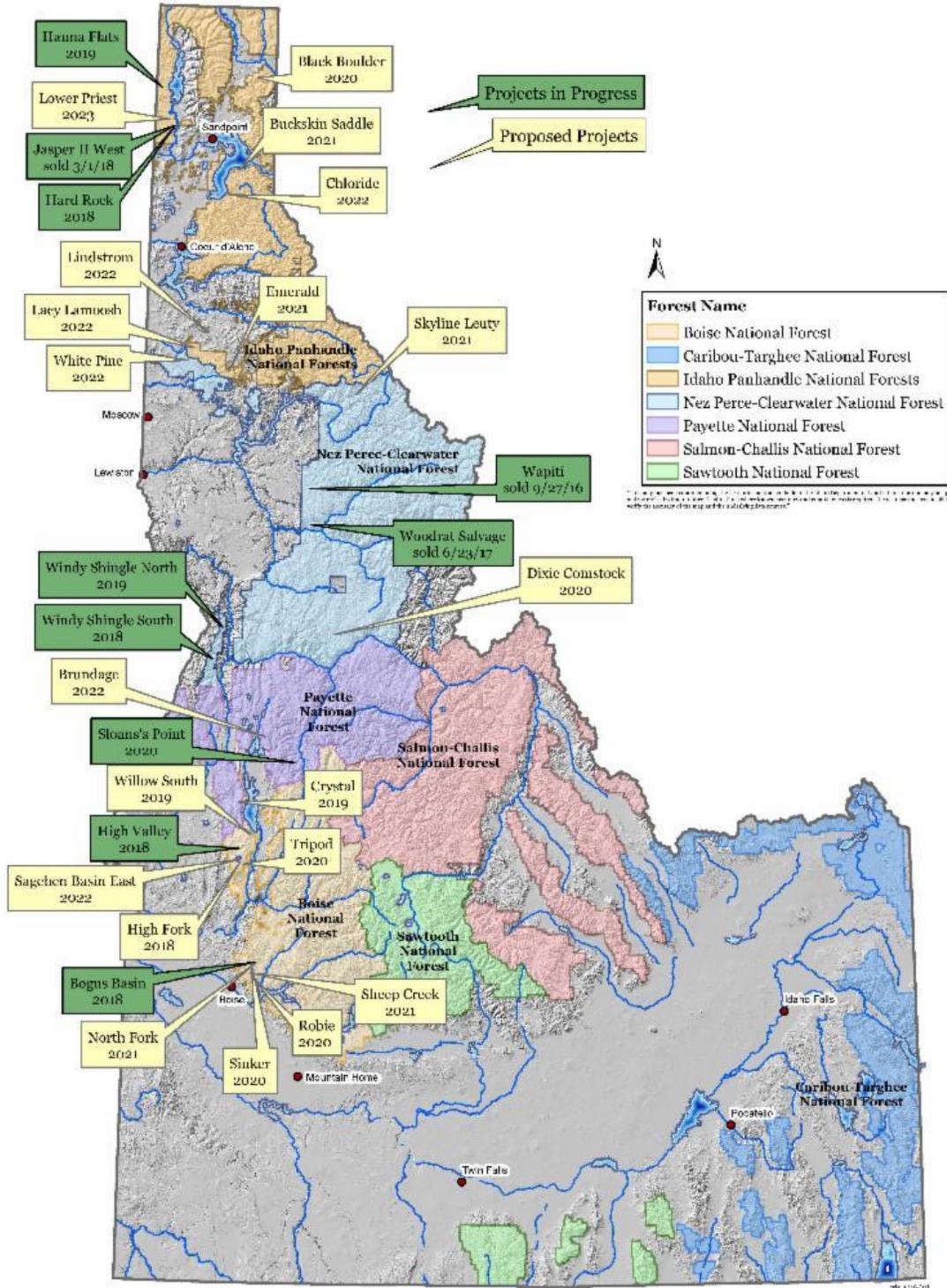
The eight new GNA positions at IDL after July 1 include:

- One rangeland specialist to work with the BLM to implement more range improvement projects and complete more grazing permit renewals and resource plan amendments on federal lands
- Two foresters to implement more projects on the Boise National Forest and Payette National Forest
- One forester to implement more projects on the Panhandle National Forests
- One forester to implement more projects on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests
- One bureau chief to oversee staff, budget and contracts, and ensure regulatory compliance
- One contracting specialist to administer contracts related to timber sales, environmental planning and restoration project work
- One technical records specialist to handle project records, sale receipts, and reports

The new positions add to the five existing GNA employees at IDL, which include one forester working on GNA projects on the Panhandle National Forests; one forester working on GNA projects on the Nez-Perce Clearwater National Forests; a program manager; an employee with expertise in grants; and an employee with expertise in budgets.

MAP: Current and Proposed Idaho GNA Projects
[Download map as PDF](#)

Idaho Good Neighbor Authority Projects



Acreage and volume are estimates as of 3/30/18.