



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Idaho auctions second Good Neighbor Authority timber sale on federal lands**

(KAMIAH) – The State of Idaho auctioned another U.S. Forest Service timber sale today as part of a State-federal partnership to increase management activities on federal lands in Idaho.

The Woodrat Salvage Sale on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests is Idaho's second project developed under Good Neighbor Authority (GNA), a federal law that enables the Forest Service to partner with the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) to achieve restoration and resilient landscape objectives across ownership boundaries in Idaho.

Idaho Forest Group submitted the winning bid to purchase the Woodrat Salvage Sale, which will treat 345 acres by removing dead and dying burned timber and planting new trees. The final net value of the timber sale contract is \$2,184,003. There were two bidders, resulting in the final net bid amount coming in \$1,088,825.20 over the appraised price.

The project's purpose is fuel reduction, economic recovery, and ecosystem restoration following the fires of 2015. It will generate an estimated 7.1 million board feet of timber, and new trees will be planted.

Forest Service personnel completed the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, making the sale possible using GNA. Following the evaluation and decision, Forest Service personnel worked closely with IDL to complete all necessary sale preparation activities, including unit layout and tree marking and cruising.

The Forest Service awarded a separate contract to implement road reconstruction, which is necessary to make the roads suitable for log-haul and public traffic. The reconstruction work will assure water quality protection and primarily involves replacing failing culverts and making the road drainage system fully functional.

"In August of 2015, firefighters from IDL and the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests fought the Woodrat fire alongside each other and I am pleased that we can continue to work together implementing this important post-fire salvage sale project," Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests Supervisor Cheryl Probert said. "The money from this sale will go back into projects such as aquatics restoration, data collection, reforestation, and other work in the Clearwater and lower Salmon basins."

Timber harvesting on the Woodrat Salvage Sale could start within a few weeks of the sale.

The Wapiti Timber Sale, also on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests, was auctioned last year. It was Idaho's first GNA timber sale, and timber harvesting for the Wapiti Timber Sale is also expected to begin in the coming weeks.

"The Idaho Department of Lands forestry professionals are well equipped to support efforts to increase the pace and scale of forest management on federal forests in Idaho. This is because of their extensive knowledge of timber sale preparation and administration and their familiarity with the forest conditions on federal lands in need of treatment," IDL Director Tom Schultz said. "Good Neighbor Authority projects in Idaho are starting to take off. This broad effort will result in healthier landscapes, reduced wildfire risk, increased economic activity and other benefits for Idaho."

Today's timber sale auction and other planned GNA projects elsewhere in Idaho are the result of more than two years of work between the State of Idaho, Forest Service, timber companies, and other partners. The goal of GNA is to increase the pace and scale of forest and watershed restoration activities on national forests in Idaho.

Additional information about GNA efforts in Idaho is available on the IDL web site [here](#).

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