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BACKGROUND

Under the Healthy Forest Restoration Act, 6.1 million acres of National Forest land in Idaho were designated as "high risk" due to threats from insect and disease outbreaks and wildfire.

A recent *Shared Stewardship* agreement between the state of Idaho and Regions 1 and 4 of the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) is encouraging landscape level treatments to minimize insect and disease outbreaks and prioritize fuels reduction projects to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires to communities.

The Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) authorizes the Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) to utilize state processes and personnel to assist the USFS with activities to improve forest health and advance restoration treatments on a broad landscape scale.

IDL is partnering with National Forests in Idaho to expedite projects focused on fuels reduction, forest health improvements, and watershed health.

To date IDL has sold 13 GNA sales, totaling 51.5 million board feet, treating nearly 4,800 acres.

IDL has awarded more than 50 service contracts at a total value of more than \$3 million to the private sector to treat weed infestation, reduce fuels, complete road repairs, and support project planning and monitoring.

REVENUES FUND RESTORATION

Program revenues generated from timber products sold as part of GNA restoration projects are used to offset state personnel costs and fund additional work on National Forest lands.

Over the next 3 years, timber sales sold by the IDL under GNA will generate more than \$7 million in program revenues.

The state of Idaho, the forest products industry, and the Forest Service are contributing funds to increase the pace and scale of restoration through GNA.





BOGUS BASIN FOREST HEALTH PROJECT (photo left)

Trees infected with Douglasfir mistletoe are being removed at Bogus Basin Recreation Area in the Boise National Forest.

Removal of infected trees will improve forest health and ensure public safety for recreationists.

Following harvest operations, USFS and IDL staff will be working side by side on controlled burning and planting of ponderosa pine, a tree species that is resistant to the parasite and more drought tolerant.

DOUGLAS-FIR TUSSOCK MOTH (photo above)

Several thousand acres of forests in central Idaho are being impacted by a severe Douglas-fir tussock moth outbreak. This native pest feeds on and defoliates the needles of true firs, preferring Douglas fir and grand fir host trees.

Through GNA, the USFS and IDL are working together to remove trees that have been severely damaged by defoliation. Heavily defoliated trees are at high risk for mortality and are more susceptible to other forest pests such as bark beetles. Western larch and pine species that are less preferred by the insect will be retained or replanted.

JOBS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR

State service contracts are providing local jobs while accelerating a variety of projects on the ground including improvements to National Forest System roads.

Current GNA projects in this area include roadside treatment of noxious weeds, road resurfacing (photo right), reconstruction, ditching, culvert replacements, and a bridge replacement.



