



Good Neighbor Authority in Idaho: *The Power of Partnerships*

Updated September 2016 ~ Peg Polichio, Idaho Good Neighbor Authority Facilitator

BACKGROUND: Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) enables the Forest Service to partner with states to achieve restoration and resilient landscape objectives across ownership boundaries through cooperative agreements.

The 2014 Farm Bill and the 2014 Consolidated Appropriations Act provide the authority for the Forest Service to enter into contracts and agreements with state agencies to perform forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration services, including timber sales, when similar and complementary activities occur on and off of federal land.

The goal of GNA in Idaho is to increase the pace and scale of forest and watershed restoration activities on federal forests. These cooperative efforts can help improve forest health, reduce fuels and threats to communities and watersheds from catastrophic wildfires, and create more jobs and economic benefits, including providing more fiber to Idaho forest products markets. Successful implementation of GNA in Idaho will require a focused and committed effort from all partners over the next several years to achieve these benefits.

GNA progress in Idaho:

- March 2015: Senate Concurrent Resolution 126 endorses exploration of GNA in Idaho
- October 2015: Contractor hired to facilitate process
- November 2015: Explore possibilities between National Forests and IDL ~ determine best fit
- March 2016: \$562,000 Budget Enhancement approved by 2016 Legislature; spending authority
- May 2016: GNA Master Agreement signed by State Forester and Regional Foresters (Regions 1 and 4)
 - Provides frame and authority for IDL and National Forests to develop Supplemental Project Agreements (SPAs at local level)
 - Presented Idaho GNA Master Agreement and Farm Bill update to Land Board
- June 2016:
 - Three SPAs underway between IDL and Forest Service
 - Nez-Perce Clearwater National Forest
 - Wapiti Thin, NEPA completed 2011 (Lochsa Thin EA), 216 acres, 4.4 MMBF)
 - Payette National Forest
 - Additional field capacity for NEPA cleared project field work ~ timber sale establishment
 - Idaho Panhandle National Forest
 - Hanna Flats, discussions beginning, provide field data, field expertise, support NEPA, “additive” to normal program
 - Working on protocols with IDL, Forest Service Regions and National Forests
- July 2016:
 - Added capacity at IDL in grants, agreements, financial accounting; structured financial systems for accountability and performance reporting
- September 2016:
 - IDL GNA Program Manager hired
 - Signed & executed Nez-Perce Clearwater and Payette National Forest SPAs
 - IDL auction of first GNA project, Nez-Perce Clearwater NF Wapiti Timber Sale
 - 4.44 MMBF ~ gross value \$1.54 million; commence administration of timber sale on behalf of Forest Service; refine restoration treatment plans for use of timber sale generated revenues
- October/November 2016:
 - Anticipate signing Idaho Panhandle National Forests’ SPA
 - Reconnaissance /field proposal work to support Idaho Panhandle National Forests’ Hanna Flats
 - 5000-acre analysis area, likely Farm Bill CE under 3000 acres NEPA underway, lead senior forester provided by IDL Priest Lake Supervisory Area
- December 2016 ~ next several years:
 - Learn together, share what we’ve learned, adapt processes as needed
 - Contribute to and augment landscape scale restoration outcomes across boundaries