

Idaho Good Neighbor Authority projects aim to create jobs, promote healthy lands, reduce fire

September 19, 2017

Owners of federal, state and private lands in Idaho share common goals: Promote **healthy lands and water**, **encourage jobs and economic growth**, and **reduce the risk of wildfire**.

The State of Idaho, through the State Board of Land Commissioners (Land Board) and Idaho Department of Lands (IDL), is helping achieve that goal by assisting the U.S. Forest Service in fully implementing its national forest plans through **Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)**.

Facts About GNA in Idaho

1. GNA benefits private and State landowners. In addition to directly improving the health of federal lands in Idaho through proactive treatments such as timber harvest and replanting, neighboring private and state land owners benefit from reduced threats of fire and insect and disease infestations.

2. GNA adds forest industry jobs and helps sustain Idaho's forest products infrastructure. Adding available fiber supply to the Idaho and regional markets supports family-wage jobs and protects mills and other infrastructure in rural communities.

3. GNA is NOT a "state takeover of federal lands." The State of Idaho, through the Land Board and IDL, is not prescribing how federal agencies should manage federal lands. IDL is providing staff - mostly foresters - to provide services such as cruising, marking, boundary establishment, contract development and administration, and project design with oversight by the Forest Service. IDL is helping the Forest Service facilitate the stated goals and objectives of the national forest plans, which are vetted through National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements and other federal environmental reviews and public input and collaborative processes.

4. GNA program in Idaho is on track to being entirely self-funded. After some initial start-up costs shared between private industry contributions, federal taxpayer dollars and State taxpayer dollars, the GNA program in Idaho is expected to be self-funded from income from timber sales and other revenue generating activities from GNA projects on federal lands within three to five years.

5. GNA projects in Idaho are expected to increase. IDL is requesting additional staff to help facilitate the completion of even more GNA projects on Forest Service lands as well as projects on lands owned by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management after July 1, 2018.

6. GNA is not new. It was established in federal law in 2000, and the 2014 Farm Bill expanded GNA to all states. GNA benefits are well documented in a U.S. Government Accountability Office report published in 2009. View the report [here](#).

GNA agreements are in place on four national forests in Idaho - Idaho Panhandle, Nez Perce-Clearwater, Boise, and Payette national forests.

Ten proposed GNA projects in Idaho will treat approximately 10,000 acres over the next three to five years, producing approximately 65 million board feet of timber, and \$13 million in program income.

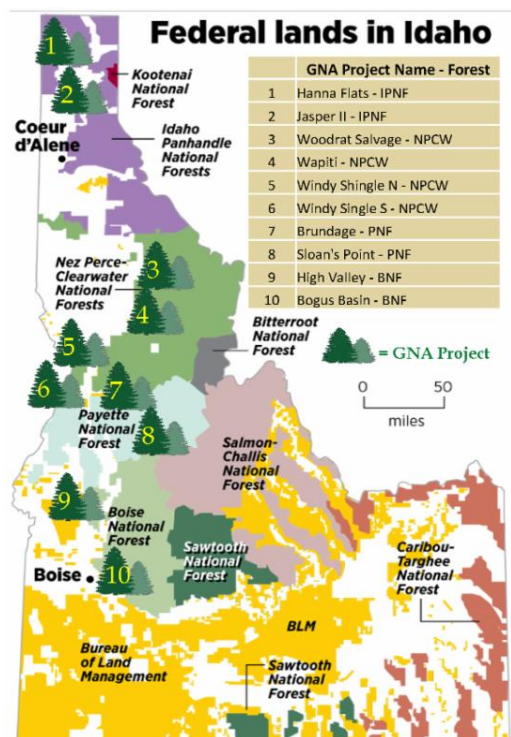
Of the approximately 53 million acres in Idaho, **20.3 million acres are owned by the U.S. Forest Service.**

Of the 20.3 million Forest Service acres in Idaho, **12.6 million acres are suitable for some level of management.**

Of the 12.6 million Forest Service acres suitable for management in Idaho, **8.8 million acres are at high risk of mortality from insect and disease infestations.**

Of the 8.8 million Forest Service acres at high risk of mortality from insect and disease infestations, **4.1 million acres have been designated under the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HFRA)**, which allows the Forest Service to use all available tools and flexibility authorized in the 2014 Farm Bill to address the federal forest health issues, including **Good Neighbor Authority**.

More information about the Idaho GNA program is available [here](#).



Map showing locations of current GNA planned projects in Idaho.

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:

Emily Callihan, Public Information Officer
208-334-0236 or ecallihan@idl.idaho.gov

[SIGN UP](#)
to receive news from IDL

Stay Connected:

