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 helping achieve that goal by assisting the U.S. Forest Service in fully implementing its national forest plans through Good Neighbor Authority (GNA). GNA agreements are in place on four national forests in Idaho - Idaho Panhandle, Nez Perce-Clearwater, Boise, and Payette.

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.

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 management in Idaho. 8.8 million acres are at high risk of mortality from insect and disease infestations.

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.

Federal lands in Idaho

Map showing locations of current GNA planned projects in Idaho.