



Good Neighbor Authority

The Basics and R5 Overview

ACCG

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Types of FS Agreements

The Forest Services uses many different types of agreements:

- Challenge cost-share
- Participating
- Inter-agency
- Cooperative
- Memorandum of understanding
- Collection Agreements*

Presentation focus:

- Good Neighbor agreements
- Stewardship agreements



Good Neighbor Authority: What

- What is the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)?
 - GNA allows FS to enter into agreements and fund any State / county / tribe* agency to perform **forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration services** on NFS lands
 - 2014 Farm Bill – permanent authority
 - 2018 Omnibus – expanded Roads work + added Wyden**
 - 2018 Farm Bill – adds Counties* and Tribes*
 - No RCDs, but CA JPA is uncertain



Good Neighbor Authority: What

Key GNA Parameters

- An area where the state* has “complementary activities” Adjacency is not required
- No match required
- Not restricted by mutual interest/mutual benefit
- 10 year agreements
- Forest Service approves any marking guides and silvicultural prescriptions
- Program revenue allowed from sale of forest products from NFS lands
 - GNA agreements and GNA Program revenue can be used for NEPA



Good Neighbor Authority: What

- What doesn't GNA allow?
 - Construction of paved or permanent roads or parking areas
 - Construction, alteration, repair, or replacement of public buildings or works
 - Activities in Wilderness or designated roadless areas
 - Other lands where vegetation removal isn't allowed

 - Is not a collection authority
 - Is not reciprocal
 - FS crews cannot go on state/private lands, funds OK via GNA partner
 - see participating agreement w/ wyden authority



Good Neighbor Authority: Who

- Who is responsible for what?
 - Relies more on state's* processes
 - FS responsible for NEPA Decision
 - State can do all work up to NEPA Decision (eg: sale prep, environmental analysis, biological assessments, surveys, etc.)
 - Roles and responsibilities should be clearly delineated in agreement
- How does funding work?
 - There is no additional GNA funding associated with the authority
 - Any funding that can be used on/off NFS lands can be transferred to the partner State agency to be used in same manner
 - Stewardship retained receipts cannot be used
 - GNA agreement does not have to include funding transfer from FS
 - GNA is not a collection authority
 - Can be combined with CCI, Joint Chiefs, or LSR funding opportunities



Good Neighbor Authority: How

GNA Timber Revenue

- State can execute their versions of Timber Sales, IRTCs, and IRSCs
 - not just IRSC equivalents like in Stewardship
- State can be fully responsible for appraisals and sale admin – more autonomy than Stewardship Agreements
- State retains timber revenues, which go into **State GNA fund** for re-allocation
- FS reports \$0 in TIM, just volume; no stumpage collected by FS
- State is default responsible for all required reforestation, brush work, etc; but can transfer those funds back to FS
- No authority for timber revenue currently for counties or tribes



Stewardship VS Good Neighbor Authority Agreements

| | GNA Agreements | Stewardship Agreements |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Type of Work | Forest & Watershed Restoration | 7 land mgmt. goals; usually has goods for services |
| Partner | State, County*, or Tribe* | non profits, state, county, tribes |
| Agreement duration | 10 years | 10 / 20 years |
| Match | No match req | 20% match req |
| Pre-Agreement Costs | can be included | cannot be included |
| NEPA | Revenue can pay for NEPA | No 'pre-decisional commitment of resources' |
| Sale Admin | State administers sale | FS administers state who runs sale |



Good Neighbor Authority: How

2016 Regional Master Agreement

- Master Agreement with CA Natural Resources Agency – VERY GENERAL – includes R4 Humboldt Toiyabe
 - All Departments under CA-NRA are eligible to work with FS: CAL FIRE, California Conservation Corps, Dept of Conservation, Dept of Fish and Wildlife, Dept of Parks and Recreation, Dept of Water Resources, State Conservancies
- National Forests enter into Supplemental Project Agreements (SPA) tied to Master for project-level work.
- SPA signed by SO and local State agency or CALFIRE cooperator

- Example projects
 - Plumas NF – Fire Settlement funds managed by SNC
 - Sierra NF – Tree mortality work, no funding – paired with Wyden
 - Klamath NF – Fuels work, incl deficit timber sale and roads



Good Neighbor Authority: How

- Additional GNAs in R5
 - 5 SPAs with CAL FIRE under CNRA master + 1 w/ CTC
 - Eldorado, Sierra (x2), Stanislaus, Klamath, LTBMU (CTC)
 - Master Agreement with State of Nevada for Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit, Inyo NF and Humboldt Toiyabe NF
 - SPA: Fuels work w/ timber and biomass
 - Master Agreement with Sierra Nevada Conservancy
 - No SPAs yet
 - Developing Master Agreement with CalTrans
 - Forest and fuels work near state highways, incl timber
 - Humboldt County Master and Kern County Fire SPA



Good Neighbor Authority: How

- CAL FIRE GNA SPA process
 1. Project is identified as appropriate for GNA authority and agreement.
 2. NF staff and CAL FIRE Unit Chief work together to elaborate SOW and budget
 - Support from RO GNA team are available to help ID project and develop agreement (Jason Ko, POC)
 3. This draft is reviewed by CAL FIRE HQ (Matthew Reischman) for budget and SOW
 4. A revised draft is sent to FS G+A mailbox for review
 5. Any proposed changes from designated FS G+A rep are sent back to the CALFIRE HQ, the FS unit and CAL FIRE Unit Chief for concurrence.
 6. FS G+A signs a final draft
 7. CAL FIRE HQ signs (Reischman)
 8. The Forest Supervisor signs



Good Neighbor Authority: How

- Sierra Nevada Conservancy GNA SPA process
 1. Project is identified as appropriate for GNA authority and agreement.
 2. NF and SNC staff work together to elaborate SOW and budget
 - Support from RO GNA team are available (Jason Ko, POC)
 3. A draft is sent to FS G+A mailbox for review
 4. Any proposed changes from designated FS G+A rep are sent back to the SNC and the FS unit for concurrence.
 5. FS G+A signs a final draft
 6. For SNC, the Chief Executive Officer, or designee signs
 7. For the Forest Service, the relevant National Forest Supervisor, or designee signs
 8. Copies of the final SPAs should be sent to the FS RO of the Master Agreement for tracking purposes



Good Neighbor Authority: How

- Key Resources

- R5 GNA resource page:

<https://www.fs.usda.gov/detailfull/r5/workingtogether/partnerships/?cid=fseprd646022&width=full>

- GNA Case Studies across the west:

<https://www.ruralvoicescoalition.org/publications/>

- Fillable templates (internal FS) :

<http://fsweb.wo.fs.fed.us/aqm2/wo/grants/Templates.php>

- Internal FS GNA sharepoint:

<https://usdagcc.sharepoint.com/sites/fs-ga-gna/SitePages/Your%20%20Good%20Neighbor%20Authority%20Information%20Source.aspx>



Thank you for your attention!

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