



GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY

The Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) is intended to expand limited federal capacity to implement and plan forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration projects by facilitating partnerships between the Forest Service and/or BLM with state, county, and tribal agencies. The authority allows a state, county or tribe to perform authorized restoration services and allows a state (not county or tribe) to administer timber sales on federal land. The federal agency may also use the value of wood products to purchase restoration services, including planning, from state, county, and tribal agencies.

GNA LEGISLATIVE HISTORY & AUTHORITY

2001- GNA authorized through the 2001 Interior Appropriations Act. Use is limited to USFS and Colorado for five years.

2005 - 2005 Interior Appropriations Act expands GNA to include BLM in Colorado and establishes a separate pilot program in Utah.

2010 - The Colorado pilot program is extended for an additional 5 years through the 2010 Interior Appropriations Act.

2014 - Congress expands GNA nationally, both through the Farm Bill (permanent) and the 2014 Interior Appropriations Act (with 2018 expiration).

2018 – The 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Act refines GNA by permitting road work necessary to carry out authorized restoration. The 2018 Farm bill expands the authority to include counties and tribes, with the exception of revenue-generating projects; limits the use of GNA revenue to Federal lands, and establishes that state agencies will retain all revenue from GN timber sales.

GNA FAST FACTS

- ❖ No funding is attached to GNA
- ❖ No match is required for GNA projects
- ❖ NEPA requirements remain the responsibility of Federal partner
- ❖ State agencies may enter into GNA agreements, and retain revenue from the sale of Federal Timber. GNA revenue may only be used on GNA projects on Federal lands.
- ❖ Counties and Tribes may enter into GNA agreements, and **cannot** retain revenue from the sale of Federal timber
- ❖ Revenues generated by a GNA agreement cannot be used off Federal lands. All new agreements must ensure the projects are focused on Federal lands, or mixed with other funds that cover non-federal land projects (i.e. fuels).
- ❖ No revenues (stumpage) will be collected by the Forest Service, nor with there be any Payments to the States (25% Fund).
- ❖ Provides the ability to work across jurisdictional boundaries and treat the landscape in a mixed ownership setting i.e., all lands approach to landscape restoration
- ❖ Provides the ability to leverage state resources to increase capacity to accomplish work on National Forest System & BLM lands.

Ineligible Land types for GNA

Designated Wilderness Areas
Wilderness Study Areas
Designated National Parks
US Fish & Wildlife Lands

Eligible Land types for GNA

Forest Service lands
BLM Lands
Private Lands*
State, County & Tribal Lands*

*No GNA Revenue may be used

IMPLEMENTATION OF GNA

State Agency, County, or Tribe may enter into a 10-year Master GNA Agreement with USFS and/or BLM, which carries all required provisions for any agreement. Supplemental Project Agreements (SPA) or standalone agreements can then be made for specific projects, and only have project specific information. If revenue is generated from the sale of forest products with a state agency agreement, the state retains all revenue, with no stumpage deposit. Revenue will be utilized on Federal lands only for restoration services or planning. Counties and tribes do not retain GNA generated revenue.

RESOURCES

Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition (RVCC), Understanding Good Neighbor Authority: Case Studies from Across the West, https://static1.squarespace.com/static/562e839ee4b0332955e8143d/t/5bb64dde7817f799e3355fed/1538674144568/RVC+GNA+2018_web.pdf

National Association of State Foresters, GNA Webpage, <https://www.stateforesters.org/state-defined-solutions/good-neighbor-authority/>

USDA Forest Service, GNA webpage, <https://www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/farm-bill/gna>

CWSF GNA Recorded Webinar, <https://www.westernforesters.org/publications/good-neighbor-authority>

National Forest Foundation, GNA resources, <https://www.nationalforests.org/collaboration-resources/tools-search/results?q=neighbor&type=&topic=>

Wyoming GNA Contacts:

WY GNA Coordinator, Laura Wagner: laura.wagner1@wyo.gov

WSFD GNA Contracts: Josh Van Vlack: Josh.Vanvlack@wyo.gov

BLM GNA Forestry Lead: Josh Jackson: jjackson@blm.gov

Shoshone & Bighorn NF G&A: karla.m.swenson@usda.gov

Black Hills NF G & A: Mari Literas: mari.literas@usda.gov

Trinity Bugger, USFS R4 G&A: trinity.bugger@usda.gov

Shannon Hitch USFS R4 Forestry: shannon.hitch@usda.gov

Matt Etzenhouser, USFS R2 GNA Forestry:

matthew.etzenhouser@usda.gov

Becky Cuthbertson, USFS R2 G&A:

rebecca.cuthbertson@usda.gov

Intended Uses for GNA

Authorized Restoration Services which include:

- treatment of insect and disease infected trees
- hazardous fuels reduction
- any activities to restore or improve forest, rangeland, and watershed health, including fish and wildlife habitat.
- Temporary road work necessary to carry out authorized restoration.
- abandoned mine land reclamation
- monitoring

Commercial timber sales

Allows for Forest Service funds to be spent on National Forest System lands

Disallowed Uses for GNA

- Construction, reconstruction, repair, or restoration of parking areas, public buildings, or public works.
- Stewardship contracting and GNA cannot be used together
- GNA Revenue may not be used off Federal Land