



Good Neighbor Authority in Idaho: 2016 Highlights & 2017 Plans

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.

2016 GNA Highlights

- IDL enters into a five year agreement with three forest products industry cooperators. Under this agreement, contributing companies will provide up to \$1 million dollars over five years to cover partial startup costs for GNA.
- GNA Statewide Master Agreement was signed between the IDL and Regions 1 and 4 of the Forest Service.
- IDL hires a Federal Lands Program Manager to work with GNA Contractor to complete work on Supplemental Project Agreements (SPAs) and to evaluate potential GNA projects on several National Forests.
- Supplemental Project Agreements (SPAs) were developed and signed on the Nez Perce-Clearwater, Payette, and Idaho Panhandle National Forests. These SPAs authorize and describe how IDL will implement GNA forest restoration projects on that National Forest.
- IDL auctions first GNA timber sale (Wapiti timber sale) on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest. This timber sale was purchased by McFarland Cascade and is expected to generate approximately 4.5 million board feet and \$1.2 million dollars in net program income for Idaho GNA.
- The Payette National Forest provides federal money to IDL to fund field work associated with the Lost Creek Boulder Creek and Brundage Vegetation Management Projects. Approximately 150 acres on Lost Creek Boulder Creek were jointly marked (designated for harvest) by Forest Service and IDL staff. In addition, IDL staff also collected stand exam data for the 175-acre Brundage Vegetation Management Project and identified 14 treatment units totaling about 800 thousand board feet. This project preparation work paves the way to formally begin the NEPA environmental planning process.
- IDL staff began the initial field reconnaissance work on the 5,000-acre Hanna Flats project area near Priest Lake on the Panhandle National Forest. The proposed Hanna Flats is a thinning and fuel reduction project.

2017 GNA Plans

- The Nez-Clear National Forest and IDL are currently reviewing a potential GNA fire salvage restoration project to be auctioned in the spring of 2017. This 2,500-acre fire salvage restoration project could potentially generate an additional 8-10 million board feet under the GNA program. The Forest and IDL will be collaborating in the coming months to assess the viability of this second project.
- McFarland Cascade, purchase of the Wapiti timber sale on the Nez-Clear National Forest, is expected to begin harvest operations on the project as soon as ground conditions permit in late spring of 2017.

- Field work and the associated NEPA analysis/public outreach on the Panhandle National Forest Hanna Flats project will likely be completed in 2017.
- Field work on the Lost Creek Boulder Creek and Brundage Vegetation Management Projects on the Payette National Forest should be completed in 2017.
- IDL continues to work with the National Forests to identify additional GNA projects and to build GNA criteria into the Forest Planning process.
- IDL submits Decision Unit in Governor's budget for an additional \$500,000 in federal and dedicated fund spending authority to expand GNA in Idaho.