



Federal Forest Working Group Call – In work session

May 4 2017
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Conference Call-in Number: 1 888 585 9008
Participant ('Room') Code: 322 674 124

Work Session Purpose includes: Discussion of Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) project implementation in Oregon; USFS budget status.

Final draft AGENDA

- 2:00 Welcome & Introductions; Agenda review.
Jason Miner, Governor's Natural Resources Office, Convener
- 2:05 Good Neighbor Authority: Status of projects *Attachment A.*
Introduction and framing: Chad Davis, ODF.
Regional reports and discussion: Federal Forest Restoration Program staff -
Tyson Bertone-Riggs, Mike Billman, Cale Graves, Katie Morrison.
- 3:00 USFS: Budget status to 9/30/2017; Forest collaborative support positions;
FFWG support.
Nick Goldstein and Carol Boyd, USFS Regional Office.
- 3:15 Outlook for the Oregon model of place-based collaboration and Federal *Attachment B.*
Forest Restoration Program implementation. Observations, discussion.
Pete Dalke, Oregon Solutions.
- 3:25 FFWG June 15 work session agenda planning. Location: ODF, Salem from 1 – 4:00 p.m..
 - FFRP Monitoring report – Ecosystem Workforce Program, Univ. of Oregon.
 - USFS and ODF/FFRP budget outlook.
 - Draft topic: Evolving place based collaboration as an essential tool for increasing forest resiliency at scale: improving effectiveness, identifying incentives, and addressing resource needs (administrative capacity; science/technical information delivery; training; networking; time/staff resource commitments).
- 3:30 Adjourn

FFWG Overview & Vision

Fall 2016

The FFWG is an advocate for community based collaborative approaches to complex public land management issues to reduce conflict and identify innovative solutions. We strive to contribute to (rural) community well-being, economic vitality, and improved ecological resilience by advancing active landscape-scale restoration of federal forest lands throughout Oregon.

The purposes of the FFWG include:

- *Advance collaboratively driven landscape-scale, active restoration of federal forest lands throughout Oregon;*
- *Foster and expand the use of collaborative problem solving at the community level and cumulatively at the State level;*
- *Enable research and development to identify successful approaches to community based collaborative processes;*
- *Identify policy and financial barriers to federal forest management; and*
- *Promote innovative solutions to restoration of forest and watershed health.*

We will:

- *Provide a forum for community based dialogue across collaborative groups and involving diverse stakeholders including federal and state agencies, counties, tribes, and interest groups to raise and solve barriers to accelerated restoration on federal lands (Forest Service and BLM);*
- *Support and contribute to maintaining and growing our innovative Federal-State Partnership that demonstrates new governance structures and ways of doing business together;*
- *Discuss and foster implementation of new and emerging governance structures that provide for meaningful involvement of community and collaborative leadership, including identifying the resources and conditions necessary to implement these collaborative structures;*
- *Articulate the need for a consistent supply of timber offered through restoration and forest management that is collaboratively supported; and,*
- *Work together to identify and secure increased, consistent, and/or diverse funding of collaborative approaches and implementation of landscape scale restoration projects.*

These activities will restore forests, help sustain communities by creating jobs and maintaining forest-sector infrastructure, and enhance Oregon's energy independence.

ATTACHMENT A.

Good Neighbor Authority (GNA): Some Background Information

- ✓ The US Forest Service webpage outlining GNA authorities can be linked to at:
<https://www.fs.fed.us/managing-land/farm-bill/gna>

"The Good Neighbor Authority allows the Forest Service to enter into cooperative agreements or contracts with States and Puerto Rico to allow the States to perform watershed restoration and forest management services on National Forest System (NFS) lands. Congress passed two laws expanding Good Neighbor Authority (GNA): the FY 2014 Appropriations Act and the 2014 Farm Bill. Each law contains slightly different versions.

- *The Farm Bill permanently authorizes the Good Neighbor Authority for both the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) extending it to all 50 States and Puerto Rico. It excludes construction, reconstruction, repair, or restoration of paved or permanent roads or parking areas and construction, alteration, repair, or replacement of public buildings or works; as well as projects in wilderness areas, wilderness study areas, and lands where removal of vegetation is prohibited or restricted.*
- *The Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 Appropriations Act included a five-year authorization for the use of GNA in all states with NFS lands to perform watershed restoration and protection services on NFS and BLM lands when similar and complementary services are performed by the state on adjacent state or private lands. Other than the adjacency requirement, there were no exclusions as to type or location of work.*

[Good Neighbor Agreement Questions and Comments](#) (PDF, 182 KB)

- ✓ The GNA Master Agreement with the USFS was signed by Governor Brown, then-State Forester Doug Decker and ODFW Director Curt Melcher just over a year ago, on March 29, 2016. <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r6/news-events/?cid=FSEPRD496285>
- ✓ Press coverage of the GNA Master Agreement signing included:
 - <http://www.eastoregonian.com/20160406/other-views-managing-oregons-national-forests>
- ✓ The FFWG discussed GNA projects underway including the Paddock Butte GNA project at the recent 3/9/2017 work session. The Paddock Butte scoping packet was circulated, including the District Ranger's transmittal letter. Comments were due by March 16 2017. The Fremont-Winema National Forest "expects to analyze the project utilizing the 2014 Farm Bill/HFRA, Section 603 Insect and Disease Categorical Exemption (CE) category". The project briefing document and *collaborative engagement plan* were attached with emails sent to the FFWG in advance of the 3/9 work session.

ATTACHMENT B.

The Oregon Model of place-based collaboration and Federal Forest Restoration Program implementation

The USFS recognizes a number of authorities where Congress has either explicitly or implicitly directed collaboration occur as a part of implementation.¹ These include:

- ✓ Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Act (CFLRP).
- ✓ Healthy Forests Restoration Act.
- ✓ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).
- ✓ Secure Rural Schools (Resource Advisory Committees).
- ✓ Stewardship Contracting.
- ✓ Tribal Forest Protection Act.

Additional USFS-supported programs and authorities being implemented in Oregon also anticipate that Federal land managers will work collaboratively with the public. These include:

- ✓ 2014 Farm Bill/HFRA, Section 603 Insect and Disease Categorical Exemption (CE) category.
- ✓ Good Neighbor Authority.
- ✓ Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership.
- ✓ National Forest Foundation's Community Capacity and Land Stewardship grant program.
- ✓ Wyden Amendment.

These authorities embracing collaboration are advancing partnerships to work across traditional barriers to ensure more efficient and effective management and restoration projects. By effectively leveraging technical and financial resources with support from a diverse group of partners, coordinated efforts are helping to restore acres across larger landscapes. Collaboration is also advancing projects regardless of whether they are on public or private lands (for example, Wyden Amendment authority, GNA and Joint Chiefs' Projects).

Particularly on the east side of the Cascades in Oregon and Washington, these collaborative efforts have become a catalyst for turning discussions about projects and restoration among diverse interests into on-the-ground implementation by various partners.

¹ Reference: Collaboration and the Law, a USFS webpage maintained at:
<https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/prc/legal-administrativeresources/collaboration-law>