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| Agenda Item No: | 8 |
| Presentation Title: | Good Neighbor Authority |
| Date of Presentation: | November 2, 2016 |
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SUMMARY

In 2014, Congress authorized two versions of the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) which authorizes both the US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management to enter into agreements with state agencies to implement a wide range of restoration activities on federal lands. The 2014 Farm Bill included permanent authorization for GNA and is viewed as the primary instrument.

Under GNA, the Federal government retains all responsibilities for issuing decisions and ensuring that projects comply with all existing environmental laws (ie. National Forest Management Act, National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, and Clean Water Act.) Under GNA, states operate as an agent of the Secretary of Agriculture or Interior to carry out federal decisions. Mechanically, the federal agency transfers funds and authority for specifically defined work to a state agency for execution. The state can either conduct work with state employees and/or offer contracts for work to be completed using state procurement provisions.

No new funding was authorized by Congress for GNA. The federal agencies can use two general forms of funds to award to the state to perform work 1) appropriated funds in conformance with existing budget line items, 2) retained receipts generated by a Stewardship Contract, and 3) timber revenue generated under a GNA. For the latter, the state can recoup its costs to prepare and administer the work and reinvest the revenue in additional restoration work (ie. prescribed burning, aspen fencing, data collection/surveys).

In April 2016, Governor Brown signed a Master Good Neighbor Agreement with Regional Forester Jim Pena, State Forester Doug Decker, and ODFW Director Curt Melcher. This Master Agreement facilitates the development of Supplemental Project Agreements (SPA) on a project-by-project basis. ODF has signed three SPAs to date: two will implement restoration actions on the Fremont-Winema National Forest and one cost-shares ODFs capacity to coordinate projects at the field level initially funded using state funds under the Federal Forest Restoration Program.

RECOMMENDATION

1. No recommendation at this time.

ATTACHMENTS & LINKS

1. USFS Briefing Paper Good Neighbor Authority Overview
2. Briefing Paper: GNA Project on the Fremont-Winema National Forest
3. Good Neighbor Authority in Oregon: Comparison of State and Federal Contracting Provisions