

Briefing Paper

August 29, 2016



TOPIC: Fremont-Winema National Forest Good Neighbor Agreements with Klamath-Lake District Oregon Department of Forestry for the greatest good

KEY MESSAGES:

- The Fremont-Winema National Forest (FWNF) partnered with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to complete two Good Neighbor Agreement SPAs in 2016 for fuels thinning and timber sale preparation. There are plans to complete an additional one in 2017 for a timber sale.
- The 2014 Farm Bill established Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) which allows the Forest Service to partner with State Agencies to accomplish authorized restoration work and the ability to leverage State resources to increase capacity to accomplish work on National Forest System lands. This is done via an agreement called a Good Neighbor Agreement.
- The Forest Service entered into a single Master Good Neighbor Agreement with both the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and ODF in March 2016. This allows projects with either State Agency (ODF or ODFW) to be implemented via a Supplemental Project Agreement (SPA).
- A Good Neighbor Agreement can allow the State to re-invest timber value into authorized restoration activities and cost recovery.

BACKGROUND:

In January of 2016, the FWNF met with ODF to brainstorm potential partnership opportunities to increase the pace, scale and quality of restoration. The following list of ideas that was generated in that discussion:

1. Explore specific GNA projects with an initial focus on:
 - Service work (i.e., small-tree thinning, piling)
 - Timber sale
 - Stand exams, presale or other fieldwork
2. At a minimum, to create a blend of work on FWNF land for the current ODF fires crews to work in the shoulder seasons (spring and fall) through a mix of Federal Forest Restoration Program (FFRP) and FWNF funds.
3. Develop a partnership over time that builds capacity within ODF that would add capacity to the FWNF to increase its overall program of work. Evaluate the degree to which this additional capacity can be sustained through a timber sale program.
4. Accomplish landscape scale restoration across ownership boundaries in concert with federal, state, non-governmental and private land partners.

STATUS:

The FWNF and ODF are developing three Supplemental Project Agreements (SPA) that are tiered to a Statewide Master Agreement:

- **Blue Jay Timber Prep and Inspection:** ODF will conduct post-harvest monitoring, timber marking, marking inspection and cruising. The SPA was funded with approximately \$102,500 appropriated dollars in the FWNF budget. Though the FWNF had money to accomplish this work, it lacked the capacity to prepare service contracts, solicit contracts, inspect contracts and conduct post-harvest monitoring. ODF anticipates to contract most of this work to local contractors. This SPA was executed in August of 2016 and work will begin in the fall of 2016.
- **Fuels Thinning:** ODF will implement small-tree thinning and piling work in the Crooked Mud Honey Project on the Lakeview Ranger District and the Modoc Point Project on the Chiloquin Ranger Districts. This SPA was funded with approximately \$132,900 appropriated dollars, of which a portion of the funds were supplemental fuels funding allocated to the FWNF in 2016. This partnership with ODF adds capacity, such as contract development and administration. The work on the ground will be accomplished using both ODF crews and State contracting mechanisms with a desired objective of hiring a local contractor. This SPA was executed in August of 2016 and work will begin in the fall of 2016. A portion of this project is located within the North Warner Multi-Ownership Forest Health Project Area where FWNF is working with Klamath-Lake ODF and many other partners in Lake County to work across ownership boundaries to promote forest health and fire resiliency.
- **Silver Fox Timber Sale:** The FWNF is using the Farm Bill Insect and Disease Categorical Exclusion (CE) to plan a project called Silver Fox. ODF is collecting data for the analysis utilizing State FFR funds. Once the FWNF has issued a Decision Memo for the project, the FWNF intends to ask ODF to implement the timber sale through a Good Neighbor Agreement. ODF would prepare, sell and administer the timber sale using state timber sale contracting provisions to meet the environmental practices as described in the National Environmental Policy Act document. Approximately \$220,000 of State FFR funds have been allocated for ODF's timber sale prep work on this project. Once timber value is generated, ODF will pay for its costs to administer the sale from the timber revenue generated. The goal is that this initial timber sale SPA will inform the development of a sustainable program within ODF to continue adding capacity to the FWNF. This SPA is under development with input from the Regional Office.

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