

What is Good Neighbor Authority?

In 2014, in order to enhance cooperation with State partners, Congress passed into law two Good Neighbor Authorities allowing the US Forest Service (and BLM) to enter into cooperative agreements that allow States to perform watershed restoration and forest management services on National Forest System (NFS) lands. While we currently enter into a variety of agreements with individual State agencies, with these new authorities, we can strengthen the State-Federal relationship across natural lands in unprecedented and innovative ways. These authorities can help us leverage our combined skills and resources (often with other partners and Tribes) to work across jurisdictional boundaries and treat landscapes in more efficiently and effectively in key areas. With federal lands representing 60% of the total forest land in Oregon, it may be timely and strategic to ask ourselves ***“Where and under what circumstances do the State of Oregon and the Forest Service most want to work together to enhance ecological health and resilience while offering additional social and economic benefits?”***

	Farm Bill	2014 Appropriation Bill
	Authorized forest, rangeland and watershed restoration services (for both FS and BLM)- which will also provide a benefit to NFS lands.	Watershed restoration and protective services on NFS lands when similar and complimentary services are performed by the State on adjacent private or state lands (for both FS and BLM).
What can we do together with States?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Treat insect and disease areas • Reduce hazardous fuels • State can prepare and sell timber on behalf of the Forest Service • Build Temporary roads for projects • Plan or implement activities to improve habitat or watershed health • Emergency stabilization • Collect data or conduct analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public works including improving roads, culverts, trails, parking areas or other public works. • Treat insect and disease areas • Reduce hazardous fuels • Plan or implement activities to improve habitat or watershed health
What we cannot do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work on paved/permanent roads • Work on public buildings or other public works • Work where vegetation removal is prohibited (wilderness areas etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work where vegetation removal is prohibited (wilderness etc.) • Timber removal • Build new roads
Where we can do it	On or off National Forest System (NFS) lands where there is benefit to these lands- adjacency is not required	NFS or adjacent state or private land where similar or complimentary activities are taking place- direct adjacency not required.
Who we can do it with	Any state agency and the state can sub-contract work to counties or third parties	State Foresters. State Forester can award work to others.
Timeline of Authority	Permanent Authority	Expires September 30, 2018