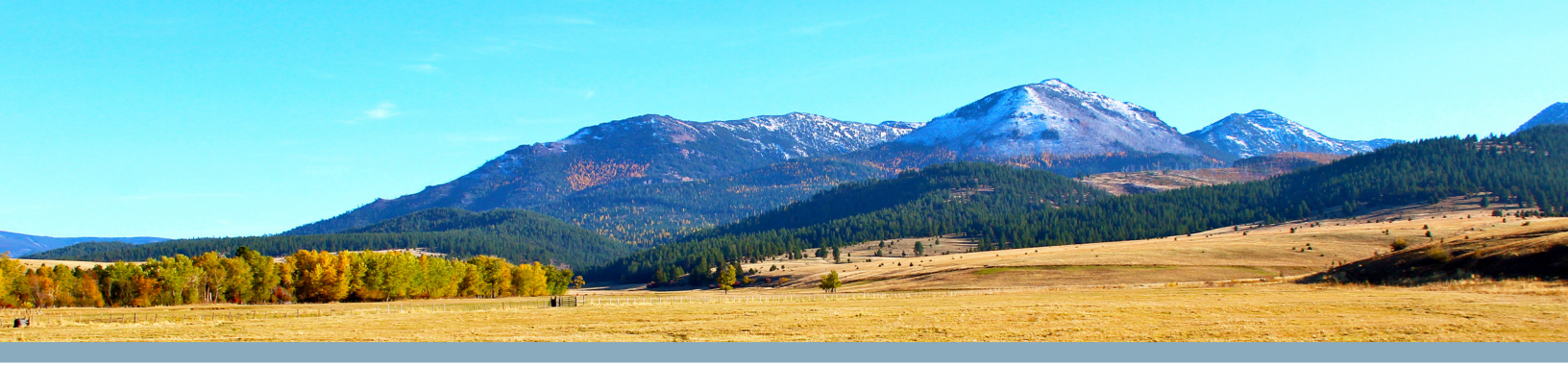


Ecosystem Workforce Program

FEDERAL FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM USE OF THE GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY

2016–2018 ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES

FACT SHEET 16 • SPRING 2019

The Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) was authorized in the 2014 Farm Bill. It allows federal and state agencies to work in partnership to implement watershed and forest management activities on federal lands. The Federal Forest Restoration Program (FFRP)—administered by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)—began using GNA in 2016 to complete restoration activities on lands managed by the USDA Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. This fact sheet highlights select outcomes from GNA activities administered by ODF from 2016 to 2018.

The Oregon Legislature House Bill 4118 in 2018 established a state priority to pursue GNA projects that increase timber harvest volume, create jobs, reduce wildfire risks, improve wildlife habitat and watershed health, and stimulate local economies. The bill also provided $400,000[1] in lottery funds to ODF to support the development, planning, or implementation of GNA projects. The increasing use of GNA and OR HB4118 represent important steps toward mobilizing additional capacity to manage Oregon's federal lands.

GNA PROJECT OUTCOMES

Below, we report outcomes of both completed and in-progress GNA projects.

Service work activities: GNA allows state employees or private contractors to complete noncommercial forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration work on federal lands. Federal agencies compensate state agencies for the cost of labor and supplies. ODF's service work activities include:

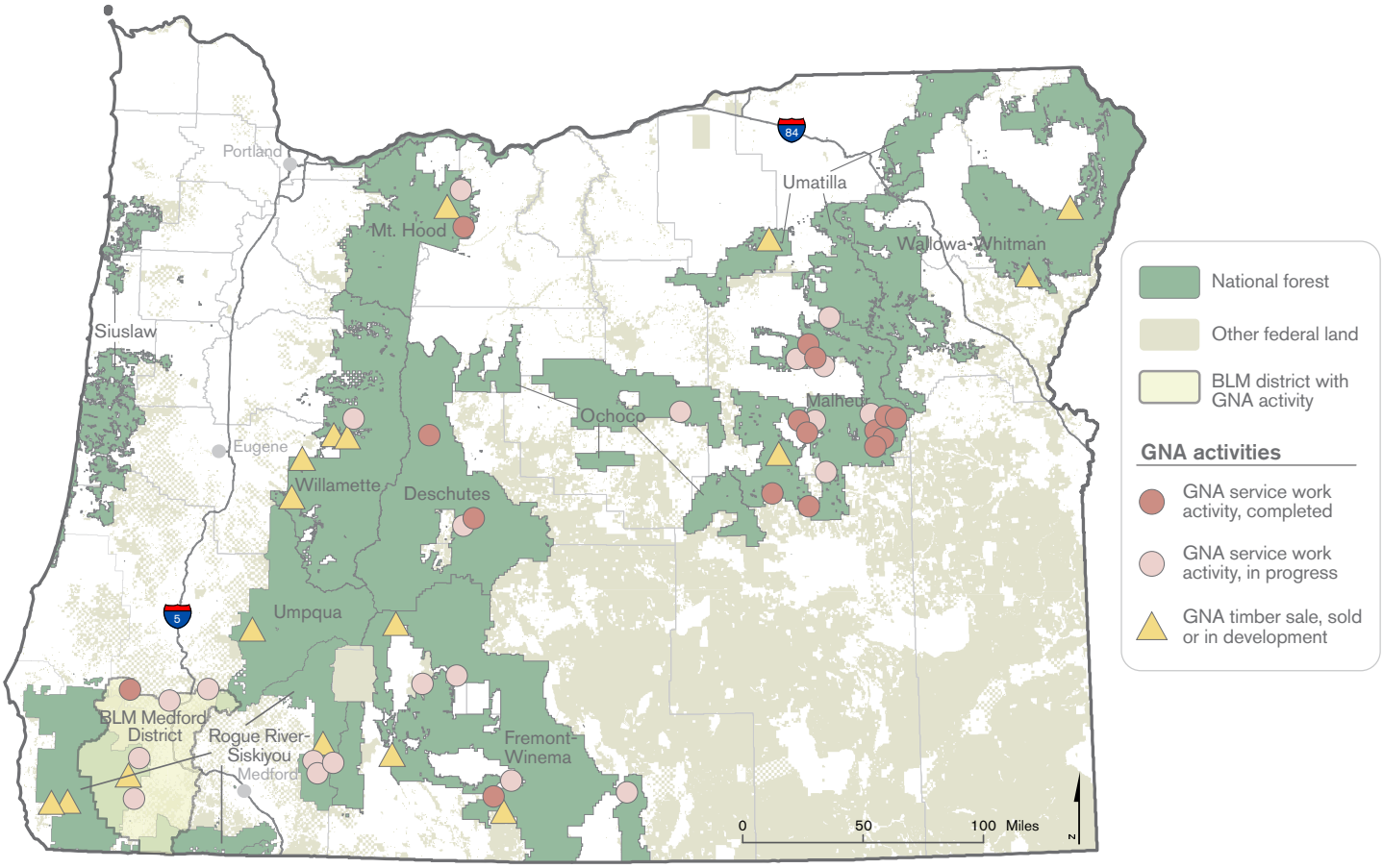
- 37 activities across seven national forests and one BLM district.
- 16 completed activities and 21 in-progress activities.
- 5,221 sale prep acres completed; 18,046 sale prep acres planned or in progress. Sale prep acres include activities such as: timber sale layout, timber marking, and data collection.
- 1,081 treatment acres completed; 2,722 treatment acres planned or in progress. Treatment acres include on-the-ground activities such as: non-commercial thinning; brushing, piling or scattering materials; prescribed burns; or road decommissioning.
- Sale prep activities range in size from 150 to 11,375 acres.
- Treatment activities range in size from 5 to 2,000 acres.

Timber sales: GNA enables state agencies to administer timber sales on federal land. Timber sales accomplish restoration objectives and may include commercial thinning for fuels reduction or other forest health objectives, or salvage following wildfire suppression. Revenue from timber sales is used to reimburse the state for the costs of preparing and administering sales. Any remaining funds pay for additional restoration work on federal lands. GNA timber sales administered by ODF include:

- 17 timber sales across eight national forests.
- 1 timber sale sold in 2018 (2,200 mbf and 650 acres on the Fremont-Winema National Forest).
- 16 timber sales in development (totalling an estimated 42,690 mbf, and 9,608 acres).
- Sale footprints range in size from 35 to 3,500 acres.

[1] *An additional $100,000 in lottery funds was granted to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.*

Good Neighbor Authority activities administered by Oregon Department of Forestry, 2016–2018



GNA allows ODF to provide critical additional restoration capacity. Forest Service and BLM units leverage relatively small investments of ODF staff time and resources to increase the pace and/or scale of restoration work in Oregon. Below are specific examples of how ODF and federal land management units partner to use GNA:

- GNA allows ODF and contract crews to provide surge capacity to complete restoration work at key times of year, within narrow time frames, such as conducting prescribed burning or accessing high-elevation restoration sites.
- GNA allows ODF to administer unexpected salvage or deck timber sales following emergency wildfire suppression on federal lands. The funds from the sales are reinvested in restoration work on the federal units.
- GNA allows ODF to complete NEPA planning work and administer timber sales in sections of federal forests that federal units are unable to prioritize due to their small size and/or isolation from other untreated areas. This work serves to reduce wildfire risk in nearby communities, protect infrastructure, and generate local economic benefit.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

- More detailed reporting will be provided in a Working Paper, forthcoming in June 2019 (See: http://ewp.uoregon.edu/publications/working/).
- Bertone-Riggs, T., Cyphers, L., Davis, E.J., and K. Hardigg. 2018. Understanding Good Neighbor Authority: Case Studies from Across the West. Rural Voices for Conservation Coalition Report. Available at https://www.ruralvoicescoalition.org/s/RVC-GNA-2018_web_.pdf.
- Davis, E.J. and A. Santo. 2019. Oregon's Forest Collaborative Organizational Capacity: An Updated Picture. Ecosystem Workforce Program, University of Oregon. Working Paper #90. Available mid-March at https://ewp.uoregon.edu/publications/working.

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