GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY QUARTERLY UPDATE

APRIL 2020

The Montana Department of Natural Resources & Conservation (DNRC), the United States Forest Service (USFS), and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), in close partnership with other agencies, industry, and conservation groups, are working to increase the amount of forest and watershed restoration on federal and adjacent lands accomplished in Montana through the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA).

Through GNA, Montana is improving forest health and resiliency, reducing threats to communities and watersheds from large and destructive wildfires, and creating more jobs and local economic benefits.

Picture above shows a panorama of the Boulder Lowlands GNA project.

GNA WORK SUMMARY

There are currently six GNA timber sales under contract and five more sales to be advertised in FY20. In FY21, an additional nine sales will be advertised. By 2021, all seven national forests and the BLM in Montana will have forest restoration projects implemented through GNA.

DNRC GNA WORKFORCE

BUREAU TEAM
Bureau Chief:
Greg Archie
Program Manager:
Neil Simpson
GNA Business Specialist:
Chloe Munden

FIELD TEAM
Southwestern Land Office GNA Specialist:
Nate Arno
Southwestern Land Office Forester:
Andy Moffett
Central Land Office GNA Specialist:
Gary Ellingson
Central Land Office Forester:
Ann Parks
Kalispell Unit Forester:
Caleb Deitz
Libby Unit Forester:
Jodi Turk
Northwestern Land Office GNA Specialist:
Brook Blakeley

Picture to the right shows a portion of a Shared Stewardship project between the Helena-Lewis & Clark National Forest and DNRC to protect the Red Mountain Chessman Flume that supplies drinking water to the city of Helena.

GNA TIMBER SALES OVERVIEW

Montana DNRC GNA Timber Sale Projects

Planning Document subject to frequent changes; last updated March 19, 2020

Federal Land Management Unit	Project	Status	Federal Fiscal Year	Acres	Harvest Volume	Restoration Outcomes and Other Notes
Bitterroot	Threemile	Contract Awarded	2020	165	700	WUI fuels reduction, forest health and resiliency
Bitterroot	GNA Buckhorn	May Advertisement	2020	1350	5000	Forest health and resiliency, insect and disease
Bitterroot	Gold Butterfly	Proposed	2022	1000	TBD	Road sediment reduction, fuels, weeds, and fisheries
Bitterroot	Bitterroot Front*	Proposed	2023	TBD	TBD	
Flathead	Liger	Contract Awarded	2019	387	1800	harvest approx. 65% complete
Flathead	Taylor Hellroaring	June Advertisement	2020	697	6500	WUI fuels reduction, forest health and resiliency
Flathead	Weed Lake	summer 2020 advertise	2020	400	4000	Forest health and resiliency, insect and disease
Flathead	Salish Good	ongoing fieldwork	2021	621	3000	WUI fuels reduction, forest health and resiliency
Flathead	Mid Swan	Proposed	TBD	TBD	TBD	
Kootenai	Elk Gem	Contract Awarded	2019	184	2700	harvest approx. 65% complete
Kootenai	Buick Divide	No bid Oct. 2019	2021	320	3100	currently on hold due to Pilgrim Court Decision
Kootenai	Clay Day	ongoing fieldwork	2021	900	4500	WUI fuels reduction, forest health and resiliency
Kootenai	Ski Dale GNA	ongoing field work	2021	130	500	WUI fuels reduction
Kootenai	Pinkham Meadow	Proposed	2022	400	2400	WUI fuels reduction, forest health and resiliency
Lolo	Grant Creek Fuels	Contract Awarded	2020	140	480	WUI fuels reduction, forest health and resiliency
Lolo	Westside Bypass	ongoing field work & NEPA	2021	1000	3500	Fuels Reduction, insects and disease
Lolo	Blackfoot Gold	field work summer 20	2021	TBD	500	Fuels Reduction, insects and disease
Lolo	Red Bull	Proposed	TBD	TBD	TBD	
Lolo	Wildfire Missoula	Proposed	TBD	TBD	TBD	
Lolo	Kozy by the Fire	Proposed	TBD	TBD	TBD	
Beaverhead Deerlodge	Boulder Lowlands	harvest complete	2018	369	4000	Forest health and resiliency, insect and disease, fuel reduction
Beaverhead Deerlodge	Rancho Deluxe	ongoing NEPA	2021	1150	10000	Road sediment reduction, fuels, weeds, and fisheries
Beaverhead Deerlodge	Highway 43	Proposed	TBD	TBD	TBD	
Beaverhead Deerlodge	East Deerlodge Aspen	Proposed	TBD	TBD	TBD	
Custer Gallatin	East Boulder	contract development	2020	300	2500	Fuels Reduction, insects and disease
Custer Gallatin	Greater Red Lodge	Proposed	TBD	TBD	TBD	
Custer Gallatin	Stillwater	Proposed	TBD	TBD	TBD	
Custer Gallatin	Red Lodge Mountain	Proposed	TBD	TBD	TBD	
Helena Lewis & Clark	Brooklyn Bridge	Contract Awarded	2020	640	7200	Fuels Reduction, insects and disease
Helena Lewis & Clark	GNA Pistol	field work summer 20	2021	563	4900	Forest health and resiliency, insect and disease
Helena Lewis & Clark	Buffalo Springs	Proposed	2022	758	9400	
Helena Lewis & Clark	Middle Man	Proposed	2023	TBD	TBD	
Helena Lewis & Clark	Boulder Baldy	Proposed	2023	TBD	TBD	
Bureau of Land Management	Garnet Range Road	ongoing fieldwork	2020	250	1250	Forest health and resliency
Bureau of Land Management	Tenmile South Helena	Proposed	TBD	TBD	TBD	Fules Reduction
Bureau of Land Management	Blackfoot Gold	Proposed	2021	TBD	500	Forest health and resliency
Bureau of Land Management	Belcher Mountain	Proposed	TBD	TBD	TBD	Forest health and resliency
TOTAL	37 Projects	6 Awarded Contracts		11724	78430	

FY20 Estimated Volume/Acres	27.630 Million Board Feet	3942 Acres
FY21 Estimated Volume/Acres	30.050 Million Board Feet	4684 Acres

RESTORATION OBJECTIVES

ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH GNA TIMBER SALES

The project benefits of GNA timber sales include improving forest and watershed health, decreasing wildfire intensity and severity, enhancing the resiliency to future insect and disease outbreaks, maintaining and supporting the wood products industry, and creating local, good-paying jobs in Montana communities.

The success of GNA projects like the two featured below require employees from USFS, BLM, and DNRC to work together cooperatively to leverage technical expertise, financial resources, and staffing capacity.

THREEMILE GAME RANGE

Bitterroot National Forest, Near Stevensville

The Threemile Game Range project supports cross-boundary goals to address years of fire suppression that led to overstocked stands and reduced forage for big game. Stands will be treated to promote large ponderosa pine, reduce wildfire risk, and improve winter range conditions on both Fish Wildlife and Parks (FWP) and USFS lands within the Threemile Wildlife Management Area.

Taylor-Hellroaring

Flathead National Forest, Near Whitefish

The Taylor-Hellroaring project will promote the establishment and continuance of long-lived seral species through vegetation management. Taylor-Hellroaring will also help protect the town of Whitefish from effects of catastrophic wildfire by reducing overstocked stands and promoting fire-adapted tree species. Additionally, the project will improve forest health in and around the municipal water source for the city.

GNA SERVICE RESTORATION PROJECT OVERVIEW

Picture above shows the first haul of timber off the Elk Gem GNA project.

Revenue from GNA timber sales, USFS, BLM, and other partner funding is used to complete service restoration activities through GNA agreements. In addition, the State service contracts and added staffing capacity from DNRC are able to accelerate these restoration activities, including USFS NEPA support, field data collection, mastication, pile burning, weed treatments, regeneration surveys and fuels reduction activities.

Restoration through GNA occurs across Montana and will increase in scope and scale as revenue from GNA timber sales increase.

GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY MOVING FORWARD

GNA in Montana is moving forward with restoration outcomes that include Wildland Urban Interface (WUI) fuels reduction, road sediment reduction, aquatic habitat improvement, treatment of weeds and insects and diseases, and improving forest health and resiliency.

Additionally, GNA timber sales will support local economies and Montana's forest products industry. By increasing restoration work done on federal and adjacent lands, GNA can help provide a consistent log supply to support a stable mill infrastructure and skilled workforce.

Picture to the right shows the Sun Mountain crew working on the Boulder Lowlands GNA project.