

GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY UPDATE

OCTOBER 2019



WHERE WE ARE NOW

Good Neighbor Authority

The Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC), the USFS Northern Region (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 restoration on federal lands accomplished in Montana through the Good Neighbor Authority Initiative (GNA).

Through GNA, Montana is on its way to improving forest health and resiliency, reducing threats to communities and watersheds from large and destructive wildfires, and creating more jobs and local economic benefits. Twenty-eight different GNA projects, with at least one project on each national forest, have been identified. Currently, FY 19 and 20 aim to treat 5,370 acres and produce 40 million board feet.

At this point, three GNA sales have sold and signed agreements are in effect with the Kootenai, Helena Lewis & Clark, Beaverhead-Deerlodge, Flathead, Custer Gallatin, Lolo, and Bitterroot National Forests and the BLM. The DNRC has developed a 3-year plan of work on each national forest and with the BLM. Initial planning has focused on timber harvest projects to generate program income for the long-term stability of the program.



One of the first GNA logs harvested in Montana

The initial investment in GNA came from a diverse array of sources. \$150,000/year for 3 years from the Montana timber industry, \$170,000 from business and conservation partners, \$554,000 from the Forest Service, and \$100,000 from the Bureau of Land Management.

At the DNRC, we take the implementation of GNA seriously—four new foresters have been hired and the Forestry Division will create a specific GNA Bureau to focus attention and resources on this program.

"With GNA, the DNRC can put boots on the ground to help increase the pace and scale of restoration on Montana's federal lands."

—Sonya Germann, Montana State Forester



The first truck from Elk Gem headed to Idaho Forest Group in St. Regis

8.3

MILLION BOARD FEET

estimated volume of board feet from the three current GNA sales in Montana

950

ACRES

acreage to be treated under current timber sale contracts

PROJECT UPDATES

Elk Gem

SOLD

Idaho Forest Group

184 Treatment Acres
Kootenai National Forest

Boulder Lowlands

SOLD

Sun Mountain

369 Treatment Acres
Beaverhead Deerlodge
National Forest

Liger

SOLD

St. Onge Logging

367 Treatment Acres
Flathead National Forest

UPCOMING PROJECTS

Threemile Wildlife Habitat GNA Project

Bitterroot National Forest

Project Goals: Reduce overstocked stands, improve habitat for large game animals, promote large ponderosa pine, reduce wildfire risk, and improve winter range condition.

Partners: USFS; DNRC; FWP; Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation; Bitterroot Water Forum

Project Outcomes: Add approximately 165 acres of improved habitat to FWP's 1,500 acre project.

Taylor Hellroaring GNA Project

Flathead National Forest

Project Goals: Increase vegetation management to promote the establishment and persistence of seral species to prevent wildfire risk as well as increase forest health in and around a municipal water source.

Partners: USFS; DNRC

Project Outcomes: Treat approximately 710 acres and produce 5 million board feet. Other benefits include watershed protection and increased recreation opportunities.

Buick Divide GNA Project

Kootenai National Forest

Project Goals: The Elk Gem and Buick Timber Divide Timber Sales are part of a larger landscape scale project that is increasing stand resilience to insects and disease and reducing fuels in the Wildland Urban Interface (WUI).

Project Outcomes: Collectively, these sales will treat approximately 450 acres and produce 5 million board feet. Additionally, funds will be leveraged to conduct improvement to reduce sediment in a cutthroat trout stream.

Partners: USFS; DNRC