

# **U.S. Forest Service Huron-Manistee**

## **Good Neighbor Authority**

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# OVERVIEW

- ❖ Describe Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)
- ❖ GNA agreements
- ❖ HMNF past and future GNA accomplishments

# What is it ?

The Good Neighbor Authority allows the Forest Service to enter into cooperative agreements or contracts with States and Puerto Rico to allow the States to perform forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration services, including timber sales ***on National Forest System (NFS) Lands,*** *when similar and complementary activities occur on and off federal land.*

# Highlights

- Good Neighbor Authority (Farm Bill) is not limited to agreement with “State Forestry” but can include other agencies or divisions
- Activities other than timber removal/sales
- Work can be on and off NFS lands such as roadwork and infrastructure

# Importance

- Ability to work across boundaries and treat the landscape in a mixed ownership setting
- Fosters a collaborative approach to address land management challenges
- Ability to leverage State resources to increase capacity to accomplish work on National Forest System lands
- Strengthen the Federal/State partnership and develop more shared stewardship

# Examples of GNA Activities on the HMNF

- Commercial timber removal
- Fish and wildlife habitat restoration
- Temporary road construction & reconstruction
- Fuels management activities
- Non-native invasive control
- Tree planting, site preparation and seeding
- Erosion control
- Boundary/wildlife/botany/timber surveys
- Project prep work, including design and sale prep

# National Forest Management Act Section 14

- Permits the State to designate, measure, and sell timber from NFS lands under a Good Neighbor Agreement.
- Allows the State to supervise the harvesting of National Forest Service timber.
- State Timber Theft Prevention Plan and policies will be adhered to rather than FS standards.



# Good Neighbor Agreements



# GNA Templates

There are two templates:

1. Master Good Neighbor Agreement (MA)
2. Supplemental Project Agreement (SPA)

# Master Good Neighbor Agreement

A Master Good Neighbor Agreement is a Non-Obligating agreement instrument incorporating the general terms, statutory language, other applicable information and framework of the collaborative arrangement. Term is up to 10 years.

- Master agreements may be national, regional, or local in scope.
- The Master Agreement requires a Supplemental Project Agreement (SPA) to describe work to be accomplished at the project level.

# Farm Bill: Supplemental Project Agreement (SPA)

A Supplemental Project Agreement (SPA) is an:

- Obligating Good Neighbor Agreement, executed under the terms and conditions of the master agreement, incorporating specific project roles and responsibilities, statement of work, financial plan, reporting requirements, payment provisions, and other conditional provisions necessary to complete work on and off NFS lands.
- Timber Sales and other associated services are allowed under this instrument
- Any income generated as a result of this agreement is considered program income.

# Key Points

- The State acts as an “**Agent**” of the Forest Service.
- This work is “additive”, not replacing Forest Service work (or workers)
- The focus is on outcomes – How we can use this authority to accelerate Forest Plan implementation

# Key Points

- State policies and procedures are followed as much as possible
- State is able to layout, prepare, appraise, sell and administer timber sales utilizing state procurement and operating procedures with minimal oversight of the Forest Service.
- State is able to propose areas to be treated in collaboration with the Forest Service and in accordance with all requirements of the FLMP and applicable NEPA Analysis.

# Timber Program Income

- Program income applies to any revenue earned by the State for the sale of NFS timber that is in excess of the appraised value after the required deposits are paid to the FS
- It is held and managed by the State separately from timber receipts
- It may only be spent for authorized activities under terms of the SPA
- All work must be approved by the FS and the State

# Huron-Manistee Agreement

- Master Agreement signed by Regional Forester and Director of MIDNR October 28, 2015
- First Supplemental Project Agreement (SPA) signed in 2016
- Each year requires a new SPA with list of projects/sales
- New Master Agreement signed 6-7 years after the original

# Key Concepts of GNA

- It is about the relationship
  - Collaborative
  - Built on trust
  - Is not “contractual”
- Success is built on:
  - Early involvement and collaboration between State, FS, and Grants & Agreements staff
  - Good project planning





**Huron-Manistee SPA Activities  
Completed/Planned  
2017 - 2020**

# 2017 & 2018 SPA Projects

- FY 2017

Total timber target sold      57 MMBF

Total GNA volume sold      15 MMBF

GNA is 26% of target sold in 2017

- FY 2018

Total timber target sold      62 MMBF

Total GNA volume sold      17 MMBF

GNA is 27% of target sold in 2018

# 2019 & 2020 SPA Projects

- FY 2019

Total timber target planned                      64 MMBF

Total GNA volume planned                      21 MMBF

GNA is 32% of target planned in 2019

- FY 2020

Total timber target planned                      75 MMBF

Total GNA volume planned                      19 MMBF

GNA is 25% of target planned in 2020

# Meeting Future Forest Plan Targets

- GNA 2021 and beyond to include more types of projects from other disciplines
- A new Master Agreement will be signed in FY 2021
- Supplemental Project Agreement will be done annually in the fall for the following year

# Questions?

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