

# GOOD NEIGHBOR AGREEMENT QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

## General Questions

**Question:** How does GNA relate to the Wyden Authority?

**Answer:** The Wyden Amendment and the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) are two distinct authorizations provided by Congress which allow the Forest Service to enter into agreements with identified non-Federal entities for specific activities outlined in each law. There are similarities in the type of projects and activities that are authorized under each authority and that both authorities allow for Forest Service funds to be spent on and off of National Forest System lands. The authorities, however, are different in how they are administered due to the differing language of each authority. For example, Good Neighbor Agreements can only be entered into with a State agency while agreements citing Wyden may be entered into with a landowner, state or local government, or non-profit entity. Another important difference is that Wyden requires the sharing of costs, while the Good Neighbor Agreement has no such matching requirement nor does it require mutual interest and benefit between the parties. In summary, GNA is a tool to complete work on Federal and associated non-Federal land with a State agency where matching is not required but encouraged. The Wyden Amendment is a tool to complete Federally funded and non-Federally funded work that benefits NFS lands in partnership with a landowner, state or local government, or non-profit entity whereby there must be sharing of costs (i.e., match) for all Federally funded work.

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**Question:** Does the requirement to be on state and/or private lands (adjacency) come from both the Farm Bill and the Appropriations Act?

**Answer:** The adjacency requirement is only in the Appropriations version of GNA.

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**Question:** Can GNA be used in designated Roadless Areas that are adjacent to private lands?

**Answer:** No, both authorities specifically exclude work in designated roadless areas.

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**Question:** Would we need a different Master GNA Agreement with each state agency or could we have one with the State as a whole perhaps signed by the Governor?

**Answer:** Technically, there could be a single Master GNA signed by the Governor that would apply to all eligible State agencies. Functionally, it may be very difficult to manage communication and coordination. The recommendation is to have a Master GNA with each agency that the Forest Service chooses to partner with.

Each proposed agreement should look at the parameters, needs of both parties, and objectives of the proposed activity to ensure that the most streamlined agreement is created that also meets the reporting and performance needs of the Forest Service. Sometimes during this review a partnership agreement may be a more suitable instrument to complete the agreed to activity.

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**Question:** Is there a separate financial plan being developed for GNA?

## GOOD NEIGHBOR AGREEMENT QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

**Answer:** No, the Forest Service did not request a special or unique financial form or template for GNA when it submitted the GNA templates to OMB under the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA). Because of this, both parties to the agreement are encouraged to utilize the FS-1500-17B: Agreements Financial Plan (Short) approved under OMB 0596-0217 or any other financial template that clearly outlines the cost elements of the agreement. Transparency on how the Federal funds are spent is paramount when drafting a GNA budget. Program Managers and G&A Specialists must both perform a cost review to ensure that stated costs are reasonable and necessary for completion of the project. Verifying costs against the applicable cost principle is the responsibility of the G&A Specialist.

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**Question:** Is this authority reciprocal? Can the state pay us to do work on State land?

**Answer:** No, this is not reciprocal. Depending on the situation, there are other authorities that do allow for the Forest Service to perform work on behalf of the State. These should be evaluated on a case by case basis in coordination with the local Forest Service Grants & Agreements (G&A) Specialist.

When State funding is provided to the Forest Service, then a Collection Agreement must be used. When collecting funds, each situation will need to be evaluated on a case by case basis in coordination with the local Forest Service Grants & Agreements (G&A) Specialist to ensure the proposed activity is consistent with the handbook and authorizing law.

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**Question:** Could this authority be used to allow State agencies the ability to complete emergency watershed stabilization work?

**Answer:** Emergency watershed stabilization work is a great example of work that may be performed under GNA.

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**Question:** Is it possible under GNA to retain the services of a state wildlife biologist or other specialist?

**Answer:** This is a terrific example of work that may be performed under GNA.

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**Question:** Does the GNA allow burning on NFS lands?

**Answer:** Prescribed burning could be considered as an authorized activity under GNA. However, the necessary documentation, policy, and framework have not yet been developed to support such activities under a GNA. For this reason, when burning on NFS lands is proposed, it is recommended to use other instruments that better cover this activity.

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**Question:** What is the benefit to the Forest Service for states to complete work on the agency's behalf?

## GOOD NEIGHBOR AGREEMENT QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

**Answer:** The Good Neighbor Authority (among other things):

- Provides the ability to work across jurisdictional boundaries and treat the landscape in a mixed ownership setting i.e., all lands approach to landscape restoration.
- Fosters a collaborative approach to address land management challenges
- Provides the ability to leverage state resources to increase capacity to accomplish work on National Forest System lands
- Provides the opportunity to strengthen the Federal/State partnership

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**Question:** Has the appropriations committee funded this authority?

**Answer:** There was no additional funding provided specifically for Good Neighbor projects.

There are no specific restrictions on the type of funding that may be obligated on a GNA. The use of any funds on a GNA must meet the program direction (purpose and time) for that BLI or fund. The annual program direction for the budget dictates the purpose, priorities, allocation direction and accomplishment reporting for each "flavor" of money. Program Managers and Budget Officers must ensure that the funds that are considered for use under a GNA, or any other instrument for that matter, are appropriate for the anticipated use. One resource that should be reviewed when assessing appropriateness is the Appropriations Use Handbook, FSH 6509.11g. This handbook provides a description of what each fund may be used for and some also include prohibited uses. Link to the directive: [http://www.fs.fed.us/cgi-bin/Directives/get\\_dirs/fsh?6509.11g](http://www.fs.fed.us/cgi-bin/Directives/get_dirs/fsh?6509.11g)

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**Question:** Are there any thoughts on how this authority would be funded, particularly for projects that are not projected to generate excess receipts? Is there going to be a pool of money from the WO, or would the regions/forest have to fund projects from the Forest Service side?

**Answer:** Congress did not specifically target appropriations to implement GNA projects. Projects may be funded through appropriations made for the type of work performed and through the use of Program Income.

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**Question:** When will the Forest Service handbook and Forest Service manual be available for GNA? Will it be similar to stewardship? What code will it be organized under?

**Answer:** Handbook direction is being developed for both the Grants & Agreements Handbook (1509.11, Chapter 80) and the Forest Management Handbook (2409.19).

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**Question:** Where can we easily find a copy of the GNA authorities?

**Answer:**

- 2014 Agricultural Act (Farm Bill) authority: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/hr2642/text> (Good Neighbor Authority is found in Sec. 8206)
- Appropriations Act authority: <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/hr3547/text> (Good Neighbor Authority is found in Sec. 417)

## GOOD NEIGHBOR AGREEMENT QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

**Question:** How are the rates for this work determined? For example, if the state agency performs timber marking for the national forest, is the state paid on a per acre basis or per unit or...?

**Answer:** During the collaboration process to develop project agreements, the state and Forest Service need to agree to reasonable costs for planned activities. It will be up to the parties of the agreement to determine what unit of measure is used for payment, including reimbursement of actual costs to the state. State agencies may have standard rates that they apply consistency across their organization which may help the state agency determine the rate and provide supporting information on how the state entity determined the rate.

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**Question:** Assuming the process would be to have a yearly master agreement with the state and then each activity has a supplemental agreement; can the master be a less detailed "blanket" agreement?

**Answer:** The Master Agreement should cover a span of 10 years to allow for multi-year projects through Supplemental Project Agreements. The Master Agreement carries all of the provisions that are required for any agreement while the SPA has only the project specific information, along with contacts and payment information.

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**Question:** I have a request from a State to assume maintenance responsibility on a Forest Service Road. No funding has been addressed. Would a GNA agreement be appropriate in this case?

**Answer:** This work may be performed under the Appropriations version of GNA if similar work is being performed by the state forestry agency on lands adjacent to the NFS project area.

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**Question:** How are GNA projects funded?

**Answer:** A variety of funding options exist for GNA projects, including, but not limited to: appropriated Forest Service funds, trust funds, program income, partnership contributions, and state funds. Project costs may include direct and overhead costs to states as well as contracts, materials, and other costs. The Forest Service may elect to fund a GNA project when it is the most cost effective method for accomplishing our normal funded program of work.

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**Question:** Will this change the existing GNA authorities in Colorado and Utah?

**Answer:** The GNA authorities have both expired and are replaced by the permanent authority in the Farm Bill, and the shorter-term authority provided in the 2014 Appropriations Act.

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**Question:** In master GNA agreement, under section IV, F. Program Income, what is the "additive approach" for applying program income generated as a result of the agreement vs. the deductive alternative?

**Answer:** Using the additive approach for Program Income allows the income to be used "in addition" to any other funding that is provided by the Forest Service to complete the work described in the agreement. If we do not identify an alternative for use of program income, the deductive alternative applies and program income must be used in place of any other Federal

## GOOD NEIGHBOR AGREEMENT QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

funding that is contributed to the project. The templates all have language approving the additive method as a default. When the additive method is used and cited in the agreement, program income generated must be collected, accounted for, and expended by the state according to the terms of the agreement. Using the additive approach for Program Income allows the income to be used "in addition" to any other funding that is provided by the Forest Service to complete the work described in the agreement.

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**Question:** What overhead policies will apply?

**Answer:** Indirect costs, also referred to as overhead, will be identified and addressed in the agreement following the regulations in 2 CFR 200 as implemented by U.S. Department of Agriculture in 2 CFR part 400.

When a State agency has a documented Negotiated Indirect Cost Rate Agreement (NICRA), the G&A Specialist must collect and incorporate the document in the Official file. Prior to requesting the NICRA from the State entity, the G&A Specialist should request the State's annual package of certificates from the Regional State & Private Forestry G&A specialist.

If the State agency does not have a NICRA nor have they submitted a proposed NICRA prior to the GNA, the State shall submit its initial indirect cost proposal to its cognizant agency no later than three months (i.e. 90 days) after the effective date of the GNA. Until the indirect cost proposal has been approved, the State may be reimbursed for indirect costs at the tentative rate reflected in the budget. If the approved NICRA reflects a rate different than the tentative rate, adjustments to past reimbursements and/or budgets may be needed.

Alternatively, State agencies that have never received a NICRA may elect to use a 10% de minimus rate, as allowed in 2 CFR 200.414 (f). The de minimus rate is available to any State agency that has never had a NICRA and receives less than \$35 million in direct Federal funding per year.

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**Question:** Would you recommend that a State signs an agreement absent any pending activity in anticipation of being a participant in the future? Why would the state want to sign an agreement prior to having a project in the hopper?

**Answer:** If a Master Agreement is in place, even if there is no anticipated activity, both the state and the Forest Service are in a good position to easily take advantage of opportunities that may arise. Additionally, it may be valuable to identify potential projects that may be unfunded so that if funding becomes available, both parties are well positioned to take advantage of the opportunity.

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**Question:** If you have a project which contains any road construction or reconstruction on specified roads, you would have to use an agreement under the Appropriations Bill version of GNA. So, in essence you could have two different agreements associated with one project, both a Farm Bill GNA agreement and an Appropriations Bill agreement.

**Answer:** Yes. There may be situations where multiple instruments may be needed to be developed and executed depending on the complexity of the agreement and the agreed to activities.

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# GOOD NEIGHBOR AGREEMENT QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

## Cooperator Related Questions

**Question:** Any other units of government that we can enter into GNA agreements with (tribal, county)?

**Answer:** No, the Forest Service can only partner with State agencies. The Farm Bill allows the Forest Service to work with the Governor of an affected state, meaning any appropriate state agency. The Appropriations version of GNA further limits the agreement to state forestry agencies. While the Forest Service is only authorized to enter into agreement with states, the states can establish a contractual relationship (e.g. sub award or subcontract) with a third-party.

Counties may not be considered agents of the state, as far as entering into GNA agreements. A State may have a county perform work through a subcontract or sub award arrangement.

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**Question:** Can these authorities be used by all Department of Interior & Agriculture agencies?

**Answer:** No. The Agricultural Act of 2014 (Farm Bill) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture (with respect to National Forest System Land) and the Secretary of Interior (with respect to Bureau of Land Management land) to enter into agreements with states to carry out authorized restoration services. The authority does not extend to lands managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

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**Question:** Are agreements directly with individual or cohorts of National Forests? Please clarify at what agency level approval is needed for the supplemental agreement? Do we need a separate agreement between the RF and each state agency? Can a Forest Supervisor enter into a GNA agreement with the Governor of an adjoining State?

**Answer:** The Forest Service's goal is to make entering into GNA agreements as flexible and seamless as possible. Forest Service regions differ in the number of states that are contained in a region, and the number of national forests and grasslands within a state boundary. The guidance that is being developed will accommodate situations where there is a single National Forest that sits entirely within the boundaries of a state, a National Forest which crosses state boundaries, and a state with multiple National Forests. An agreement can be at the forest level, a group of several forests, or the region. There can be multiple GNA agreements (SPAs under a Master, stand-alone GNA) depending on the scope of work. Since the goal is to be as flexible as possible, careful project planning and communication between the FS and the State agency is critical.

The Forest Service has the flexibility to work with their respective State partners in the formulation of their agreement types. Multiple State agencies can be party to an agreement, as can single agencies. Where National Forests cross state lines, separate GNA instruments must be executed with each State. The FS could have a Master Agreement with one state, and then enter into a stand-alone agreement with the other state to complete work on that discrete NF land. GNA allows States to perform work on NF lands within their state, not in other states.

## **GOOD NEIGHBOR AGREEMENT QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

**Question:** Which state agencies are eligible to use GNA with us?

**Answer:** Under the Farm Bill version of GNA, the Forest Service can enter into a GNA agreement with any state agency, including state forestry agencies, that has the authority to perform the type of work contemplated and the work is for a activity approved under GNA. For example, the State Bureau of Mines may be the cooperator for a project to clean up abandoned mine sites on NFS lands. The Appropriations version of GNA limits agreements to state forestry agencies.

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**Question:** Can you clarify what role the state and a third party, such as a non-profit organization, would have under GNA? Or stated another way, how can non-state actors work with states to perform work under the GNA on state or private lands?

**Answer:** A non-state entity may participate in a GNA covered activity through a sub-contract or third party relationship with the state. The relationship of the third party is to the state, not the Forest Service.

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### **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Related Questions**

**Question:** Under GNA could the State do a project from NEPA thru implementation? Or does NEPA stay with FS?

**Answer:** The NEPA decision is the responsibility of the Forest Service. A state may perform the NEPA work as long as the decision remains with the appropriate Forest Service official.

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**Question:** Can we also use GNA to allow the State to pay for NEPA and restoration work on NFS lands?

**Answer:** GNA is not a collection authority, so the State cannot transfer funds to the Forest Service to pay for NEPA and restoration work. The State may contribute work under a GNA agreement as a non-cash contribution.

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**Question:** To make best use of these authorities, it sounds like NEPA decisions for projects that will be worked on should already be completed prior to entering into an agreement. Correct?

**Answer:** Ideally, the NEPA work and decision should be complete prior to entering into an agreement; however, NEPA work may be completed in partnership with the State under a GNA agreement. The NEPA decision rests with the responsible Forest Service official. In the interest of timelines, accountability, and project success, NEPA and project implementation, including timber sales, should typically be implemented using separate project agreements.

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**Question:** Can you discuss again how you see the NEPA process working with the GNA? What opportunities, if any, do you think GNA creates, as it relates to NEPA, to increase the pace and scale of restoration?

## **GOOD NEIGHBOR AGREEMENT QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

**Answer:** GNA would allow a State or their subcontractors to provide NEPA planning services including resource specialists, inventory services, stakeholder meetings, analysis, NEPA document drafting. The NEPA decision always remains with the Forest Service.

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### **Forest Service State and Private Forestry (S&PF)/Cooperative Forestry Related Questions**

**Question:** Do we need to worry about the S&PF grant money that States receive -- can it be combined with a GNA project?

**Answer:** The S&PF grant money should not be used to perform work on NFS lands, as it is appropriated for work on non-Federal lands. A State might use those funds to do work off NFS lands in coordination with work performed on NFS and funded by other sources.

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**Question:** Can National Forests use pest suppression funds on adjacent non-federal lands.

**Answer:** The Forest Service must apply funds consistent with the Appropriation Use Handbook, Forest Service handbook (FSH) 6509.11g, Chapter 20. Section 22.1 indicates SPFH funds are for use on NFS lands. The agency can use other forest health funds such as SPCH off NFS lands.

We can use SPFH funds under the Good Neighbor Farm Bill authority as long as the use is for the benefit of NFS. Examples might include an agreement with the State to do aerial detection flights. The Forest Service could use SPFH to reimburse them for the NFS portions of the flights. It is the same thing for surveys on NFS lands, or any other activity that can be funded with SPFH. So while the authority may allow us to do some work off NFS lands, we always have to go back and make sure that the funds allow for that work as well.

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### **Timber Removal Related Questions**

**Question:** Can the Forest Service simply award timber sales to a State agency and let them bid it out for award and do all the prep and administration work?

**Answer:** No. The FS could sell timber to a State agency under a direct, settlement sale, but we would not be able to include any restoration services. If the FS sells timber to the state under a timber contract, then the FS has to prep and administer the contract. The intent of GNA is to allow the State to perform work on behalf of the Forest Service. The State could operate a normal timber sale with sub-contractors just as any other Purchaser.

Under Good Neighbor authority, the State is not purchasing timber or other products from the FS. The mutually benefitting GN agreement with the State, authorizes the State to act as an agent of the FS, giving them specific jurisdiction over NFS lands. If the agreement is to conduct restoration work that includes removal of timber or other forest products, the State is the contractor, disbursing related receipts to the FS.

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## GOOD NEIGHBOR AGREEMENT QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

**Question:** Will the states define rules in the master agreement for timber sale prep and sale or will each project define work?

**Answer:** Master agreements will contain the general terms and framework that establish the relationship between the State and Forest Service. If the State and Forest Service feel it is advantageous to define certain rules as universal under the Master Agreement, they are not prohibited from doing so. Project-specific roles, responsibilities, and statement of work will be identified in Supplemental Project Agreements under the master agreement.

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**Question:** If the state administers the timber sale are they required to administer the timber sale under the same provisions in the NF timber sale contract? Also is the state responsible for damage caused by the logger?

**Answer:** The state contract is not required to include the same provisions as a National Forest timber sale contract. However, the state contract, once approved by the Forest Service, must provide a level of protection for resources, permitted uses, timber accountability, and payment responsibility to satisfy requirements of NEPA and other regulations according to information provided by the Forest Service for a project. Appendix E of the Supplemental Project Agreement or standalone agreement includes a checklist of potential contract clauses designed to protect the interests of both the State and the Forest Service from the actions of the logger.

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**Question:** What is the process of accomplishing reforestation work (KV)? Would we just draft a normal plan and include that in the agreement? Or is there a way to capture those funds to do that work with a different contract?

**Answer:** Reforestation work could be completed as part of the GNA agreement or it could be captured in an FS-2400-50 Sale Area Improvement (SAI) plan. CWKV funds could also be used to fund the state's work (using the state's labor or a subcontract), following appropriation use.

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**Question:** Would tree planting be an example of project work after a timber sale?

**Answer:** Tree planting is one example of project work that may be completed after a timber sale. Tree planting may also be a funded restoration activity under a GNA agreement that is not associated with a timber sale, such as that following a wildfire.

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**Question:** Is there anything allowable in a KV Sale Area Improvement (SAI) Plan that would not be allowed under this authority? Also are there activities that are not allowable in a SAI that cannot be done under these authorities?

**Answer:** Timber receipts for GNA timber sales may be collected for any allowable K-V activities as described in FSH 2409.19 chapter 10. Only K-V activities that are authorized forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration services as described in the GNA authorizing legislation and supporting policy are allowable using GNA. Examples of K-V activities that may not be allowed under GNA include construction of facilities and recreation projects such as interpretive signage or visual quality enhancement.

## GOOD NEIGHBOR AGREEMENT QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

**Question:** What is the difference between sale area and analysis area boundaries – or the contract area boundary?

**Answer:** Analysis area boundary is the area analyzed under NEPA for project implementation. It may include multiple project areas. Sale area boundary is the boundary which contains all harvest units of a timber sale. This boundary typically extends no more than ¼ mile from harvest unit boundaries. Contract area boundary, also called a project area boundary, includes all project work, including timber sales, to be completed by the State or its contractors. A Good Neighbor project area could be equivalent to any of those, depending on the work to be completed in the GNA agreement.

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**Question:** Does the State Silviculturist have to be FS certified?

**Answer:** No. The State silviculturist can prepare silviculture prescriptions and marking guides, but they must be approved by a Forest Service certified silviculturist.

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**Question:** Do the silviculture methods have to be the same or do they simply need to accomplish the same outcomes?

**Answer:** Silvicultural methods selected must achieve the objectives and effects as analyzed in the project NEPA decision as well as the Forest's Land and Resource Management Plan and be approved by the Forest Service line officer.

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**Question:** Can we use our existing timber cruising and appraisal processes when preparing a timber sale?

**Answer:** States may be able to use their existing timber cruising and appraisal processes to prepare timber sales. This will need to be evaluated and agreed on at the agreement or project level.

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**Question:** Can a project agreement be written to address multiple forest treatments (timber sales) on multiple sites (say over the geography of the entire Huron-Manistee NF) over a defined period of time?

**Answer:** A project agreement may be as simple or as complex as necessary to meet the project objectives. While it may be possible to include multiple timber sales in a single project agreement, we recommend keeping them as simple as practicable to ensure success of project administration, implementation, and accountability.

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**Question:** Can a standalone or Supplemental Project Agreement be written to address multiple National Forests in one agreement, or would a separate supplemental agreement be required for each NF?

**Answer:** While it is possible, any benefits of doing so should be weighed against potential drawbacks resulting from project design, timing, funding, reporting or other factors that may favor creating separate projects.

## GOOD NEIGHBOR AGREEMENT QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

**Question:** Will a standalone or Supplemental Project Agreement be reviewed periodically and revised to address additional/new forest treatments?

**Answer:** A standalone or Supplemental Project Agreement (SPA) will require periodic review. Project implementation will be monitored and evaluated against milestones in the Statement of Work from the agreement at least annually to ensure performance goals are being met. Modifications to the agreement and appendices can be performed at any time with agreement from both parties. New or additional forest treatments outside the scope of the original statement of work will require a separate SPA, including associated appendices.

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**Question:** Will GNA agreements require the state to provide the funds for the estimated volume/value of the timber to be cut in advance of the project?

**Answer:** No. The State, as an agent of the Forest Service, is not purchasing timber or entering into a contract with the FS and ,therefore, is not required to make payment in advance of cutting. However the agreement includes a statement of payment assurance from the state, which will be made according to requirements for reporting, billing and collection of receipts to be paid to the FS for NFS material.

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**Question:** Will a Forest Service Timber Contracting Officer be signing this agreement?

**Answer:** It is not required, though Forest Service will provide review of State's timber sale contract prior to advertisement and award to ensure it complies with appropriate federal law, regulation, and policy.

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**Question:** Is there a difference between paved versus forest roads for timber sales? Or does the definition cover all types of roads?

**Answer:** The Farm Bill authority specifically excludes repair, restoration, reconstruction and construction of all paved or permanent roads. While the Appropriations Act did not address roads the Forest Service, with concurrence from the Department, has decided that new construction of permanent or paved roads will not be allowed using either authority. Construction of temporary roads necessary to implement GNA projects is allowed using either authority, but all temporary roads must be decommissioned after use.

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**Question:** How will we handle road maintenance? Nearly all timber sales that we administer involve pre and/or post haul road maintenance activities to facilitate timber haul, etc. All commercial hauling activities require maintenance commensurate with use. Many sales also require reconstruction of specified roads prior to timber haul. Without reconstruction or maintenance we cannot meet Best Management Practices for water quality. Further, our State requires these actions in their Timber Contracts.

**Answer:** Road maintenance necessary to implement Good Neighbor projects is allowed. Any necessary reconstruction prior to use must be completed using Appropriations Act GNA or another authority.

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## GOOD NEIGHBOR AGREEMENT QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

**Question:** How are GNA timber sales executed?

**Answer:** The exact details will vary by project, state, or National Forest as agreed. In general, the State and FS develop data which must proceed through the Forest Service gate system with relevant line officer approval as required under GN. Gate accomplishment, FS volume attainment and value will be reported through NRM Timber Information Manager (TIM). The Forest Service must collect the appraised value (including essential reforestation KV) and any required deposits from the state according to billing and payment arrangements agreed to by both parties. The state will collect and manage any revenue in excess of that amount as program income used to complete activities authorized under the GNA agreement.

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**Question:** How do you determine the perimeters for project area boundaries?

**Answer:** All project area boundaries must lie within an approved NEPA project area. Actual determination on the ground depends on many factors and, depending on the agreement, may be completed by the state or by the Forest Service.

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**Question:** The Forest Service has specific requirements concerning certifications for the Sale Administration team. Can states administer Forest Service timber sale contracts? Can you expand on where the contract authority lies? As well expand on the sale of NF timber. Will the sales have a FS Contracting Officer?

**Answer:** Good Neighbor Authority allows the Forest Service to enter into a sole-source contract or a Good Neighbor Agreement with states, including timber sales with the exemption of subsection (d) of section 14 of NFMA. Good Neighbor Agreements incorporate Federal Financial Assistance regulations found in 2 CFR 200 as implemented by U.S. Department of Agriculture in 2 CFR 400. Specifically, section 200.317 states that, "a state must follow the same policies and procedures it uses for procurements from its non-Federal funds." The Forest Service will have no delegated authority on a contract between a state and a third party. However, various members of a Forest Service contract administration team, including a contracting officer, may provide assistance in contract review, approval, administration oversight, project consultation, monitoring, timber sale reporting and payment as necessary or agreed to with the state.

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