

## Resource: Good Neighbor Authority

### History and Congressional Authorities for the Good Neighbor Authority

In 2000 Congress provided authority to pilot Good Neighbor (GNA) projects between the Forest Service (FS) and the state of Colorado.

In 2004 Congress included Utah and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

2014 Appropriations Act: Renewed and expanded the Colorado GNA to all states with National Forest System lands through FY18.

2014 Farm Bill: Provided the FS and BLM permanent authority with specific limitations.

2018 Consolidated Appropriations Act: Allowed for the permanent maintenance of roads.

2018 Farm Bill: Allowed counties and tribal nations to participate, and clarified revenue.

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### Accomplishing restoration services through the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA)

#### Overview

Partnerships between the Forest Service (FS) and states, counties, and tribes accomplish authorized restoration services on National Forest System lands. GNA is a tool to strengthen partnerships with a variety of entities to get resource work done on the ground and to operationalize Shared Stewardship.

#### Agreement Approach

To incorporate partnership elements and Federal assistance regulations, the FS developed GNA templates for agreements. These templates include elements of partnership agreements, ensure that the FS maintains its land management responsibilities, incorporate grant regulations as a regulatory framework, and allow timber receipts (revenue) to fund restoration work.

#### Authorized Restoration Services

Authorized restoration services include activities to treat insect and disease-infected trees, to reduce hazardous fuels, and to restore or improve forest, rangeland, and watershed health, including fish and wildlife habitat.

#### Key Takeaways

- GNA is a tool to strengthen partnerships with states, counties, and tribes to accelerate restoration across boundaries.
- Projects must fit the specified definitions of authorized restoration services.
- Collaboration between partners at all phases of the GNA process is a “must” to address land management challenges and ensure successful outcomes.
- GNA gives the FS the ability to leverage partner resources to increase capacity to accomplish work on National Forest System lands.

#### Helpful links and resources

[Good Neighbor Authority Project Map Viewer](#)

[2018 Farm Bill](#)

[Successful Partnerships of the Last Decade Peer Learning Session](#)