



CWSF GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY Committee 2024 Report and 2025 Work Plan

LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW

COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

The Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) Committee leadership team for 2024 included:

- Trevor McConchie (WA), Chair
- Christine Mares (AZ), Vice Chair
- Kyle Sullivan-Astor (OR), Secretary
- Vacant, Past Chair
- Craig Foss (ID), State Forester Advisor
- Kelsey Delaney, CWSF/WFLC Staff Liaison

The GNA Committee leadership team for 2025 includes:

- Christine Mares (AZ), Chair
- Kyle Sullivan-Astor (OR), Vice Chair
- Everitt Meritt (CO), Secretary
- Trevor McConchie (WA), Past Chair
- Tom Torres (AZ), State Forester Advisor
- Kelsey Delaney, CWSF/WFLC Staff Liaison

MISSION STATEMENT AND PURPOSE

The mission of the GNA Committee is to perform as an exemplary network within the Council of Western State Foresters (CWSF) to share information and resources; advise state and federal leadership, staff, and partners through expert technical guidance; and provide recommendations for policy improvements regarding federal forest management, shared stewardship, and the use of the GNA to western state foresters and their federal counterparts.

2024 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2024

- Held the 2024 Annual Meeting in Tucson, Arizona, from April 2 - 4, 2024. State GNA leads from 11 western states and four western USDA Forest Service (Forest Service) regional GNA leads attended. Among other items, the Committee discussed the next CWSF Western State Forestry Agencies GNA Activities and Accomplishments report, agency indirect rates, financial plans, and real-time implementation questions. State Foresters from Idaho, Arizona, and Washington engaged in a leadership discussion about GNA successes, challenges, and future implementation. Forest Service Washington D.C. Office (WO) GNA and Colorado Bureau of Land Management (BLM) leads shared updates including Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) GNA funding progress, pending

legislation, and discussed implementation questions with the GNA Committee.

- Developed seven GNA spotlights for the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition (WFLC) GNA Resources [webpage](#) and CWSF BIL and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) [webpage](#).
- The Data Workgroup developed the 2024 data-gathering questions to collect western state forestry agencies' GNA activities and accomplishments. Partnered with CWSF staff to develop the 2024 Western State Forestry Agencies GNA Activities and Accomplishments publication.
- Frequent emails and other communications between GNA Committee members to assist each other on topics such as language changes to GNA Supplemental Project Agreements, GNA for wild horse and burro management, expanding GNA to National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and more.
- Provided subject matter expertise to inform CWSF and National Association of State Foresters (NASF) engagement in regional and national level GNA policy issues. For example, coordinated with CWSF and NASF staff to review and provide feedback and questions on the Forest Service's BIL GNA request for information.
- Met with the Forest Service WO GNA lead to discuss the fiscal year (FY) 2025 BIL GNA project process, ask clarifying questions, and share critical feedback regarding challenges with integrating GNA in the Forest Service's 5-year planning process.
- The State-to-State Agreements Workgroup explored opportunities for western state forestry agencies to share GNA resources (e.g., staff, training, grants & agreements support). Efforts will continue into 2025 (see below for further details).

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION BY STATE FORESTERS

- Recommendation for State Foresters to approve the GNA Committee 2025 Work Plan.

2025 WORK PLAN

MEETING(S) AND CALLS PLANNED FOR 2025

- Monthly conference calls on the second Tuesday of the month from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. MT.
- Annual in-person meeting in Salem, Oregon, June 10 - 12, 2025.

KEY ACTIVITIES, DELIVERABLES, AND OUTCOMES PLANNED FOR 2025

- Develop five to seven spotlights for the WFLC GNA Resources [webpage](#), [GNA StoryMap](#), and/or the CWSF BIL and IRA [webpage](#).
- Continue refining the data questions/metrics for western state forestry agencies, consider possible changes to content, and update the CWSF Western State Forestry Agencies GNA Activities and Accomplishments publication.
- Engage WFLC Forest Service partners and other federal agencies with GNA at appropriate levels (e.g., national, regional, district, and forest level) to strengthen GNA coordination and implementation across all lands.
- The State-to-State Agreements Workgroup will continue researching the feasibility of state-to-state agreements for GNA resources, specifically the type of resources (e.g., NEPA, survey work, training, grants and agreements, etc.), the agreement or mechanism (e.g., Memorandum of Understanding), benefits and outstanding questions, and more.
- Utilize the Committee to explore impacts to GNA implementation from possible legislative changes (e.g., Farm Bill GNA, federal appropriations, etc.), daylight emerging issues and, where appropriate, elevate messages/positions to CWSF members for consideration.
- Identify possible best practices for standardizing across the West, such as in GNA implementation, financial plans, tracking, and/or reporting. Elevate to CWSF members for further exploration and consideration.
- Explore barriers to effective communication between state forestry agencies and relevant federal agencies. Identify if there are commonalities across western states, missing staff/representatives critical to GNA success, and topics for leadership discussions in WFLC.