



CWSF GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

2025 Annual Report and 2026 Work Plan

LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW

COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP

2025 Leadership Team	2026 Leadership Team
Chair: Christine Mares (AZ) Vice Chair: Kyle Sullivan (OR) Secretary: Everitt Merritt (CO) Past Chair: Trevor McConchie (WA) State Forester Advisor: Tom Torres (AZ) CWSF/WFLC Staff Liaison: Kelsey Delaney	Chair: Kyle Sullivan (OR) Vice Chair: Everitt Merritt (CO) Secretary: Jacob Pederson (NM) Past Chair: Christine Mares (AZ) State Forester Advisor: Tom Torres (AZ) CWSF/WFLC Staff Liaison: Kelsey Delaney

MISSION STATEMENT AND PURPOSE

View the mission on the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) Committee's webpage at:
<https://www.westernforesters.org/committees/good-neighbor-authority-committee>

2025 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- The GNA Committee increased its engagement with new states (Nebraska, Nevada, and Utah), bringing the total number of represented western states to 15.
- Developed five GNA spotlights from Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Washington, and Nevada for sharing on the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition (WFLC) GNA Information and Resources [webpage](#) and [GNA storymap](#).
- The Data Workgroup refined the data-gathering questions to collect information on the GNA activities and accomplishments of western state forestry agencies. Partnered with CWSF staff to develop the [2025 Western State Forestry Agencies GNA Activities and Accomplishments](#) publication.
- Crafted a formal letter with State Foresters' GNA recommendations in response to the Forest Service National Active Management Strategy. The National Association of State Foresters (NASF) endorsed the letter.
- Developed recommendations, endorsed by the CWSF Executive Committee, for improving GNA planning and implementation with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Held two virtual meetings with BLM to present recommendations, crosswalk with internal BLM recommendations, and discuss questions and concerns. Invited the BLM Grants Management Officer to the GNA Committee's 2025 Annual Meeting to present a deep dive on BLM grants management, clarify areas of confusion, and discuss state forestry agency concerns.
- Explored state interest in GNA state-to-state agreements, and developed a possible example model cooperative agreement that individual states may utilize as a resource if they are interested in exploring the topic further.

- Supported the State Foresters Policy Team to provide information and feedback on possible legislative changes to GNA, such as the “roads fix” in the Fix Our Forests Act (H.R. 471).
- Responded to the Forest Service’s Washington Office (WO) request for state forestry agency recommendations on the draft GNA standalone agreement template and financial plan template that incorporated the Expanding Public Lands Outdoor Recreation Experiences (EXPLORE) Act GNA amendments.
- Developed an internal working communications toolbox in the GNA Committee’s Google Folder to support committee members.
- Held the 2025 Annual Meeting in Salem, OR, in June. The meeting was attended by ten state GNA leads, Forest Service WO & Region 6 representatives, BLM grants management staff, CWSF staff, and State Forester Advisor Tom Torres, as well as several partner organizations. Among other items, the Committee discussed exploring the pros and cons of standardizing GNA processes and financial plans, BLM GNA grants management, progress towards developing the internal communications toolkit, and next steps to respond to the Forest Service National Active Management Strategy.

2026 WORK PLAN

MEETING(S) AND CALLS PLANNED FOR 2026

- Monthly conference calls on the second Tuesday of the month from 1:00 – 2:30 p.m. MT.
- Annual in-person or virtual meeting, Spring/Summer 2026.

KEY ACTIVITIES, DELIVERABLES, AND OUTCOMES PLANNED FOR 2026

- Support Shared Stewardship 2.0 agreements and GNA components within the agreement, such as sharing experiences, results, and documenting lessons learned.
- Continue efforts to elevate GNA Committee recommendations to improve BLM GNA planning and implementation, including coordinating with the BLM GNA principal team and with written documentation. Encourage support within the Department of the Interior to expand these recommendations to other DOI bureaus with GNA.
- Utilize the Committee to explore impacts to GNA implementation from possible legislative and policy changes (e.g., Farm Bill GNA, federal appropriations, Fix Our Forests Act, etc.), daylight emerging issues, and, where appropriate, elevate messages/positions to CWSF members for consideration.
- 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.
- Ensure that existing GNA Committee materials are updated and shared with new committee members. This includes WFLC GNA materials on the WFLC GNA Resources [webpage](#) (FAQ, developing GNA agreements, etc.).
- Continue refining the data questions/metrics for western state forestry agencies GNA accomplishments, consider possible changes to written content, and update the CWSF Western State Forestry Agencies GNA Activities and Accomplishments publication.
- Develop up to five spotlights for the WFLC GNA Resources [webpage](#), [GNA StoryMap](#), and/or the CWSF IJA and IRA [webpage](#).

FOR APPROVAL BY CWSF/WFLC MEMBERSHIP

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- Recommendation for State Foresters to approve the GNA Committee 2026 Work Plan.