



CWSF Good Neighbor Authority Committee 2026 Annual Meeting

August 4-6, 2026 | Comfort Suites Summit County | Dillon, CO

DRAFT May 8, 2026 (please note agenda is subject to change)

Tuesday, August 4, 2026, and Wednesday, August 5, 2026 (morning) Meeting Attendees: Western state forestry agency Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) leads, State Foresters, CWSF staff, and invited USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, and other partners

Wednesday, August 5, 2026 (afternoon) and Thursday, August 6, 2026 Meeting Attendees: Western state forestry agency GNA leads, State Foresters, and CWSF staff

<p>Tuesday, August 4, 2026 Meeting: Comfort Suites Summit County, 276 Dillon Ridge Rd, Dillon, CO 80435 Steinhart A Attire: Business casual Breakfast on your own</p>	
9:30 - 9:50 a.m.	<p>Welcome, Agenda Overview, and Introductions <i>Kyle Sullivan (OR, Chair), and Everitt Merritt (CO, Vice-chair)</i> The Committee Chair and Vice-chair will open the meeting by outlining the week's primary goals and previewing the schedule. This session includes introductions for all attendees and sets the stage for the collaborative discussions focused on the future of GNA implementation.</p>
9:50 - 10:20 a.m.	<p>Colorado Welcome <i>Matt McCombs (CO State Forester), USFS Leadership TBD</i> This opening session will frame the current landscape of forest management in Colorado, focusing on how GNA is being used to address large-scale challenges, such as the Mountain Pine Beetle response on the Front Range and the protection of critical municipal water supplies. Speakers will highlight Summit County as a model for innovation, specifically discussing how local funding, utility partnerships, and creative cross-boundary agreements are sustaining industry capacity and project pace.</p>
10:20 - 11:20 a.m.	<p>State Forester Panel <i>Matt McCombs (CO), Tom Torres (AZ), other State Foresters TBD</i> <i>Facilitator: Kyle Sullivan (OR, Chair)</i> State Foresters will discuss high-level GNA strategic goals, focusing on how state-federal partnerships are evolving to address shared priorities.</p>
11:20 - 11:30 a.m.	<p>Break</p>



11:30 - 12:00 p.m.	<p>Taking Stock of Federal Policy Changes in 2026 <i>Facilitator: Jacob Pederson (NM, Secretary)</i> CWSF GNA committee members will review 2026 federal policy changes, discuss changes in GNA programs, and exchange information on how states are adapting to new conditions.</p>
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	<p>Lunch (provided)</p>
1:00 - 2:30 p.m.	<p>USFS Leadership Updates on Organizational and Operational Changes <i>Speaker TBD</i> USFS leadership will provide a national perspective on GNA direction, Shared Stewardship 2.0, budget outlooks, and the latest guidance regarding the transition to the new state-based organizational model. Group Q&A to follow.</p>
2:30 - 3:15 p.m.	<p>BLM Leadership Updates on Organizational and Operational Changes <i>Speaker TBD</i> BLM leadership will provide updates on BLM GNA national policy development, the agency's response to CWSF's letter to the Department of the Interior, and engagement with other Department of the Interior bureaus on GNA. Group Q&A to follow.</p>
3:15 - 3:30 p.m.	<p>Break</p>
3:30 - 4:45 p.m.	<p>Summit County Spotlight: Leveraging Resources and Prioritizing Funding <i>Panelists TBD</i> <i>Facilitator: Everitt Merritt (CO, Vice-chair)</i> Panelists will detail how state, federal, and local partners determine project priorities and pool diverse funding sources to address critical watershed needs in Summit County. The discussion will focus on the mechanics of leveraging federal and non-federal investments and the lessons learned from aligning different institutional priorities to achieve landscape-scale results.</p>
4:45 - 5:00 p.m.	<p>Reflections, Ideas for Action, and Day's Adjournment <i>Kyle Sullivan (OR, Chair), and Everitt Merritt (CO, Vice-chair)</i> CWSF GNA Committee members will share reflections from the day's topics and conversations and discuss logistics for Wednesday morning's field tour.</p>
Evening	<p>Optional Networking Event (offsite, all meeting attendees are welcome) Location TBD</p>



Wednesday, August 5 Meeting: Comfort Suites Summit County, 276 Dillon Ridge Rd, Dillon, CO 80435 Steinhart A Attire: Field attire (comfortable shoes, rain jacket) Breakfast on your own	
8:00 - 8:10 a.m.	Welcome and Agenda Overview <i>Kyle Sullivan (OR, Chair), and Everitt Merritt (CO, Vice-chair)</i>
8:10 - 8:20 a.m.	Depart for Field Tour Meeting participants will depart from Comfort Suites Summit County. Attendees will need to arrive at the meeting prepared to depart for the field tour.
8:20 - 9:00 a.m.	Travel to Blue River, CO CSFS will provide vehicles and drivers for ~30 participants.
9:00 - 11:00 a.m.	Summit County GNA: Successes, Challenges, and Lessons Learned in Cross-Boundary Management <i>Panelists TBD</i> Local project leads will walk through the realities of managing forest health across federal, state, and private lines. The group will discuss specific examples from the Blue River area, focusing on how they balanced different agency requirements to get work done on the ground.
11:00 - 11:45 a.m.	Drive to Sapphire Point Overlook for Lunch
12:00 - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch at Sapphire Point Overlook (provided)
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.	Frisco Backyard - Integration of Recreation and Forest Management, and Creative Funding Mechanisms <i>Local Partners TBD</i> At Sapphire Point Overlook, partners will discuss the "Frisco Backyard" project, which will integrate forest, fuels, and recreation management. The conversation will cover creative funding solutions, and challenges and successes with planning and implementing high public visibility projects.
2:00 - 2:30 p.m.	Return from Field Tour to Comfort Suites This concludes the partner portion of the GNA Committee meeting.
2:30 - 3:20 p.m.	Workgroup Updates: Shared Stewardship 2.0 and 20-Year GNA Agreements <i>Kyle Sullivan (OR, Chair)</i>



	This session will address the operational integration of GNA within Shared Stewardship 2.0 and 20-year Statewide Agreements. Members will examine lessons learned from states like Montana to discuss how these frameworks affect administrative processes, project scaling, and partnership durability.
3:20 - 3:50 p.m.	Workgroup Updates: BLM Improvements Workgroup <i>Jon Fitch (CO)</i> Discuss status and any next steps on the effort to elevate GNA Committee recommendations to improve BLM GNA planning and implementation.
3:50 - 4:05 p.m.	Break
4:05 - 4:45 p.m.	Workgroup Updates: Website Materials Workgroup Workgroup members will provide a progress update to the GNA Committee on their task to update internal and external GNA resources on the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition GNA webpage. Workgroup members will request input and review of draft resources as needed.
4:45 - 5:00 p.m.	Reflections, Ideas for Action, and Day's Adjournment <i>Kyle Sullivan (OR, Chair), and Everitt Merritt (CO, Vice-chair)</i> CWSF GNA Committee members will share reflections from the day's conversations and any action items.
Evening	Optional Networking Event (offsite, all meeting attendees are welcome) Location TBD

Thursday, August 6	
Meeting: Comfort Suites Summit County, 276 Dillon Ridge Rd, Dillon, CO 80435 Steinhart A	
Attire: Business casual	
Breakfast on your own	
8:00 - 8:10 a.m.	Welcome and Agenda Overview <i>Kyle Sullivan (OR, Chair), and Everitt Merritt (CO, Vice-chair)</i>
8:10 - 10:00 a.m.	USFS Reorganization and Impacts to GNA Planning and Implementation <i>Jacob Pederson (NM, Secretary)</i>



	This GNA Committee group discussion aims to examine how a new USFS organizational structure might alter the administration, communication, and overall efficiency of GNA planning and implementation.
10:00 - 10:15 a.m.	Break
10:15 - 11:15 a.m.	<p>2027 GNA Committee Business: Work Plan and Leadership Nominations <i>Everitt Merritt (CO, Vice-chair)</i></p> <p>Members will identify and prioritize emerging focus areas and actionable tasks for 2027 to ensure the committee’s work plan remains responsive to shifting federal policies and state implementation needs. GNA Committee members will identify an incoming Secretary for the Committee.</p>
11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	<p>Meeting Reflections, Action Items, and Closing Remarks <i>Kyle Sullivan (OR, Chair), and Everitt Merritt (CO, Vice-chair)</i></p>

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