



## **CWSF GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY TASK FORCE 2023 Report and 2024 Work Plan**

### **LEADERSHIP OVERVIEW**

#### **COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP**

The Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) Task Force leadership team for 2023 included:

- Craig Foss (ID), State Forester Advisor
- Laura Wagner, CWSF/WFLC Staff Liaison

The GNA Committee leadership team for 2024 includes:

- Trevor McConchie (WA), Chair
- Christine Mares (AZ), Vice-Chair
- Vacant until 2024/2025 term, Past Chair
- Kyle Sullivan-Astor (OR), Secretary
- Craig Foss (ID), State Forester Advisor
- Kelsey Delany, 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.

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### **2023 ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM 2023**

- Shared information, best practices, and conducted peer learning about GNA and its implementation in western states.
- Held its first multi-day in-person meeting, which included dialogue with the USDA Forest Service GNA Washington Office (WO) Program Manager and the GNA WO Grants and Agreements lead, a State Forester speaker panel, discussions with county and tribal representatives, and a field tour.
- Provided subject matter expertise to inform CWSF and National Association of State Foresters (NASF) engagement in regional and national level GNA policy issues.
- Assisted in developing and contributing content to the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition (WFLC) GNA Resources webpage and contributed monthly state spotlights on GNA projects in the West.
- Voted at the 2023 first annual meeting to become a standing CWSF committee. An established workgroup developed a proposed mission, purpose, and draft Committee Charter for review and approval by CWSF.

members at the 2023 CWSF Fall Meeting

- In partnership with CWSF staff, crafted the first Western State Forestry Agencies GNA Activities and Accomplishments publication.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION BY STATE FORESTERS**

- Recommendation for State Foresters to approve the GNA Task Force's 2024 Work Plan.
- Recommendation to approve the draft CWSF GNA Committee Charter.

## **2024 WORK PLAN**

### **MEETING(S) AND CALLS PLANNED FOR 2024**

- Monthly conference calls on the second Tuesday of the month from 1:00 – 2:00 p.m. MT.
- Annual in-person meeting in Tucson, Arizona, April 2-4, 2024.
  - This would be the second in-person meeting for the GNA Task Force/Committee and would allow for state and federal GNA staff networking, information sharing, peer learning, and a local field tour showcasing GNA projects and activities.
  - 75% expected GNA membership attendance

### **METHOD OF COMMUNICATION**

- In addition to monthly Zoom meetings, GNA Task Force/Committee members will communicate via phone calls and emails.

### **KEY ACTIVITIES, DELIVERABLES, AND OUTCOMES PLANNED FOR 2024**

- Continue to share information, lessons learned, and helpful resources on GNA topics impacting western state forestry agencies.
  - Provide a platform for state forestry agency staff with GNA responsibilities to daylight emerging issues in their states and elevate issues, as appropriate, to the CWSF membership for discussion and/or action.
  - Inform CWSF's GNA engagement and position CWSF to be a resource for members, NASF, and the other regional State Forester associations, partners, Congress, and the Administration.
  - Strategically engage WFLC USDA Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management partners at appropriate levels (e.g., Washington Office, regions, districts, forest units) to strengthen GNA coordination and implementation across all-lands.
  - Exploring the feasibility of State-to-State agreements for GNA resources.
  - Establish common data reporting questions/metrics for western state forestry agencies and update the Western State Forestry Agencies GNA Activities and Accomplishments publication.
  - Targeted discussions regarding impacts to GNA implementation from possible legislative changes (e.g., Farm Bill Good Neighbor Authority, federal appropriations, etc.) and, where possible, establishing a unified western voice on issues and successes that stem from any changes.
  - Explore pros and cons of standardization and/or best practices in GNA implementation, tracking and reporting across western states.
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