



Council of Western State Foresters and Wyoming State Forestry Division



Office of State Lands and Investments

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Joint Press Release

Council of Western State Foresters and Wyoming State Forestry Division

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Council of Western State Foresters and Wyoming State Forestry Division Welcome New Good Neighbor Authority Coordinator

CHEYENNE, WY - The Council of Western State Foresters and Wyoming State Forestry Division are pleased to welcome Laura Wagner as Good Neighbor Authority Coordinator.

Laura comes to CWSF / WSFD after serving as a forestry specialist for the City of Cheyenne Urban Forestry Division and as a program planner for the Iowa Department of Natural Resources Forestry Bureau where she designed and implemented multiple programs designed to expand and enhance forestry practices statewide. Prior to that, Laura developed and coordinated corporate training for the Center For Business at Southeastern Community College. She began her forestry career by owning and managing a private forestry service company for seventeen years.

The Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) allows federal agencies to contract with the state to perform authorized forest and rangeland restoration activities on federal lands. The objective of this authority is to capitalize on state efficiencies and expertise to increase the pace and scale of federal land management and treat lands that otherwise may not be treated.



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As the Wyoming GNA coordinator, Laura will partner with the seven USDA Forest Service National Forests in the State of Wyoming to increase knowledge, understanding, and best-practices related to the GNA in order to increase the pace and scale of project implementation statewide. She will also develop a GNA Master Plan for Wyoming and provide a replicable model and tools for GNA use and implementation across the western region.

Wyoming State Forester, Bill Crapser says, "Good Neighbor Authority is an important tool that Congress has given the U.S. Forest Service to help with forest management and we are looking forward to collaborating with Laura on upcoming GNA projects."

"Laura brings a wealth of experience to this role and we are excited to have her with us for this important western GNA work," notes Laura Schweitzer, Executive Director of the Council of Western State Foresters.

To find out more information about the Wyoming State Forestry Division, visit <https://wsfd.wyo.gov/>. To learn more about CWSF, visit <https://www.westernforesters.org/>.

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The Council of Western State Foresters (CWSF) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit membership organization comprised of state, territorial and commonwealth foresters whose role is to conserve, protect and enhance Western and Pacific Island forests. Unlike other organizations focused on just one aspect of forestry, CWSF takes a broad and comprehensive approach to forest management and provides expertise on the many complex and interrelated factors at play in Western forestry.

The Wyoming State Forestry Division, part of the Office of State Lands and Investments, is responsible for managing forested trust lands within Wyoming including timber management and harvest, forest health and productivity, as well as fire management. The Division also is responsible for promoting good forest management and protection for all lands across Wyoming. This entails collaborating with private landowners, counties, fire districts, state, and federal land management agencies.