

GOOD NEIGHBOR MASTER AGREEMENT



US Forest Service - Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency



Good Neighbor Authority

The US Forest Service and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) have entered into a Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) master agreement to help conserve, protect and manage natural resources in the Cherokee National Forest.

The intent of GNA is to allow the State to perform forest management activities on National Forest System Lands. The Agricultural Act of 2014 (Farm Bill) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of Interior to enter into agreements with states to carry out authorized restoration services on certain federal lands.

Taking care of America's lands and natural resources is a big job. No single organization can do it alone. The Good Neighbor Authority (among other things):

- Provides the ability to work across jurisdictional boundaries and treat the landscape in a mixed ownership setting i.e., all lands approach to landscape restoration.
- Fosters a collaborative approach to address land management challenges
- Provides the ability to leverage state resources to increase capacity to accomplish work on National Forest System lands
- Provides the opportunity to strengthen the Federal/State partnership



The Cherokee National Forest is managed cooperatively with the US Forest Service and TWRA as a Wildlife Management Area.

What Does the Agreement Do?

- The agreement allows the TWRA to perform forest management services in the Cherokee National Forest.
- The agreement carries a 5 year term that allows the Forest Service to work with TWRA to develop and accomplish a variety of projects.
- Projects that can be accomplished under the agreement include watershed restoration and protection, forest health thinning, prescribed fire, forest planning, wildlife management and timber harvesting preparation.
- In exchange, the TWRA can receive reimbursement for the work and receive added benefits of on-the-job skills training and experience for employees.
- Sometimes federal and state agencies have different constraints, requirements and guiding documents, but when it comes to on-the-ground management of our forests federal and state agencies can work together in the land's best interest.

April 25, 2016

On April 25, TWRA Executive Director Ed Carter and Cherokee National Forest Supervisor JaSal Morris signed a Good Neighbor Master Agreement. The master agreement sets the framework for doing work in the future. As funds are available and specific projects have been identified the Forest Service and TWRA will work together to accomplish mutual natural resource objectives under the Good Neighbor Authority.



TWRA Executive Director Ed Carter (L) and JaSal Morris shake hands after signing the Good Neighbor Authority master agreement for the Cherokee National Forest.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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