The Colorado Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) Program Experience: From Pilot Program to Nationwide 2014 Farm Bill Authority

Spruce Beetle & Aspen Decline (SBEADMR) Annual Stakeholder Meeting

12 Feb 2018; Montrose, CO

Rich Edwards, CF; Forestry Program Specialist
About the Colorado State Forest Service

The mission of the Colorado State Forest Service is to achieve stewardship of Colorado’s diverse forest environments for the benefit of present and future generations.

We are a service and outreach agency of the Warner College of Natural Resources at Colorado State University (CSU).
Anticipated Benefits from the GNA Program

- **Landscape scale effects**: Combined ownerships treated; greater efficiencies: NFS, state, & private lands

- **Fuel treatments/Defensible-spaces**: Leveraged

- **“Boundary-less management”**: Removes impediments to cross-boundary watershed restoration

- **Cooperation**: Between agencies & landowners would improve success of National Fire Plan & Cohesive Strategy
1998: Concept between CSFS & USFS R2 State & Private Forestry began as a draft–MOU. Office of General Counsel determined insufficient legal authorities were developed.


2014-present: Farm Bill (Agricultural Act of 2014); permanent authority, with all 50 states passed. Appropriations authority currently not being used. 10-year Master Agreement (FS 1500-36a) executed Nov 2015 at the USFS regional level. Supplementary Project Agreements (i.e. SPAs; FS 1500-36b) are and will be used/executed at the USFS forest level. FS 1500-36a & b’s are both executed within the CSFS state office level.
Core Operating Procedures:
- Identification of federal & state mutual objectives
- Federal agencies retain all NEPA responsibilities
- Master agreement, Supplemental Project Agreements (SPA), & operating procedures
- Annual meeting & report on accomplishments

Essential Requirements:
- Good working relationships
- Local interest & support
- Trust
- Timely communication
- Desire to work together
- CSFS serves as “agent” for the federal agency

Source: Dan Wand. Saul’s Creek GNA Project; Bayfield, CO
### GNA Program Projects & Acres by State & Agency (2002-2013)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th># USFS Projects</th>
<th>Acres Treated - USFS</th>
<th># BLM Projects</th>
<th>Acres Treated - BLM</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>3778</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utah</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>4078</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Total pre-2014 Farm Bill GNA pilot program included 63 projects on 4178 acres
- Projects occurred on 5 of 11 USFS NFs & 1 of 3 BLM Districts in CO; 1 of 5 USFS NFs in UT
- CO projects focused on fuel reduction activities mostly in the WUI. UT projects focused on the repair of fire-damaged trails and watershed protection & restoration.
- Average acres treated per project were 97 acres on CO USFS, 20 acres on UT USFS, & 11 acres on CO BLM projects.
- Acres treated per project ranged from 1 to 300 acres in both states for USFS projects. BLM projects in CO ranged from 2 to 21 acres.
- For BLM projects main point of contact (POC) is state level Forestry Program Lead. For USFS projects main POC is RO level Timber Sale Prep/Appraisal Specialist in the Renewable Resources Program.

http://csfs.colostate.edu
Lessons Learned from CO GNA Pilot for Future Project Success:

• Both involved agencies (at all levels) must champion program facilitation
• Authority and responsibility must be clearly defined
• **Keep process streamlined**! Do not make it more complicated than it needs to be
• Make the project a priority (especially in early stages) and engineer set-up for success

Source: Bob Bundy. Sugarloaf GNA Project; Boulder, CO
## CY 2016 GNA SPAs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Project Type</th>
<th>Projected Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WP/USFS PSI NF</td>
<td>Aerial Spray - DF Tussock Moth</td>
<td>399.5 (Actual)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MO/USFS GMUG NF</td>
<td>Spruce Beetle Timber Salvage</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SS/USFS M-BR NF</td>
<td>Mechanized Oak Fuels Mastication</td>
<td>217</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GR/BLM NW CO</td>
<td>MPB Timber Salvage &amp; Fuel Treatments</td>
<td>690 (Actual)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AL/USFS RG NF</td>
<td>Roadside Timber Salvage w/ Forest Product Sale Permit</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Σ =</strong></td>
<td><strong>1392.5</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

http://csfs.colostate.edu
## CY 2017 GNA SPAs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CSFS District /Fed Cooperator</th>
<th>Project Type</th>
<th>Projected Acres</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GJ/GMUG NF; N Zone</td>
<td>Supports CSFS staffing for task orders involving timber sales &amp; fuels treatments</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MO/GMUG NF; W Zone</td>
<td>“”</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SA-GU/GMUG NF; E Zone</td>
<td>“”</td>
<td>3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MO/GMUG NF Modification 1</td>
<td>Fuel Treatments &amp; Hazard Tree Removal</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GR/BLM NW CO Modification 1</td>
<td>MPB Timber Salvage &amp; Fuel Treatments</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DU/SJ NF; E Zone</td>
<td>Fuels Treatment</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DU/SJ NF; W Zone</td>
<td>Fuels Treatments &amp; Timber Sales</td>
<td>1235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSFS/USFS 6 NF Capacity Building</td>
<td>Supports CSFS staffing for capacity building on 6 National Forests</td>
<td>TBD</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Σ = 4277
Further GNA Program Evolution & Progress

- Working with CSFS IT to develop maps & database linking our CSFS Districts (15) with USFS Ranger Districts (29)
- **Electronic** GNA CSFS intranet program guidance files also being worked on:
  
  This is a “work in progress” (any printed version will be out of date the second it is printed)

Source: Pete Barry, CSFS GIS Program
GNA Pilot Program Keys to Continued Success that Support Implementation

- Legislative support through sustained funding
- Ongoing good relationships between federal, private, & state landowners. Projects should only be undertaken where local interest & support exists (need a champion!)
- Baseline support & buy-in (100%) through all agency levels in the BLM, CSFS, & the USFS
- A healthy & vibrant forest industry infrastructure must be achieved in order to reduce the costs for treatments on all ownerships

Source: Bob Bundy. Sunshine Canyon GNA Project; Boulder, CO
Questions?

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