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June 2017

To Ann Forest Burns: Congratulations and Thank You

Ann Forest Burns, AFRC's Vice President, is set to retire on June 30. Ann served AFRC's members for nearly a decade out of the Portland office, where she managed AFRC's legal program, helped shape and grow AFRC's Washington state program, and passionately advocated on behalf of AFRC's members and rural communities throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Ann is a pioneer in the industry, becoming one of the first women in the Pacific Northwest to be both a forester and lawyer. Few forestry professionals can rival Ann's grasp of forest policy and law, especially in Washington state where she established herself as the "go to" for Department of Natural Resources issues and Washington's Forests & Fish Law, hailed as "one of the largest and most comprehensive pieces of environmental legislation in the U.S." Her knowledge, advocacy, and universal respect formed the foundation of first-name relationships with five consecutive Commissioners of Public Lands.

Ann was also instrumental in coordinating the forest products industry's response to national regulations such as the 2012 Forest Service planning rule and AFRC's input on forest plans developed under the rule. She assembled and managed a team of in-house and outside counsel who served AFRC's membership and developed the law on public forests throughout the region.

She was instrumental in establishing the Federal Forest Resource Coalition (FFRC), a Washington, D.C. based non-profit formed to strengthen national support for responsible management of the National Forests. Since its initiation in 2012, FFRC has grown to include membership from forest products manufacturers and landowners across the country and has become a major player and voice for the forest products industry in the nation's Capitol.

Before coming to AFRC, Ann had already executed an impressive and successful career having served as legal counsel to the timber department of a major corporation, lobbied for forest practices laws in Olympia, Boise and Helena, practiced law representing small and large forest landowners, and taught forest policy and law at the University of Washington – where she inspired the professional trajectory of countless students, many of whom she personally mentored and continues to interact with as employees of AFRC member companies! Even when she's not hard at work at AFRC, she has found time to be an active member of the Society of American Foresters (she was elected an SAF Fellow in 1994), Women in Timber, and many other forestry associations and boards.

On behalf of the American Forest Resource Council, its members, staff, our supporters and friends, we offer our sincerest appreciation and gratitude to Ann Forest Burns for an extraordinary, inspiring, and meaningful career committed to helping people, families,

communities, and the forest products industry that supports them. Congratulations, Ann. We look forward to watching you make a difference in the next chapter of your life. /AFRC Staff

AFRC Dedicates Springfield Habitat for Humanity Home to Deserving Family

On Saturday, June 24, AFRC was joined by members of the Eugene/Springfield community, Habitat for Humanity volunteers, and Springfield Mayor Christine Lundberg to dedicate AFRC's sponsored home and to hand over the keys to Nayeli and her twelve-year-old daughter Alitza. AFRC broke ground on the Springfield home in June 2016.

AFRC members and staff contributed building materials, made generous financial contributions, and volunteered hundreds of hours to help build the Springfield home. AFRC President Travis Joseph, who was born and raised in Springfield and attended Springfield public schools, had this to say about the project:

“This is what the forest products industry is all about. We work in the woods, care for our public lands, and make local, environmentally-friendly products every Oregonian depends on every day – including the lumber for our homes. Our members care deeply about the communities in which they live, work, and play and this project is another reminder of that commitment. We have been honored and thrilled to be using our members' local products and expertise to build a home for Nayeli and her daughter Alitza – they could not be more deserving.”

Before receiving the keys to her new home, Nayeli completed over 300 hours of volunteer “sweat equity” including helping with the construction of other Habitat homes, homeowner education courses, and building her own home. Now that the house and the program requirements are completed, Nayeli will purchase her home with an affordable Habitat mortgage that sets her monthly payment at no more than 30 percent of her income at the time of sale.

The dedication ceremony included emotional remarks from AFRC, Habitat board members and volunteers, and both Nayeli and Alitza. To the joy and pride of the crowd, Alitza announced she completed the school year by earning straight As. Springfield/Eugene Habitat for Humanity Executive Director Don Griffin reminded the audience, “Donors and volunteers are the key to building Habitat homes. Nayeli's success story is possible because of AFRC and the generous contributions of all its members, including substantial donations from Freres Lumber, Swanson Group, Timber Products Company, Roseburg Forest Products, D.R. Johnson, JW Bamford, and Oregon Women in Timber.”

AFRC partnered with the Oregon Forest Resources Institute to film the project from beginning to end. The final film, “Build a House; Frame a Future” will be available on AFRC's website later this summer. In the meantime, please visit [here](http://amforest.org/build-a-house-frame-a-future-trailer/) to view the trailer (<http://amforest.org/build-a-house-frame-a-future-trailer/>). /Travis Joseph

Children's Film Festival to Highlight Oregon's Forests/Award Scholarship

The third annual Eugene Children's Film Festival is offering a \$1,000 college scholarship to an Oregon high school student that demonstrates excellence "in using our state's best resource... its forests!" Students are encouraged to use the forest as the setting in a narrative short film or music video, to document aspects of forest resources and how they are used, highlight Oregon's forest products industry or its leaders, or tell a story of how Oregon's forests impact the local community. The scholarship is made possible thanks to generous contributions from Giustina Resources, Timber Products, Roseburg Forest Products, and Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI). Judges for the forestry scholarship include Jordan Benner (OFRI), Beth Krisko (Forests Today & Forever), and Ashely Jones (Seneca Family of Companies).

The Eugene Children's Film Festival will be held on August 19 at the Wildish Community Theater in Springfield. For more information about the event, forestry scholarship, and directions for students to submit a film, please visit <http://www.aacfoundation.org/>. /Travis Joseph

Washington, DC / Congressional Updates

It has been an eventful month in Congress for federal forest management issues, including the reintroduction, legislative hearing, and committee adoption of the Resilient Federal Forests Act introduced by Congressman Bruce Westerman (R-AR). AFRC staff has been closely engaged in the process.

House Natural Resources Committee/Westerman Legislation. On June 8, AFRC General Counsel Lawson Fite testified before the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Federal Lands to outline how litigation and analysis paralysis are severely impacting the ability of the Forest Service and BLM to implement even modest forest management projects, including those developed by diverse collaborative groups.

Lawson was joined on the panel by the Minority's witness Susan Jane Brown, Staff Attorney for the Western Environmental Law Center. Also appearing before the Subcommittee were Lyle Laverty, a former Bush Administration Assistant Secretary of the Interior and Associate Deputy Chief of the U.S. Forest Service, and Bruce Hallin, a Director at the Salt River Project – one of the nation's largest public power utilities. Lawson did a fantastic job outlining the extent of the problem and pointing to specific reforms Congress can enact to address the harmful effects of litigation and burdensome regulations. You can view a video compilation of Lawson's testimony and response to questions [here](#).

Shortly after the June 8 hearing, Congressman Bruce Westerman (R-AR) and the Natural Resources Committee released a Discussion Draft of the Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017, which received a June 15 legislative hearing before the Subcommittee on Federal Lands. Jim Neiman, President & CEO of Neiman Enterprises, testified on behalf of the Federal Forest Resource Coalition (FFRC). Also appearing before the Committee were Douglas County, Oregon Commissioner and Association of O&C Counties President Tim Freeman; Granger MacDonald, Chairman of the National Association of Home Builders; and Jim Furnish, former Forest Service Deputy Chief and Siuslaw National Forest Supervisor.

Jim Neiman spoke in strong support of the Discussion Draft and urged the Committee to act swiftly on the reforms. Commissioner Freeman also spoke in support of the legislation and highlighted the need for a legislative solution to break the gridlock affecting the management of the statutorily-unique BLM O&C Lands, which are required under law to be managed for sustained-yield timber production to benefit local governments and industry.

The Resilient Federal Forests Act of 2017 was officially introduced as H.R. 2936 on June 20 and a week later was passed by the House Natural Resources Committee by a vote of 23-12. The legislation builds upon the legislation from the last Congress and includes many new provisions, including technical corrections to the O&C Act of 1937 to clarify that the BLM is required to annually offer for sale the greater of 500 million board feet (mmbf) of timber or the sustained yield. Below are some key highlights of the legislation and a more extensive outline of H.R. 2936 is available [here](#).

- Expedites federal forest management activities by providing the Forest Service and BLM streamlined environmental reviews and new Categorical Exclusions (CE) for various types of vegetation management, salvage, and restoration projects.
- Streamlines the Endangered Species Act consultation process by allowing the Forest Service and BLM to make Not Likely to Adversely Affect determinations for proposed projects and establishes a firm, 90-day deadline for NOAA and USFWS for certain projects that do require consultation.
- Requires expedited reforestation of National Forest System lands by requiring that an Environmental Assessment be completed within two months and requires that at least 75% of the area be reforested.
- Provides that no awards for attorney's fees or expenses may be paid to any plaintiff challenging a forest management activity, limits the time period of a preliminary injunction, and establishes a pilot program for utilizing arbitration for resolving legal challenges to projects carried out under this Act.
- Addresses the *Cottonwood* decision by clarifying that the Forest Service and BLM do not need to re-initiate ESA consultation on an existing forest/resource management plan and directs the Secretary to initiate rulemaking to limit some of the "Extraordinary Circumstances" that have prevented the use of CEs.
- Prohibits the application of the Survey and Manage Requirements of the Northwest Forest Plan and the Eastside Screens regulations east of the Cascades in Region Six.
- Includes technical corrections to the O&C Act of 1937, including an affirmation of the original 500 mmbf minimum timber volume requirement. Also directs the BLM to grant and record right-of-way easements, rather than the permits currently provided to adjacent private landowners. Directs that the approximately 500,000 acres of Public Domain

Lands in Western Oregon currently managed by the BLM be managed consistent with the requirements of the O&C Act.

- Allows the President to declare major wildfires a natural disaster under the Stafford Act, making emergency funding available for suppression and prevents “borrowing” funds from non-suppression accounts.

H.R. 2936 was also referred to the House Agriculture Committee, which is expected to take the legislation up soon. It is possible that the full House could take the measure up sometime in July. Thus far, there has been no progress in the Senate on initiating a legislative effort on federal forest management reforms.

Other Committee Activities. June has also been a busy month for other Congressional committees – particularly as they review the Trump Administration’s Fiscal Year 2018 budget request. House and Senate Authorizing and Appropriations Committees have held various hearings on the Forest Service and Department of the Interior budget requests. The need to increase federal forest management activities has been a consistent theme brought up by members on both sides of the aisle.

Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has appeared before Congressional committees in both chambers to defend the budget request for the Department of the Interior, which proposes significant funding reductions. Appearing before the Senate Interior Appropriations Subcommittee, Zinke was asked by Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR) to explain the proposed \$18.4 million reduction to the BLM’s Western Oregon Resource Management budget. In his response, the Secretary acknowledged that additional funding was needed and suggested that the 278 mmbf volume promised under the Obama Administration Resource Management Plans was too low.

Meanwhile, the Agriculture Committees in both chambers continue convening hearings to gather information ahead of an anticipated 2018 Farm Bill Reauthorization. The 2014 Farm Bill included a robust forestry title, including the 3,000-acre insect and disease categorical exclusion and a nationwide Good Neighbor Authority. On June 29, the Senate Agriculture Committee heard from conservation and forestry groups, including F.H. Stoltze Land & Lumber Company’s Chuck Roady. Roady is a board member of the Federal Forest Resource Coalition and past President of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. In his testimony, Roady pointed to the slow implementation of many of the new authorities provided to the Forest Service in the Farm Bill.

In fact, Roady noted that in the three years since the Farm Bill insect and disease areas were designated, the Forest Service utilized the 3,000-acre CE to accomplish just over 26,000 acres per year – a small fraction of the 56 million acres designated in 2014. Roady also highlighted some needed changes to the 2014 Farm Bill authorities and provide new authorities to further streamline forest management projects and limit litigation – a continued, significant barrier to federal forest management efforts in Montana.

At this point, it is not clear whether forest management reforms will advance as part of stand-alone legislation like the Westerman bill, as part of a broader Farm Bill, or perhaps bundled with

an extension of the Secure Rural Schools program, which continues to enjoy support from key members of the Senate. /Heath Heikkila

Secretary Zinke Reshuffles BLM

Earlier this month Interior Secretary Zinke reassigned dozens of members of the Senior Executive Service (SES) currently serving within the BLM. SES reassignments of this scope have been rare in the past, although senior executives are required to sign a form acknowledging that they are subject to involuntary reassignments at any time given proper notification.

Secretary Zinke has been clear from day one that such reassignments were likely and has explained the moves are an attempt to better align SES skills with the Department's mission. Additionally, the Trump administration's proposed Fiscal Year 2018 budget for BLM calls for a 13 percent cut in funding from current levels – which could mean a reduction of nearly 1,000 BLM employees across the nation.

According to the Washington Post, the officials receiving notices include the Interior's senior climate policy official and at least five senior staff of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Reports also indicate BLM State directors for Alaska, New Mexico, and Colorado have received notices that they will be moved to other federal agencies as part of the Interior Department reorganization. Members of the SES receiving notification have been given 15 days to either accept the transfers, retire, or resign. Additional transfer notices are expected in the coming weeks. /Travis Joseph

Court Denies Injunction on Orogrande Project, Opponents Give Up

The Orogrande Community Protection Project on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest is a fire protection project partially in an Inventoried Roadless Area (IRA). Orogrande has been evacuated multiple times in recent years due to lightning-caused wildfire.

The Orogrande project was carefully designed to comply with the direction of the Idaho Roadless Rule. Most of the project is in the Community Protection Zone for the community of Orogrande. Friends of the Clearwater (FOC) brought suit in November 2016, claiming that the Forest Service's NEPA documents were inadequate and that an EIS was required due to effects on the IRA. Commercial treatments in the IRA would affect less than 2% of the area and were designed in portions closest to town where opportunities for solitude are already minimal. FOC sought a preliminary injunction as soon as it was informed that project implementation would occur. Both the Idaho Association of Counties (IAC) and the Governor's Office of Species Conservation participated as intervenors.

AFRC member Idaho Forest Group (IFG) purchased the 3.5 mmbf sale and worked closely with the Clearwater Basin Collaborative (CBC) on the project. Many members of the collaborative are also on the Governor's Roadless Commission. On behalf of fourteen Collaborative members, including IFG, Associated Logging Contractors – Idaho, Great Burn Study Group, and Idaho Conservation League, AFRC submitted an *amicus* brief opposing an injunction.

On May 31, the day before implementation, Judge Ronald Bush denied the request for an injunction. In a good development in the law, he rejected a rule that work in an IRA always

requires an EIS. He found the project's relatively minor impact on the IRA, as well as the fact that the project would not preclude the IRA's future wilderness designation, weighed against requiring an EIS. He also noted that the public interest in fire prevention weighed against an injunction.

FOC decided not to appeal Judge Bush's ruling, instead dismissing its case two weeks later. AFRC appreciates the support of our collaborative partners in this effort and the work by IAC and the Governor's office. /*Lawson Fite*

In Win for Forest Health and Economics, Smokey Project May Proceed in Limited Areas

When considering whether to issue an injunction, courts are instructed to analyze several factors, including whether irreparable harm will occur without an injunction, whether the balance of harms favors an injunction, and what will best serve the public interest. Particularly as to the latter two factors, the Ninth Circuit has recognized that courts should consider the needs of local economies as well as risks to forest health from insects, fire, and disease. However, such considerations too often take a back seat to abstract considerations of "harm" that amount to a presumption that logging is harmful.

In the litigation regarding the Smokey Project on the Mendocino National Forest, the remedy order issued on May 30 is a step in the right direction. The Smokey Project is a Healthy Forest Restoration Act project that will treat about 6,400 acres to reduce risk of wildfire damage to the Buttermilk Late Successional Reserve (LSR). About 3,500 acres will be commercially thinned. The court previously found that the Forest Service arbitrarily failed to consider an alternative with a diameter cap as low as 18" diameter at breast height (dbh) (AFRC [February 2017 Newsletter](#)). It also found technical faults in the way the agency described limited operating periods and monitoring. The court dismissed the remaining claims, rejecting assertions that the project requires an EIS, and finding it complied with NFMA and the ESA.

In remedy briefing, plaintiffs asked the court for a complete halt to the project while the Forest Service corrects its EA. It also asked the court to vacate the project and the timber sale contract. Taking the interests of AFRC member Trinity River Lumber Co. into account, the court issued a limited injunction allowing all project work to proceed except for cutting above 20" dbh. The court expressed concern about economic harms and aimed to give the parties more leeway to move forward while still preserving the agency's ability to consider whether a diameter cap alternative meets the purpose and need of the project.

The court set a deadline for the new NEPA documentation of December 1. The plaintiff has already appealed to the Ninth Circuit. /*Lawson Fite*

AFRC Asks Full Ninth Circuit to Hear White Castle Appeal

On June 23, Scott Timber Co. and Carpenters Industrial Council, represented by AFRC attorneys led by Scott Horngren, filed a [petition for rehearing en banc](#) of the Ninth Circuit decision dismissing the White Castle appeal (AFRC [May 2017 Newsletter](#)). Court of Appeals rulings are usually made by a panel of three judges, as happened in this case. A petition for rehearing *en*

banc asks for the Ninth Circuit to assemble a panel of eleven judges to review the initial decision.

In the petition for rehearing, AFRC attorneys argue that the dismissal of the White Castle appeal conflicts with other decisions of the Ninth Circuit and the Supreme Court, because it applies a different standard to appeals by intervenors. Under the rules and court decisions, intervenors can participate as full parties, with the same rights to appeal as any other party. These principles are especially important in the NEPA context because the Ninth Circuit, in the 2011 decision [*Wilderness Society v. U.S. Forest Service*](#), abandoned its former rule that private parties could not intervene in NEPA cases.

There is no set timeline for a decision on the petition. /*Lawson Fite*

AFRC Files an Amicus Brief on the Wolverine Fire Case

The *Forest Service Employees for Environmental Ethics v. USFS* case challenges the Forest Service's use of its emergency response regulation, 36 C.F.R. 220.4(b)(1), in response to the Wolverine Fire on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. The Wolverine Fire was a severe fire that lasted over two months during the summer of 2015, burned over 62,000 acres, required the evacuation of 559 residents in the surrounding areas, and threatened 936 homes and structures. Based on the imminent threat to lives, property, and important natural and cultural resources, the Forest Service began the construction of a Community Protection Line due to "the lack of natural barriers, extreme fuels loading, absence of adequate safety zones, limited number of resources, long term drought, and address mortality to the bud worm infestation, weather and extreme fire behavior." One of the purposes of the protection line was to provide the surrounding communities of Plain, Entiat, and Leavenworth enough time to evacuate the area in the event the Wolverine Fire approached those communities. The Forest Service's emergency response regulation allows the agency to take immediate action in response to an emergency without the need to prepare any NEPA analysis or documentation. This is the first case challenging the merits of that regulation.

On June 23, AFRC filed an *amicus brief* on behalf of Lake Wenatchee Fire & Rescue (LWFR), an all-volunteer fire department with four stations that serves the communities impacted by the fire. Because North Central Washington has faced an increase in heavy fires over the past several years, LWFR supported the Forest Service's ability to act quickly and reduce the risks to isolated communities and local firefighter personnel during future fire events. This case is before Chief Judge Thomas O. Rice in the Eastern District of Washington, and we are waiting for a decision on the pending summary motions. AFRC appreciates the support from our allies in this case. /*Sara Ghafouri*

Ten Cent Project Lessons Learned

AFRC members partnered with the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests on a field trip to the Ten Cent Project on June 20. Ten Cent is located on both forests and centered around the old mining town of Granite, Oregon. Planning has been a joint effort between these forests and the need for fuels reduction in the wildland urban interface and density management for forest health is extreme. The Forest Service requested industry's assistance in determining how to maximize commercial returns on a project with marginal commodity values.

Ten Cent is a good example of the types of restoration projects that the Forest Service is offering these days on the eastside of Region 6. Characterized by dense stands of small diameter trees on rugged terrain, the need for management is very high but the value of the commercial products removed is low. AFRC members made several key suggestions on Ten Cent that are universal across forest and regional boundaries:

- How these sales are “packaged” is key.
- The flexibility for industry to come up with their own plan of work for accomplishing the project goals on the ground is critical.
- Excess Forest Service requirements and criteria can easily make a project unworkable.

Forest Service personnel shared their needs with the industry:

- Field trips with industry must occur during or before scoping in the planning process in order to build the flexibility and information needed into the NEPA documents.
- Industry representation on field trips with collaboratives is important.
- Forest Service field trips with industry and that allow for focused and technical discussions are critical.

Forest Service silviculture prescriptions are becoming increasingly complex on the inland forests while the breadth of field experience and operational expertise is declining. Providing straight forward marking guides for both agency and/or industry designation by prescription is often problematic. Contracting personnel are struggling with contract language that meets NEPA requirements but is short, concise, legal and implementable. AFRC will strive to provide more opportunities for field trips to planning areas early in the planning process. *Irene Jerome*

Copper King Salvage Auctioned

The first of two fire salvage sales from the Copper King fire that burned in 2016 on the Lolo National Forest were auctioned on June 29. The Blackjack timber sale which contains about 5 mmbf of timber is the first sale to be sold and will be followed by the Carbon Queen Salvage sale later in August, which has an estimated volume of 9 mmbf. The Carbon Queen project is located at higher elevations and the heavy winter snows prevented crews from getting the pre-work done earlier.

In late March, Lolo Forest Supervisor Tim Garcia requested an Emergency Situation Determination (ESD) from the Chief of the Forest Service to rapidly bring this project to implementation because the dead timber presents a danger to the public, the burnt trees are subject to rapid deterioration and devaluation, and there is a need to quickly regenerate the burned areas. On May 31, the Chief of the Forest Service issued the ESD for Copper King allowing timber to be salvaged on 1,761 acres of Forest Service land (or nine percent of the burned area).

The Copper King Fire started on July 31, 2016 and burned nearly 29,000 acres before finally being extinguished in October. Multiple land ownerships were burned including approximately 19,300 acres of National Forest System land, 1,400 acres of State Department of Natural

Resources and Conservation land, and 8,200 acres of Weyerhaeuser land. A good portion of the Forest Service land is allocated to timber production, which made the needed salvage efforts possible.

AFRC applauds the staff of the Lolo National Forest, and the leadership in Region 1 for their hard work in getting the final decision out on the Copper King salvage and selling the first timber sale in less than a year. / *Tom Partin*

Idaho Ramping Up Use of GNA

The Idaho Department of Lands (IDL) is ramping up its use of the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA), a federal law that enables the Forest Service to partner with state agencies such as IDL to achieve restoration and resilient landscape objectives across forest ownership boundaries. The second GNA project to be implemented was the Woodrat Salvage Sale which sold on June 23. The project is located on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest, includes 7.1 mmbf of timber, and was purchased for over \$2,000,000. The generated timber receipts will allow the Forest to accomplish additional fuels reduction, ecosystem restoration from the 2015 fires, and help the economic recovery in Idaho. The Wapiti project, also on the Nez Perce-Clearwater, was sold in 2016.

Idaho has proposed a three-year GNA program with their current budget that will help move 10 Forest Service projects forward, including: two projects each on the Boise, Payette, and Idaho Panhandle National Forests, and four projects on the Nez Perce-Clearwater. The projects are expected to treat 10,023 acres, harvest 65.9 mmbf of timber, and generate \$13.9 million in revenues. IDL will provide support to the Forest Service for NEPA planning, project design, sale preparation, and sale administration.

The work is funded by investments from the Forest Service, the State of Idaho, and private industry. The budget for FY17 is \$500,000 and ramps up to \$750,000 each for FY18 and FY19.

To assist in the NEPA work, IDL is contracting with five environmental firms who will conduct NEPA analysis, studies, and related work associated with project planning and implementation of forest restoration activities with any National Forest in Idaho. They are using the Indefinite Deliverable, Indefinite Quantity Contract with task orders being awarded individually based on price and are anticipated to be between \$2,500 and \$100,000. For other work, IDL professional foresters will support work such as sale layout and administration because of their extensive knowledge of timber sale preparation and administration as well as their familiarity with the forest conditions on federal lands in need of treatments.

The Idaho GNA program should be a template for other states to emulate. It is increasing the pace and scale of forest and watershed restoration, providing additive fiber to Idaho markets to maintain infrastructure and support rural economies, and working to develop a financially self-sustaining program in 3-5 years. / *Tom Partin*

Good Neighbor Agreements in Washington

On March 10, Washington Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz and Region 6 Regional Forester Jim Penã signed the [Good Neighbor Authority Master Agreement](#) between the Washington State Department of Natural Resources and Region 6 of the Forest Service. This

was the first step in implementing the use of the GNA by DNR and the Forest Service in Washington State. Since the signing, DNR has been working with Region 6 staff to identify potential projects to undertake using GNA. DNR has produced this printable [overview](#) to explain what GNA is and how DNR is progressing. Also available is a [slide show](#) explaining further details about GNA use. Individual projects use a Supplemental Project Agreement (SPA) to spell out the specific work and unique project parameters for each individual scope of work undertaken as part of the Master Agreement.

DNR has recently signed the first SPA with the Forest Service. The first project located on the Gifford Pinchot National Forest will assist with implementation of the Ursa Thin Stewardship Sale, which is part of the Bear Creek Restoration Thinning project northeast of Carson, Washington. DNR will assist the Forest with capacity for boundary line establishment, tree marking, cruising, and temporary road layout. Funding for this work is being provided by the Forest Service. A second SPA is in the works with the Colville National Forest. This project, the Block of Nine Timber Sale, is located north of Colville and will implement a NEPA approved timber sale on the Forest. AFRC anticipates the agreement for this project to be signed sometime in early to mid-July.

Funding for this work is very limited. By law, DNR is not allowed to use management fund trust dollars, raised through its timber sale program, on lands other than State Trusts lands. DNR is currently using funding provided by Region 6. Ultimately, through a formula within the agreements, funds generated through the sale of valuable materials such as timber, can be used to fund future projects. To learn more about GNA, visit the [US Forest Service's GNA webpage](#).

/Matt Comisky

DNR Launches Rural Communities Partnership Initiative

On June 7 and 8, Commissioner of Public Lands Hilary Franz launched DNR's [Rural Communities Partnership Initiative](#) (RCPI) with a two-day swing of meetings in Colville, Prosser, Raymond, Port Angeles and Darrington. She was accompanied by Community Development Director Josh Wilund and other DNR staff, augmented with local DNR personnel.

Community leaders and interested citizens were invited to meet with Hilary at each stop. After speaking about opening a way for rural communities around the state to partner with DNR to expand opportunities for sustainable development, she opened the floor to hear what local residents want from DNR. The discussion at the meetings differed in the same way the interests of the local communities differ.

About 35 people turned out for the meeting at the Tri-County Economic Development Commission in Colville. Attendees spoke about the importance of DNR to the viability of the milling community in Northeast Washington; needs for broadband and improved communication services in Stevens County; opportunities to improve forest health, reduce wildfires and enhance the economy; access and easement issues and the need for a better working relationship among users, DNR and the Forest Service; and opportunities for recreation on DNR managed lands.

At the meeting in Prosser, attended by about 25 people, the announced focus was clean energy, innovative water storage/usage, agriculture/vineyards, repositioning lands and quality of life.

Discussion focused on issues around the price paid when lands are purchased by the state; the need for DNR to be sensitive to local land use needs in establishing uses for trust lands; and opportunities, such as GNA projects, to improve forest health and provide volume to support existing manufacturing infrastructure.

The meeting at the Pacific County Economic Development offices in Raymond focused on aquaculture, shellfish and Southwest Washington. Approximately 25 people turned out to talk about the need to better manage DNR rights-of-way for utilities; the role of trust revenue beneficiary libraries in work force development; the need for DNR as the owner of shellfish beds to step up and participate with private landowners in protecting and preserving productivity and future viability; the need is immediate, as well as long term, if industry is to survive; the need to champion saltwater dependent industries with other state and federal agencies; the need for balance in focusing on ecological and economic issues; the need for revenue from county trust lands for public services and safety; timber manufacturers' need for certainty and steady supply to make investments, continue to provide family-wage jobs; and frustration over the desire of those living in cities to control rural land use without understanding the good work that rural owners do for the environment.

A wide range of topics was discussed by the more than 75 people who turned out for the Port Angeles meeting, including the manner in which DNR revenues are reported and tracked; carbon sequestration; access to and development of scuba diving sites; rural broadband; loss of working forests; the potential for GNA projects to increase volume from the Olympic National Forest; potential economic opportunities for outdoor recreation, particularly biking, to create economic benefits; the need to meet timber harvest projections; the need for DNR to provide a predictable harvest year to year; intergenerational issues on how natural resources are used; jobs versus the environment as a false dichotomy; issues with road use permits / federal agencies' lack of cooperation; and Olympic Memorial Hospital's need for DNR timber revenues.

Approximately 50 people met at the Darrington Community Center and spoke about the need for DNR and the Forest Service to return to communities and provide training and jobs for local youth; keeping DNR roads open for recreation; appreciation for DNR's assistance with recreation opportunities at the local level; trails can coexist with working forests; Board of Natural Resources sales should form a baseline to which Forest Improvement Treatment (FIT) sales are additive; need for citizens and DNR to cooperate in forest fire suppression; the vital nature of timber supply to a host of jobs, not just in mills; concern over loss of working forest land base; need for asset analysis of DNR lands; need to educate urban dwellers about the good that rural communities and landowners do for the environment.

DNR has established an [online questionnaire](#) for those wanting to share ideas or to propose ways for DNR to establish partnerships with rural communities. */Ann Forest Burns*

Workshop Examining Current Science in Active Management of Riparian Areas

The future of riparian forests in the Pacific Northwest will be determined by new priorities, policies, and practices overlaying the diverse and complex geographical and biological systems at play throughout the landscape.

You are invited to a special one-day conference to untangle these issues, explore innovative solutions, and interact with scientists, landowners, and managers who are actively working on one of the most challenging issues in natural resource protection. The workshop is intended to inform congressional and state legislators and staff as they consider forest management and riparian policy issues.

The workshop, organized by the Oregon Society of American Foresters, will be held on Thursday, August 10 from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at Cheatham Hall at the World Forestry Center in Portland. [The agenda can be found here.](#) The program features excellent speakers and panels, covering everything from the physical science of riparian management, to legal issues, and policy implications.

Please RSVP by July 27 to Melinda Olson, Society of American Foresters Northwest Office, 503-224-8046, melinda@forestry.org.