Fire and Aviation
Good Neighbor Authority and Collaboration

Accomplishing More Together
Background:

Late 1990s: A collaborative idea to work across jurisdiction boundaries

2000: Passed by Congress as a pilot program between FS and State of Colorado

2004: Reauthorized and added BLM to the scope of the Authority

2014: Consolidated Appropriations Act reauthorized and expanded to all states having BLM or FS land
GNA authorizes a broad scope of land management activities:

- Fuels reduction and management projects
- Wildlife and fish habitat restoration
- Abandoned mine reclamation
- Monitoring
- Insect and disease infected trees
- Potential for using the Authority for post-fire recovery projects

Other projects addressing forest, rangeland and watershed health
What GNA can do:

• Authorizes BLM to enter into agreements and contracts, including sole-source contracts, with a State to perform qualifying projects

• Allows for a contract or agreement where a State official can provide all services necessary to carry out Authorized Acquisition Regulations

• Can be implemented at the BLM Field Office level; encouraged at all levels
What GNA cannot do:

• Not applicable for construction, reconstruction, repair or restoration of roads, parking areas, public buildings or public works

• Cannot delegate NEPA responsibility, although States can provide NEPA services
Good Neighbor Authority aligns with several of Secretary Zinke’s 10 priorities

• Creating a conservation stewardship legacy
• Utilizing our natural resources
• Restoring trust with local communities

GNA also helps to:
• Protect our people
• Achieve our goals and lead our team forward
Accomplishments to date:

**California**: California Conservation Corps Youth WUI Fuels Contract

**New Mexico**: Forest and Watershed Management Agreement covering projects for habitat management and native plant restoration

**Utah**: BLM Utah Statewide Watershed Restoration Initiative focused on fuels management, Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation

**Alaska**: State of Alaska Fish and Game to conduct projects including prescribed fire, public outreach, community wildfire protection plans and more

**Colorado**: Used GNA for a variety of forestry projects in the past
GNA complements other collaborative efforts, including:

- National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy goals
  - Resilient Landscapes
  - Fire-Adapted Communities
  - Safe and Effective Wildfire Response

- Rangeland Fire Protection Associations
  - State-supported, BLM trained and equipped

- Hundreds of local Mutual Aid and Community Assistance agreements

And more...
Going Forward...

• More States currently exploring the benefits of Good Neighbor Authority contracts and agreements

• All States encouraged to consider GNA

• Collaborative work before fire can improve efficiencies and reduce fire’s threats

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Questions will be addressed after panel presentations