

Meeting Date: November 16, 2023

Agenda Item No. 14

Agenda Item: Good Neighbor Authority Habitat
Projects - Clearwater Region

Bureau Chief Approval: SR

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Background:

Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) allows the U. S. Forest Service (USFS) to enter into agreements with state agencies to increase the pace and scale of restoration activities on federal forestlands. In 2020, the USFS and IDFG entered into their first master agreement between the Clearwater Region and the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest. IDFG's objective with that GNA agreement is to improve elk habitat on the forest, while also achieving various cross-boundary objectives with our partners. Since completion of the master agreement, two Supplemental Project Agreements have been completed. Those agreements cover a wide array of work, including: noxious weed treatments, riparian restoration, wildlife surveys, access management, and fuels mitigation.

This presentation will cover the IDFG projects that have been completed under GNA in the Clearwater Region, projects currently proposed for the Wildfire Crisis Strategy Landscape, collaborations with IDL, and future direction.

Statutory Authority and/or Policy Issues:

The Idaho Fish and Game Commission administers state wildlife policy through the Department including land acquisition and management for the purposes of game, bird, fish, or fur-bearing animal restoration, propagation, or protection; and for public hunting, fishing, or trapping areas to provide places where the public may fish, hunt, or trap (Idaho Code 36-104 (b) 7 (A&B)).

Public Involvement Process:

Not Applicable. This is an information only agenda item.

Justification:

This agenda item is for Commission information on the Department's efforts to utilize GNA and partner with the USFS to improve forest health and elk habitat within the Clearwater Region. This agenda item will enhance the Commission's understanding of the habitat work being conducted and aid them in responding to questions and concerns raised by sportsmen and landowners.

Staff Recommendation:

Not Applicable. This is an information only agenda item.