

July 29, 2019

Lane County  
Board of Commissioners  
125 East 8th Avenue  
Eugene, OR 97401



*Coming together for healthy forests and communities*

RE: Good Neighbor Authority Timber  
Sales on Lane County Controverted Lands

Dear Lane County Commissioners:

On behalf of the Southern Willamette Forest Collaborative (SWFC) we thank you for the opportunity to provide comments to the Lane County Commission concerning Good Neighbor Authority projects on Willamette National Forest O&C managed lands, also known as controverted lands.

The SWFC mission is to “promote local forest management solutions that sustain ecological resiliency and socioeconomic health for the southern Willamette forest area and nearby communities.” The SWFC is community-based forest collaborative located in Oakridge, Oregon that brings together community members, elected officials, community organizations, environmental interest groups, and state and federal agencies to find balanced, restoration-based solutions to the local ecological and economic challenges.

The SWFC recommends that Lane County support GNA projects, which are similar to forest service stewardship authority projects, that overlap onto Willamette National Forest controverted lands. These projects increase the pace and scale of restoration by reinvesting all timber sale proceeds into restoration projects that benefit the forest.

The SWFC implementation advisory committee has been working with the Middle Fork Ranger District to collaboratively design stewardship integrated resource timber contract (IRTC) projects since 2016. To date, these projects have provided timber to local mills, generated approximated 550K in embedded restoration work that was awarded to local contractors, and raised an additional 2.4M that will be reinvested in restoration work across the watershed in the near future.

The SWFC is in support of GNA projects on the forest that achieve the objectives of the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Federal Forest Restoration program to:

- Increase forest resilience and/or decrease risk from wildfire to all ownerships by achieving additional restoration outputs
- Test methods to expedite planning and implementation timeframes & increase cost efficiencies
- Sustain and grow critical components to achieve restoration, including collaborative agreement, adaptive management, and forest sector infrastructure and workforce
- Increase economic opportunities for local contractors and rural communities
- Implement restoration components in addition to timber removal and to accelerate planning for future GNA projects

The SWFC's hope for the GNA program is that it becomes another important tool to achieve our triple bottom line mission to increase healthy forests, communities and economies. Although the County would forgo a small fraction of timber proceeds to its general fund, the tradeoff means more dollars to improve the environment and employ the local workforce.

The implementation Advisory Committee is already working with the Willamette National Forest and ODF to track GNA on the Middle Fork Ranger District and plans to assist in socioeconomic monitoring of these projects to make certain these outcomes are achieved. We would appreciate your support for these projects and would be happy to follow up with you throughout the implementation of this work.

Thank you for your consideration.

Regards,



Sarah Altemus-Pope  
SWFC Coordinator  
541-521-5786  
<http://southwillamette.wix.com/swfc>

**SWFC Steering Committee**

- |                   |  |
|-------------------|--|
| David Chamberlain | Greater Oakridge Area Trail Stewards     |
| Sarah Dyr Dahl    | Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council |
| Paula Hebert      | Oregon Horseman's Association            |
| Loren Hogue       | Oakridge Chamber of Commerce             |
| Kathy Holston     | Oakridge Mayor (Advisory)                |
| Thalia Larin      | Westfir City Council member              |
| Rob Mickey        | Middle Fork Ranger District (Advisory)   |
| Susan Obermeyer   | Oakridge community member                |
| Laurie Patty      | Oakridge business owner                  |

Enclosed: Implementation Advisory Committee member organizations

**SWFC Implementation Advisory Committee Organizations:**

The following member organizations have been working together since 2016 to provide recommendations to the Willamette National Forest, Middle Fork Ranger District for stewardship and GNA projects.

<b>Alpine Trail Crew Association</b>
<b>Backcountry Horseman Association</b>
<b>Dexter community members</b>
<b>Lane County Economic Development</b>
<b>Many Rivers Chapter Sierra Club</b>
<b>Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council</b>
<b>Oakridge business owners</b>
<b>Oakridge community members</b>
<b>Oakridge Mayor</b>
<b>Oakridge Economic Development Advisory Committee</b>
<b>Oregon Dept. Forestry (Advisory)</b>
<b>Oregon Wild</b>
<b>Rosboro Lumber (Advisory)</b>
<b>Walama Restoration</b>
<b>Warner Co.</b>
<b>Westfir City Council</b>
<b>Willamette National Forest, Middle Fork Ranger District (Advisory)</b>