

Update on Good Neighbor Authority in Wisconsin

May 8, 2019

Council on Forestry, Madison



Topics for Today

1. Chequamegon Nicolet National Forest
Timber Sale Program Status
2. GNA Accomplishments to date
3. Implementing Program Revenue projects

CNNF

- Review and Update on CNNF Forest Plan Goals Related to Timber

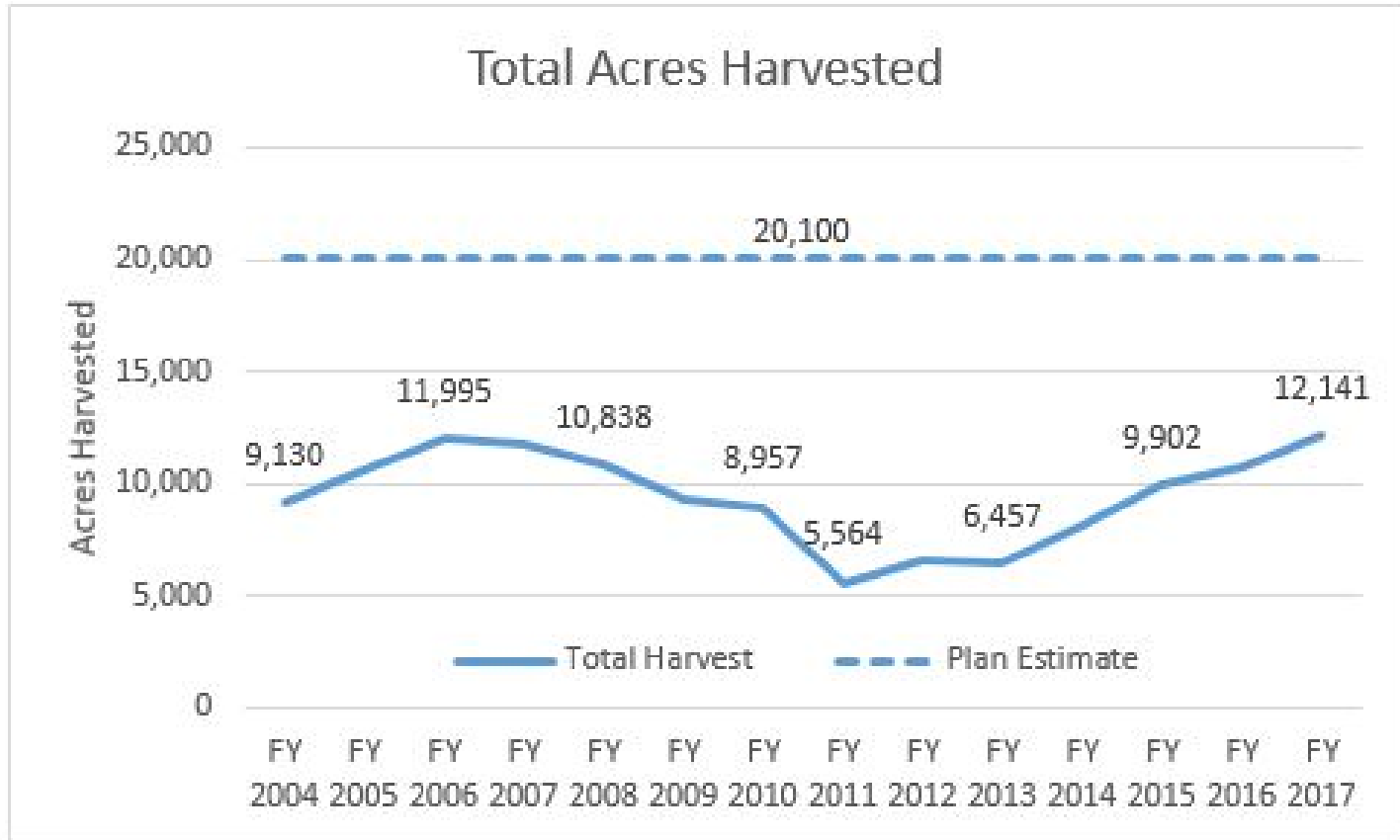
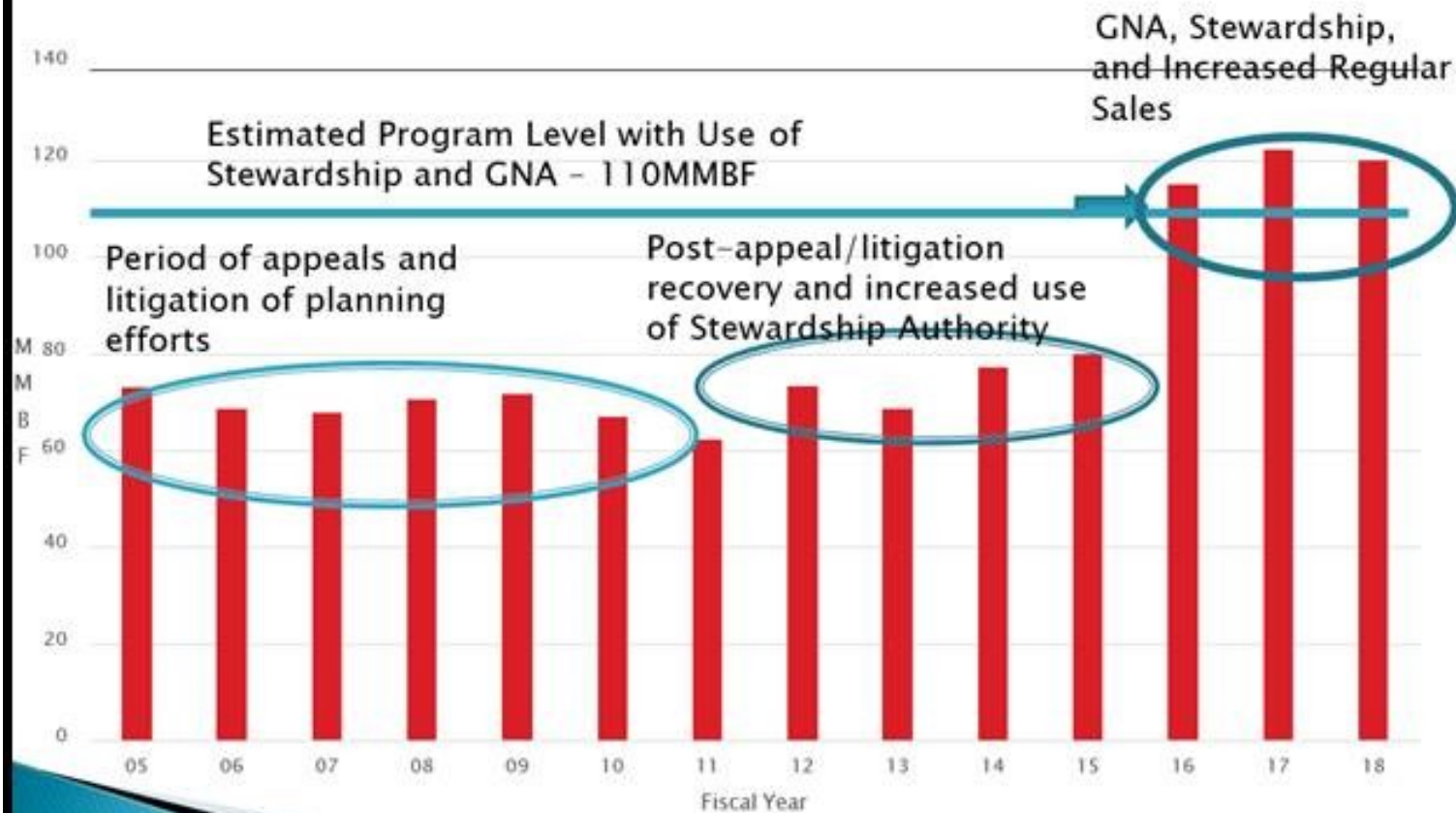


Figure 6. Total acres of harvest on Forest for 2004-2017, along with the estimated harvest area for decade 1 from the Forest Plan.

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CNNF Timber Volume Sold



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2018 GNA Changes

2018 Farm Bill:

- Counties and Tribes may enter cooperative agreements with national forests to carry out authorized restoration services under a GNA agreement
- Other changes made; waiting for legal interpretation

Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 (“Omnibus Bill”):

- Permits the agency to allow work on existing roads required for completion of Good Neighbor Authority projects, including road reconstruction, repair and restoration previously not allowed.

Overview of GNA Agreement

- Master and Supplemental Project Agreement (SPA) signed September 2015

“Only authorized forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration services are allowed under this SPA which includes activities to treat insect and disease infected trees; activities to reduce hazardous fuels; and any other activities to restore or improve forest, rangeland, and watershed health, including fish, and wildlife habitat.”

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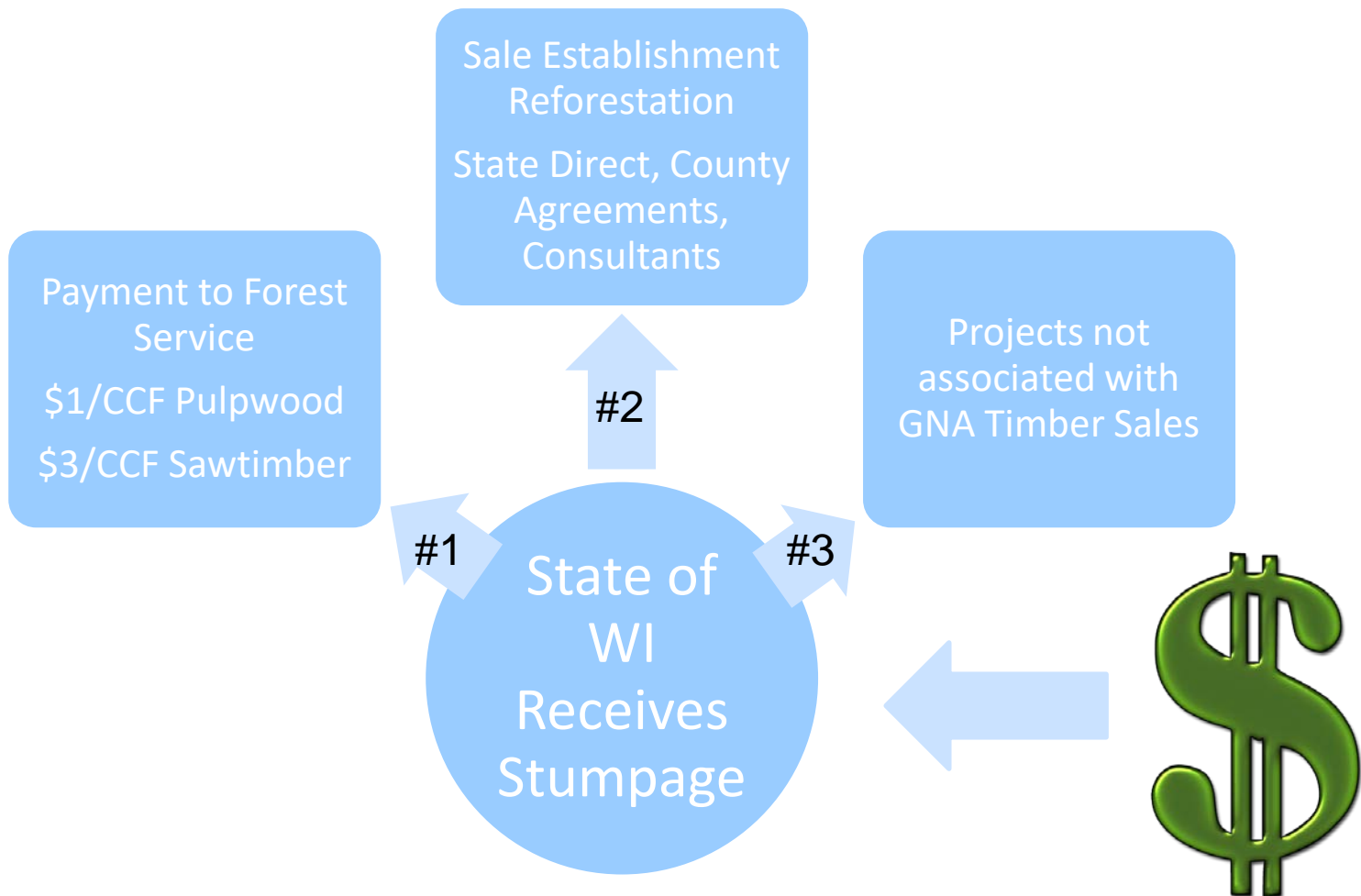
Timber Program Accomplishments

72 sold sales (since 2016)

11,800 treated acres

~\$8 million total bid value

GNA Timber Sale Income Flow



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Expense/Revenue	10 Year Estimate
Timber Sale Revenue	\$14,000,000
WI DNR Timber Expenditures	\$ 8,000,000
Loan Repayment to Forestry SEG Account	\$750,000
Bills of Collection Paid to USFS	\$240,000
Program Revenue, projected estimate	\$5,000,000

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Program Revenue – How can it be used?

- Within the Authority (GNA)
 - Forest and Watershed Restoration
- Within the scope of the existing GNA Agreement
 - Consistent with the Forest Plan and contributing to its goals and objectives
- Cannot be used for Road construction, building construction or repair, or vegetation management in Wilderness

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Examples of Restoration Services

- Commercial timber removal
- Fish and wildlife habitat improvement projects
- Temporary road construction, including culverts
- Activities to treat hazardous fuels*
- Insect and disease control
- Project planning; including environmental analysis
- Emergency watershed stabilization work

Examples of Restoration Services

- Tree planting and seeding
- Erosion control
- Water testing and protection
- Project prep work, including design and sale prep
- And any other activities to restore and improve forest, rangeland and watershed health

Examples of Unauthorized Activities

- Fire dispatch agreements
- Hiring a State employee to fill a vacant Forest Service position
- Hiring a front-liner through the State
- Conservation education programs in schools
- Aerial photography flights (10 year forest-wide)

Program Revenue - Goals

“...to carry out authorized restoration services on Federal land under the good neighbor agreement”

1. Timber program sustainability – assist pre-sale work or required reporting; need around two-thirds of program revenue to be reinvested here
2. Replace or substitute with GNA funds for existing restoration programs to allow CNNF to do reinvestment work
3. Fund other projects that support Forest Plan Goals and Objectives and do not have enough staffing and/or funding levels to accomplish otherwise

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Program Revenue (PR) Project Brainstorming

-Initial Partner Collaboration and Internal Forest Project
Development

FS Internal Reality

-Consider NEPA Completion, Project Timing Restrictions,
Bottlenecks, etc.

State Reality

-Consider States available resources, etc.

Available PI

– Program revenue available to
complete agreed upon projects.

Restoration Project Outcomes

Program Revenue – Current & Upcoming Projects

- **Timber program needs** - Compartment Exams, Silvicultural Prescriptions, biotic inventory for use in NEPA analyses, site preparation for tree regeneration, pre-sale access management
- **Cooperative watershed management / Coldwater community protection and restoration** – Beaver control, stream habitat enhancement, road stream crossing inventory and repair, groundwater inventory
- **Terrestrial Habitat improvement/enhancement** – aspen age structure balancing, mechanical vegetation treatment, barrens or open lands maintenance and restoration

Questions

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