https://www.mccallstarnews.com/2026/10/14/news/h1-idaho-signs-12-4m-agreement-with-forest-service-h1/

Star-News

Idaho signs $12.4M agreement with Forest Service

- **October 14, 2026**

More timber sales and projects on Payette and Boise National Forests

BY SIERRA CHRISTIE
The Star-News

The Idaho Department of Lands and the U.S. Forest Service recently signed a 20-year collaborative agreement with the goal of expanding the agency's forest management partnership.

The agreement, known as the Good Neighbor Authority, allows Idaho to partner with the U.S. Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to perform forest management activities on federal lands.

"These Good Neighbor Authority agreements strengthen our partnership with the Idaho Department of Lands and reinforce our shared commitment to Idaho's communities," said Michiko Martin, the Regional Forester with Southwest and Intermountain Region of the Forest Service.

"By accelerating forest treatments across diverse landscapes, we're working together to reduce wildfire risk, improve forest health, and protect the places where Idahoans live and work," Martin said.

The agreements are expected to support over 100 future GNA timber sales and dozens of restoration projects in Idaho, including in the Payette National Forest and the Boise National Forest.

The agreement includes more than $12.4 million in new federal investments, which will be used toward timber sale preparation and implementation, hazardous fuels reduction, road improvements, timber salvage, reforestation, post-wildfire recovery, thinning, watershed protection and other forest restoration activities.

Each agreement includes timber sales and non-commercial projects for the forests, which can cost anywhere between $1,000 and $800,000, depending on the type of project.

The agreement supports six GNA timber sales in the Payette National Forest, which is estimated to include 28.6 million board feet of timber. The agreement also supports a 3,000 acre commercial restoration project in the Payette National Forest.

For the Boise National Forest, the agreement provides 14 additional GNA timber sales which include 69.7 million board feet.

The agreement also provides the Boise National Forest with 10,000 acres of commercial restoration.

IDL officials said that the acreage and board feet of each project are preliminary and could change as projects are developed.

Five non-commercial projects and an estimated $1.9 million in funding will be used for road maintenance, sale prep and hazard tree and biomass clean-up projects in the Boise National Forest.

“These agreements strengthen Idaho’s partnership with the U.S. Forest Service and provide a long-term framework for increasing forest management and reducing wildfire risk,” said Idaho Governor Brad Little.

“This work supports my ‘Make Forests Healthy Again’ executive order and our shared commitment to healthy, resilient forests and strong rural communities,” Little said.

The Good Neighbor Authority agreements have been built on the 2025 Idaho Shared Stewardship Agreement between Idaho and the U.S. Forest Service.

Idaho first implemented the Good Neighbor Authority in 2016, and has used the agreement to increase forest restoration with the IDL, the Forest Service, local governments, tribes and private groups.