

February 12 2018

Re: House Bill (HB) 4118

Dear Chair Clem and Members of the Committee:

This written testimony is to provide information regarding [Oregon Solutions](#) and HB 4118 that would require the Governor and the [Federal Forest Working Group \(FFWG\)](#) to jointly develop recommendations for the goals of Good Neighbor Authority (GNA).

About Oregon Solutions

The mission of Oregon Solutions is to develop sustainable solutions to community-based problems that support economic, environmental, and community objectives and are built through the collaborative efforts of businesses, government, and non-profit organizations.

Oregon Solutions is part of the National Policy Consensus Center housed at Portland State University since 2002. True to its mission of collaboration, Oregon Solutions operates through partnerships with other organizations. Oregon Solutions also partners with the Governor's Regional Solutions Centers to assist with priority projects where state agency assistance and funding is available and needed.

About the FFWG and GNA

The FFWG has been an Oregon Solutions (OS) project since 2009. At that time the Oregon Board of Forestry released the report [“Achieving Oregon’s Vision for Federal Forest Lands”](#). The report was completed by the Board’s blue ribbon *Federal Forest Advisory Committee*, appointed in 2006 and charged with developing “a vision and set of key goals that should be pursued on federal forestlands to create forests that are ecologically sustainable, economically viable, and appreciated by all stakeholders” in Oregon. The FFWG and has been meeting regularly since the completion of the report.

The FFWG is convened by the Governors Natural Resources Office. The Group’s purposes are to:

- Advance collaboratively-driven landscape-scale, active restoration of federal forest lands throughout Oregon;
- Identify and remove policy and financial barriers; and
- Promote innovative solutions to restoration of forest and watershed health.

Initially the focus of the FFWG was on implementing the state and local recommendations contained in the Board’s 2009 report. Since at least 2014 the FFWG has been engaged in conversations regarding GNA and implementation of this tool in Oregon. (GNA was authorized in the 2014 Farm Bill. The Governor signed a Master Agreement with the US Forest Service in March 2016, one of the early states to complete this milestone following the authorization.)

GNA efforts were a regular topic for FFWG work sessions in 2016 and 2017. The GNA effort was a focus of the agenda for the most recent FFWG work session on January 19 2018. The discussion centered on implementation and feedback concerning suggested goals, approaches, projects and milestones. Participants included the private sector and non-profits along with Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Fish and Wildlife, BLM and USFS staff.

Additional information about Oregon Solutions and the FFWG, including the complete Purpose and Vision Statement and work session agendas, can be found online at:

Oregon Solutions: <http://orsolutions.org/>

Federal Forest Working Group: <http://orsolutions.org/osproject/federal-forestlands>

Thank you for your consideration.

Pete Dalke
Sr. Project Manager, Oregon Solutions, and
Staff, Federal Forest Working Group