



**RESOLUTION 2018-06**  
**SUPPORTING GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY AND FARM BILL FORESTRY PROVISIONS TO**  
**IMPROVE MANAGEMENT OF FORESTED TRUST LANDS**

**Whereas**, the Western States Land Commissioners Association ("WSLCA") and its member states manage over 515 million acres of trust lands, minerals, and waterways that are interspersed with federal lands; and

**Whereas**, members of WSLCA have state constitutional mandates to manage millions of acres of lands for economic development, public education, conservation, recreation, and other public purposes provided by state law; and

**Whereas**, WSLCA member states with forested lands fulfill their constitutional mandates through the responsible management of forest resources which are often surrounded by U.S. Forest Service or Bureau of Land Management forested lands and management policies on those federal lands heavily impact forested trust land management; and

**Whereas**, in 2014, Good Neighbor Authority was expanded from a 2 state pilot program to a nationwide program, available to any State with National Forest System, National Grasslands, or forested Bureau of Land Management lands; and

**Whereas**, Good Neighbor Authority allows States to work in true partnership with the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to accomplish restoration goals and stimulate the rural economy through responsible land management, timber production, and forestry products production; and

**Whereas**, States have invested substantial resources to match federal efforts, and are providing staff to help administer restoration projects and facilitate timber sales and production; and

**Whereas**, Use of Good Neighbor Authority has led to an increase in treated acres to greatly decrease wildfire risk and substantially increase in timber outputs since 2014; and


**Whereas,** Good Neighbor Authority provides a productive path forward to improve land management, encourage State-Federal cooperation, and improving states abilities to fund education from forested trust lands; and

**Whereas,** the U.S. Congress is currently debating the 2018 Farm Bill which includes important forestry provisions that will enhance States' abilities to effectively and cooperatively manage forested trust lands on behalf of public education; and

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:**

1. The WSLCA encourages the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to fully implement new Good Neighbor authorities included in the 2018 Omnibus Appropriations Act; and
2. The WSLCA urges the United States Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to fully fund and staff Good Neighbor activities to work in cooperation with state trust land managers; and
3. The WSLCA urges the U.S. Congress to support forestry provisions included in 2018 Farm Bill that will provide greater opportunities for State trust land managers to responsibly manage timber lands and produce revenues for public education and other public institutions.

Adopted this 11th day of July, 2018.

  
Harry Birdwell, President  
WSLCA

  
Bridget Hill, Secretary  
WSLCA