Board of Natural Resources

Product Sales & Leasing Division

Forest Health Briefing
January 5, 2017
Agenda

- Forest Health Briefing
  - History – what’s the problem?
  - Legislation – how we’re being asked to fix the problem
- State Lands and BNR role
What’s the problem?

- Overstocked forests in Eastern Washington
- 100 years of fire suppression

Symptoms:
- Increased tree mortality from pests and disease
- Increased wildfires both in frequency and severity

Comparison of forest conditions, 1934–2010, Naneum Creek drainage near Mission Peak in central Kittitas County.
## Size of the problem

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Total Active Restoration Need</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USFS</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,119,674</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State-DNR</td>
<td></td>
<td>257,434</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State-Other</td>
<td></td>
<td>46,227</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tribal</td>
<td></td>
<td>397,782</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Private Industrial</td>
<td></td>
<td>319,923</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Non-Industrial</td>
<td></td>
<td>466,414</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td></td>
<td>71,050</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>2,678,504</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Eastern Washington Forest Health Report 2014
Size of the problem

- Change in tree mortality and large fires, 2015-2016
Addressing the problem - State Lands

- 2004 Forest Improvement Treatment (FIT) legislation
- Additional legislative funding
  - SBCA funding
  - Federal grant
Addressing the problem -

2012 Forest Health Hazard Warning Areas
2016 legislation, 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan

**ESHB 2376, SEC. 308**
Develop a 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan to “treat areas of state forest land that have been identified by the department as being in poor health.”
Importantly, the DNR also understands that the success of treatments often requires work to go beyond trust land borders. Using tools like the Good Neighbor Authority, the DNR now has the ability to look beyond its own ownership boundaries and effectively work with the USDA Forest Service to address forest health needs at a landscape-scale.
State Lands strategy, HB 1711

- State lands forest health strategy near completion
- Utilizing 20-Year Strategic Plan and HB 1711 criteria to prioritize treatment planning
Forest health treatments on State Lands

- Acres commercial harvest and pre-commercial thinning forest health treatments
- NE & SE Regions 2006-2017
Forest health treatments on State Lands
State Lands & BNR role

- Plan/conduct forest health treatments on State Lands per HB 1711 & consistent with 20 yr. forest health strategic plan
- Forest Health Revolving Account
- Reporting (BNR & legislature)
- Implementation Plan
  - Priority landscapes identified
  - Priority treatments being identified
What we covered

- Forest Health Briefing
  - History – what’s the problem?
  - Legislation – how we being asked to fix the problem
  - State Lands and BNR role

Next month

- State Lands Forest Health Implementation Plan