State Lands Forest Health

• Forest Health Issue
• Legislative & Policy Milestones
• HB1711
• Accomplishments
• Plan for next biennium
• Funding
• On-going/Next Steps
Historical Photo Comparison:
Leecher Mtn.
SW Okanogan County

Credit: Upper photo: William B. Osborne, USDA Forest Service 10/11/1930

Bottom photo: John F. Marshall, USDA Forest Service 07/07/2011
Forest Dynamism is Natural: Succession and Disturbance

• Forest stands trend to shade tolerant species
• Increased tree densities increases competition for resources and leads to inadequate resources for healthy tree growth
• Insect and disease pathogens increase prevalence in favorable host conditions (i.e. weakened condition)
• Overstocked, diseased and weakened forests create optimal conditions for mega-fires

Photo credit: Danielle Munzing/WADNR
Comparison: Treated, healthy forest stand compared to one with heightened risk for disease & wildfire.

Photos: WADNR
Economic Limitations:

- Fewer mills in parts of eastern Washington limits value in traditional forest products
- Forest health treatments often produce forest products with lower initial value
Contributing Factors:

- Warming climate and longer dry seasons
- Increased population in the wildland-urban interface (WUI)

Photo credit: NAIP Imagery/WADNR
Symptoms of the Forest Health Issue...
Chronology of Forest Health Legislation & Policy:

• 2004: Forest Health Strategy Work Group & Forest Health Improvement Act → Forest Improvement Treatment (FIT)
• 2006: BNR adopts the Policy for Sustainable Forests (PSF)
• 2007: DNR initiates first forest health hazard warning process & convened a Forest Health Technical Advisory Committee
• 2010: State Legislature directs supplemental funding for forest health treatments
• 2012: CPL issues first forest health hazard warning areas
• 2016: HB 2037 – 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan
• 2017: HB 5546 and HB 1711
HB 1711 State Lands:

• Develop and implement a policy for prioritizing forest health treatments
• Prioritize state trust landscapes for forest health treatments for the next 2, 6, and 20 year periods
• Authorized Forest Health Revolving Account (FHRA)
• Report to the Legislature even-numbered years
HB 1711 Prioritization must consider the value of:

- Timber or other commercial forest products removed
- Timber or other commercial forest products spared
- Homes, structures, agriculture, and public infrastructure spared
- Impacts to recreation and tourism
- Ecosystem services, such as water quality
Progress & Assessments on State Trust Lands:

• 2004-2015: ~51,000 acres of forest health treatments under the FIT program
• 2015: Haugo et al. reported ~257,000 acres needing treatment on state trust lands
• 2015-2018: ~60,000 acres of forest health treatments on state trust lands
• 2018: State Lands assessment revealed ~190,000 acres of state trust lands still need treatment
  • High priority landscapes: ~121,000 acres
  • Medium priority landscapes: ~35,000 acres
  • Low priority landscapes: ~34,000 acres

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ownership</th>
<th>Acres</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USFS</td>
<td>1.77M</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State-DNR</td>
<td>257.434</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State-Other</td>
<td>46.227</td>
<td>2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tribal</td>
<td>397.782</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Industrial</td>
<td>319.923</td>
<td>12%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Non-Industrial</td>
<td>466.414</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>71.050</td>
<td>3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>2,678.504</td>
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</table>
### Plan for Next Biennium: FY 2020 & FY 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal year</th>
<th>Landscape priority</th>
<th>Commercial treatment Acres</th>
<th>Non-commercial treatment Acres</th>
<th>Total Acres</th>
<th>% of fiscal year</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>3,822</td>
<td>9,481</td>
<td>13,303</td>
<td>47%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>3,731</td>
<td>2,975</td>
<td>6,706</td>
<td>23%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>454</td>
<td>8,041</td>
<td>8,495</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>High</td>
<td>4,149</td>
<td>8,788</td>
<td>12,937</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>3,957</td>
<td>4,153</td>
<td>8,110</td>
<td>31%</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Low</td>
<td>555</td>
<td>4,450</td>
<td>5,005</td>
<td>19%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Totals</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>16,668</strong></td>
<td><strong>37,888</strong></td>
<td><strong>54,556</strong></td>
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</table>
Plan for Next Biennium:

State Lands activities alignment with 20-Year Strategy:

• 64% of planned treatments in high priority watersheds identified by the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan
Funding Plan for Next Biennium:

• Capital Funding
  • 19-21 biennium request for $3M to fund 9,300 acres of non-commercial treatments and over 600 acres of commercial treatments

• Forest Health Revolving Account
  • Allows revenues from commercial forest health treatments to directly fund non-commercial forest health treatments

Photo credit: Joe Smith/WA DNR
Forest Health Revolving Account

Revenues:
Commercial Treatments
e.g. timber sales

Distributions to Trust Beneficiaries when fund >$10M unobligated

Expenditures:
Forest health treatments including:
- Timber sales
- Non-commercial treatments
- Planning

Forest Health Revolving Account (FHRA)
### Funding for Next Biennium:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>FY 2018</th>
<th>FY 2019</th>
<th>FY 2020</th>
<th>FY 2021</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Beginning Fund Balance</strong></td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$4.1m</td>
<td>$9m</td>
<td>$9.7m</td>
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<td><strong>Revenue</strong></td>
<td>$6m</td>
<td>$7.5m</td>
<td>$8.6m</td>
<td>$10.4m</td>
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<td><strong>Expenditures</strong></td>
<td>$1.8m</td>
<td>$2.5m</td>
<td>$8m</td>
<td>$8m</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Ending Fund Balance</strong></td>
<td>$4.1m</td>
<td>$9m</td>
<td>$9.7m</td>
<td>$12.1m</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Next Steps:

• Continue prioritizing landscapes and stands to develop 2, 6, and 20-year treatment schedules
• Implement and monitor treatments
• Develop guidance for prescribed fire on state trust lands
• Prepare for establishing an eastside sustainable harvest calculation
Questions?

Photo credit: Danielle Munzing/WADNR