



**\$6.3M Operating (CCA)**

### **\$3.128M in CCA Carry-Forward Funding**

The legislature allotted \$3.128M in ongoing operating funding from the Natural Climate Solutions Account in the 23-25 biennium to implement climate-smart forest treatments. DNR used this funding to hire 4 permanent positions and deliver 20,000 acres of treatments. This funding was removed from the Governor's 25-27 budget. We request that this funding be restored.

### **\$3.25M in New CCA Funding**

DNR submitted a request to double the ongoing CCA investment in 25-27 and complete an additional 14,600-20,000 acres of treatments.

# Climate-Smart Forest Treatments on DNR Managed Trust Lands

## **RESTORING HEALTHY, RESILIENT FORESTS TO ADAPT TO AND MITIGATE THE IMPACTS OF A CHANGING CLIMATE**

Maintaining healthy, resilient forests is a critical component of climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. [DNR's Plan for Climate Resilience](#) and [Forest Action Plan](#) identify the need for treatments to ensure that Washington's forests: are resilient to drought, insects, disease, and invasive species; provide clean and cold water to support aquatic species and habitat; sequester more carbon; and support rural economic development including sustainable timber production. This proposal requests \$3.25 million in ongoing new funding to conduct at least 14,600 acres (up to 20,000 acres if contract prices are low) of treatments to restore/maintain healthy forest conditions through tree planting, control of invasive and competing vegetation, and pre-commercial thinning in western Washington.



**From left to right:** Western redcedar planting unit; Drought-stressed Douglas-fir seedling overtopped by invasive common groundsel (*Senecio vulgaris*); Recently completed pre-commercial thinning treatment

## **ECOLOGICAL BENEFITS OF SILVICULTURAL PRACTICES**

Forests that have been established with thoughtful silvicultural practices contain faster-growing and larger trees. As a result, they sequester carbon at greater rates and can more quickly achieve complex structure capable of providing better habitat for wildlife. Forests without these treatments typically grow smaller trees at higher densities, leading to these areas being more susceptible to insects, disease, drought, and wildfires. Although wildfires have historically not been a significant concern west of the Cascade Mountain range, a greater rate and intensity of summer droughts are increasing the incidence and severity of fires that do occur in western Washington. It is increasingly important to mitigate these risks by ensuring that our forests are healthy and well-managed.

## **ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF PRODUCTIVE FORESTS**

The structure of forest stands that are resilient to the effects of climate change (fully stocked with large and vigorous trees) is also conducive to maximizing forest growth and timber harvest revenues. This proposal will implement 14,600+ acres of treatments that are necessary for these forest stands to develop maximum future value. Revenue generated from these silvicultural treatments would be realized at the time of final harvest in 40-60 years. These investments are expected to increase per acre net present value by \$400 to \$600, providing a total of \$26 million in additional revenue at time of final harvest. The net present value of the proposal is \$6.6 million which represents a 103% increase on the principal investment of \$3.25 million.



**NATURAL RESOURCES**

**\$6.3M CCA Needed**

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**Acres treated, expected job creation, and financial returns by investment category**

Treatment Activity	Funding \$	Acres Treated	Job creation		Financial return on investment	
			Farm labor jobs created now*	Forest product industry jobs created in future**	Net present value of investment (\$)	Future value of investment (\$)
Tree planting	\$ 739,000	1,400	4	92	\$ 562,800	\$ 2,178,400
Invasive weeds & vegetation control	\$ 1,603,500	9,400	16	372	\$ 3,778,800	\$ 14,626,400
Pre-commercial thinning	\$ 907,900	3,800	19	150	\$ 2,245,800	\$ 9,184,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,250,400</b>	<b>14,600</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>615</b>	<b>\$ 6,587,400</b>	<b>\$25,989,400</b>

\*Farm labor contractor jobs created now in overburdened communities

\*\*Forest product industry jobs created in the future due to increased timber harvest volumes

Thousands of acres of forest units needing treatment have already been identified, so work can begin as soon as funding is made available. DNR will hire farm labor contractors registered with the state via a competitive solicitation process. The rest of the funding will be used to pay silviculturists and field foresters to identify site-specific treatment needs that will produce the maximum forest health benefit, develop prescriptions, and administer contracts. The work associated with the proposal includes 9,400 acres of treatments to control competing vegetation and noxious weeds, 3,800 acres of pre-commercial thinning treatments to reduce tree densities, and 1,400 acres of tree planting to increase the proportion of less commonly planted species in western Washington (such as white pine and red alder) that can increase stand resiliency on certain sites. The work is ongoing and can be scaled according to final funding level.

**2023-25 BIENNIAL TREATMENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS**

With \$3.166 million in 23-25 funding, DNR is on track to exceed our deliverable targets by completing 20,000 acres of treatments within the biennium (33% more than expected).

