



# DUAL-BENEFIT PRIORITIZATION



Dual-benefit prioritization is of interest to anyone who owns, lives, or works on land within a priority landscape highlighted in the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan.

## What is dual-benefit prioritization?

The Washington the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has been working with partners to prioritize forest health treatments that benefit forest health and wildland fire operations. This process is known as dual-benefit prioritization of fuel treatments. Dual-benefit analyses of priority landscapes in eastern Washington are underway. The resulting maps include potential control lines (PCLs) and potential operational delineations (PODs). Reports about dual-benefit prioritization can be found [here](#).

## Operational benefit

Much like when your campfire runs out of firewood, reducing its size and intensity, actively managing our lands to reduce wildfire fuels also creates spaces where wildland firefighters can establish strategic control lines, giving them a greater chance to contain a growing wildfire.

## Forest health benefit

Much like ensuring your garden receives the proper amount of moisture and care tailored to specific plants, implementing landscape-scale treatments to restore forest health reduces the number of unhealthy, uniform tree stands, leaving our forests more resilient against invasive insects, diseases, and wildfires.



# What should you know about the dual-benefit prioritization of PCLs?



**Informational purposes only.** Potential control lines (PCLs) are locations identified by fire professionals using three standard firefighting control opportunities: Roads, Rivers, and Ridges. Wildfires cross ownership boundaries, thus PCLs do as well. Dual-benefit analyses prioritize PCLs so that fire and forest managers can incorporate them into their own planning processes, along with their own expertise and knowledge of the planning area.



**Putting in the work.** The dual-benefit prioritization does not identify which lines need improvement or what kinds of improvements are needed. Improvements to PCLs can include better signage, road maintenance, improved access points, creating shaded fuel breaks and landscape treatments. Many existing PCLs provide strong containment lines without needing additional work. An existing PCL may benefit from added improvements, but there is no mandate that land managers do them.



**Landscape treatments are needed.** Improving a PCL is not a substitute for landscape-scale forest health treatments. At least 30 percent of each priority landscape in the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan is in need of a forest health treatment. This type of restoration need cannot be met only with a network of PCLs. If a PCL needs work, a large landscape treatment that blends into the PCL will provide the same benefits of a shaded fuel break to firefighters, while also improving forest health.



**Complementary strategies are needed.** Improving PCLs and implementing large landscape treatments to improve forest health do not negate the need to harden homes, lead campaigns to reduce human-caused fires, and active wildfire suppression efforts to protect resources. Treatments and PCLs are important, but are not complete solutions on their own.



**Continued maintenance is crucial.** Improved PCLs and landscape treatments will require maintenance over time, depending on the location and type of improvement. Ongoing maintenance will ensure long-lasting effectiveness of both benefits. A shaded fuel break that is implemented along a PCL may require maintenance every 3-10 years, depending on the vegetation and how quickly it grows.



**We need all hands on deck.** We encourage public agencies, non-governmental organizations, and private landowners to collaborate on vegetation management strategies that maximize dual-benefit effects. Work with neighbors to identify opportunities to work on common goals in line with all land management objectives and within regulatory constraints.



WASHINGTON STATE DEPT OF  
**NATURAL  
RESOURCES**

## For more information:

- [20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan: Central and Eastern Washington](#)
- [Fuel break memo](#)