



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.

1934



2010



Size of the problem

Table 13: Eastern Washington Total Active Forest Restoration Need by Ownership with the Anchor Forest Study Areas. (Disturbance and Disturbance/Succession)

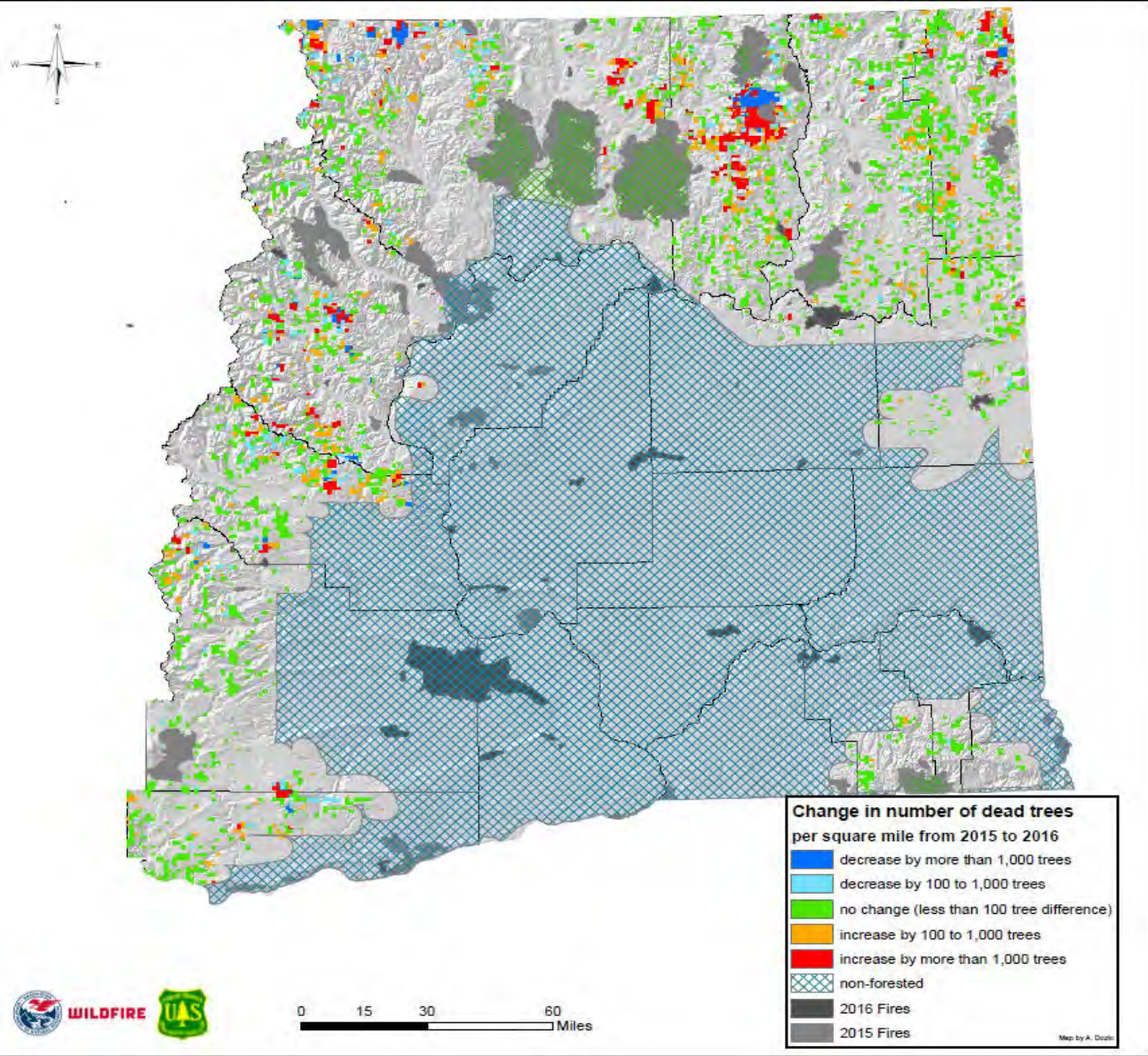
Ownership	Total Active Restoration Need	
	Acres	Percent
USFS	1,119,674	42%
State-DNR	257,434	10%
State-Other	46,227	2%
Tribal	397,782	15%
Private Industrial	319,923	12%
Private Non-Industrial	466,414	17%
Other	71,050	3%
Total	2,678,504	

Eastern Washington Forest Health Report 2014



Size of the problem

- Change in tree mortality and large fires, 2015-2016



Forest Health Highlights in Washington, 2016

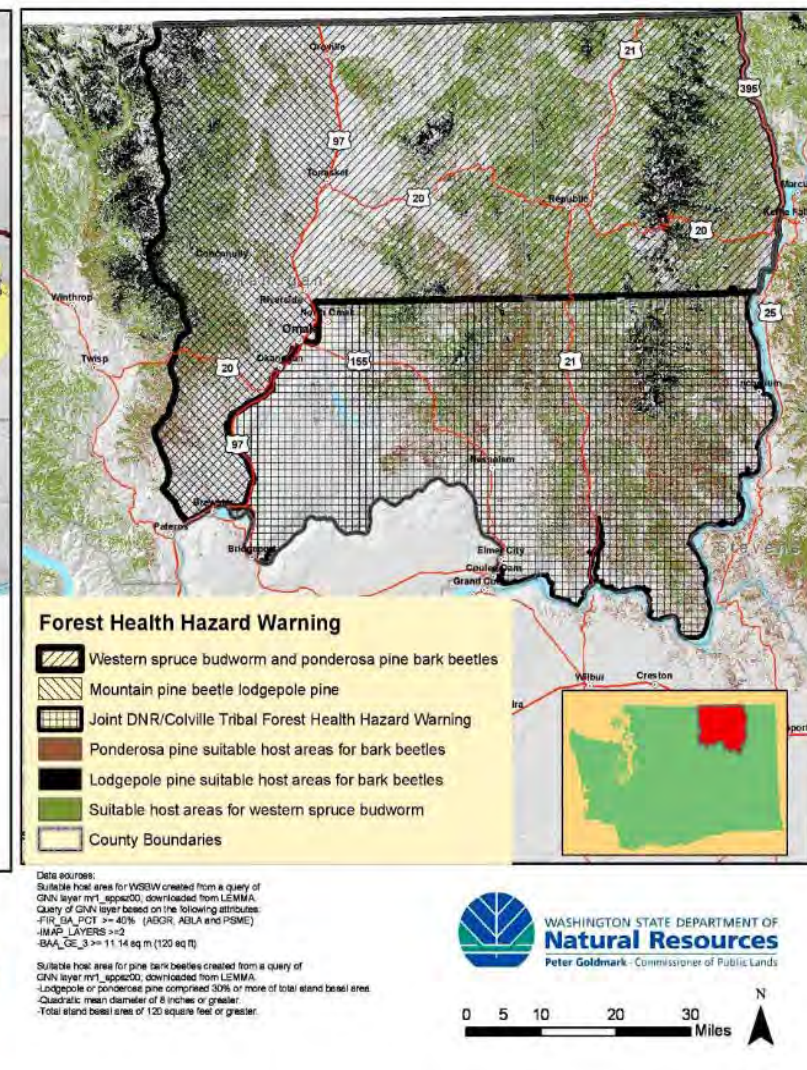
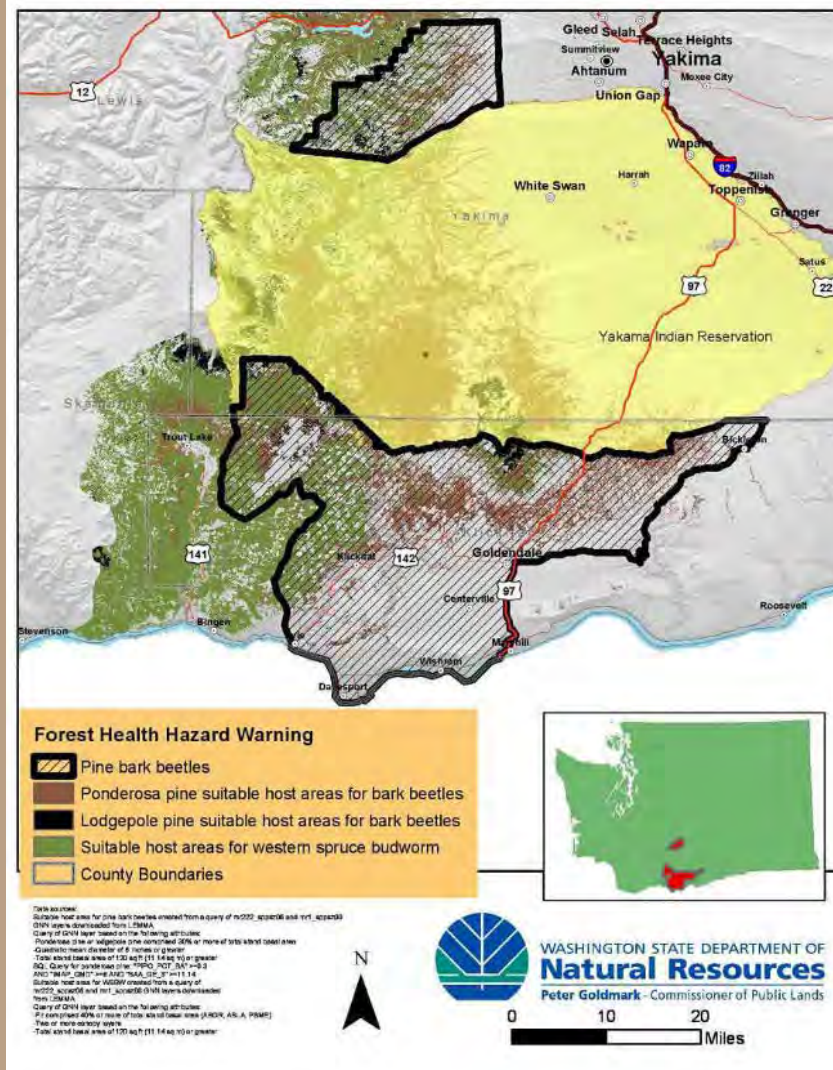
Addressing the problem - State Lands

- 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.”



20-YEAR FOREST HEALTH STRATEGIC PLAN

EASTERN WASHINGTON



WASHINGTON STATE DEPT OF
**NATURAL
RESOURCES**

HILARY S. FRANZ
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
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2017 Legislation, SB 5546 & HB 1711

SB 5546

Build on the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan to develop an assessment and treatment framework to proactively and systematically address the forest health issues, and assess and treat one million acres of land by 2033.

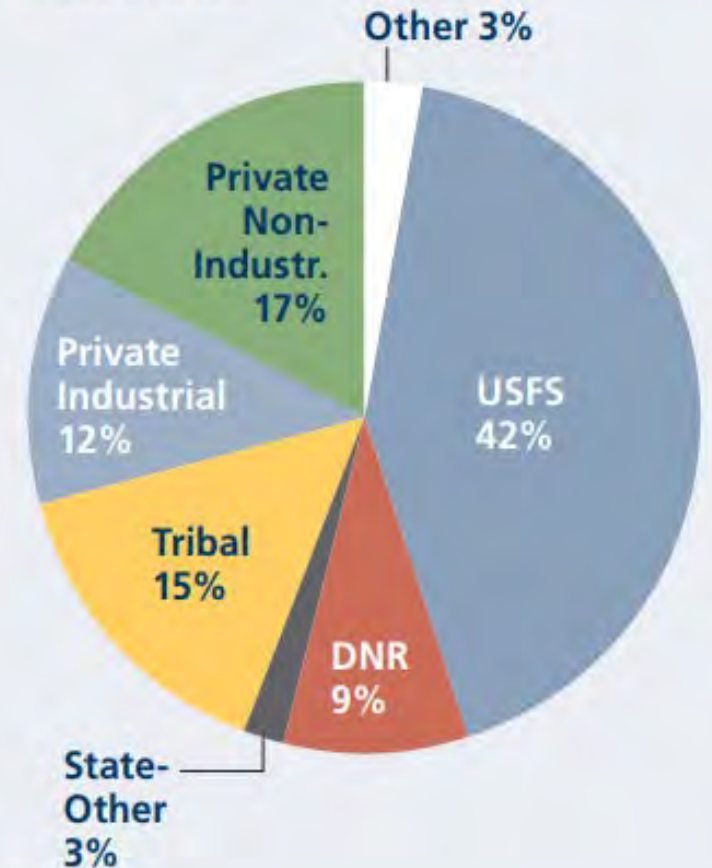
HB 1711

Develop and implement a policy for prioritizing forest health treatment investments on state lands to reduce wildfire hazards and losses; reduce disease and insect infestation; and achieve forest health and resilience at a landscape-scale.

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.

EASTERN WASHINGTON ACTIVE RESTORATION NEED BY OWNERSHIP

HAUGO ET AL. 2015



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

January 2018

A Strategy to Restore Forest Health on State Lands in Eastern Washington



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

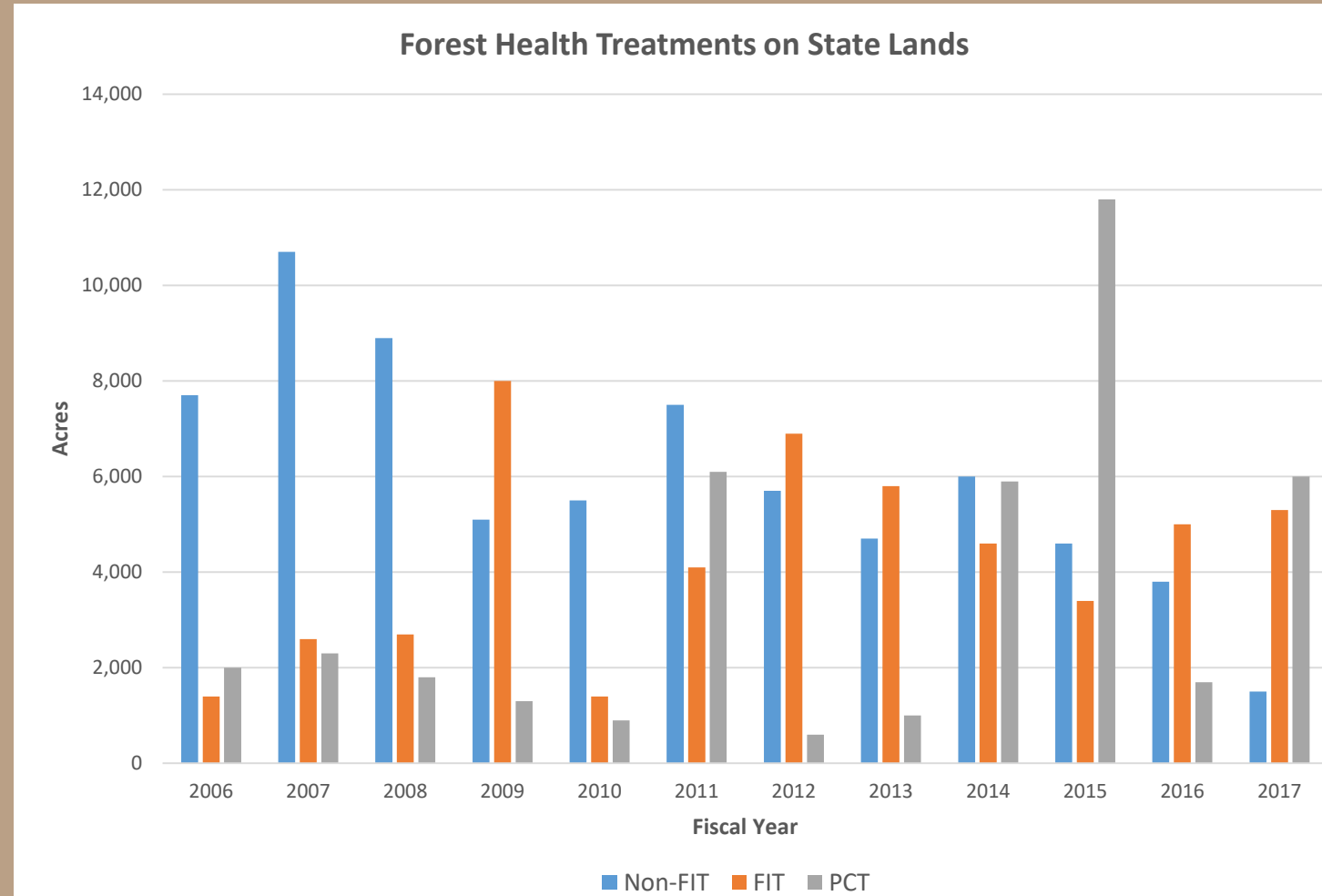


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Forest health treatments on State Lands

- 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?
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Next month

- State Lands Forest Health Implementation Plan

