

# **20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan Eastern Washington**

**Proposed Planning Areas and SB 5546 Forest  
Health Assessment and Treatment Workplan**

February 2018



WASHINGTON STATE DEPT OF  
**NATURAL  
RESOURCES**

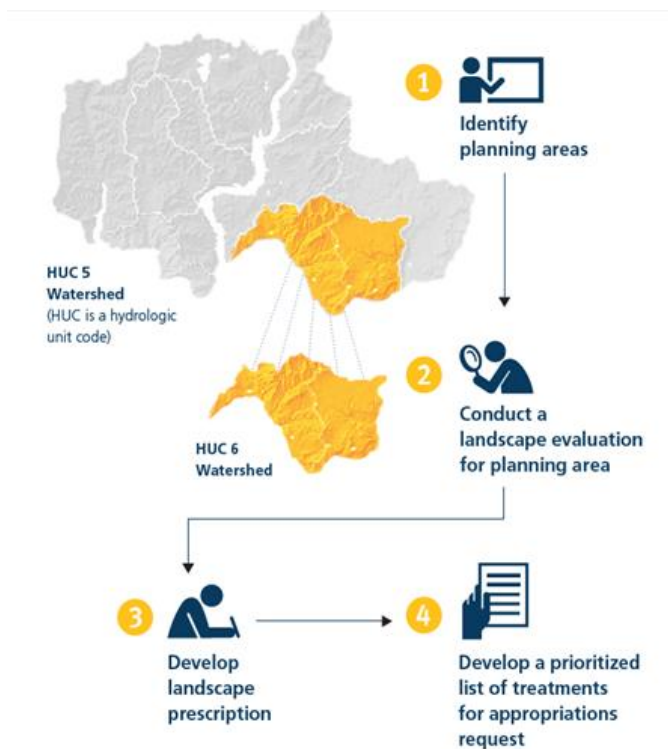
## **Introduction**

Washington's 20 Year Strategic Plan sets a goal of treating 1,250,000 acres over the next 20 years to improve the resilience of forests in eastern Washington. To accomplish this ambitious target, the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will work with landowners and stakeholders to select and treat 125,000 acres each biennium. The plan lays out a process for the DNR to strategically identify planning areas where state funding for forest health and restoration projects will be focused<sup>1</sup>. Planning areas will consist of 1-5 HUC6 watersheds, which equates to approximately 15,000-100,000 acres. The SB 5546-Forest Health Assessment and Treatment Framework requires DNR to assess a minimum of 200,000 acres of fire prone lands and communities each biennium to identify forest health treatment needs and develop a prioritized list of treatments to include in an appropriations request.

The purpose of this document is to describe the process DNR undertook to identify proposed planning areas as well as describe the work plan for implementing SB 5546 Forest Health Assessment and Treatment Framework.

## **SB 5546 Forest Health Assessment and Treatment Framework Workplan**

Identifying forest health treatment needs and locations to accomplish the goals of the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan will follow the general steps shown in figure 1 below. For more details on these steps please see pages 22-23 and Appendix 1 of the strategic plan.



**Figure 1:** Steps to accomplish treatment goals of 20 Year Plan.

<sup>1</sup> For a full description of this process, see Appendix 1-II of the [20 Year Forest Health Strategic Plan](https://www.dnr.wa.gov/ForestHealthPlan).  
<https://www.dnr.wa.gov/ForestHealthPlan>

DNR is currently in the process of identifying planning areas to evaluate for forest health treatment needs (Step 1 in Figure 1). To guide this process, the DNR assessed fire risk, restoration need, aquatic function, economic potential, wildlife habitat, and other resources across all forested HUC 6 watersheds in eastern Washington. Based on this assessment of multiple resources, a data driven ranking of HUC 6 watersheds was completed in December of 2017.

DNR staff then met with US Forest Service staff, DNR regional staff, and other local stakeholders in Wenatchee, Colville, Moses Coulee and Trout Lake in January 2018 to present the HUC 6 watershed prioritization and gather feedback on which watersheds would be good candidates for planning areas. The proposed planning areas in this document (Figures 3 and 4) are based on the HUC 6 prioritization and feedback received from the meetings and conversations with local stakeholders. The proposed planning areas are now being submitted to the Forest Health Advisory Committee. Planning areas recommended by the Forest Health Advisory Committee will then be sent to the Commissioner of Public Lands for final selection. A new set of planning areas will be selected each biennium. The selection for the first round of planning areas is anticipated to be completed in February 2018.

Once the final planning areas are selected for the 2018 cycle, landscape evaluations will be conducted in each planning area to assess forest health conditions and determine treatment needs (Step 2 in Figure 1). A landscape evaluation is a data driven approach to understanding the current conditions of a landscape and its level of resilience to future disturbances and climatic change. In watersheds where similar types of evaluations have recently been completed by other landowners (e.g. US Forest Service Landscape Evaluations or Environmental Assessments), the DNR will seek to complement the existing evaluations where needed.

The information and data from the evaluations will then be synthesized into a landscape prescription that lays out treatment targets and identifies potential treatment locations (Step 3 in Figure 1). The DNR will then work closely with local managers and stakeholders to recommend and prioritize specific treatments for each planning area. These recommendations will be submitted to the Forest Health Advisory Committee and then packaged into an appropriations request to the state legislature (Step 4 in Figure 1).

Each even-numbered year, DNR must submit a forest health treatment appropriations request to the Legislature to fund treatments in the following biennium. The DNR's first forest health appropriations request using the SB 5546 Forest Health Assessment and Treatment Framework will be in the fall of 2018 for the 2019-2021 biennium. Thus for 2018 planning areas, the DNR will be analyzing and prioritizing treatments during 2018 for an appropriations request in the Fall 2018 for funding in the 2019- 2021 biennium. Funds for treatments will be available beginning in July of 2019. For 2020 planning areas, DNR will be analyzing and prioritizing treatments in 2019 and 2020 for an appropriations request in 2020 for funding in the 2021-2023 biennium. Funds for treatments will be available beginning in July of 2021.

The DNR will rely on partnerships with local land management agencies, forest collaboratives, tribes, and other stakeholders to select planning areas and forest health projects. The timeline for selecting the 2018 projects is short. A number of meetings and check-in points with local partners will be needed in the next 8 months. A timeline of the process and meeting dates is shown below (Figure 2).

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept - Oct
<b>Select Planning Areas</b>									
Meet with agencies & collaboratives									
Forest Health Advisory Committee meeting & recs									
Final recs and decision by Commissioner									
<b>Landscape Evaluations</b>									
Coordinate workplan w/ agencies & collaboratives									
Inventory data: Phodar or Photo Interp									
Departure Assessment									
Fire Risk Assessment & Strategic Treatments									
Aquatic Evaluations									
Economic Analysis									
Other Resource Analysis (Habitat, Cultural, etc.)									
Analyze data & complete Landscape Evaluations									
<b>Landscape Rx &amp; Treatment Areas</b>									
Draft Landscape Rx & ID potential treatments									
Meet with agencies & collaboratives to review Rx									
Forest Health Advisory Committee presentation									
Fieldwork to verify treatment areas as needed									
Risk reduction & revenue analysis									
Meet with agencies & collaboratives to finalize treatment selection									
Final selection of treatments									
<b>Appropriations Request</b>									
Forest Health Advisory Committee meeting									
Prioritize projects across State									
Package funding request to legislature.									

**Figure 2:** Timeline for SB 5546 Forest Health Assessment and Treatment Framework Implementation in 2018

**Proposed Planning Areas**

Below are maps (Figures 3 and 4) depicting proposed planning areas for the 2018 and 2020 funding cycles under SB 5546 Forest Health Assessment and Treatment Framework. There are 26 proposed planning areas for the 2018 and 2020 funding cycles. For the 2018 funding cycle, the proposed planning areas contain approximately 1 million acres of forestland. Most of these planning areas consist of multiple HUC 6 watersheds. These proposed planning areas are based on extensive local stakeholder feedback and the HUC 6 prioritization conducted by DNR.

As is evidenced by Figure 4, the vast majority of the HUC 6 watersheds contained in these planning areas are high priority watersheds based on DNR’s HUC 6 prioritization. Table 1 describes some attributes of these planning areas including the acres of forestland and land ownership. Table 1 also describes the stage of NEPA planning on US Forest Service lands in the planning area, DNR’s planning role, and what DNR would likely be requesting in the appropriations request. DNR’s planning role and potential appropriations request will vary depending on the stage of NEPA planning on US Forest Service Lands:

## **1. New Planning Area or Very Early US Forest Service NEPA**

- **DNR Role:** Conduct all lands landscape evaluation to identify forest health treatment need across all lands. The landscape evaluation will provide baseline analysis of landscape conditions and treatment needs that could be used by the US Forest Service in their pre-NEPA planning process and potentially move the NEPA planning timeline forward for the planning area. In cases where a National Forest has conducted or will conduct a landscape evaluation, the DNR will collaborate with USFS staff to expand the evaluation and prescription to private and state lands.
- **Potential appropriations request:** DNR would request funding for private and state forest health treatment needs in the planning area. DNR could potentially request funding to fund full NEPA planning on US Forest Service lands in the planning area if it is likely that the result of the NEPA planning will achieve the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan's mission of landscape-scale forest resilience. DNR could also potentially request funding for surveys and data needs (such as LiDAR) necessary for full NEPA planning in the planning area.

## **2. Mid-Course NEPA Planning**

- **DNR Role:** In areas where the US Forest Service is already in the process of NEPA planning, DNR's primary role would to evaluate forest health treatment needs on non-US Forest Service lands and coordinate treatment planning among landowners. DNR would also evaluate all lands to ensure achievement of risk reduction goals in the planning area.
- **Potential appropriations request:** DNR would request funding for private and state forest health treatment needs in the planning area.

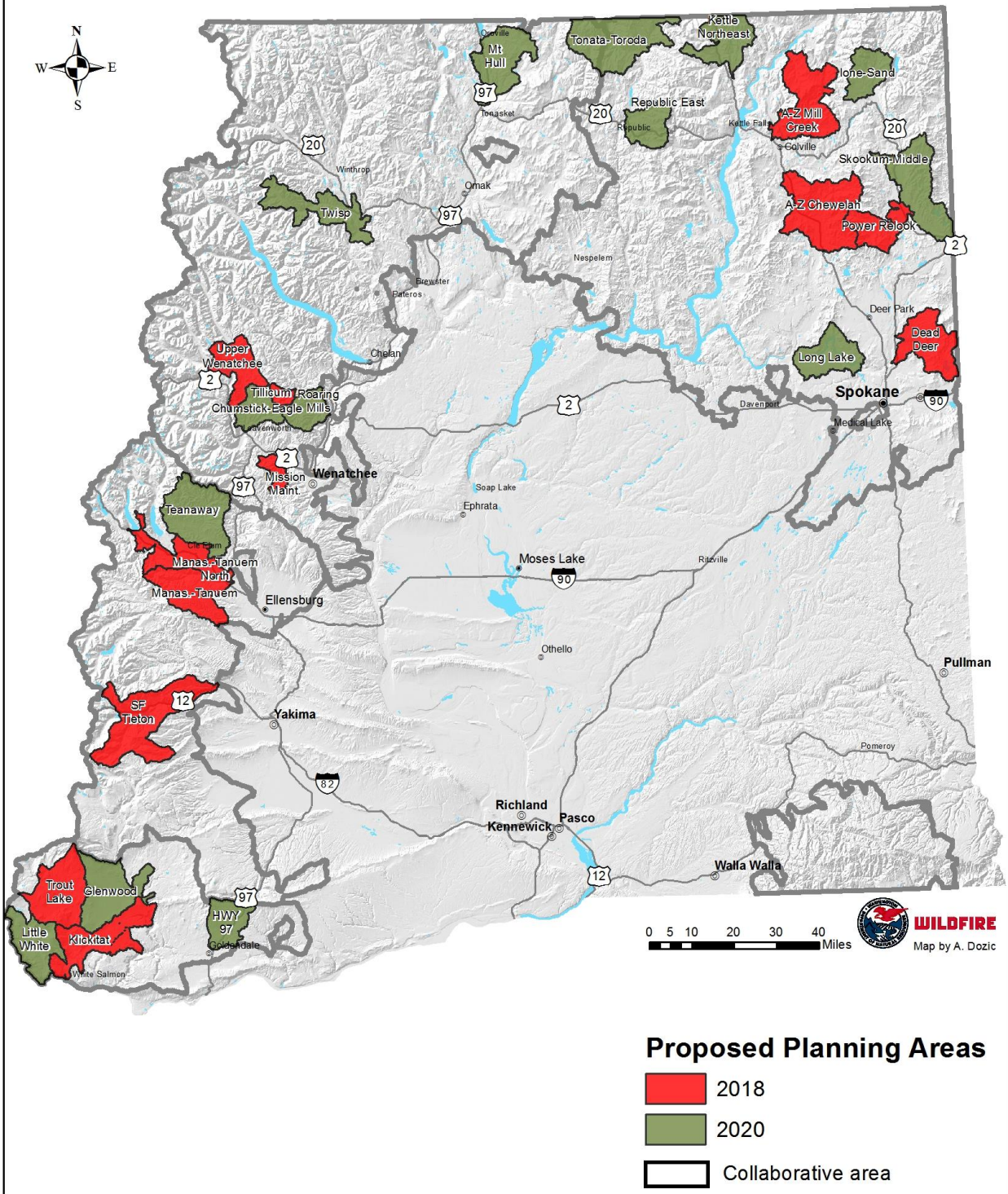
## **3. NEPA Planning Completed (Signed Decision)**

- **DNR Role:** In areas where the US Forest Service has completed NEPA and there is a signed decision, DNR's primary role would be to evaluate forest health treatment needs on non-US Forest Service lands and coordinate treatment planning among landowners. DNR would also evaluate all lands to ensure achievement of risk reduction goals in the planning area.
- **Potential appropriations request:** DNR would request funding for private and state forest health treatment needs in the planning area. DNR could also request funding for US Forest Service forest treatments needs in the planning area. DNR will only request funding for US Forest Service treatments when there is a signed decision.

The proposed 2018 and 2020 planning areas (Figures 3 & 4) are still a draft and final planning areas will be refined based on feedback from local stakeholders, the Forest Health Advisory Committee and DNR staff. It is very likely that boundaries of planning areas will change as we receive further feedback as well as determine data availability and overall capacity for these areas.



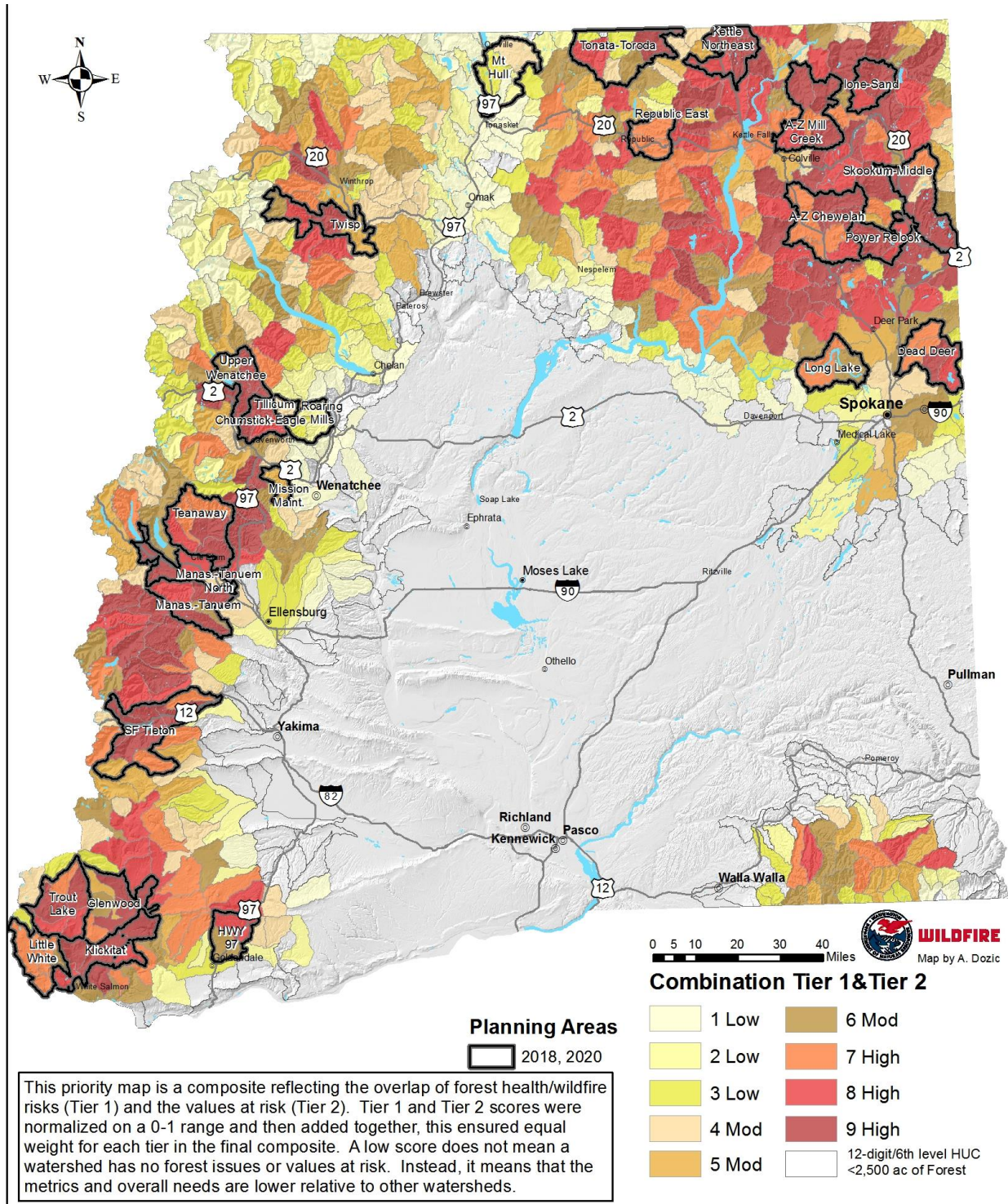
# Proposed Planning Areas for 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan / SB5546 Eastern WA



**Figure 3:** Proposed 2018 and 2020 Planning Areas for the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan/SB 5546



## Proposed Planning Areas for 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan Eastern Washington Forest Health Priority HUC 6 Watersheds



**Figure 4:** Proposed 2018 and 2020 Planning Areas for the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan/SB 5546 and with priority ranking of HUC 6 Watersheds based on multiple resource.

**Table 1:** Proposed 2018 and 2020 Planning Areas for the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan/SB 5546

Proposed 2018 and 2020 Planning Areas for the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan/SB 5546 (As of February 2, 2018)										
PlanArea	FS Planning Stage	Request Year	DNR Planning Role	Funding Request	Priority Score (0-3)	Total Ac	Forest Ac	Fed %	State %	Private & Other %
<b>Northwest Washington</b>										
A-Z Chewelah	Very Early - next A-Z project	2018	Conduct landscape evaluation and landscape Rx	Treatments on private and State	2.8	159,297	119,014	50%	5%	45%
A-Z Mill Creek	Complete - Implementation in progress	2018	Conduct landscape evaluation and landscape Rx for private and state lands	Treatments on private and State	2.8	130,909	116,278	40%	9%	51%
Tonata-Toroda	Very Early	2020	Conduct landscape evaluation and landscape Rx.	Treatments on private and State. Potentially NEPA on OWNF	1.8	144,852	106,238	68%	8%	24%
Dead Deer	None, no FS Land	2018	Conduct landscape evaluation and landscape Rx	Treatments on private and State	2.8	96,236	69,234	0%	17%	83%
Power Relook	Complete - Implementation in progress	2018	Conduct landscape evaluation and landscape Rx	Treatments on private and State	2.8	65,809	50,437	49%	8%	43%
Long Lake	None, no FS Land	2020	Conduct landscape evaluation and landscape Rx	Treatments on private and State	2.3	80,272	35,496	1%	14%	85%
Ione-Sand	Early	2020	Conduct landscape evaluation and landscape Rx	Treatments on private and State	2.8	59,493	54,598	78%	1%	21%
Skookum-Middle	Very Early	2020	Conduct landscape evaluation and landscape Rx	Treatments on private and State	2.6	127,124	103,993	50%	3%	47%
Republic East	Completed - Implementation finished	2020	Conduct landscape evaluation and landscape Rx for private and state lands	Treatments on private and State	2.5	57,938	42,525	68%	6%	27%
Kettle Northeast	Three different NEPA projects. Two completed, one	2020	Conduct landscape evaluation and landscape Rx for private and state lands	Treatments on private and State	3.0	81,425	71,155	69%	11%	21%
<b>North Central Washington</b>										
Upper Wenatchee	Early - Landscape Eval Complete	2018	Expand existing landscape evaluation and Rx to private. Assist USFS with NEPA	Treatments on private	2.5	74,756	67,090	85%	1%	14%
Tillicum	Complete - Implementation beginning	2018	Expand existing landscape evaluation and Rx to private and State	Treatments on USFS and private	1.5	14,323	13,131	16%	1%	84%
Mission Maint.	Complete - Implementation beginning	2018	Fund FS projects & nonFS	Treatments on USFS, private, and state	2.0	24,162	14,122	47%	2%	50%
Mt Hull	Mid - Landscape Eval complete	2020	Expand existing landscape evaluation and Rx to private and State	Treatments on private and State	0.9	105,280	34,259	54%	4%	42%
Twisp	Early - Landscape Eval in progress	2020	Collaborate with USFS to develop landscape evaluation and Rx	Treatments on private, State, and USFS. Potentially LiDAR or NEPA	2.4	98,831	67,081	86%	5%	9%
Chumstick-Eagle	Not on schedule	2020	Collaborate with USFS for landscape evaluation and Rx. Contract NEPA?	Treatments on private and State.	3.0	50,300	46,421	60%	5%	36%
Roaring Mills	Mid - Landscape Eval complete	2020	Expand existing landscape evaluation and Rx to private and State	Treatments on USFS, private, and state	1.0	48,692	27,188	80%	11%	9%



Table 1 continued:

Proposed 2018 and 2020 Planning Areas for the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan/SB 5546 (As of February 2, 2018)										
PlanArea	FS Planning Stage	Request Year	DNR Planning Role	Funding Request	Priority Score (0-3)	Total Ac	Forest Ac	Fed %	State %	Private & Other %
<b><i>Tapash-Central Washington</i></b>										
SF Tieton	Very early	2018	Collaborate with USFS for landscape evaluation and Rx. Assist USFS with	Treatments on private, State, and USFS. Potentially LiDAR or NEPA	2.6	173,628	154,653	71%	21%	7%
Manas.-Tanuem	Early - Landscape Eval complete	2018	Expand existing landscape evaluation and Rx to private and State	Treatments on private and State	2.8	100,126	90,629	45%	40%	15%
Manas.-Tanuem No	Very early	2018	Conduct landscape evaluation and landscape Rx. Assist USFS with NEPA	Treatments private and state.	2.5	80,548	59,765	24%	11%	65%
Teanaway	Early - Landscape Eval in progress	2020	Collaborate with TNC and USFS to develop landscape evaluation and Rx. Focus on State lands	Treatments on private and State	2.7	132,120	120,634	52%	40%	8%
<b><i>Klickitat/Skamania-South Gifford Pinchot</i></b>										
Trout Lake	Complete - Implementation in progress	2018	Conduct landscape evaluation and landscape Rx for private and state lands	Treatments on private, State, and USFS.	2.8	117,163	106,978	63%	16%	22%
Klickitat	None, no FS Land	2018	Conduct landscape evaluation and landscape Rx for private and state lands	Treatments on private and State	3.0	120,531	111,558	1%	24%	75%
Little White	Very Early - begin in 2020	2020	Conduct landscape evaluation and landscape Rx.	Treatments on private, State, and USFS. Potentially USFS surveys	2.4	83,864	69,424	63%	18%	19%
HWY 97	None, no FS Land	2020	Conduct landscape evaluation and landscape Rx for private and state lands	Treatments on private	2.5	60,399	45,420	0%	0%	100%
Glenwood	None, no FS Land	2020	Conduct landscape evaluation and landscape Rx for private and state lands	Treatments on private and State	2.4	116,782	101,321	2%	34%	64%