



Forest Products and Forest Health in Central Washington

Chelan County Forest Products Summit
November 2023

Fundamental Forest Health Problems

-Too many trees...!



Fundamental Forest Health Problems

...and altered species composition!



Leads to severe wildfires and insect outbreaks.



Cub Creek Fire 2021, high severity. Okanogan County.



Lodgepole pine killed by the mountain pine beetle. Loomis State Forest, Okanogan County.



20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan

Released in October 2017

- Treat 1,250,000 acres by 2037: (62,500 acres per year)
- Sets vision, guiding principles, & process for moving forward
- All lands approach
- Science based
- Watershed prioritization for forest health
- Social license: over 30 organizations involved.



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
NATURAL RESOURCES

dnr.wa.gov

DNR's Forest Health Strategic Plan: Goals

Goal 1

- Conduct 1.25 million acres of scientifically sound, landscape scale, cross-boundary management and restoration treatments in priority watersheds to increase forest and watershed resilience by 2037.

Goal 2

- Reduce risk of uncharacteristic wildfire and other disturbances to help protect lives, communities, property, ecosystems, assets and working forests.

Goal 3

- Enhance economic development through implementation of forest restoration and management strategies that maintain and attract private sector investments and employment in rural communities.

Goal 4

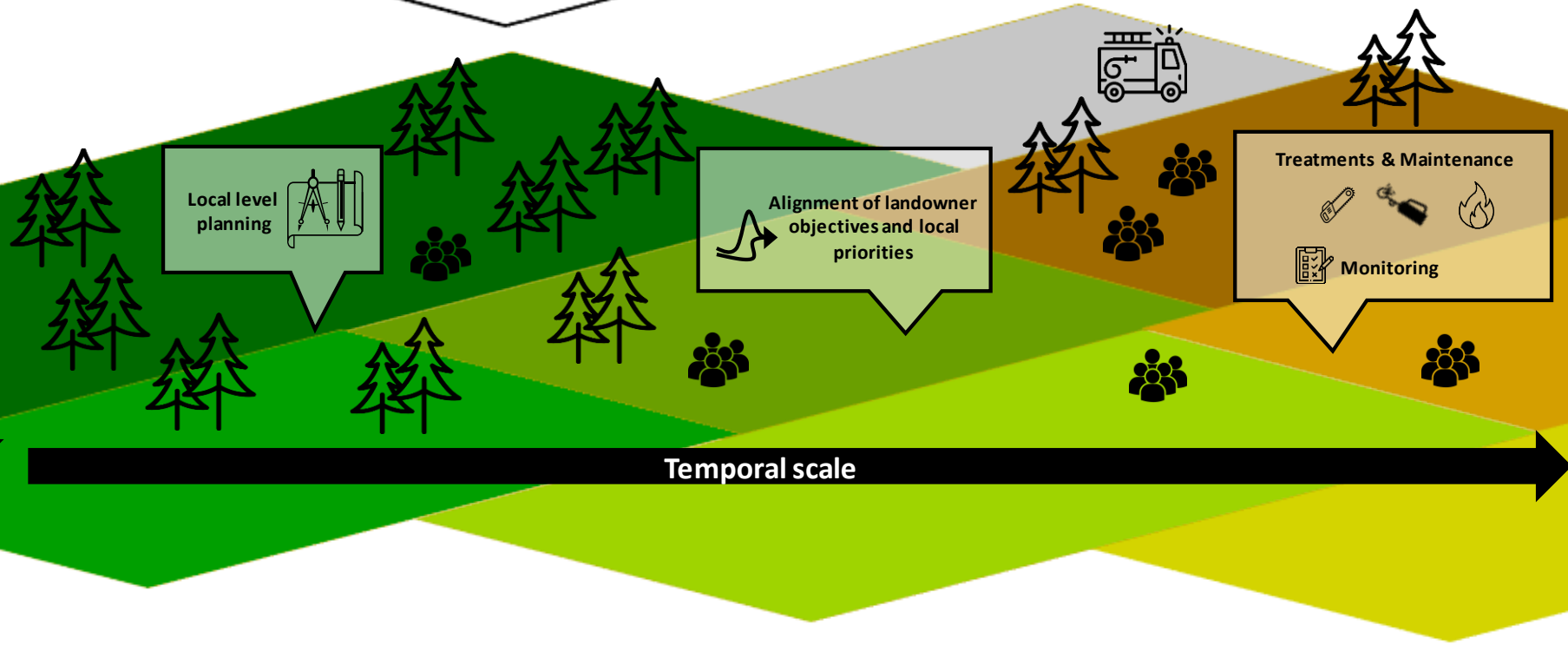
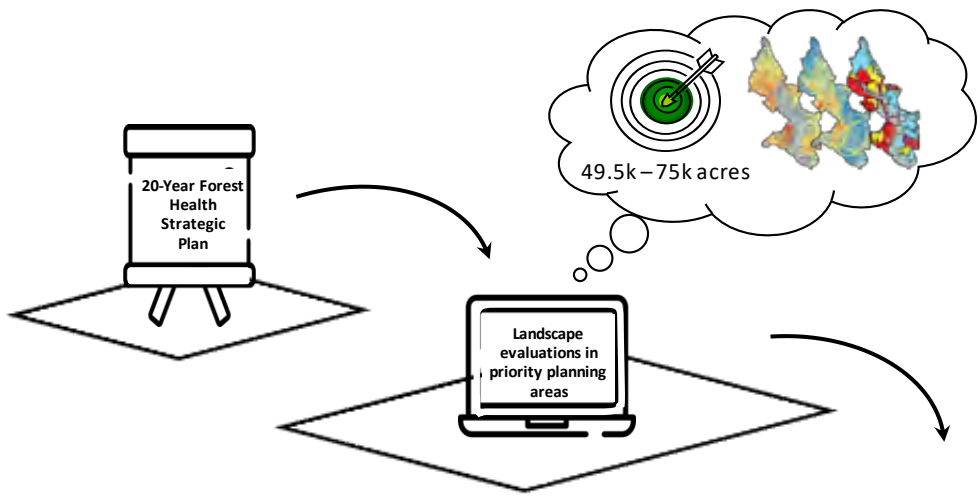
- Plan and implement coordinated, landscape-scale forest restoration and management treatments in a manner that integrates landowner objectives and responsibilities.

Goal 5

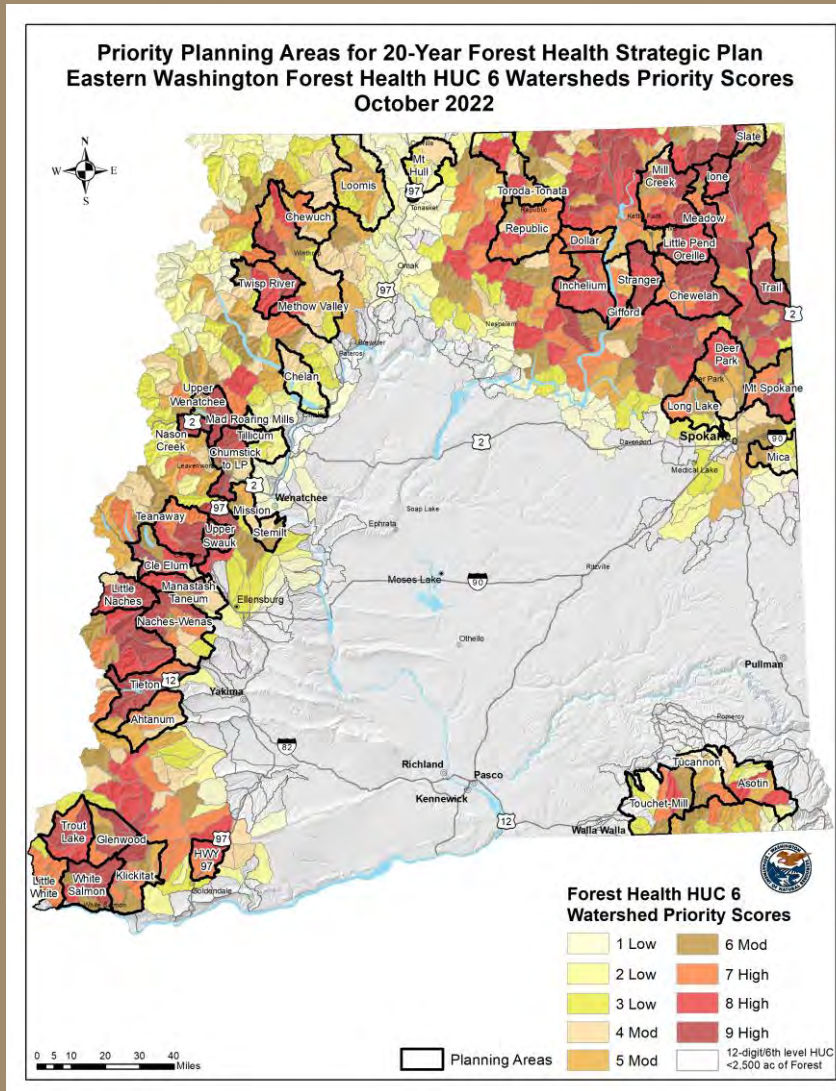
- Develop and implement a forest health resilience monitoring program that establishes criteria, tools, and processes to monitor forest and watershed conditions, assess progress, and reassess strategies over time.



Spatial scale



Eastern Washington Priority Planning Areas



Assessment of 37 priority landscapes covering 4,165,780 acres in eastern Washington.

Analyze 10 more priority planning areas next biennium, representing an additional 1,108,883 acres.

47 total priority planning areas totaling more than 5.2 million acres.

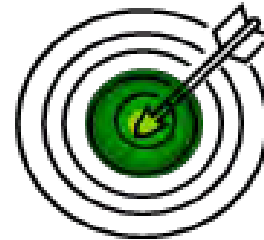


Landscape evaluation

Components

1. Identify ownership types and management objectives
2. Map vegetation and forest types
3. Map current forest structure and species composition
4. Assess departure of forest structure
5. Assess wildfire risk
6. Analyze drought vulnerability
7. Map habitat for focal species
8. Evaluate aquatic functions
9. Estimate treatment targets
10. Evaluate operational feasibility and economics
11. Map dense forest, large tree sustainability
12. Prioritize landscape treatments
13. Prioritize wildfire response benefit
14. Prioritize for dual benefit using Potential wildland fire Operational Delineations

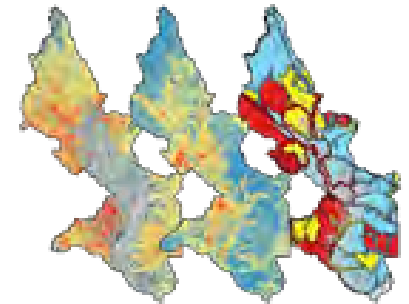
Assess Treatment Need



49.5k – 75k acres

2018
Version 1.0

Prioritize Treatment Location



2020
Version 2.0

HB1784

Forest Health Assessment and Treatment Framework

RCW 76.06.200



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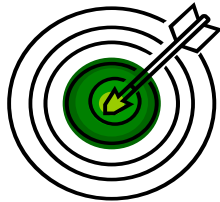
Forest Health Treatment Needs 2018-2022

| Planning Area | Forest Structure Class (acres) | | | |
|---|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| | Small Dense ¹ | Medium-Large Dense ² | Medium-Large Open ³ | Total treatment need |
| 2018 Structure Class Total | 10,000 - 17,000 | 240,700 - 342,900 | 33,000 - 63,700 | 283,700 - 423,600 |
| 2020 Structure Class Total | 17,750 - 30,900 | 378,500 - 516,100 | 113,250 - 177,500 | 509,500 - 724,500 |
| 2022 Structure Class Total | 4,500 - 7,750 | 118,500 - 168,000 | 27,850 - 43,950 | 150,850 - 219,700 |
| Structure Class Total | 32,250 - 55,650 | 737,700 - 1,027,000 | 174,100 - 285,150 | 944,050 - 1,367,800 |
| Grand Total (2018, 2020, and 2022 planning areas) | 962,070 - 1,385,820 acres | | | |
| Anticipated Treatment Type | ¹ Noncommercial thin plus fuels treatment. May be fire only (prescribed or managed wildfire). | | | |
| | ² Commercial thin plus fuels treatment if access exists. May be noncommercial, fire only (prescribed or managed wildfire), or regeneration treatment. | | | |
| | ³ Maintenance treatment: prescribed fire, managed wildfire, or mechanical fuels treatment. Target range corresponds to 50-75% of dry open and 25-50% of moist open forests. | | | |
| Notes | Grand Total includes acres from planned US Forest Service treatments in the Tillicum and Mission Maintenance planning areas that are not in the Structure Class Total. | | | |



Landscape treatments

Forest health treatment **goals** will primarily be achieved with **large, landscape-level** treatments



49.5k – 75k acres



Recently completed 700-acre forest health treatment on DNR trust lands in the Methow Valley priority planning area. Credit: John Marshall.

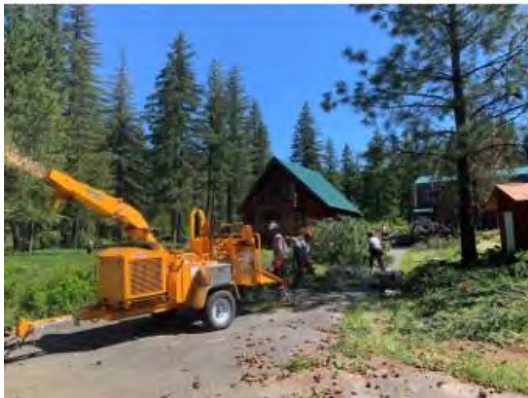
Treatment types

-Commercial thinning

-Prescribed fire

-Managed wildfire

-Non-commercial treatments



Challenges to Achieving Forest Health Goals

1. Political will and support
2. Funding
3. Not working at appropriate scale
4. Complex regulatory and policy environment
5. Lengthy NEPA planning process
6. Lack of projects (shelf stock)
7. Local forest product mills



Challenges to Achieving Forest Health Goals

1. Political will and support

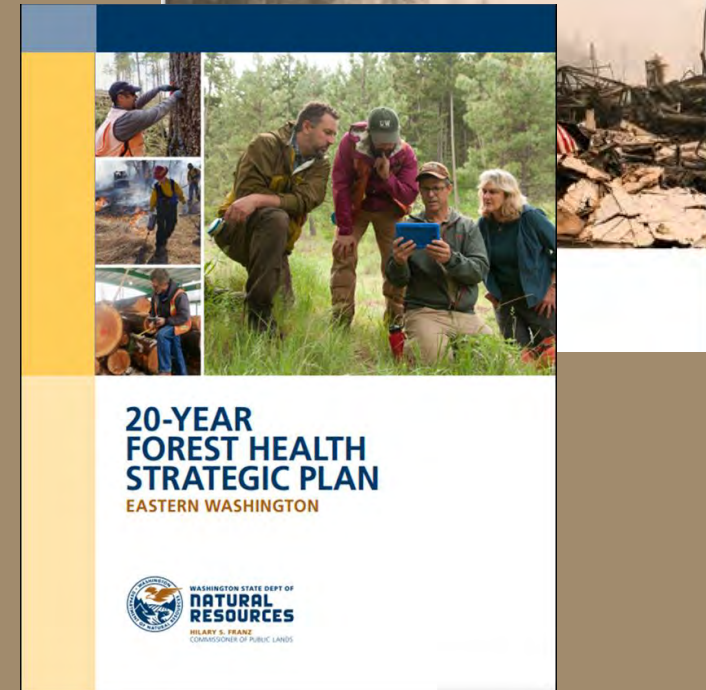
- DNR 20-Year Forest Health Plan
- USFS Wildfire Crisis Strategy

2. Funding

- \$100+ million (CWI USFS funds)
- \$5 million+ (DNR state funds)

3. Not working at appropriate scale

- 54 million board feet timber sold (FY 23)
- Planning at landscape scale
- 4,000 acres of treatments implemented in Tillicum watershed over 1.5 years



Challenges to Achieving Forest Health Goals

4. Complex regulatory and policy environment

-LSRA Update in progress

5. Lengthy NEPA planning process

-Western Firesheds Emergency Action Declaration (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Section 4087)



Challenges to Achieving Forest Health Goals

6. Lack of projects (shelf stock)

- Recent NEPA Decisions
 - Upper Wenatchee
 - Twisp
 - Taneum
 - Little Naches
- NEPA in progress
 - Upper Swauk
 - Chumstick to LP
 - Midnight Restoration
 - Upper Methow
 - Tieton

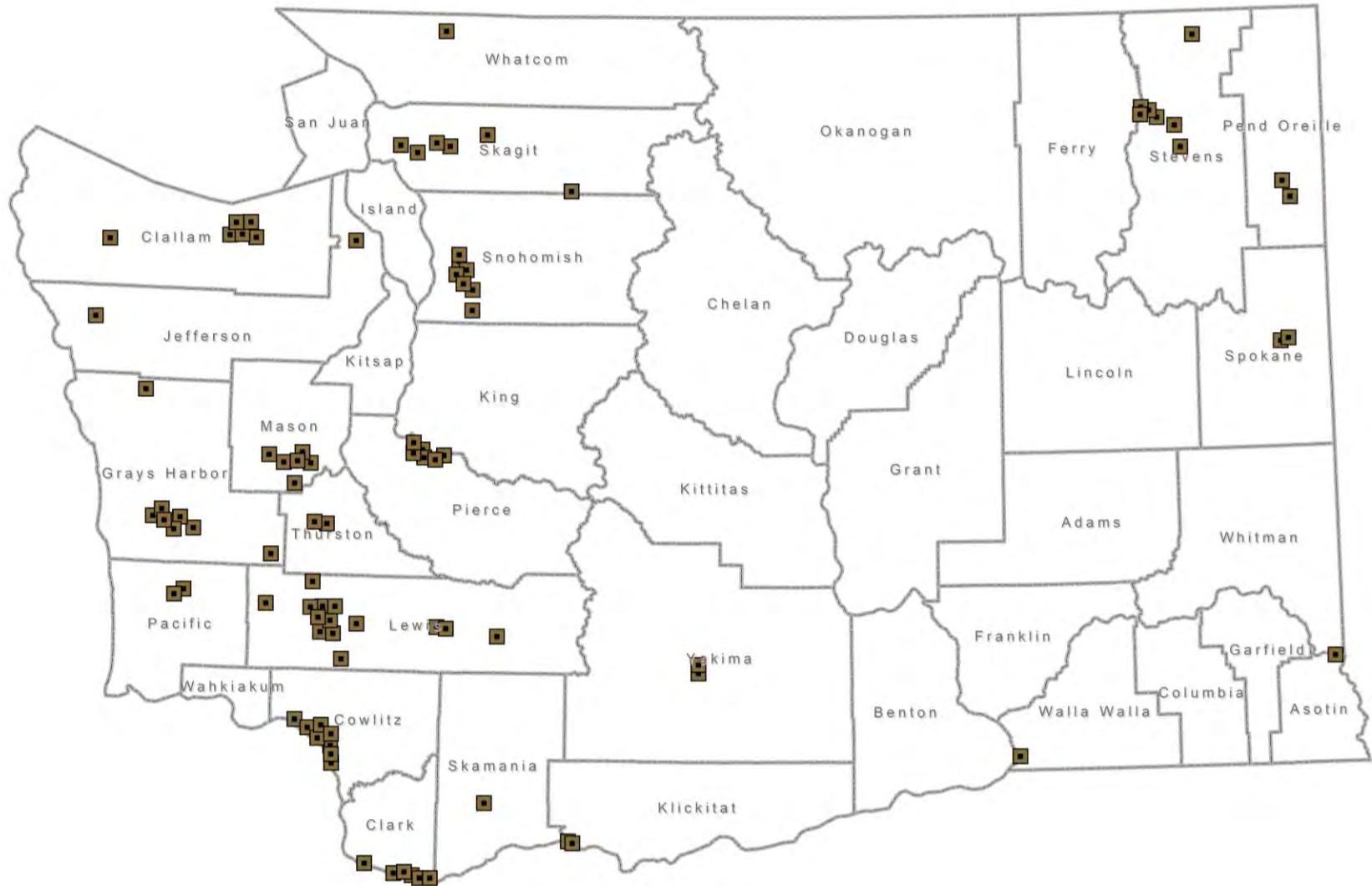


7. Local forest products mills

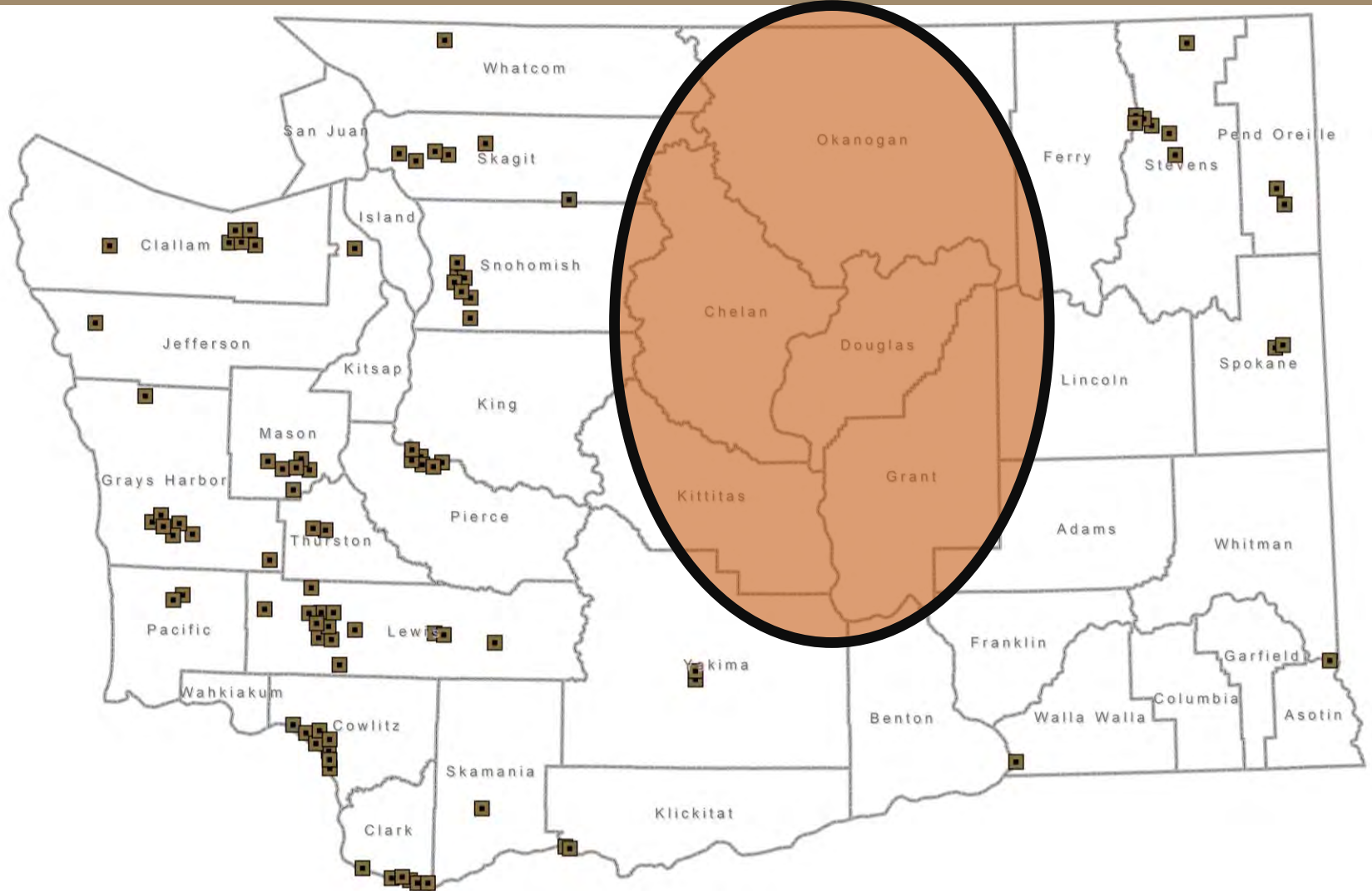
- Chelan County Wood Innovations Grant
- TNC Forest Restoration Supply Study



WA Sawmills and Pulp Mills



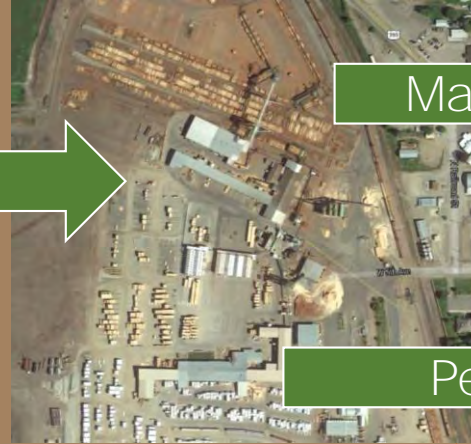
WA Sawmills and Pulp Mills



We need more markets for small-diameter trees!



Sawmills



Mass Timber



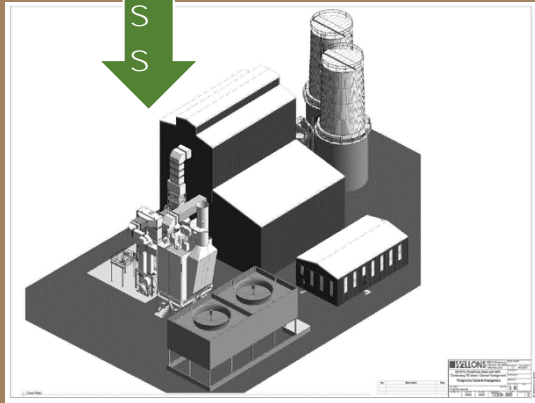
Pellets



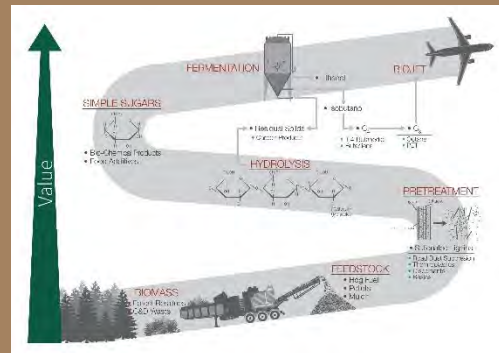
Established Markets

Emerging Markets

B
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CWU 5MW Wood Boiler



Biofuels, Co-Products

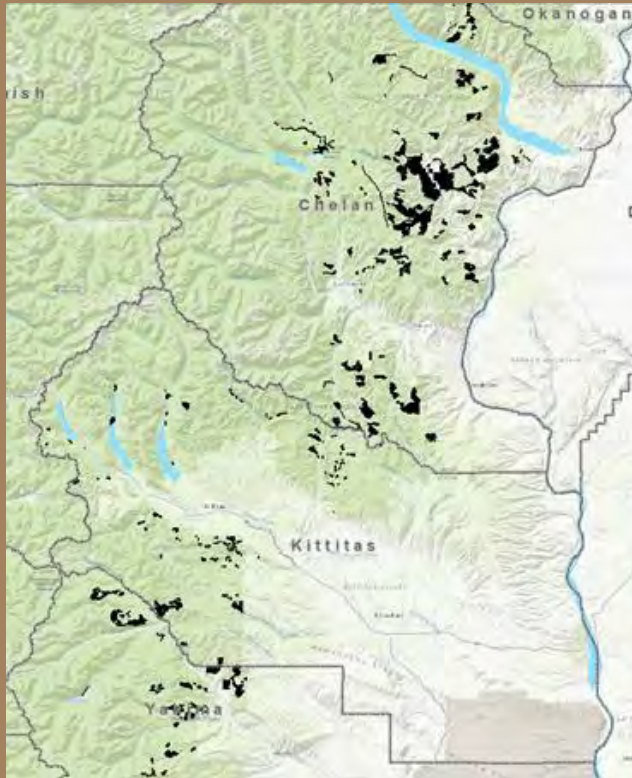


Char, Pyrolysis Oil



Is it a coincidence?

OWNF Treatments
2017-Present



CNF Treatments
2017-Present

