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Washington
Department of
Natural
Resources

Forests, Fire and Washington

Opportunities and planning efforts in Washington State to achieve cross-boundary fuels and fire management in the northwest.

Washington's Forest-scape

- 7.5 Million people, 4.5 million in the greater Seattle area
- Federal lands equal 12.2 million acres (28% of total lands).
- DNR manages 5.6 million acres state lands (13% of total lands)
- Private landowners own approximately 9.4 million acres (21% of total lands)
- **Eastern** and **Western** Washington, two distinct ecological and political landscapes





Nearly 2.7 million acres in eastern Washington alone need treatment to be more resilient against insects, diseases and wildfires.

Wildland fire suppression costs have continued to increase due to wildland fire complexity and climatic conditions.



Washington's Fire-scape

A photograph showing the silhouettes of four firefighters in full gear, including helmets and backpacks, standing in a line against a bright, low sun. The scene is backlit, creating a strong orange and yellow glow. The firefighters are positioned in the foreground, looking towards the horizon where the sun is setting or rising. The ground appears to be a mix of dirt and sparse vegetation.

- Suppression in the state is fully interagency.
 - All IMTs are staffed by federal, state and local fire service personnel
 - Initial attack is coordinated using all partners
 - Heavy use of IA aviation (DNR, Federal and Contract)
 - Wildland fire suppression contractors are fully utilized for suppression and support services
- Over \$1 Billion spent on wildland fire suppression since 2010

Washington's Path Forward

- **State Forest Action Plan**

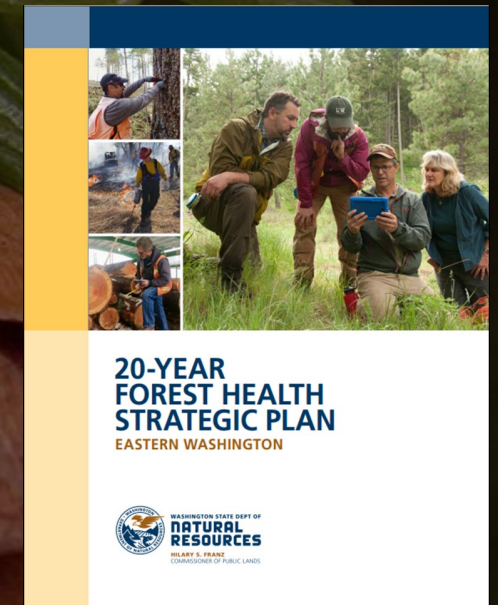
- Provides comprehensive analysis of issues faced statewide. Complete analysis of western forest health and establish strategy.

- **Forest Health Treatments**

- Priority watersheds designated by 20 Year Strategic Plan to manage for resilient landscapes and mitigate risks from wildfire, insect, disease and climate change
- Improve the health of our forests and communities
- Working directly with all partners to establish defined goals and outcomes, establish roles, report achievements

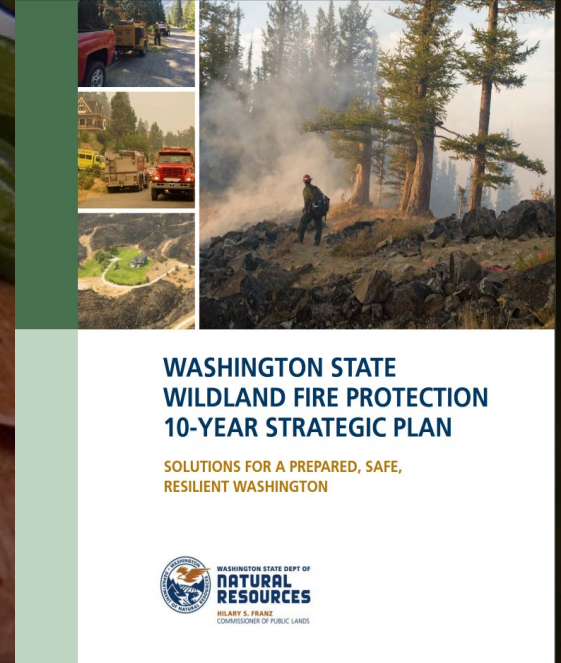
- **Forest Health Commitment**

- State investment in forest health on all lands
- Increased staffing for forest health division, federal lands management, RxB, etc.



Washington's Path Forward

- **Focus on Suppression Preparedness and Safety**
 - Interagency Training
 - Increase numbers of firefighters available (DNR and Local Resources)
 - Increase aviation resources and improve availability
 - Improved coordination of federal, state and local resources
- **Community Preparedness**
 - Planning
 - Partners involved
 - Education and outreach
- **Wildland Fire Commitment**
 - State Funding for increase capacity, outreach
 - Increased staffing for state agency and cooperators
 - Engagement of all partners to implement strategy



How

- Employ “All Lands. All Hands” mindset.
- USFS, State Agencies, Tribes and Collaboratives are embracing the concept of Shared Stewardship
- Use all the tools - all existing authorities and programs (USDA State and Private Forestry Programs, Cooperative Forestry, GNA, LSR, 2 Chiefs, etc.) and implement on the ground work using the best techniques and science (thinning, RxB, harvesting, etc.)
- Work together as equal partners with shared decision-making and priority setting while using unique strengths appropriately.
- Co-managing wildfire and forest health risk
- Targeting resources based on outcomes and performance measures
- Use the best available science alongside existing Forest Action Plans and strategies.

What do we mean by all of this?

- Use of Tribal Forest Protection Act of 2004
 - Olympic NF - In the interest of protecting water quality, a wastewater treatment plant was constructed on the NF; the Forest entered into a service contract with the Quinault Nation to run the plant.
- Use of Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership
 - Mitigate wildfire threats to Colville National Forest land and adjacent private property in Ferry, Stevens and Pend Oreille counties. Project completed over a three-year period with \$2.2 million of USDA FS funds, and \$1.5 million of NRCS funds, leveraged with state agency and private landowner contributions.
- And Other Grants and Programs used such as:
 - USDA State and Private Forestry (Forest Stewardship, Forest Health, SFA/VFA, Community Forestry, etc.)
 - Washington's All Lands Forest Restoration and Building Forest Partnerships Grant Programs
 - USDA Regional Conservation Partnership Program (with state match)

Non-Commercial Restoration Projects

- **Eastern Washington**

- Primarily fuels/wildfire reduction projects
- Contribute to DNR's Forest Health 20 Year Strategic Plan
- NEPA Planning Support, increasing scale

- **Western Washington**

- Watershed and Forest Restoration
- Salmon recovery, fish passage and habitat
- Coordination at watershed level
- Forest Roads, and recreation benefits
- Complex social, economic, and political factors

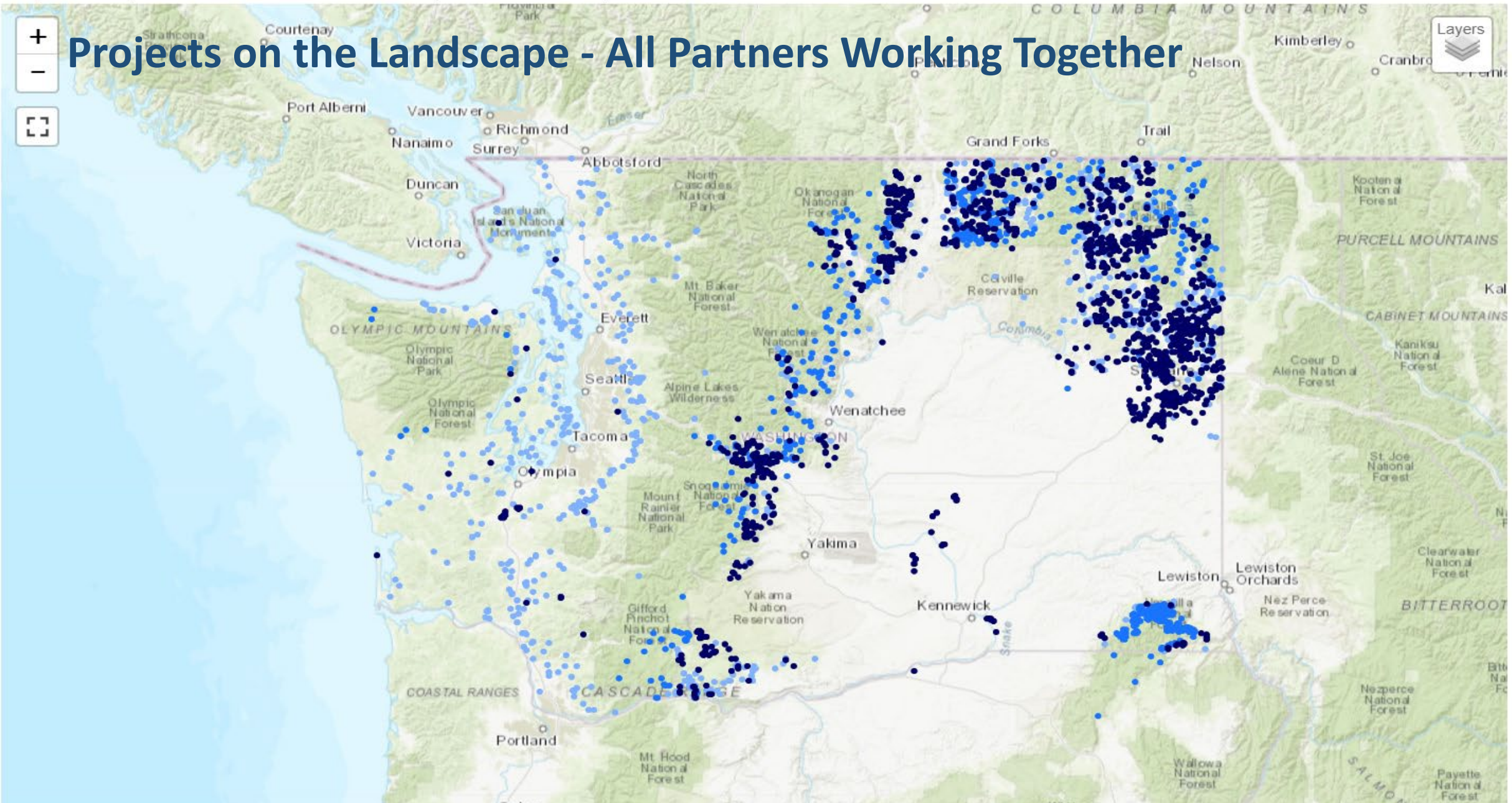




An Example of How it Works

Stage ● Proposed ● Planned ● Cancelled ● Implementation ● Completed

Projects on the Landscape - All Partners Working Together



Chumstick to LP

◀ Back to all Priority Landscapes

BASICS

Name

Chumstick to LP

Description

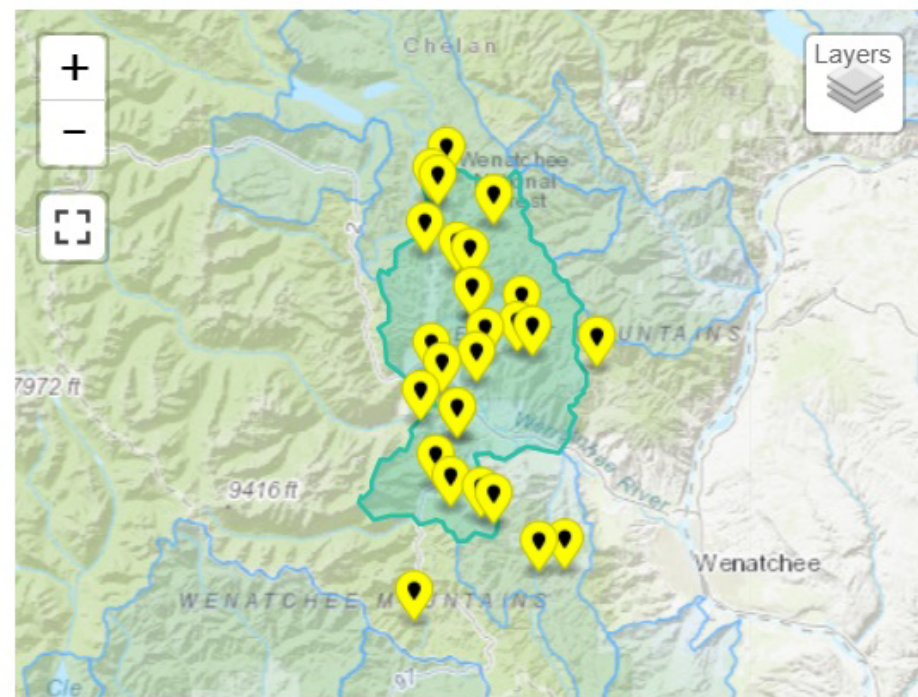
This planning area extends from Chumstick Creek in the north to Lower Peshastin (LP) Creek in the south. The area is popular for tourism and recreation and includes Leavenworth and other communities in the Wenatchee River corridor. The planning area is evenly divided between public and private ownership, with 51% of the total being USFS land.

- Fire risk is very high to extreme across the northern portion and southwest corner of the planning area, representing some of the highest risk areas in eastern WA (Fig. 2).
- Projected warming over the next 20-40 years will likely shift climate conditions suitable for moist forest towards conditions suitable for dry forest. Low elevation areas, including much of the central portion, may no longer support forest.
- Treating 43-63% of forested acres (36,500 to 53,000 acres) is recommended to increase resilience and reduce fire risk to communities using a combination of mechanical, prescribe fire, and managed wildfire treatments.
- High priority areas for potential treatments that maximize forest health and wildfire response benefit include locations in the northern portion on both sides of the Chumstick Highway.

For more information download the full landscape evaluation summary below. Data layers associated with the landscape evaluation are available at <https://bit.ly/ForestHealthData>

MAP

This map displays the location of any Projects and Landowner Assistance Applications associated with this Priority Landscape



To zoom, hold down Shift and drag a rectangle.

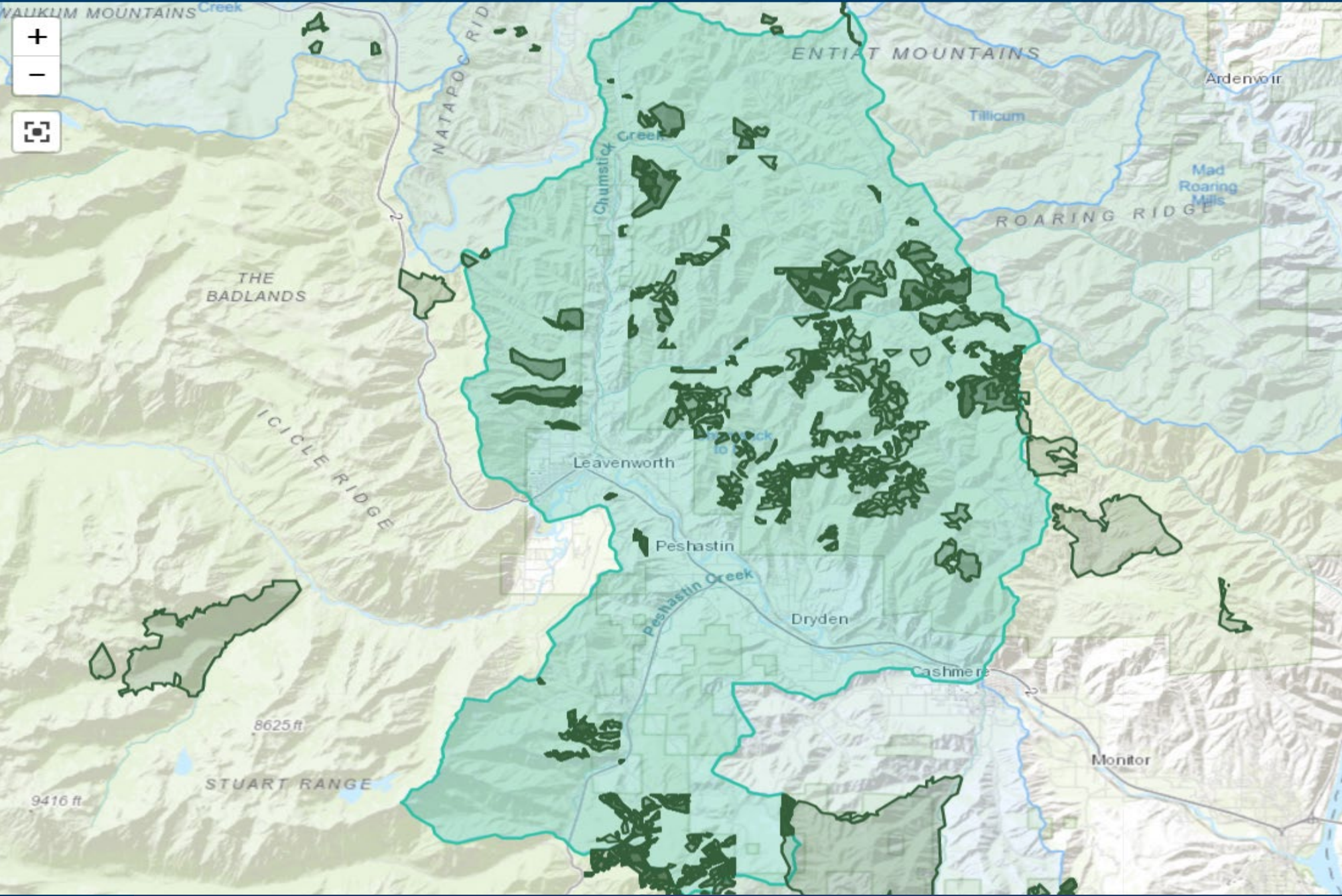
Projects can be associated with multiple Priority Landscapes, but are mapped in a single location. Therefore some Projects may appear outside of the Priority Landscape boundary.

PROJECTS

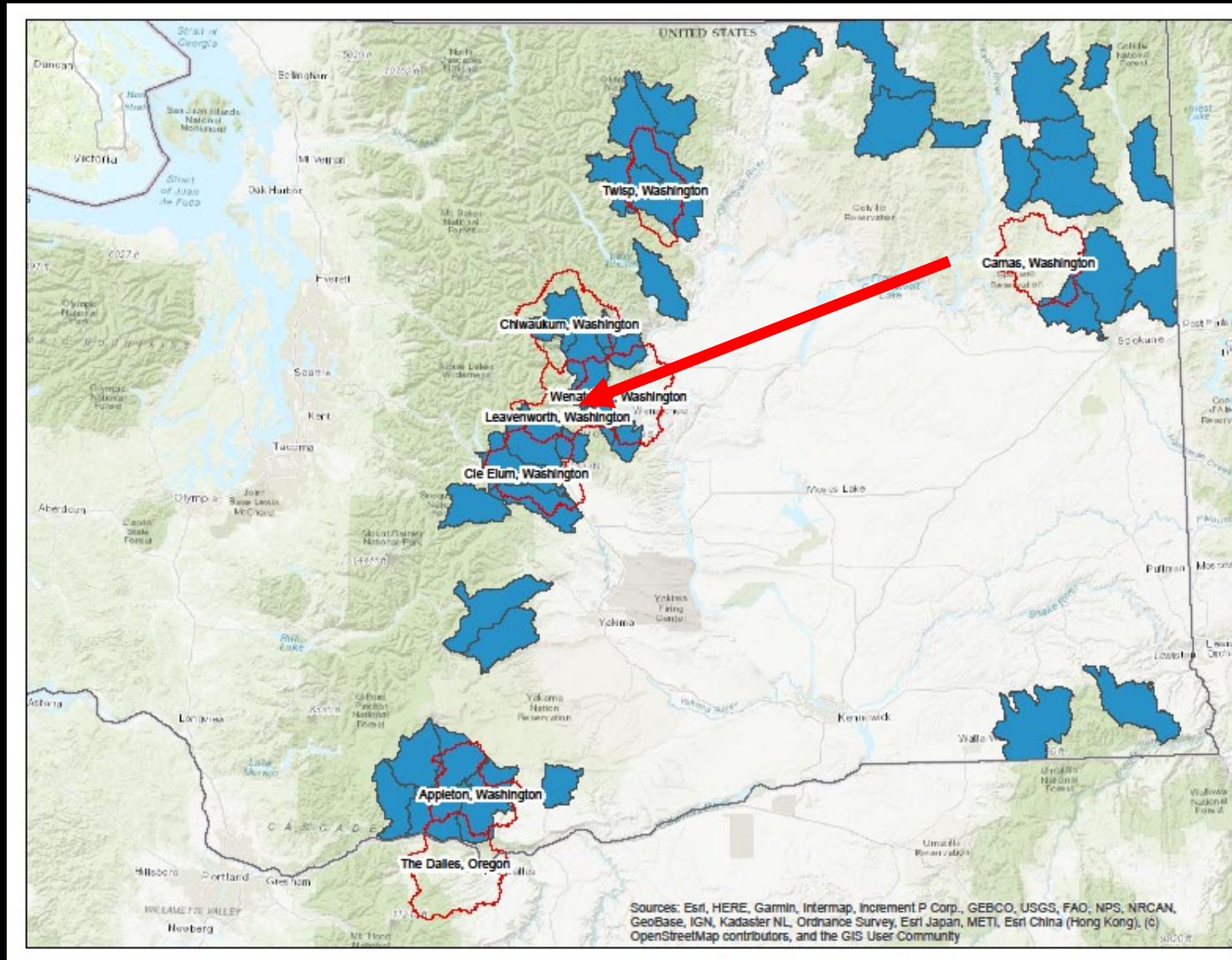
Currently viewing 28 of 28 Projects in this Priority Landscape

[Reset](#) [Download Table](#)

	FHT Project Number	Project Name	Project Type	Project Stage	Completed Treatment Acres	Lead Implementer Organization	Programs	Associated Priority Landscape
Q	FHT-2020-00020	(PALS)CANYONS HAZARDOUS FUELS RED	Integrated forest health	Implementation	8,891.63	U.S. Forest Service (USFS)	USFS Hazardous F	Chumstick to LP
Q	FHT-2020-00028	(PALS)CHUMSTICK HAZARDOUS FUELS R	Integrated forest health	Implementation	11,040.28	U.S. Forest Service (USFS)	USFS Hazardous F	Chumstick to LP
Q	FHT-2021-01801	(PALS)DERBY NON-COMMERCIAL THINNII	Integrated forest health	Implementation	249.52	U.S. Forest Service (USFS)	USFS Hazardous F	Chumstick to LP
Q	FHT-2020-00052	(PALS)MISSION MAINTENANCE	Integrated forest health	Implementation	23,145.26	U.S. Forest Service (USFS)	USFS Hazardous F	Chumstick to LP
Q	FHT-2020-00048	(PALS)UPPER PESHASTIN FUELS REDUCT	Integrated forest health	Implementation	3,015.85	U.S. Forest Service (USFS)	USFS Hazardous F	Chumstick to LP
Q	FHT-2021-03852	2019-SES-0077	Integrated forest health	Completed	160.00	Washington State Department of Natural	Landowner Assista	Chumstick to LP
Q	FHT-2021-04179	2019-SES-0144	Non-commercial vegetat	Completed	14.40	Washington State Department of Natural	Landowner Assista	Chumstick to LP
Q	FHT-2021-03858	2019-SES-0150	Integrated forest health	Completed	9.00	Washington State Department of Natural	Landowner Assista	Chumstick to LP
Q	FHT-2021-04025	2020-SES-0107	Non-commercial vegetat	Completed	6.00	Washington State Department of Natural	Landowner Assista	Chumstick to LP
Q	FHT-2021-04336	2020-SES-0142	Non-commercial vegetat	Completed	30.00	Washington State Department of Natural	Landowner Assista	Chumstick to LP
Q	FHT-2021-04338	2020-SES-0197	Non-commercial vegetat	Completed	7.50	Washington State Department of Natural	Landowner Assista	Chumstick to LP
Q	FHT-2021-04345	2020-SES-0289	Non-commercial vegetat	Completed	3.00	Washington State Department of Natural	Landowner Assista	Chumstick to LP
Q	FHT-2021-01135	Beardsley, Warren	Forest Stewardship Plan	Planned	0.00	Washington State Department of Natural	Forest Stewardshi	Chumstick to LP



Shared Priorities



COMMITMENT

- Work across boundaries
- Collaboration, Strong State/Federal/Tribal/Stakeholder Partnerships
- Recognized shared goals and mission
- Interagency working environment (wildland fire suppression, program development, etc.)
- State, Federal and Private support and funding for implementation of all programs
- Use of best available science



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