

Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership

All Lands, All Hands: Building Resilient Landscapes & Fire Adapted Communities in Washington's East Cascades



2016–2018



Bird's eye view of forest restoration project

The Cascade Mountain range forms a formidable barrier between the western and eastern parts of Washington State. On the western side of the Cascades are rain forests and the notoriously cloudy city of Seattle. On the eastern side of the Cascades—in the rain shadow of 14,000-foot-tall mountain peaks—lie the expansive drier forests dominated by ponderosa pine. These drier forests are facing an increasing threat of uncharacteristically severe wildfire and insect outbreaks. A partnership of 30 organizations has formed to address this threat by increasing the pace and scale of forest restoration activities. This Joint Chiefs' project leverages these efforts in an All Lands, All Hands approach. At the center of project is the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, but it is often surrounded by a checkerboard of different private, State, Federal, and Tribal lands. Completing the fuels reduction projects and reducing the threat has taken a concerted collaboration of partners.

PROJECT IMPACT:
\$3,788,480

USFS & NRCS JCLRP funds awarded 2016–2018: \$7,352,318
Total USDA and partner project funds: \$7,352,318

Dollars invested of Washington State capital funds and landowner match to conduct fuel reduction treatments in the project.

PROJECT RESULTS



Forest stand after fuels reduction treatments



Wildfire fuels reduction: treated 8,231 acres of federal lands, 2,353 acres of state lands, 1,671 acres of private lands, and 1,128 acres of Tribal lands.



Protecting communities: 11,500 homes, businesses, and structures had the risk of wildfire reduced through fuels treatments.



Forest-related employment opportunities: private landowners hired consulting foresters to develop forest stewardship plans and contractors to implement the plans.

USDA's Forest Service and Natural Resources Conservation Service are working together to improve the health of forests where public forests and grasslands connect to privately owned lands. Through the Joint s' Landscape Restoration Partnership, the two USDA agencies are restoring landscapes by reducing wildfire threats to communities and landowners, protecting water quality and enhancing wildlife habitat.

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Fuels reduction treatments help improve forest resilience against wildfire

Repeated Megafires Spark Interagency Response

Back-to-back historic wildfires raged across Washington in 2014 and 2015, sparking the Joint Chiefs' All Lands, All Hands: Building Resilient Landscapes & Fire Adapted Communities in Washington's East Cascades project. The project helped restore a large portion of private, state, and national forest lands.

"Without this project and funding, most of the work wouldn't have happened or would have been severely delayed," said Chuck Hersey, Washington State Department of Natural Resources Forest Health Planning Manager. "The rate of wildfire in this state has increased drastically over the last ten years, and we're living in a ticking time bomb. While these treatments are not going to stop the fires, they are going to significantly help protect our homes and communities."

The work included forest-thinning projects on the Tonasket Ranger District, then a part of the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest. The USDA Forest Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and state and private partners were able to triple the number of acres treated in comparison to previous years. In total, partners thinned thousands of acres of forestlands, which improved forest health and helped protect local communities from wildfire.

Partners were also supported through programs like the NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), which included more than \$1.5 million dollars in financial assistance to private landowners.

"Overall, this Joint Chiefs' project not only showed us how effective it is for all of our agencies to work together, but it showed us how essential these partnerships and funding resources are to protecting our families and communities from the devastation of forest fires," said Skye Osiadacz, Chief of the City of Roslyn, Washington, Fire Department. "The good news—this is just the beginning."

For more information, please visit nrcs.usda.gov/JointChiefsReports



Skye Osiadacz, Chief, City of Roslyn (Wash.) Fire Department (Credit: M. Reese Lolley)

Key Partners

The Nature Conservancy
Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Cascadia Conservation District
Kittitas Conservation District
Okanogan Conservation District
Yakama Nation
Mid-Columbia Fisheries Enhancement Group
Kittitas Fire Adapted Community Coalition
Chumstick Coalition

Contact

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