

#### Forest Service U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FS-1187f | January 2023



### **CONFRONTING THE WILDFIRE CRISIS**

Expanding Efforts To Deliver on the Wildfire Crisis Strategy

The Elko Front, located in northeastern Nevada, encompasses about 20 rural communities, including the city of Elko. The landscape boundaries generally align with the Elko-Spring Creek-Lamoille and South Ruby Mountains Shared Stewardship high-priority landscapes. The landscape and adjacent communities are at high risk of catastrophic wildfire due to dense fuels, declining forest health, noxious weed infestations, persistent drought, and humancaused ignitions. USDA Forest Service photo.

## PROTECTING COMMUNITIES **AND IMPROVING** RESILIENCE

At the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Forest Service, we are entering our second year of carrying out our 10year strategy for confronting the wildfire crisis in the West (<u>Confronting the</u> Wildfire Crisis: A Strategy for Protecting Communities and Improving Resilience in America's Forests).

Our goal in launching the Wildfire Crisis Strategy was to safeguard communities and the resources they depend on by increasing fuels treatments over time, promoting community readiness, and supporting postfire recovery and restoration. To accomplish this, we are using all funding sources, including existing efforts like the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program (CFLRP) and Joint Chiefs' Landscape

Restoration Partnership (Joint Chiefs'), as well as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act. We are also working closely with partners on activities ranging from collaborative planning and prioritization to capacity building, on-theground improvements, and monitoring success.

Through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Congress appropriated \$1.4 billion to start putting our Wildfire Crisis Strategy into action with investments on 10 landscapes in 8 Western States. Through work on these landscapes, as well as ongoing Joint Chiefs', CFLRP, and regularly appropriated hazardous fuels reduction projects, we completed treatments on 3.2 million acres. We accomplished these treatments in 118 of the 250 high-risk firesheds identified in

the Wildfire Crisis Strategy, reducing risk to communities, infrastructure, and critical watersheds across the West.

With additional funding under the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, we have selected 11 additional landscapes in 69 firesheds for treatment. We listened to our employees, our partners, and Tribes on what mattered most to them, where opportunity exists, and where challenges remain. Their feedback and our experience on these landscapes helped us identify both challenges to implementation and conditions that can lead to future success. We received more than 3,000 unique ideas during interactive sessions and are considering them for implementation.

on Climate Resilience and Carbon Stewardship of America's National Forests and Grasslands, released in June 2022, helped guide the selection process for these 11 landscapes. The criteria included not only wildfire exposure to buildings in the wildland-urban interface but also exposure to underserved communities, Indigenous peoples and lands, sources of drinking water, habitats for native fish and wildlife, and more. We also considered critical infrastructure and utility corridors. Accordingly, the selected landscapes contain multiple values at risk in project areas across 26.7 million acres.

In fiscal year (FY) 2023, we will increase our capacity for fuels and forest health treatments by incorporating new ways to



resilience of forests.

The Secretary of Agriculture's memorandum work with our partners and communities, establishing mobile strike teams, and using new technology that allows us to plan and place treatments more effectively. We will also make our processes more efficient through a modernized grants and agreements system, more effective National Environmental Policy Act analyses, and expanded use of emergency authorities. Because healthy forests depend on a healthy forest products industry, we will expand our partnerships with mills, loggers, and other industry stakeholders. By working with all of our partners to pick up the pace and scale of our fuels and forest health treatments across the chosen landscapes, we will support local economies, protect communities, and improve the health and

### WHAT AREAS ARE **HIGHEST PRIORITY** FOR TREATMENT?

High-risk firesheds are large forested landscapes and rangelands where there is a high likelihood that an ignition could expose homes, communities, and infrastructure to destructive wildfire. Firesheds, typically about 250,000 acres in size, are mapped to match the scale of community exposure to wildfire.



The Sierra Front is in western Nevada and eastern California, adjacent to the metropolitan areas of Reno-Sparks and Carson City. With a total population of more than 600,000, the area includes more than 10 rural communities along its western flank. The proposed landscape boundaries generally align with the Sierra Front-Carson-Walker Shared Stewardship highpriority landscape and are adjacent to high-risk firesheds in the neighboring Pacific Southwest Region. USDA Forest Service photo.

# THE WILDFIRE CRISIS

Wildfires have been growing in size, duration, and destructivity over the past 30 years. The Nation has more than 460 million acres at moderate to very high risk from wildfire. Many western landscapes are at grave and growing risk from wildfire due to a combination of accumulating fuels, a warming climate, and expanding development in fire-prone landscapes. At the Forest Service, we are taking decisive action to confront this crisis.

### HOW DID WE GET HERE? WHERE ARE WE GOING?

The wildfire crisis in the Western United States has been building for decades. A <u>story</u> <u>map</u> traces the origins of the crisis and what we are doing to confront it, giving a bird'seye view of the Wildfire Crisis Strategy and what it will achieve.



### WHAT TREATMENTS ARE NEEDED TO REDUCE FUELS AND RESTORE FOREST HEALTH?

Prescribed fire mimics nature's fire when professionals apply wildland fire to fire-adapted landscapes under carefully prescribed conditions. Many low-elevation western forests originally had up to 60 large trees per acre, but now each acre typically has hundreds of trees, mostly small and highly flammable in a drought, capable of sending flames into the canopy for a devastating crown fire. The solution is to restore a semblance of the original fire-adapted landscape by (1) mechanically thinning trees to reduce the forest to something approaching the historical number of trees; (2) applying prescribed fire to further reduce hazardous fuels and reintroduce fire effects into the fire-adapted system; and (3) at suitable intervals, using both planned and unplanned ignitions to re-create a fire-adapted landscape.

Fuels reduction work on the San Carlos Reservation and National Forest System lands will reduce the exposure to wildfire of the Mount Graham International Observatory and two telecommunications sites, which include primary communications systems for local law enforcement. Work will also protect international waters shared with the San Carlos Apache Tribe, associated drinking water systems, and residential areas. USDA Forest Service photo.

# OUR STRATEGY FOR CONFRONTING THE CRISIS

In January 2022, the Forest Service responded to the wildfire crisis in the West by launching our Wildfire Crisis Strategy. Building on the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy and our agreements with States and other partners under our Shared Stewardship investment strategy, the Wildfire Crisis Strategy calls for a new paradigm: stepping up the pace and scale of our fuels and forest health treatments to match the actual scale of wildfire risk.

We created a national team to work with Tribes and with Federal, State, local, and private partners in crafting a 10-year Wildfire Crisis Implementation Plan for the Wildfire Crisis Strategy. The plan-a blueprint for executing the strategy through partnerships—is based on peer-reviewed research and a framework for collaboration established over the past 20 years. Under the plan, we are working with our partners to focus our fuels and forest health treatments more strategically and at the scale of the problem, using the best available science as our guide.

Based on a fireshed analysis, our scientists have models for identifying the firesheds most in need of fuels and forest health treatments to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. Scientific research guides the treatments needed to reduce the risk, including mechanically thinning trees and conducting prescribed fires. We estimate that up to 50 million acres of State, Tribal, Federal, private, and other lands across the West are in need of treatment.

In April 2022, in coordination with partners, we announced that 10 of the highest priority western landscapes would receive an initial investment of \$131 million in FY 2022 under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The selected landscapes contain 68 high-risk firesheds and about 13 million acres where we are applying the funds to fuels and forest health treatment projects. The selected landscapes overlap with National Forest System lands in the West that require some level of immediate treatment.



# THE NEW ROUND OF INVESTMENTS

In August 2022, the President signed the Inflation Reduction We have an emergency situation on National Forest System Act into law. The law made \$5 billion in additional funding lands within 250 high-risk firesheds across the West. In available to the Forest Service over 10 years, including \$1.8 response, the Secretary of Agriculture is also authorizing billion for fuels and vegetation treatments on the national us to use a new emergency authority in the Bipartisan forests and grasslands in the wildland-urban interface. We will Infrastructure Law, combined with strategic implementation use funding under the Inflation Reduction Act to invest in fuels of existing authorities. Using the new authorities will enable us and forest health treatment projects on 11 additional western to accelerate planning, consultation, contracting, hiring, and implementation of fuels and forest health treatments across landscapes. the high-risk firesheds, including the 11 additional landscapes We based our selection of the 11 landscapes on criteria set forth and postfire recovery areas most impacted in the past several by the Secretary of Agriculture. In addition to wildfire exposure years. Work will begin in coordination with partners and in full to buildings, our criteria included protecting underserved compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and communities, critical infrastructure, public water sources, and other applicable laws.

proximity to Tribal lands. Listening to the more than 3,000 comments from 11 roundtables held in the first half of 2022, we also chose landscapes with enough planning and resources in place to immediately begin work.

The following pages include a map that shows the 11 landscapes selected for a new round of investments, as well as specific information for each landscape.

# LANDSCAPE Selection Considerations

**SCALE:** The wildfire crisis is not just on National Forest System (NFS) lands. The crisis crosses the borders of Federal, State, Tribal, and private lands, especially in the West. To confront the crisis, we have to work across boundaries and at a scale that can make the greatest impact. For all 21 landscapes under the Wildfire Crisis Strategy, we are already working with partners at a landscape scale or have partnerships in place for working across landscapes. Together with our partners we must work at the scale needed to protect communities while conserving ecological values at risk from wildfire and drought.

**OUTCOMES:** The projects on these landscapes focus on treating the right places at the scale needed to achieve desired outcomes: reduced wildfire risk to people, communities, infrastructure, water sources, and other values and resources. In making landscape selections, we considered where investments could reduce exposure to wildfire, not just the number of acres that could be treated.

#### **COLLABORATION:** All landscapes

have projects that were collaboratively developed with communities and ready for implementation. Working together with partners, we considered collaborative efforts already in place and with opportunities to invest in underserved communities. These landscapes include other Federal, Tribal, State, and private partner investments. Projects complement existing investments in fireadapted communities.

#### **EXISTING AUTHORITIES:**

The landscapes align with States' forest action plans, building on past work and available congressional authorities and programs, including the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, Tribal Forest Protection Act, Good Neighbor Authority, Joint Chiefs' Landscape Restoration Partnership, and Shared Stewardship agreements. These investments add to a broader portfolio of work through other funding sources related to wildfire

risk, recovery, and resilience in communities across the country. We will continue to use all authorities at our disposal.

#### PARTNER INVESTMENTS:

Achieving the desired pace and scale of treatments on these landscapes will require the support of State and local governments, Tribes, nongovernmental organizations, and industry. Many of the landscapes already have momentum in using and sharing resources across boundaries. We will work with existing and new partners to develop long-term funding plans for the landscapes.

**EQUITY:** Wildfires and other natural  $\Delta$  disasters can pose significant threats to a community's health and well-being, particularly for at-risk communities. At-risk communities may experience unique barriers in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from wildfires. These communities may also be more prone to health and environmental impacts resulting from underlying social and political conditions. How we consider, communicate with, outreach to, and support at-risk communities are critical components to successful implementation of the Wildfire Crisis Strategy. To help our land managers and leaders determine needs and appropriate actions, we looked at various risk factors at the county level to illustrate the social and demographic conditions within (and surrounding) each landscape. This analysis included U.S. Census data related to access to services and support (e.g., persistent poverty, education status, unemployment status), health and mobility (e.g., age, disability), language spoken, housing/egress (e.g., types of housing, access to transportation), and additional data related to community capacity (e.g., staffing, resources, expertise available to apply for funding and build/manage projects over time). This information will help shape relationships, communication, public education, and capacity

building for the Wildfire Crisis Strategy.

#### **RISK TO COMMUNITIES:**

Areas with high structure density have The relatively high wildfire risk to homes and communities. This area is known as the wildland-urban interface, where buildings and infrastructure meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildlands, and it is where wildfires have their greatest impacts on people. We overlaid maps of structure density in the wildland-urban interface with fireshed maps to help locate high-priority areas for treatment. Many high-priority landscapes identified for treatment are in firesheds with high exposure to wildfire for the wildland-urban interface.

#### **CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE:**

Critical infrastructure consists of powerlines and utility Wildfires in remote areas that threaten powerlines can adversely affect metropolitan communities hundreds of miles away, so protecting powerlines from wildfires is critically important. We compared maps of critical power supplies with fireshed maps to help locate highpriority areas for treatment.

#### **IMPORTANT ROADWAYS:**

Highways are important lifelines for communities. Wildfires can impede travel and commerce, with lasting effects due to postfire mudflows and landslides across roadways. The cost of road repairs and longterm commercial disruption can be high. We overlaid maps of major roadways with fireshed maps to help determine where the impacts of a catastrophic wildfire would be greatest.

#### MUNICIPAL WATER SUPPLIES:

For their drinking water, municipalities ā depend for their drinking water not only on runoff and ground water recharge from rain and snowmelt but also on impoundments and other infrastructure, which are often located on National Forest System lands. We compared maps of municipal watersheds and related infrastructure with fireshed maps to determine where the wildfire risk to municipal water supplies was greatest.





### SAN CARLOS APACHE TRIBAL FOREST PROTECTION

#### FOREST SERVICE REGION

Southwestern

#### NATIONAL FORESTS

Apache-Sitgreaves, Coronado, and Tonto National Forests

STATE Arizona

#### LANDSCAPE SIZE 3 million acres

#### **TRIBAL CONNECTION**

San Carlos Apache Tribe of the San Carlos Reservation

#### PARTNERS

San Carlos Apache Tribe; National Forest Foundation; Arizona Game and Fish Department; Mule Deer Foundation; Arizona Department of Forestry and Fire Management; Salt River Project

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS** AZ-1, AZ-2, and AZ-6

EXPECTED COMPLETION OF **INITIAL TREATMENTS** Fiscal years 2023–27

**EXPECTED FUNDING IN FY 2023** \$32,009,200

#### LANDSCAPE HIGHLIGHTS

This landscape includes National Forest System lands and San Carlos Reservation lands. For cross-boundary landscape restoration, at the Forest Service, we will work with the San Carlos Apache Tribe to build on the two Tribal Forest Protection Act projects they initiated. Work on the landscape will protect international waters shared with the Tribe, associated drinking water systems, and residential areas. Fuels reduction work will also reduce the exposure to wildfire of the Mount Graham International Observatory and two telecommunications sites, which include primary communications systems for local law enforcement.

#### **MECHANISMS FOR EXECUTION**

Working cooperatively with the San Carlos Apache Tribe and various partners (including the National Forest Foundation, the Arizona Game and Fish Department, the Mule Deer Foundation, and the Salt River Project), we will use contracts and other partnership agreements during initial hiring and training and on-the-ground fuels treatments and survey work.

#### EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Work on this landscape will reduce wildfire exposure to communities within the San Carlos and Fort Apache Reservations. Landscape treatments will reintroduce wildland fire into fire-adapted ecosystems in a culturally sensitive way while emphasizing sustainable uses of cultural forest products, including clean water, traditional medicinal plant cover, firewood, and culturally significant food sources such as acorns, berries, and wildlife. Work will also foster public understanding and sharing of culturally significant information to better guide our land management decisions.

We expect to complete 87,000 acres of treatments between FYs 2023 and 2027. However, during the first 2 years, the San Carlos Apache Tribe will be hiring, and these new positions will add to the overall capacity to collaborate, develop, and implement projects across the landscape. Once the capacity is established to develop and implement critically important treatments, we will work together to treat beyond the initial 87,000 acres.





### PLUMAS COMMUNITY PROTECTION

#### FOREST SERVICE REGION Pacific Southwest

#### NATIONAL FOREST

Plumas National Forest

**STATE** California

LANDSCAPE SIZE

285,000 acres

#### **TRIBAL CONNECTIONS**

Mechoopda Indian Tribe of Chico; Estom Yumeka Tribe of Enterprise Rancheria; Mountain Maidu of Greenville Rancheria; Concow Maidu Tribe of Mooretown Rancheria; Tyme Maidu Tribe of Berry Creek Rancheria; Susanville Indian Rancheria; Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California; Konkow Valley Band of Maidu

#### PARTNERS

Great Basin Institute; Lassen Fire Safe Council; Feather River Resource Conservation District, Sierra Nevada Conservancy; Yuba Water Agency; Mule Deer Foundation; Butte County Resource Conservation District; Plumas Corporation/Plumas County Fire Safe Council; Concow Maidu Tribe of Mooretown Rancheria; Konkow Valley Band of Maidu; the State of California; Butte, Lassen, Plumas, Sierra, and Yuba Counties; National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; National Forest Foundation; National Wild Turkey Federation; Trout Unlimited; Sierra Institute; Fire Safe Councils (Butte and Yuba); Firewise Communities in Plumas and Butte Counties; University of California, Davis; California State University, Chico; Feather River College; Maidu Consortium; Maidu Cultural Development Group; Tasmam Kovom Foundation; Ya-Mani Maidu Cultural Association; and local industrial and public utility partners.

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS CA- 1

#### EXPECTED COMPLETION OF INITIAL TREATMENTS FYs 2023–26

**EXPECTED FUNDING, FY 2023** \$273,930,000

#### LANDSCAPE HIGHLIGHTS

The Plumas Community Protection Projects Landscape focuses on community zones across the Plumas National Forest with very high, high, or moderate wildfire hazard potential. The landscape covers 284,912 acres in five high-risk firesheds. Critical infrastructure includes hydroelectric power plants, drinking water, electrical transmission corridors, State highways, railroads, telecommunications, school districts, and forest products industries. The Feather River provides electricity and fresh water to over 27 million people and 4–5 million acres of farmland. Since catastrophic wildfires have burned 65 percent of the forest in recent years, protecting communities and infrastructure from future wildfires is essential.

#### MECHANISMS FOR EXECUTION

At the Plumas National Forest, we are focusing on contracts, agreements, and short-term internal Forest Service support to complete the Plumas Community Protection Projects. We are currently working with partners across the landscape and have identified opportunities to expand partnerships and contracts, including an integrated resources service contract for project planning, implementation, and maintenance. We created an implementation team, including forest specialists and regional experts, to identify opportunities and threats so we can make a risk-based assessment of capacity to expand efforts. We are also working with other agencies through a long-term recovery working group established after the catastrophic Dixie Fire in 2021.

#### **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES**

Our work on the landscape will reduce exposure to wildfire for the 41 communities in 5 counties at highest risk within the Plumas National Forest, as well as the critical infrastructure and watersheds that serve them. We will improve road systems for community egress, reduce the potential for extreme fire behavior in the wildlandurban interface, create a more resilient forest structure and ecological function, and foster an all-lands approach to fire and fuels management.

Our goals include treating 74,000 acres in FY 2023, with a total of 185,000 acres treated in following years, primarily in the wildland-urban interface.



Susanville

7836 f

Honey Lake Valley

Plumas National Fore

#### LANDSCAPES

PROJECT AREAS

#### HIGH-RISK FIRESHEDS

ALL LAND OWERNSHIPS

#### AREA DESIGNATIONS

	WILDERNESS
	STATE
	RANGER DISTRICT
[]]]	COUNTY
	CITIES
	OTHER FEDERAL
	DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
	BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
	FOREST SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PRIVATE STATE

UNDETERMINED

Roseville

Reno

NV

California State Parks, Esri, I USGS, Bureau of Lanc



### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FIRESHED RISK REDUCTION STRATEGY

#### FOREST SERVICE REGION Pacific Southwest

#### NATIONAL FORESTS

Angeles, Cleveland, Los Padres, and San Bernardino National Forests

**STATE** California

#### LANDSCAPE SIZE

4 million acres

#### **TRIBAL CONNECTIONS**

Forty-four Tribes, Bands, and Nations with members representing Acjachemen, 'Atáaxum, Cahuilla, Chemehuevi, Southern Paiute, Northern Chumash, Chumash, Cupeño, Diegeño, Esselen, Gabrieleno, Gabrielino, lipay/lpai, Juaneño, Kitanemuk, Kizh, Kwaaymii, Kumeyaay, Kuupangaxwichem, Luiseño, Payómkawichum, Qawishpa Cahuillangnah, Salinan, Serrano, Tataviam/Fernandeño, Tipay/Tipai, Yokuts, and Tongva communities

#### PARTNERS

The State of California; National Forest Foundation; Blue Forest Conservation; Conservation Investment Management; U.S. Geological Survey; Climate Science Alliance; San Diego State University; National Fish and Wildlife Foundation; Pacific Gas and Electric; San Diego Gas and Electric; Southern California Edison

#### **CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS**

CA-18–20, CA-23–31, CA-33, CA-39–41, and CA-48–50

EXPECTED COMPLETION OF INITIAL TREATMENTS FYs 2023–26

**EXPECTED FUNDING, FY 2023** \$10,000,000

#### LANDSCAPE HIGHLIGHTS

The immense values at risk in southern California and the collaborative solutions underway for vegetation management represent investment opportunities to avoid staggering social, economic, and ecological costs. Southern California's national forests differ from many others across the Western United States. The dominant vegetation type, shrubland, has burned too frequently over the past century. Because of this, the southern California landscape does not need the same types of treatments and maintenance as forested landscapes. This area has the Nation's highest concentration of high-risk firesheds and is home to 25 million people. There is a large wildland-urban interface throughout the landscape, as well as Tribal lands, watersheds that provide municipal drinking water, and utility infrastructure.

#### **MECHANISMS FOR EXECUTION**

Across the four national forests, we have flexible agreements and contracts with the ability to expand work as funding allows, including contracts for mechanical treatments. By working with partners, we have more staff capacity for contract oversight and project implementation. We are also working with partners to boost our joint capacity across the landscape. A new Tribal relations program manager will identify opportunities to work with the 44 Tribes and their associated communities throughout this landscape.

#### **EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

Through this additional investment, we will reduce wildfire exposure at the landscape scale through ignition reduction, vegetation management, strategic fuel breaks, and conservation of montane forest ecosystems. We will align vegetation management priorities with adjacent landowners. In the wildland-urban interface, we will work with partners to "harden" homes and utilities, create defensible space, and foster public education and responsible land use planning. Our work will also help major utility companies reduce ignition potential and their exposure to wildfire. Our fuel break network and montane forest conservation will help to stop wildfires before they reach utilities, and our ignition reduction effort will prevent many wildfires before they even begin. We will reduce wildfire risk to watersheds, along with the risk of postfire flooding and sedimentation.

Our goals include treating 5,000 acres in FY 2023, with a total of 27,500 acres in the next 3 years.





### TRINITY FOREST HEALTH AND FIRE-RESILIENT RURAL COMMUNITIES

### FOREST SERVICE REGION

Pacific Southwest

#### **NATIONAL FORESTS**

Shasta-Trinity and Six Rivers National Forests

**STATE** California

#### LANDSCAPE SIZE

910,000 acres

#### **TRIBAL CONNECTIONS**

Hoopa Valley Tribe; Round Valley Indian Tribes, Round Valley Reservation; Bear River Band of the Rohnerville Rancheria; Wiyot Tribe; Redding Rancheria; Yurok Tribe of the Yurok Reservation; Karuk Tribe

#### PARTNERS

Watershed Research and Training Center; Trinity County Resource Conservation District; California Department of Forestry and Fire Prevention; Trinity County Collaborative Group

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT CA-1 and CA-2

**EXPECTED COMPLETION OF INITIAL TREATMENTS** FYs 2023–26

**EXPECTED FUNDING, FY 2023** \$15,899,900

#### LANDSCAPE HIGHLIGHTS

The landscape centers on Trinity County and extends into neighboring Humboldt and Shasta Counties. Trinity County has the highest wildfire risk in California and the State's second highest wildfire risk to homes; other communities within or adjacent to the landscape are also at high risk from wildfire. The landscape has 693,662 acres of National Forest System lands (76 percent of the total), with the remainder in a mix of private and public ownerships.

Major roads include California State Routes 299, 36, and 3, which serve as thoroughfares in an area without interstate highways. Route 299 is the largest connection from the California interior to the Pacific Coast, with Route 36 as a primary alternate route. Route 3 is the main north-south travel corridor through Trinity and Siskiyou Counties, with no viable alternative in the landscape. Numerous county and forest roads also serve as critical ingress/egress routes for local communities.

#### **MECHANISMS FOR EXECUTION**

On the Shasta-Trinity and Six Rivers National Forests, we have strong relationships with Tribes and local partners and communities. Agreements with local partners boost our capacity for fuels reduction, road maintenance and reconstruction, surveys (wildlife, botany, and archeology), field preparation of contracts, and third-party analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act. In addition, new tools such as the integrated resource service contract blanket purchase agreement and discussions with Trinity County regarding a Good Neighbor Agreement will increase capacity.

#### **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES**

Landscape work will protect local communities and critical infrastructure, including natural gas pipelines, high-voltage transmission lines, the Trinity and Lewiston Dams (hydroelectric power facilities that deliver water to the Central Valley Project), multiple radio and telecommunications sites on ridges and mountains, and multiple community water sources, including Ruth Lake (the primary water source for about 88,000 Humboldt County residents).

Our plan is to treat 6,855 acres in FY 2023, with a total of 65,000 acres treated in the next 3 years.



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PROJECT AREAS

#### HIGH-RISK FIRESHEDS

ALL LAND OWERNSHIPS

#### AREA DESIGNATIONS

- WILDERNESS
- RANGER DISTRICT
- COUNTY

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National

Recreation

- CITIES OTHER FEDERAL
- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
- BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
- FOREST SERVICE
- BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
- BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
- FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT
- NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

OR

- PRIVATE
- STATE





California State Parks, Esri, USGS, Bureau of Land Mar Nendocino National Forest



### NEZ PERCE-CLEARWATER-LOWER SALMON

FOREST SERVICE REGION Northern Region

#### NATIONAL FOREST

Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests

**STATE** Idaho

#### LANDSCAPE SIZE

1.5 million acres

#### **TRIBAL CONNECTIONS**

Nez Perce Tribe

#### PARTNERS

Idaho Department of Lands; Idaho Department of Fish and Game; Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation; Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation; The Nature Conservancy; Trout Unlimited; Backcountry Hunters and Anglers; Idaho Forest Group; Empire Lumber; Idaho Conservation League; Idaho County; American Forest Resource Council; Hells Canyon Recreation Collaborative; Clearwater Basin Collaborative; North Central Idaho Resource Advisory Council; watershed advisory groups; Idaho County Soil and Water Conservation District; county wildfire working groups; Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

#### EXPECTED COMPLETION OF INITIAL TREATMENTS 2028

**EXPECTED FUNDING, FY 2023** \$34,000,000

#### LANDSCAPE HIGHLIGHTS

The Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests are entirely within the ceded territory of the Nez Perce Tribe. Adjacent to the Nez Perce Reservation and other rural communities, the landscape continues to provide cultural and natural resources, including food, water, timber, and recreation. The area includes watersheds of the Clearwater, Salmon, and Snake Rivers, as well as Idaho County—the State's largest county and 85-percent federally owned. Forests in this landscape are critical for the local timber industry, which also depends on roads and other infrastructure at risk from wildfire.

#### MECHANISMS FOR EXECUTION

Using successful Good Neighbor Agreements with the Nez Perce Tribe, Idaho Department of Lands, and Idaho Department of Fish and Game, at the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests, we will reduce hazardous fuels and restore watersheds. Future planning will include costewardship with the Nez Perce Tribe and cross-boundary collaboration with State and local partners to address climate change through aquatic improvement projects, commercial timber harvest, prescribed fire, and mechanical treatments across the landscape.

The Nez Perce-Clearwater landscape area has a robust timber industry to support implementation of projects which require mechanical timber removal. Our timber program is diverse and efficient, using stewardship contracting, conventional sales, and Good Neighbor Agreements to maximize the capability to treat acres. Similarly, we have used contracts, agreements, and partners to implement prescribed fire and mechanical fuels treatments. We will also use these methods to improve roads, which will facilitate landscape treatments.

#### **EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

Work on this landscape will reduce fuels in and near high-risk firesheds, treat acres identified in the "Idaho Forest Action Plan," and restore watersheds critical to communities and habitat for threatened and endangered fish. This investment will aid future restoration of Musselshell Meadows, a culturally important area to the Nez Perce Tribe. The investment will also expand the Nez Perce Tribe's capability to costeward their ancestral homelands. Restoration treatments will contribute up to 250 million board feet to the timber industry over a 5- to 10-year period; treatments will also produce fuelwood and biomass for commercial use. Road improvement will enhance access for exercising Tribal treaty rights, recreation, and fire response while improving critical fisheries habitats.

Project goals include treating 5,000 acres in FY 2023 with a total of 55,000 acres treated over 5 years, including 2,500 acres of stream and wetland restoration.

Dworshak Reservoir



Clearwater National Forest



### LANDSCAPES

HIGH-RISK FIRESHEDS

ALL LAND OWERNSHIPS

#### AREA DESIGNATIONS

- WILDERNESS
- STATE
- E RANGER DISTRICT
- COUNTY
- CITIES
- OTHER FEDERAL
- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
  - BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
- FOREST SERVICE
- BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
- BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
- FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PRIVATE STATE
  - UNDETERMINED

WA MT

al Forest

8908 ft

Payette National Forest

Esri, CGIAR, USGS, Esri, HERE



### MOUNT HOOD FOREST HEALTH AND FIRE-RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

#### FOREST SERVICE REGION Pacific Northwest

#### NATIONAL FOREST

Mt. Hood National Forest

**STATE** Oregon

#### LANDSCAPE SIZE

1,081,355 acres

#### **TRIBAL CONNECTIONS**

Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation; Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community; Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians

#### PARTNERS

Oregon Department of Forestry; Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; Oregon Department of Agriculture; Job Corps; AmeriCorps; county and city governments; local fire districts and community planning organizations

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS** OR-2, OR-3, and OR-5

EXPECTED COMPLETION OF INITIAL TREATMENTS 2025

**EXPECTED FUNDING, FY 2023** \$4,500,000

#### LANDSCAPE HIGHLIGHTS

This landscape in northwest Oregon comprises Federal, State, Tribal, and private lands on and around the Mt. Hood National Forest (585,348 acres—54 percent of the project area—are on national forest land). The project area includes three firesheds, several wilderness areas, and the Bull Run watershed, which furnishes drinking water to nearly a million people in Portland and surrounding communities. More than a third of all Oregonians depend on water from this landscape.

The landscape is highly urbanized, and the main economic drivers are natural resources and tourism. Twelve communities with a total population of more than 200,000 adjoin the landscape, which annually hosts nearly 3 million visitors. Developed recreation includes four ski areas and a resort, along with extensive trails, reservoirs, and campgrounds. The Bonneville Power Administration and Portland General Electric have extensive utility corridors across the landscape.

#### **MECHANISMS FOR EXECUTION**

Vegetation management and other fuels reduction work is guided by two strong forest collaboratives with a range of industry and nongovernmental partners, along with a newly formed fire mitigation partnership. At the Mt. Hood National Forest, we work with the Oregon Department of Forestry using Good Neighbor Agreements for fuels reduction projects and use a participation agreement through the Wyden Amendment and the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to fund treatments on lands managed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Using these and other agreements with State and local governments, community planning organizations, local fire districts, Job Corps and other youth programs, and a newly established AmeriCorps partnership, we will carry out treatments on both National Forest System and other lands. We will also use a contracting group for large-scale noncommercial mechanical thinning, invasive weed removal, and other fuels reduction work.

#### **EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

Our initial efforts will focus on treating firesheds on the east side of the Cascades. We will work with counties and local organizations to expand our capacity to complete treatments on the westside. Our work will protect municipal water sources in the Bull Run and The Dalles watersheds. We will coordinate all work on National Forest System lands with work on adjacent lands in other ownerships.

Our goals include treating 4,400 acres in 2023 and 8,000 acres in 2024.



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Yakama Nation Reservation

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Warm Springs Reservation

> Palisades State Park

> > Salem

OR

Oregon State Parks, State of C FAO, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau o



### **KLAMATH RIVER BASIN**

#### FOREST SERVICE REGIONS

Pacific Southwest and Pacific Northwest

#### NATIONAL FORESTS

Modoc, Klamath, Six Rivers, Shasta-Trinity, and Fremont-Winema National Forests

**STATES** California and Oregon

#### LANDSCAPE SIZE

10 million acres

#### **TRIBAL CONNECTIONS**

Klamath Tribes; Karuk Tribe; Yurok Tribe; Hoopa Valley Tribe; Quartz Valley Indian Reservation; Resighini Rancheria; Pit River Tribe; Shasta Indian Nation; Modoc Nation

#### PARTNERS

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; National Park Service; USDA Natural Resources **Conservation Service**; National Marine Fisheries Service; Oregon Department of Forestry; California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection; California Climate Investment Program; Western Klamath Restoration Partnership; Mid-Klamath Watershed Council; Klamath Lake Forest Health Partnership; community of Chiloquin; National Wild Turkey Federation

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS** 

CA-1 and CA-2; OR-2

#### **EXPECTED COMPLETION OF INITIAL** TREATMENTS FYs 2023–31

**EXPECTED FUNDING, FY 2023** \$35,400,000

#### LANDSCAPE HIGHLIGHTS

At the Forest Service, we manage about 55 percent of the 10-million-acre Klamath Basin. These lands generate 80 percent of the mean annual surface water supply to the Klamath River. The area provides important habitat for fish listed under the Endangered Species Act. Fish like steelhead, salmon, and suckers are vital to the culture and well-being of Tribes in the Klamath Basin. Following the planned removal of four dams on the Klamath River, National Forest System lands will provide habitat for fish that have been excluded from the upper basin.

For several decades, Federal, State, and other partners have warned that the Klamath Basin is in critical need of restoration. Catastrophic wildfires have damaged or degraded ecosystems and communities across five national forests in the Klamath Basin, a trend that is likely to continue as the climate becomes hotter and drier. The effects of a changing climate on hydrology and wildfire activity are degrading fish habitat, including contributing to habitat loss through postfire landslides. Many affected communities are in rural counties with some of the lowest median incomes in their respective States.

#### **MECHANISMS FOR EXECUTION**

We will invest in projects in collaboration with Tribes and other partners. We will explore opportunities for new agreements to work with our Tribal, Federal, State, and other partners. We will also use innovative stewardship contracts, such as the Blue Mile G-Z Stewardship integrated resource service contract on the Fremont-Winema National Forest.

#### EXPECTED OUTCOMES

In addition to reduced wildfire exposure and risk for communities within the Klamath Basin, we will improve watershed conditions and salmonid habitats in the face of climate change. These improvements will support underserved communities and local economies.

We will treat up to 52,080 acres in FY 2023: 37,510 in California and 14,570 in Oregon. At least 217,000 acres will be treated through FYs 2023-31. In addition to investments identified with announcing this landscape, our goal is to attract another \$15 million in partner contributions.



Fremont National Fo Winema National Forest

LANDSCAPES PROJECT AREAS

HIGH-RISK FIRESHEDS

ALL LAND OWERNSHIPS FOREST SERVICE LANDS

#### AREA DESIGNATIONS

WILDERNESS

- STATE RANGER DISTRICT
- COUNTY
- CITIES
- OTHER FEDERAL
- DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
- BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
- FOREST SERVICE
- BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
  - BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
- FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PRIVATE
  - STATE UNDETERMINED



California State Parks, Esri, HERE



### SIERRA AND ELKO FRONTS

### FOREST SERVICE REGION

NATIONAL FOREST Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

**STATES** Nevada and California

LANDSCAPE SIZE

3.4 million acres

#### **TRIBAL CONNECTIONS**

Bridgeport Indian Colony; South Fork Band of the Te-Moak Tribe of Western Shoshone Indians of Nevada; Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California; Reno-Sparks Indian Colony; Mooretown Rancheria of Maidu Indians of California

#### PARTNERS

Nevada Shared Stewardship Priority Landscape Planning Groups; Nevada Division of Forestry; State of Nevada; NV Energy

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS** NV-2 and NV-4; CA-3

**EXPECTED COMPLETION OF INITIAL TREATMENTS** FYs 2023–26

**EXPECTED FUNDING IN FY 2023** \$57,375,000

#### LANDSCAPE HIGHLIGHTS

The Sierra and Elko Fronts landscape includes the Sierra Front (about 2 million acres) and the Elko Front (about 1.4 million acres). National Forest System lands make up about 810,000 acres on the Sierra Front and 340,000 acres on the Elko Front, for a total of about 1.15 million acres (34 percent) across the entire landscape. Private/ other lands account for about 1.4 million acres (41 percent) of the entire project area, public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management comprise 720,000 acres (21 percent), State lands make up 56,000 acres (2 percent), and Tribal lands account for 35,000 acres (1 percent).

The Sierra Front is in western Nevada and eastern California, adjacent to the metropolitan areas of Reno-Sparks and Carson City. With a total population of more than 600,000, the area includes more than 10 rural communities along its western flank. The proposed landscape boundaries generally align with the Sierra Front-Carson-Walker Shared Stewardship high-priority landscape and are adjacent to high-risk firesheds in the neighboring Pacific Southwest Region.

The Elko Front, located in northeastern Nevada, encompasses about 20 rural communities, including the city of Elko. The landscape boundaries generally align with the Elko-Spring Creek-Lamoille and South Ruby Mountains Shared Stewardship high-priority landscapes. The landscape and adjacent communities are at high risk of catastrophic wildfire due to dense fuels, declining forest health, noxious weed infestations, persistent drought, and human-caused ignitions.

#### **MECHANISMS FOR EXECUTION**

At the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, we will use existing agreements (with State, Federal, nongovernmental, and private partners) and regional office contracts, together with our 5-year vegetation and fuels plan, to step up the pace and scale of treatments and to chart a roadmap for annual implementation, planning, and funding needs. We will also develop any additional agreements and contracts needed to complete the work.

#### **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES**

Our goal for this landscape is to reduce the exposure of people, communities, and natural resources to wildfire while sustaining and restoring healthy, resilient, fire-adapted forests. Working with our partners, we will reduce the exposure to wildfire for large cities, Tribal lands, rural communities, and watersheds. We will protect infrastructure, including utility, energy, and mining facilities; transportation corridors, such as Federal, State, and county highways and railroads; the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center; and recreation areas. Our work will also improve natural resources, including habitat for mule deer, sage grouse, and threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout.

Landscape goals include treating 22,000 acres in FY 2023; 15,000 acres in FY 2024; and 208,000 acres over 7 to 10 years.





#### LANDSCAPES

PROJECT AREAS

#### HIGH-RISK FIRESHEDS

ALL LAND OWERNSHIPS FOREST SERVICE LANDS

#### AREA DESIGNATIONS

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Range

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WILDERNESS
 STATE
 RANGER DISTRICT
 COUNTY
 CITIES
 OTHER FEDERAL
 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
 BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
 FOREST SERVICE
 BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

- FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PRIVATE STATE
  - UNDETERMINED

NV

Death Valley National Park

California State Parks, Esri, HERE,

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### PINE VALLEY

### FOREST SERVICE REGION

**NATIONAL FOREST** Dixie National Forest

**STATE** Utah

#### LANDSCAPE SIZE

402,000 acres

#### **TRIBAL CONNECTIONS**

Havasupai Tribe of the Havasupai Reservation; Hualapai Indian Tribe of the Hualapai Indian Reservation; Hopi Tribe of Arizona; Navajo Nation; Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation; Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah (Cedar Band of Paiutes, Shivwits Band of Paiutes); Las Vegas Tribes of Paiute Indians of the Las Vegas Indian Colony; San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe of Arizona; Kaibab Band of Paiute Indians of the Kaibab Indian Reservation; Moapa Band of Paiute Indians

#### PARTNERS

Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands; Utah Division of Wildlife Resources; Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative; Washington County; Iron County; Bureau of Land Management; USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service; utility companies

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT** UT-2

EXPECTED COMPLETION OF INITIAL TREATMENTS FYs 2023–26

**EXPECTED FUNDING FY 2023** \$6,915,000

#### LANDSCAPE HIGHLIGHTS

The Pine Valley landscape is adjacent to St. George, UT, America's fastest growing metropolitan area. The landscape encompasses about 250,000 acres of National Forest System lands (63 percent of the total project area) and 150,000 acres (37 percent) of lands in private ownership or under stewardship by the State of Utah or the Bureau of Land Management. The landscape's low elevation and topography make it particularly susceptible to climate change and shifting fire patterns, creating an urgent need to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

#### **MECHANISMS FOR EXECUTION**

On the Dixie National Forest, we have well-established working relationships with Federal, State, local, and nongovernmental partners on projects to reduce wildfire risk across jurisdictional boundaries on the Pine Valley landscape. For the past 10 years, we have collaborated with Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative, which involves dozens of partners, in conducting vegetation treatments to reduce the exposure of infrastructure and natural resources to uncharacteristic wildfire. We have also carried out Shared Stewardship fuels projects in watersheds across the Pine Valley landscape and used Good Neighbor Authority for the past 15 years to complete key treatments. Through strong and lasting partnerships, we will use this investment to reduce wildfire exposure across the Pine Valley landscape.

#### **ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES**

Our work with our partners on this landscape will reduce wildfire risk to St. George and adjacent communities, many in the wildland-urban interface. We will reduce wildfire risk to infrastructure, including national travel corridors and energy networks. We will protect watersheds and water quality. A major goal is to reduce risks to communities both during and after wildfires by restoring and maintaining healthy, fire-adapted landscapes.

Our goals also include treating 6,554 acres in FY 2023 and at least 43,500 acres over 7 to 10 years.





-Cedar City

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PROJECT AREAS

#### HIGH-RISK FIRESHEDS



#### AREA DESIGNATIONS

- WILDERNESS

   STATE

   RANGER DISTRICT

   COUNTY

   CITIES

   OTHER FEDERAL

   DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

   BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

   FOREST SERVICE

   BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
- FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
- LOCAL GOVERNMENT NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PRIVATE STATE
  - UNDETERMINED



Esri, NASA, NGA, USGS, U Garmin, SafeGraph, FAO, METI/



### WASATCH

### FOREST SERVICE REGION

Intermountain

#### NATIONAL FOREST

Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest

**STATE** Utah

#### LANDSCAPE SIZE

1.1 million acres

#### **TRIBAL CONNECTIONS**

Confederated Tribes of the Goshute Reservation; Skull Valley Band of Goshute Indians of Utah; Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation; Ute Indian Tribe of the Uintah & Ouray Reservation; Eastern Shoshone Tribe of the Wind River Reservation; Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation

#### PARTNERS

Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative, including dozens of partners who contribute funding for fuels and forest health treatments to reduce wildfire risk; the fuels focus group for the central Wasatch Front, which includes the State of Utah, Salt Lake City Public Utilities, Salt Lake County, and Save Our Canyons; and the Summit and Wasatch County Collaborative Fuels Reduction Group

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS** UT-1-4

**EXPECTED COMPLETION OF INITIAL TREATMENTS** Fiscal years 2023–26

**EXPECTED FUNDING IN FY 2023** \$18,250,000

#### LANDSCAPE HIGHLIGHTS

The Wasatch landscape encompasses approximately 1.1 million acres, including National Forest System, State, private, and Bureau of Land Management lands. Fire hazard on about 382,000 acres of the Wasatch landscape is classified as high or very high, threatening watersheds, plant and wildlife habitats, recreational opportunities, and private property. The landscape encompasses four high-risk firesheds, as well as high-priority landscapes under Utah's Shared Stewardship agreement.

Northern Utah has some of the Nation's fastest growing areas in the wildland-urban interface, with an increasing number of communities at risk of wildfire, 92 of which are within or adjacent to the landscape. Watersheds in the landscape furnish drinking water to more than 2 million people; these watersheds are highly sensitive to projected increases in drought, heat, and flooding, as well as the effects of wildfires, insect and disease outbreaks, and land use change. The landscape has more than 300 miles of regionally important energy infrastructure supporting the growing population of northern Utah. Recreational values and infrastructure in the area support more than 13 million visitors a year, including a \$1.4-billion ski industry with seven resorts (five on national forest lands).

#### **MECHANISMS FOR EXECUTION**

At the Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest, we have a well-established framework for responding to the wildfire crisis across jurisdictional boundaries on the Wasatch landscape, including a history of collaboration with Federal, State, and local partners and nongovernmental organizations. For the past 10 years, we have collaborated extensively with Utah's Watershed Restoration Initiative to plan and carry out vegetation treatments that reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire.

#### **EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

We will reduce exposure to wildfire of private property and infrastructure in the wildland-urban interface through cross-boundary mechanical treatments. We will increase opportunities to use prescribed fire and wildland fire to support the suppression of wildfires by creating or strengthening strategic fuel breaks. This work will protect watersheds and restore forest health and resilience.

Our goal is to treat 14,200 acres in FY 2023 and at least 105,000 acres over 7 to 10 years.



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Wasatch National Forest

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PROJECT AREAS

**HIGH-RISK FIRESHEDS** 

ALL LAND OWERNSHIPS

#### AREA DESIGNATIONS

WILDERNESS

STATE

**EXANGER DISTRICT** 

COUNTY

CITIES

OTHER FEDERAL

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

FOREST SERVICE

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

LOCAL GOVERNMENT NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PRIVATE STATE

UNDETERMINED



Esri, CGIAR, USGS, County of

Manti-La Sal National Forest

Uinta Natio

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Forest



### COLVILLE NORTHEAST WASHINGTON VISION

#### FOREST SERVICE REGION Pacific Northwest

#### NATIONAL FOREST

Colville National Forest

**STATE** Washington

#### LANDSCAPE SIZE

1.6 million acres

#### **TRIBAL CONNECTIONS**

Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation; Kalispel Tribe of Indians; Spokane Tribe of Indians

#### PARTNERS

Kalispel Tribe of Indians; Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation; Washington State Department of Natural Resources; Avista Power; Bonneville Power Administration; Seattle City Light

**CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS** WA-4 and WA-5

EXPECTED COMPLETION OF INITIAL TREATMENTS 2032

**EXPECTED FUNDING, FY 2023** \$2,160,000

#### LANDSCAPE HIGHLIGHTS

Adjacent to the Colville Reservation in northeastern Washington, communities within this landscape include Tonasket, Republic, Colville, Chewelah, Metaline Falls, Ione, and Newport. Critical infrastructure in the landscape includes State Routes 395 and 20 and large energy facilities, including biomass and hydropower. In addition, the landscape has vital habitat for species listed or proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act, including Canada lynx, grizzly bear, whitebark pine, woodland caribou, and bull trout.

#### MECHANISMS FOR EXECUTION

On the Colville National Forest, we rely heavily on the health of the local wood products industry and will use stewardship contracts and partnership agreements to complete project work. The local wood products industry can support fuels treatments and stewardship contracts by processing biomass, small-diameter logs, and larger materials. This industry can also help generate the revenues needed to pay for followup noncommercial work, allowing us to achieve goals for fuels reduction and forest health. In addition to local industry, other partners such as Tribal, State, and local governments will help us execute contracts, augment our workforce, and maintain healthy forests at the landscape scale.

#### **EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

Building on relationships with Tribal Governments, the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, timber industry partners, and collaborative groups, our work will focus on improving the resilience of fire-adapted landscapes. We will also reduce fuels to limit wildfire impacts and the risk of catastrophic wildfire and improve prospects for postfire recovery. Our current fuels treatment projects will be expanded to broaden the scale of active forest management. The local wood products industry—already an integral partner—will become larger and more versatile. Communities and critical infrastructure will be better protected and receive better support for postfire recovery.

Our goals include treating 2,000 acres per year, with a total of 20,000 acres over the next 10 years.



Mountains Selkirk urcell Jumbia Mountains NO Nelson Castlegar Trail **Grand Forks** LANDSCAPES PROJECT AREAS HIGH-RISK FIRESHEDS ALL LAND OWERNSHIPS FOREST SERVICE LANDS AREA DESIGNATIONS WILDERNESS STATE RANGER DISTRICT COUNTY CITIES OTHER FEDERAL Spokamlez DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION FOREST SERVICE **BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS** BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE LOCAL GOVERNMENT NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

PRIVATE STATE

UNDETERMINED



Esri, CGIAR, USGS, WA Stat

# WHAT'S NEXT

This new round of 11 landscapes, made possible through funding under the Inflation Reduction Act, gives us at the Forest Service and our partners fresh opportunities to reduce wildfire risk across high-risk firesheds and restore fire-adapted western forests to health and resilience. Nevertheless, we still face major challenges, including barriers to Federal hiring, nationwide labor shortages, rising housing costs, and lack of available housing, especially in rural areas where the work is needed most. We also remain well short of the resources needed to complete all of the work called for in the Wildfire Crisis Strategy.

With our partners, we will continue to seek solutions to the challenges we face, partly by finding new ways of working together. Working with partners, we are building public support for the needed work, moving efficiently through environmental review, and coping with the complexity of prescribed fire in the wildland-urban interface. Across the West, we are also exploring creative ways of increasing our workforce capacity, such as using specialized teams on key landscapes and improving the way we track our treatments and the benefits that people get from them. In the longer term, we will need additional support from both Congress and outside stakeholders to fully implement the Wildfire Crisis Strategy.

The wildfire crisis in the West is a national emergency. On these additional 11 landscapes, we will rise to the challenge by placing the right treatments at the scale needed to match the scale of wildfire risk. We are working in a way that meets the urgency of the moment, and we invite our partners and the people we serve to help us shift to this new paradigm for land management. We need a large multijurisdictional coalition of partners and stakeholders to help us carry out our Wildfire Crisis Strategy and reduce wildfire risk across fire-adapted western landscapes. Our work would not be possible without our partners, and we will continue to embrace partnerships as the key to our collective success.



### MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Given the scale of the wildfire crisis, fully achieving our goals under the Wildfire Crisis Strategy will take time, but we have already begun ramping up our fuels and forest health treatments. A <u>progress summary</u> outlines initial projects across 10 of the highest priority western landscapes and some of our first accomplishments.



The Wasatch landscape encompasses approximately 1.1 million acres, including National Forest System, State, private, and Bureau of Land Management lands. Fire hazard on about 382,000 acres of the Wasatch landscape is classified as high or very high, threatening watersheds, plant and wildlife habitats, recreational opportunities, and private property. USDA Forest Service photo.

#### **KEY SCIENCE**

Ager, A.A.; Day, M.A.; Palaiologou, P. [and others]. 2019. <u>Cross-boundary wildfire and community</u> exposure: a framework and application in the Western U.S. Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS-GTR-392. Fort Collins, CO: USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 36 p.

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Ager, A.A.; Day, M.A.; Ringo, C. [and others]. 2021. <u>Development and application of the Fireshed</u> <u>Registry.</u> Gen. Tech. Rep. RMRS–GTR–425. Fort Collins, CO: USDA Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station. 47 p.

Martinuzzi, S.; Stewart, S.I.; Helmers, D.P. [and others]. 2015. <u>The 2010 wildland-urban interface</u> of the conterminous United States. Res. Map NRS-8. Newtown Square, PA: USDA Forest Service, Northern Research Station. 124 p.

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### WILDFIRE CRISIS

strategy