



2019 Agriculture Outlook, Washington DC  
February 22 2019

George L. Geissler

Washington State Forester

Deputy, Wildland Fire and Forest Health/Resiliency  
Department of Natural Resources  
[george.geissler@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:george.geissler@dnr.wa.gov)

Washington  
Department of  
Natural  
Resources

# Shared Stewardship Investment Strategy and Washington State



# States' Perspective of Shared Stewardship

“We commit to work more closely with the states” to “strengthen the stewardship of public and private lands”

- Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue (August 2018)

- State Foresters and the agencies they lead must drive the implementation of Shared Stewardship in our states and be “convenors”
- Builds on long standing partnerships between state forestry agencies and federal agencies.
- Encourages active management on all lands, public and private, through effective use of existing authorities and programs coupled with use of best available science and existing strategies (such as Forest Action Plans)
- Shared decision-making and priority setting
- Co-managing wildfire and forest health risk
- Targeting resources based on outcomes and performance measures

# State Forestry Agencies Take Action

- State forestry agencies are working with USFS, NRCS and others to further define and implement shared stewardship.
  - Employ “All Lands. All Hands” mindset
  - 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
- Encouraging use of both state and federal analytics with existing Forest Action Plans and strategies.
- Shared Stewardship Agreements already signed in many states (MT, ID, etc) and more are in the works.

# USDA Action

## A view from the States

- USDA Forest Service built on existing relationships to initiate discussions related to Shared Stewardship.
- USDA Leadership “walking the talk”.
- USDA Forest Service leadership heightened emphasis to staff on need for state involvement and priorities as equal partners.

What does this mean for Washington?

# Washington's Stewardship Landscape

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



# Why is Shared Stewardship important in Washington?

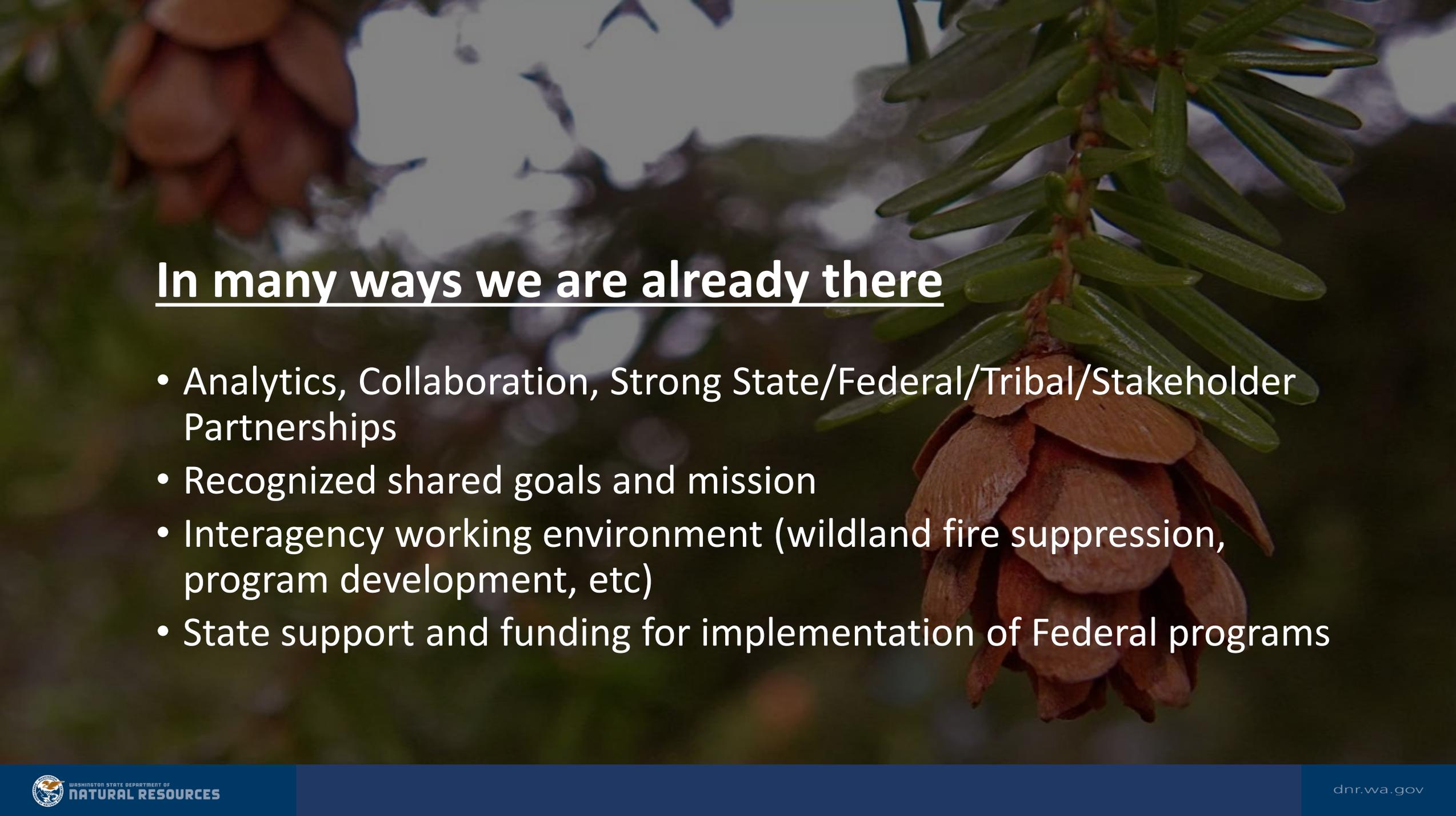
## Forest Service Priorities

- ▶ Forest Health and Wildfire
  - National Forests 5 Year Plans
- ▶ Provide for Effective Science-based Federal Lands Mgmt and Cross Boundaries Work
- ▶ Increase Pace and Scale
- ▶ Increased Deliverables w/Existing Resources

Shared Stewardship

## Washington Priorities

- ▶ Forest Health and Wildfire
  - Strategic Plans
  - Forest Action Plan
- ▶ Rural Economic Development
- ▶ Collaboration and Partnerships
- ▶ A Healthy Puget Sound and Salmon Recovery

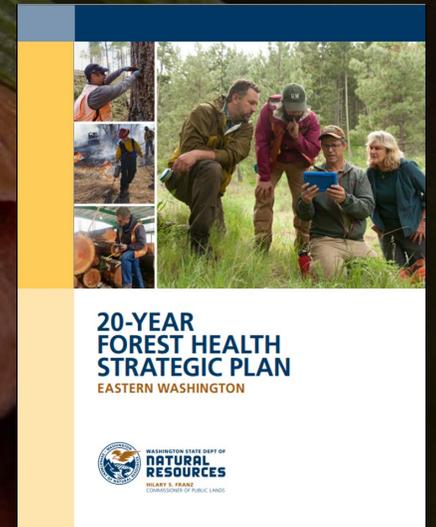


## In many ways we are already there

- Analytics, Collaboration, Strong State/Federal/Tribal/Stakeholder Partnerships
- Recognized shared goals and mission
- Interagency working environment (wildland fire suppression, program development, etc)
- State support and funding for implementation of Federal programs

# Washington – Steps to Shared Stewardship

- **Eastern WA – 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
- **Western WA – Salmon restoration efforts**
  - Boosting rural economies
  - Stakeholder engagement
  - Coordination at watershed level
  - Habitat enhancement
- **State Forest Action Plan**
  - Provides comprehensive analysis of issues faced statewide

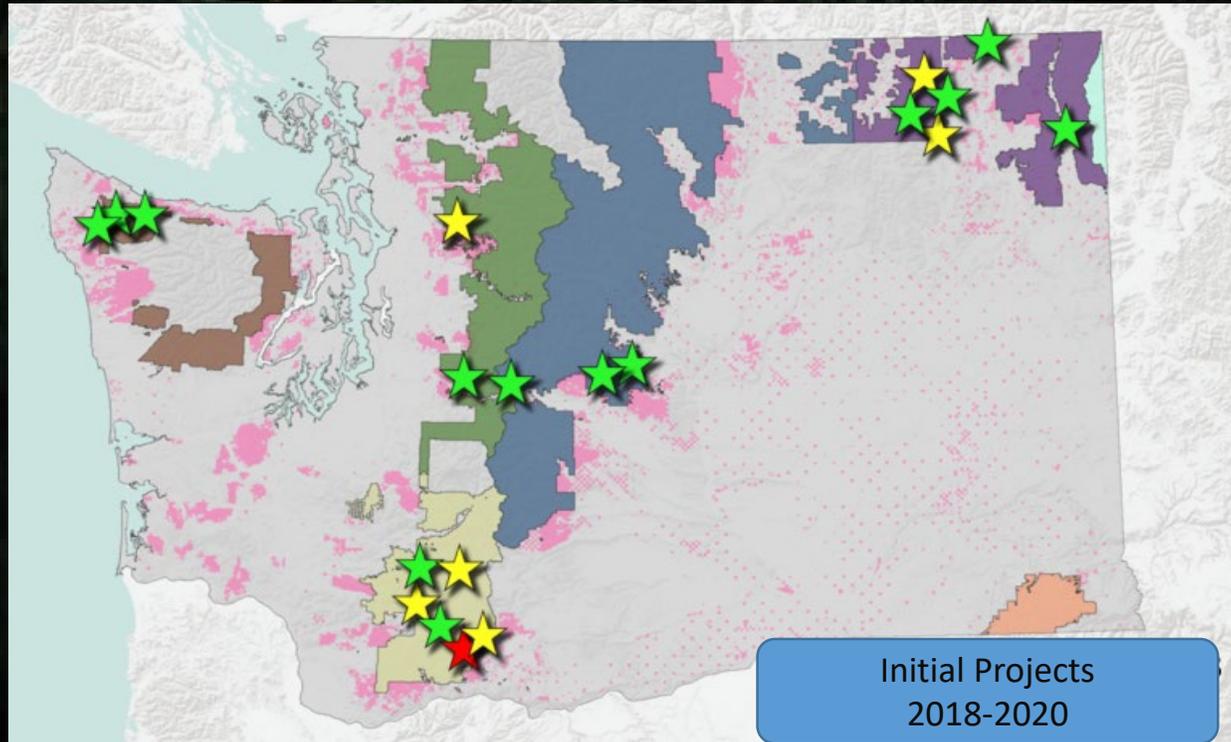


# Washington – Steps to Shared Stewardship

## Examples include:

- 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)

# Focus— Implementation of GNA



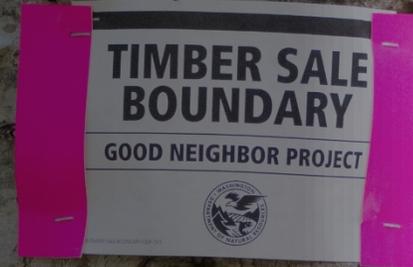
# Washington GNA Funding

- **USFS** appropriated funds - \$2.2 million - Forests and Regional Office
- **State** appropriated funds - \$500K
- **Timber Receipts** on 4 of 5 forests anticipated – \$2.0-4.0 million
- **19-21 WA State Biennium Budget Request** – \$2.7 million
  - Forest Health fuels treatments
  - Salmon recovery/Engineering



# Statewide Commercial Restoration Projects

- Estimated 20 MMBF sold in FY18/FY19
- Boost rural economic development
- Support USFS annual deliverables
- Enhance habitat and fire resilience
- Generate receipts for reinvestment back to forests for more restoration



2018		2019		2020				
Est. Vol MBF	Est. Acres	Est. Receipts (\$)	Est. Vol MBF	Est. Acres	Est. Receipts (\$)	Est. Vol MBF	Est. Acres	Est. Receipts (\$)
9,098	965	\$2.3 m	36,000	3,500-4,000	\$7.5 m	17,500	1,500-2,000	\$4.0 m

# 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

2018 (Est. Acres)	2019 (Est. Acres)	2020 (Est. Acres)
600	2,200-2,500	2,000-2,200



# The Road Ahead for Shared Stewardship in Washington

# The Road Ahead

## USDA Forest Service - Region 6

- All hands meeting USFS Supervisors/District Rangers, Regional Forester, and State Foresters

## Washington State

- Facilitate process development to include input from forest collaboratives and key partners. (University of Washington, state funded grant)
- Regular meetings of USFS Forest Supervisors, DNR Region Managers/Division Staff, DFW Regional Staff and NRCS to improve communications and operations at the state level.
- Utilize existing State Forest Health and Wildland Fire Advisory Boards



# The Road Ahead

## Shared Stewardship Agreement

- Multiple state and federal partners - USFS, NRCS, State DNR and DFW
- Lay a framework/process for use of existing analytics and strategies to collaboratively prioritize future emphasis areas and projects
- Focus on wildland fire risk reduction, forest and rangeland health, watershed restoration, and rural community health and economy
- Emphasizes the use of all existing authorities and programs
- Include emphasis areas and projects to be implemented in FY2020 (future projects will be added)
- On target for signing late March, 2019





George L. Geissler

Washington State Forester

Department of Natural Resources

[george.geissler@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:george.geissler@dnr.wa.gov)

[www.dnr.wa.gov](http://www.dnr.wa.gov)