



Kalispel Tribe of Indians
 Kalispel Tribal Headquarters
 Usk, WA 99180



Forest Service
 Colville National Forest
 Newport – Sullivan Lake Ranger Districts
 Newport, WA 99156



WA State Dept. Of Natural Resources
 Northeast
 Colville, WA 99114

Dear Friend of the Forest or Land Owner,

The Kalispel Tribe of Indians, the Colville National Forest, and the Washington Department of Natural Resources (WA DNR) invite you to participate in planning a forest and watershed restoration project that spans multiple land ownerships and boundaries. We are also actively working with Pend Oreille County, Pend Oreille Fire District 6, Northeast Washington Forestry Coalition, and home owner associations in the area. The Kalispel Tribe refers to the project as Sx^wuytn (s-who-ee-tin), which is a Kalispel Salish word that roughly translates to connection or trail. This planning effort will also be referred to as Kaniksu Connections to acknowledge the building and strengthening of connections and relationships across landscapes and boundaries.

Healthy forests and watersheds that provide fish and wildlife habitat, clean water, and protect our social and cultural values are important to all who live and work in Pend Oreille County. When forests become overstocked, dense, and stressed, this sets the stage for insects, disease, and uncharacteristic wildfire to occur and threaten the very reason many of us live here. **We believe an all lands approach, with involvement from all parties, is a bold and necessary step to improve the current condition of our lands.** This is a different approach than the small, scattered treatments of the past (Figure 1). This all lands approach is consistent with WA DNR’s recently completed 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan and will maximize the effectiveness of forest health treatments. Our vision is to work with each other, and across boundaries (Figure 2). Your participation is vital to the success of that vision. Treating lands across boundaries will sustain our forests, watersheds, and other ecosystem benefits into the future. Ecosystem benefits include:

- resiliency to extreme weather events
- drinking water, clean air, wood products
- social and cultural values
- jobs and the local economy

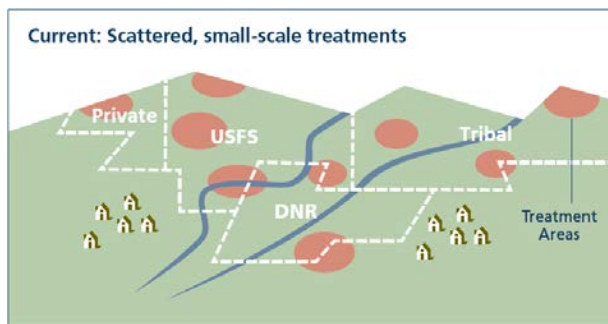


Figure 1. Small, scattered treatments of the past.

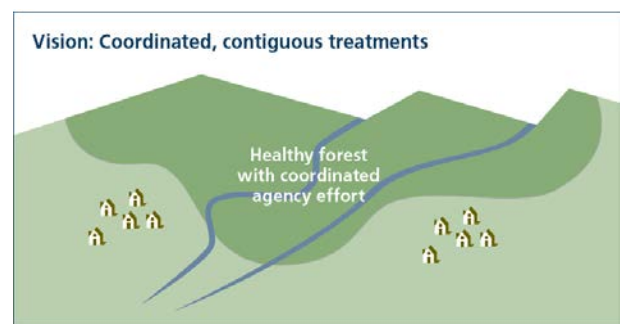


Figure 2. Coordinated treatments across the landscape.

Where is the Planning Area?

This area is located in Pend Oreille County in northeastern Washington State, north of Newport. The planning area is approximately 90,700 acres and includes tribal, state, federal and private lands (Figure 8).

What Should We Do?

While we don't have a detailed project description yet, we do want to accomplish the following objectives:

- improve forest resiliency to fire;
- increase species diversity, and size and spacing variability;
- improve aquatic organism and fish passage;
- improve or maintain water quality;
- identify where recreation facilities connect with needs to restore watershed health; and
- contribute to the local economy through a consistent supply, stewardship and contracting opportunities.

What are Current and Possible Future Conditions?



*Figure 3. Dense trees are more susceptible to insect/disease and stand replacing wildfire. No thinning, prescribed fire or other active management has occurred on this land for decades.
Photo site: Colville NF Marshall Lake*



Figure 4. Uncharacteristic Insect/disease can kill large swaths of trees within years of an outbreak.



Figure 5. Uncharacteristic wildfire can kill large swaths of trees within days. Photo site: Colville NF Tower fire 2015.



Figure 6. Thinned trees are more resilient to insect attacks and wildfire. Treatment of this lodgepole-larch stand occurred 6 months prior to photo. Photo site: Colville National Forest, North Pend Oreille County.

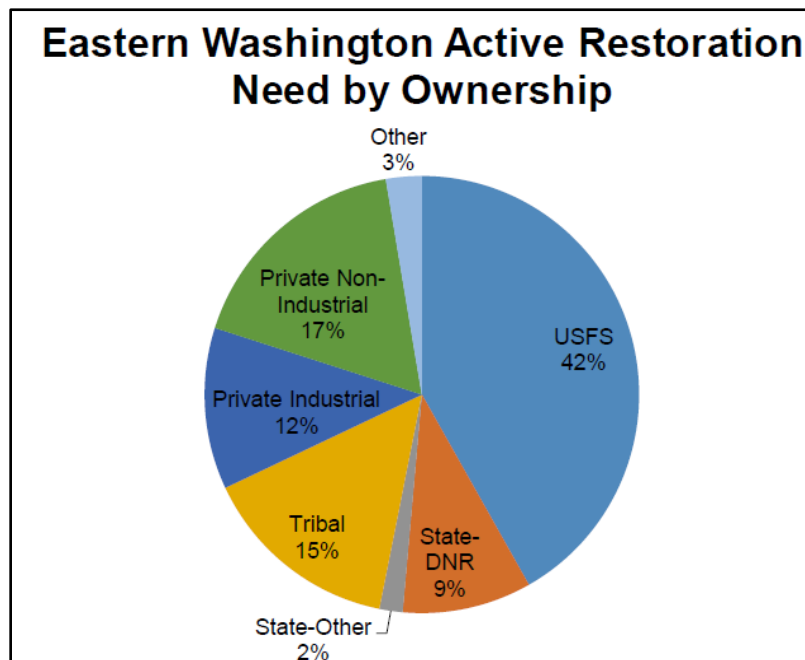


Figure 7. Restoration Needs for Eastern Washington from 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan (Haugo et al. 2015) <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/>

How Can You Help?

We want your thoughts and knowledge of the area. We cannot overemphasize the importance of your involvement in the planning process. For instance:

- If you live in the planning area, are you interested in cross-border treatments to reduce fuels on or around your property?
- Do you know of areas where trees are in poor health or fuel loading is too high?
- Are there areas of habitat you would like to see enhanced?
- Do you know of streams or lakes that would benefit from restoration work, such as culvert replacement to improve aquatic organism and fish passage, or streamside plantings?
- Are there places where roads are causing erosion into streams or lakes?

What is Next?

Specific ways to become involved with the process include:

- attending meetings and becoming informed;
- providing your ideas into developing a proposal for action on forested lands within the planning area; and
- learning more about funding opportunities for treatments on private lands, and
- connecting with resource professionals to discuss treatment opportunities.

More Information

Website

For more information about private landowner assistance available to accomplish forest health treatments on your lands please access:

https://www.dnr.wa.gov/publications/fp_sflo_fsp_costsharebrochure.pdf?o4torcz and
<https://www.dnr.wa.gov/cost-share>

Meetings

In November 2018, we will offer a series of public meetings. Each meeting will have a theme and focus on a resource type. The first meeting date is scheduled for November 7, 2018 from 6 - 8 pm at the Camas Center in Cusick, WA. This meeting will present the concept, discuss the relationship and roles of partners, and describe how you can become involved in developing and refining the project. Additional meetings will be scheduled throughout the winter. For more information on meeting dates, please follow our website at:

<https://www.kalispeltribe.com/sxwuytn-trail>

Contact Information

If you have questions about the planning effort, please call or email Mike Lithgow, Kalispel Tribe Natural Resource Department Information and Outreach Coordinator, at: 509-447-7435, mlithgow@kalispeltribe.com, or mail to Mike Lithgow, PO Box 39, Usk, WA 99180.

We are emphasizing electronic correspondence with this planning effort. Please send your name and email to Mike Lithgow at mlithgow@kalispeltribe.com if you would like to continue to receive updates or be involved in the planning process.

All of us at the Kalispel Tribe, Colville National Forest, and Washington Department of Natural Resources, look forward to working closely with you to develop a collaborative and innovative project that addresses multiple resource and public needs.

Kindest Regards,




DEANE OSTERMAN,
Executive Director Kalispel Natural Resources Dept.
Kalispel Tribe

9/26/18
Date



GAYNE SEARS,
Newport-Sullivan Lake District Ranger
Colville National Forest

28 Sept. 2018
Date



KEN MCNAMEE,
Northeast Region Manager
Washington Department of Natural Resources

9/28/18
Date

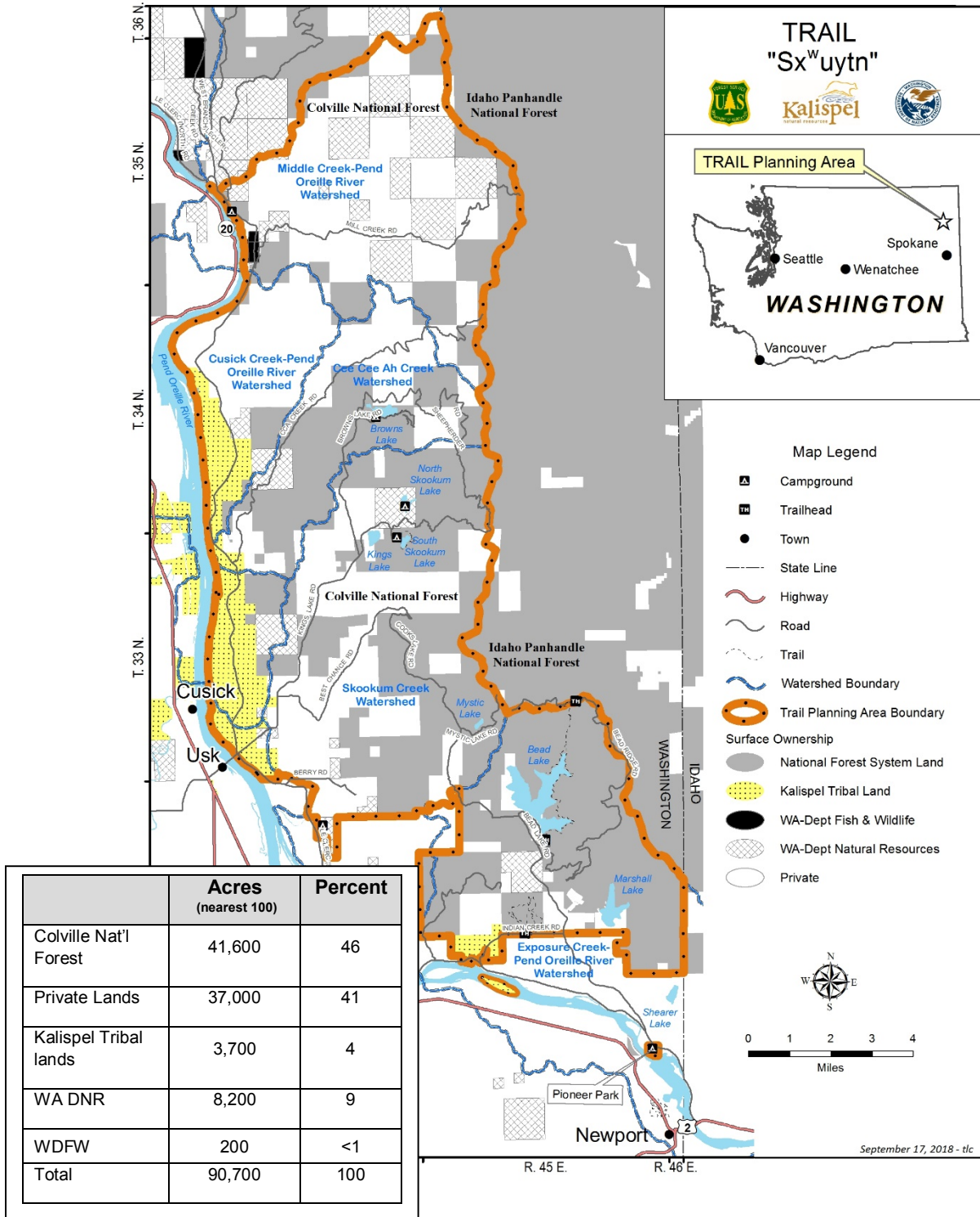


Figure 8. Planning area, vicinity map, and acres and percent of lands by ownership within the planning area.