

The Forest & Community Roundtable



Who We Are

We are a diverse collection of forest collaboratives, landowners, the timber industry, mill operators, environmental non-profits, community groups, and state and federal agencies. We have come together to speak with one voice to support collaborative, locally-driven large landscape projects that improve forest and community resilience, reduce wildfire risk, and generate economic development opportunities to benefit both rural and urban communities.

The Need

A lack of forest and watershed resilience threaten Washington's forest ecology and communities. Uncharacteristic fires, loss of forest products infrastructure, land use conversion, and climate change all threaten our forest and rural communities and economies. Forest and watershed restoration and community resiliency actions can improve forest health and thereby reduce the risk of uncharacteristic, catastrophic wildfire; protect and restore fish and wildlife habitat; generate jobs and economic activity in the forest and forest products industry, and store carbon to mitigate risks associated with climate change. Investments in forest health and forest community resiliency will achieve multiple benefits for all Washington residents.

Our Goals

Increase and coordinate investments to:

1. Increase the pace, scale, and quality of forest restoration across federal, state, and non-industrial private lands, including through the use of thinning and prescribed fire.
2. Reduce the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire and threats to communities, public health, tourism, and landowners before, during, and after fire.
3. Bolster and increase community awareness and preparedness including Limited English Proficiency and other under-served populations in communities at risk from wildfire.
4. Improve communication and coordination among all land owners and managers.
5. Increase forest jobs and economic growth by improving the reliability and sustainability of the wood supply while sustaining and expanding forest resource infrastructure such as mills and other value-added facilities.
6. Improve fish and wildlife habitat and connectivity and the overall structure, function, and sustainability of the forest and watershed ecosystems and ecosystem processes, including fire.
7. Engage forest health collaboratives and, where needed, third-party contractors to complete the advance planning and environmental assessments needed to support timely coordination of forest health restoration actions on federal forest lands with other landowners' forest restoration work.
8. Prioritize actions across land ownerships at a landscape scale to meet landowner objectives, achieve forest and watershed restoration goals, and provide multiple benefits on both the east and west sides of the state.

