

**“Forest health affects so many aspects of our lives. Forests clean our air and water. They sustain jobs, as well as fish and wildlife species. They are our outdoor playgrounds. And their health is key to protecting our communities from the threat of severe wildfires. We count on our forests, but they count on us, too. We must all work together to restore them.”**

**Hilary Franz, Washington State Commissioner of Public Lands**

From renewed understory in forested stands to restored complexity in rivers through adding woody debris, active restoration has made a difference for landscapes in north central Washington.



**Pre-treatment:** Overstocked, unhealthy forest that poses increased fire hazard.



**Post-treatment:** The same property after fuels reduction treatment (thinning and removal of slash).



[NCWFHC.org](http://NCWFHC.org)

All North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative meetings are open to anyone interested, and we welcome new perspectives and engagement.

**For more information,  
please call (509) 662-4707.**





## Who We Are



The North Central Washington Forest Health Collaborative (NCWFHC), facilitated by the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board, strives to advance forest health through transparent actions that improve forest resiliency, preserve terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitat, protect natural resources, promote utilization of natural resources, and support local economies in Chelan and Okanogan Counties.



The Collaborative is a diverse group of timber industry representatives, conservationists, tribal government, elected officials, and local, state and federal land managers using a consensus-based approach to build momentum and increase implementation of forest restoration on the Okanogan-Wenatchee national forest while also providing jobs, forest products and recreational opportunities.

## Why is National Forest health a priority?



Scientific studies have shown the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest **“is experiencing uncharacteristically severe fires, insect infestations, disease epidemics, habitat loss and hydrologic events that cause massive erosion.”**



Active, landscape-scale restoration is necessary for forest sustainability and resiliency. This includes substantially increasing the forest’s restoration footprint, reaching across boundaries through collaborative efforts, developing better integration across disciplines to accomplish multiple objectives, and adapting to changing conditions and new science.



## Current Work



Aside from meeting quarterly with all of its member organizations NCWFHC workgroups and task forces actively complete tasks to achieve the Collaborative’s goals. These workgroups bring discussion topics and recommendations to the full group and Steering Committee for decisions.

### Currently our workgroups are engaged in:



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- Projects to provide diverse stakeholder input to the forest and to build stakeholder consensus around social, ecological and economic elements.
- Increasing support for implementation of monitoring, and/or adjusting to changed conditions.
- Developing and local implementation of policies and legislation that can help to increase the pace and footprint of restoration on the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest in Chelan and Okanogan counties.
- Conducting targeted outreach and education to increase knowledge about the need for restoration in the region in coordination with community partners.

Learn more about our efforts at [NCWFHC.org](http://NCWFHC.org)

The **4-million acre** Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest makes up **70% of the land base** of Okanogan and Chelan counties and provides unique **social, ecological and economic benefits** to Washington State and the country – abundant **recreation and tourism** opportunities, **critical habitat for fish and wildlife**, including threatened and endangered species, **timber and other forest products** – to name a only a few.