



Forest Health and Arboriculture Annual Update

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Agency Forester





Forest Heath Program Updates





What is forest health?

DNR DEFINITION

RCW 76.06.020 (6)

“Forest health” means, for the purposes of this chapter, the condition of a forest being sound in ecological function, sustainable, resilient, and resistant to insects, diseases, fire and other disturbance, and having the capacity to meet landowner objectives”

STATE PARKS DEFINITION

Commission Policy 73-04-1 (Natural Resources Policy)

Forest health: A concept of forest management for the purpose of building resilience to natural and human-caused disturbance by reducing risks and improving the structure and function of forest ecosystems. In State Parks, forest health encompasses recreation, natural, and cultural preservation considerations.



State Park Forests

Forest Health Needs

Needs and Risks

- Wildfire
- Insect and disease
- Stagnation
- Drought
- Climate change
- Noxious weeds
- Degraded habitat
- Tree risk

Strategies and Approaches

- Density Management
- Fuels Management
- Species Composition Change
- Insect or disease management
- Increased biodiversity
- Understory restoration
- Accelerated old growth

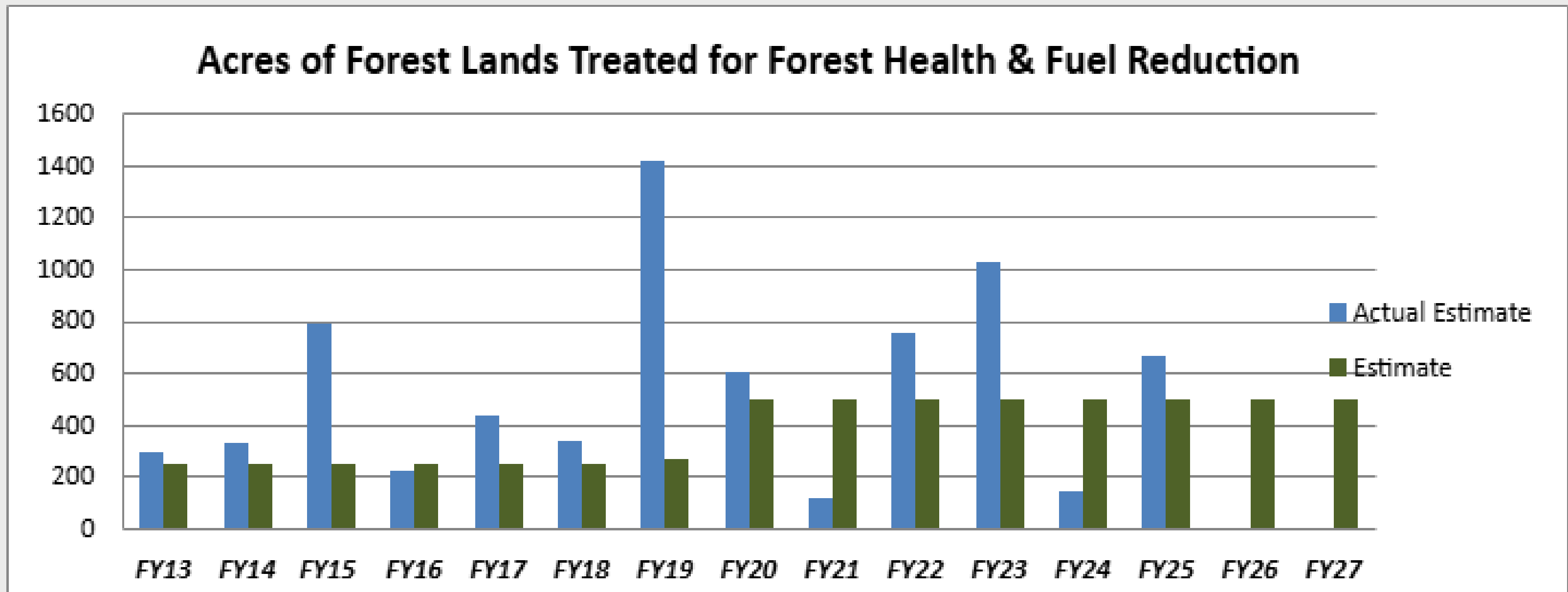
Treatment Types

- Noncommercial Thinning
- Commercial Thinning
- Shaded Fuel Breaks
- Defensible Space
- Slash Abatement
- Pile burning
- Prescribed burning
- Weed control
- Reseeding/Replanting



The Big Picture

Current Strategy and Performance



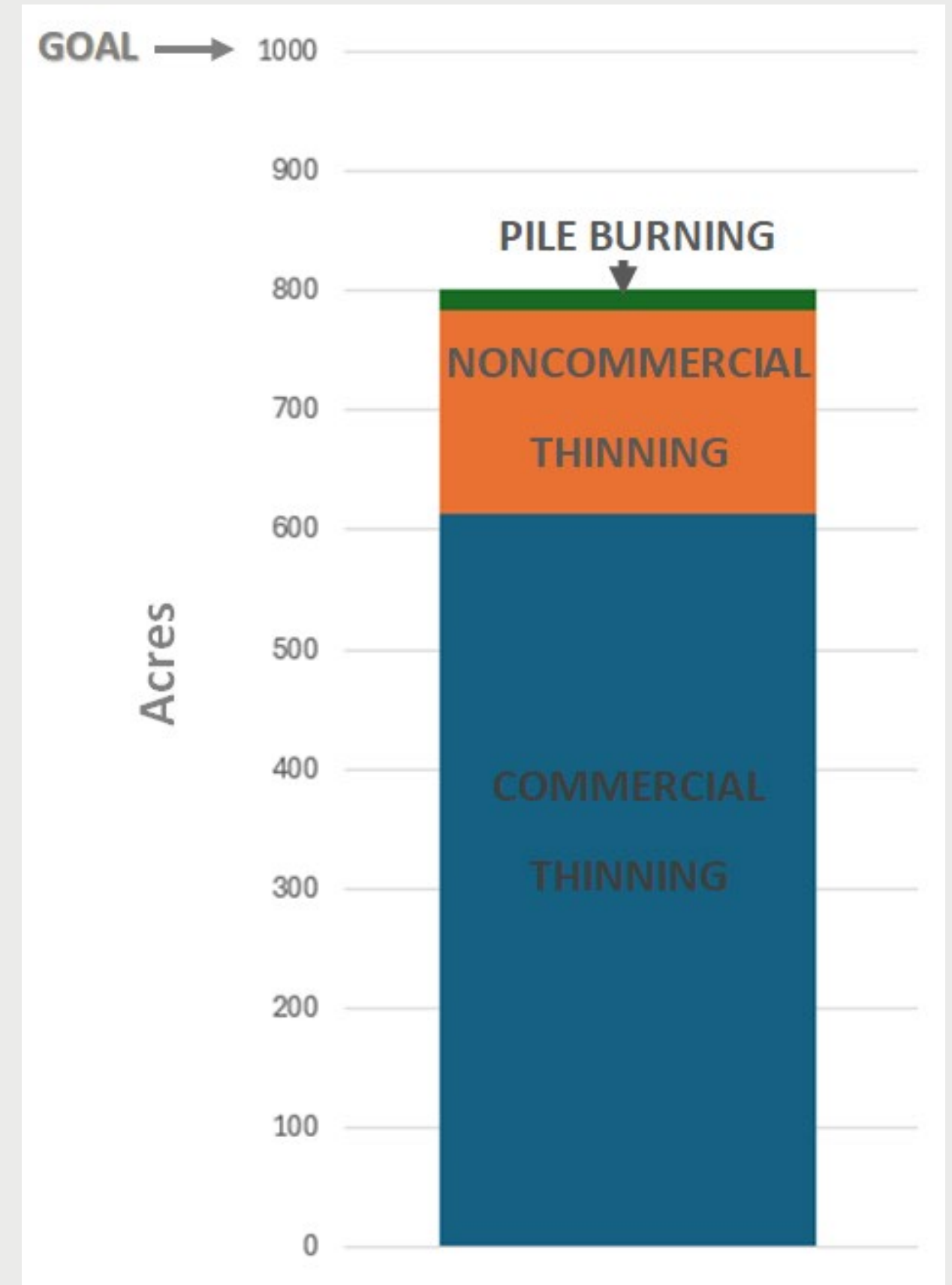
Accomplishments

2023/2025 Biennium

- 803 Acres treated.
- Two commercial thinning projects.
- One commercial salvage project.
- Six noncommercial projects.
- Three pile burning projects.

Five State Parks:

- Riverside State Park
- Fisk State Park Property
- Moran State Park
- Mount Spokane State Park
- Nisqually State Park



Commercial Project Accounting

Completed during 2023-2025 Biennium

	7-Mile Forest Health Thinning Riverside	Nisqually Forest Health Thinning	Nelson Salvage Mount Spokane
Year Completed:	2025	2025	2024
Acres:	360	214	39
Volume Harvested: (board-feet)	984,000	1,244,000	157,000
Direct Project Costs:	\$592,491	\$690,000	\$11,000
Log Sale Revenue:	\$449,500	\$598,000	\$1,500
Net Cost/Revenue:	-\$48,500	-\$92,000	-\$9,500



Highlight Project

7-Mile Forest Health Thinning – Riverside State Park

- 360 Acre Commercial Thinning Project
- Restored dry pine ecosystem and reduced wildfire risk
- Removed 255 loads of logs, totaling 7,888 tons of fuel
- First commercial project at Riverside in current forest health era
- Work completed by Will Logging, LLC of Tonasket, WA.
- Next Steps: Pile burning, trail rehab, monitoring



Highlight Project

Nisqually Forest Health Thinning – Nisqually State Park



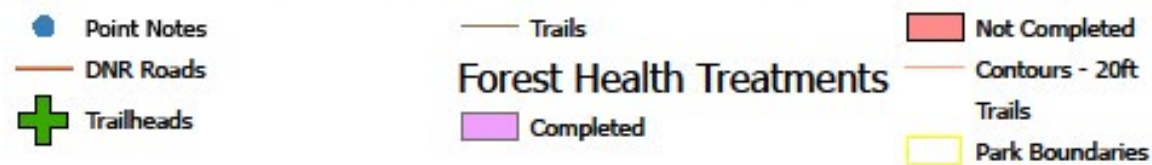
On the Horizon

Park	Project Name	Treatment Type	Estimated Acres
Brooks Memorial State Park	Frowny Face FHT	Commercial Thinning	49
Lake Chelan State Park	Lake Chelan FHT	Commercial Thinning	45
Riverside State Park	Pine Bluff RxB	Prescribed Burn	55
Duguala State Park Property	Signal FHT	Commercial Thinning	~60
Mount Spokane State Park	Day Mountain FHT	Commercial Thinning	~230
Riverside State Park	(Various)	Noncommercial Thinning	285



On the Horizon

Frowny Face FHT





Wildland Fire Summary

2025 Season

Colleen Foster
Regional Operations Coordinator, East



Photo: Danny Murphy

WASHINGTON STATE PARKS

Burn Area Trails Fire - Riverside

Wildland Fire Program

The **Wildland Fire Program** exists to facilitate defensive measures by certified staff while enhancing partnerships with local, state, and federal entities which specialize in Wildland Fire Response in the protection of park lands.



TRAINING

Over 50 hours of training, both classroom & practical to become “Red Carded.”



EQUIPPING

Certified staff members issued PPE and tools. Agency has 4 Type 6 pump trucks and multiple supply trailers throughout the state.



DEPLOYING

Red Carded staff are prepared to respond during fire season either locally or to assist as needed in other Regions



2025

Season Stats



Total Reported Incidents

- Eastern Region 38
- Northwest Region 8
- Southwest Region 7



30 Certified Wildland Firefighters



First Reported Incident – February

(Wenatchee Confluence)



Last Reported Incident to Date -
September 14TH (Birch Bay)

82% Increase year over
year, highest number
of reported incidents



Canoe Pass Bridge Fire



Photos: Paige Dennis

Photo: Wesley Patterson



2025

Season Stats



16 Management Areas Impacted



Approx. 76 Acres Burned
(Parks land)



95% Human Caused



Most Incidents Still Under Investigation



No Standby Alerts Issued



Fire At Illegal Camp – Sequim Bay



Photos: Andrew Featherston



Photo: Danny Murphy

Fires at Riverside

- 19 Incidents affecting the area
- At least 16 incidents confirmed as arson
- Impacts included evacuations, closures, investigations, IC using Lake Spokane campground, extra patrols
- Over 60 acres, primarily on park lands, (not including 2,500 Lake Spokane Fire)

Photo: Bobbi Dart

Photo: Danny Murphy

Morin Trailhead



MP 27.5



Trail 100



Photo: Bobbi Dart

Military Cemetery



Photo: Jason Bearden

Equestrian Fire



Photo: Paul Neddo

Lake Spokane



Military Pump House



- Multiple fire starts on same days
- Loss of time and resources
- Investigations ongoing

MP 32



2025

Fires at Riverside & Near Vicinity



“Equestrian” Fires

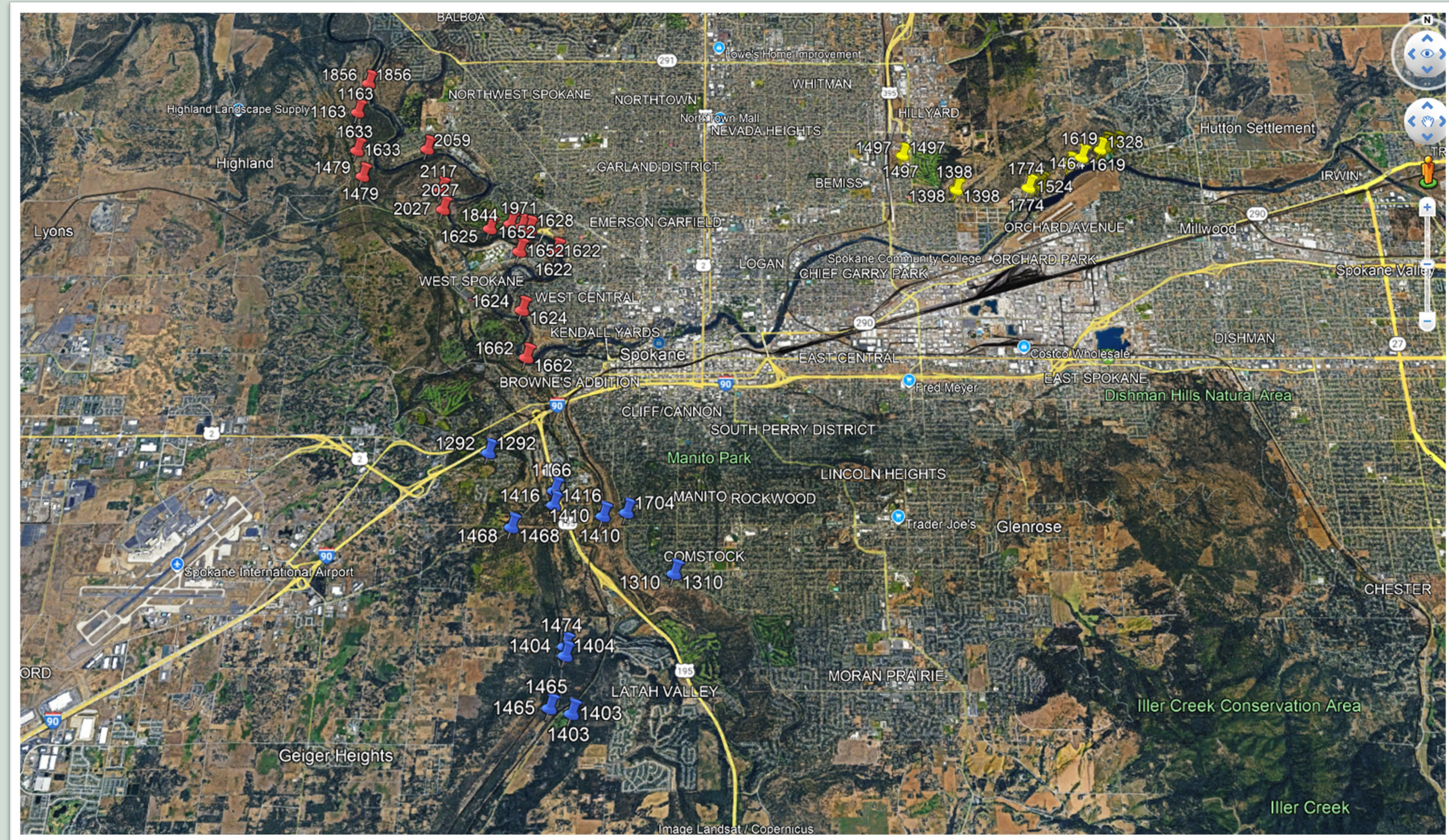


“Marshall” Fires



“Beacon Hill” Fires

All these fires are connected by either the Centennial Trail, Fish Lake Trail, or an off-shoot trail. It is possible the Equestrian and Marshall fires could have been set by the same person. The investigations continue.



Information and Graphic Provided by: John Ashley





Photo: Krystal Miller

Kanaskat-Palmer



Photo: Nicholas Manning

Wenatchee Confluence

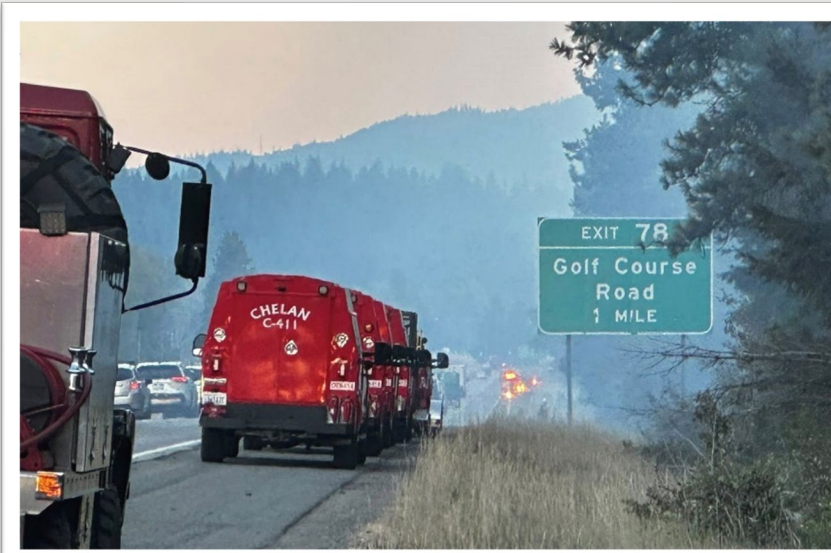


Photo: KIRO

PTCT/Lake Easton



Photo: Wesley Patterson



Photo: Elizabeth Bailey

Larrabee



Photo: Kevin Slease

Long Beach SCA



Photo: Joe Higby

Dalles Mountain Ranch



Photo: Charles Stewart

Ocean City



Photo: Patti Wong

Pearrygin Lake

Columbia Plateau Trail

Agency-Wide Incidents





Centennial Trail MP 32

Photo: Paul Neddo



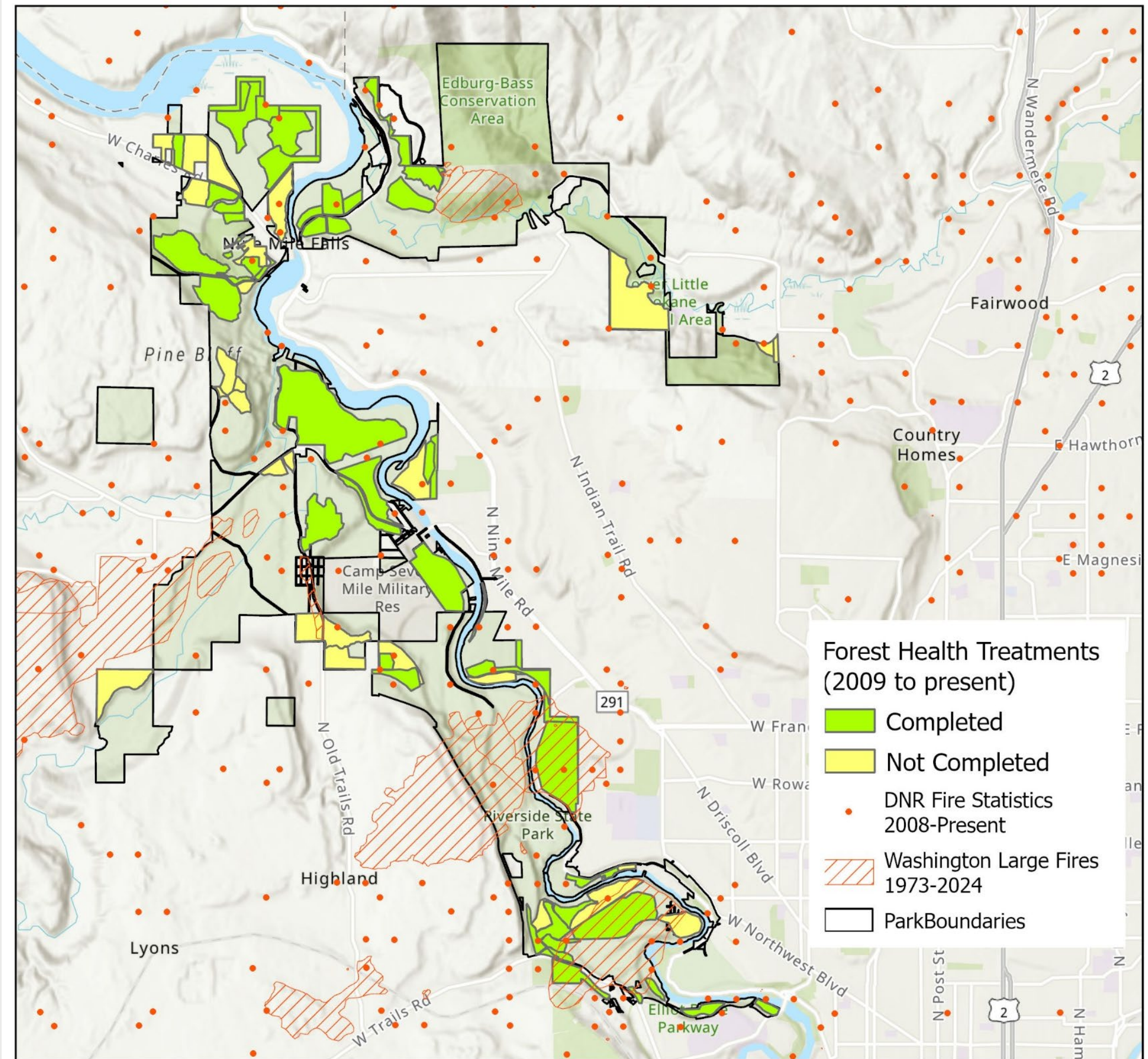
Wildland Fire Program

Colleen Foster
Regional Operations Coordinator, East



Fire Risk Management

- 1057 wildfires < 1 mile of Riverside since 1970
- 28 large wildfires < 1 miles since 1973
- 2,116 acres of forest health treatments since 2009.
- 1/3 of all forest health treatments in State Parks are at Riverside.





Arboriculture Program Overview



Arboriculture Program Makeup

Arbor Crew Northwest

Matt Kilgore-Brown (6 yrs)

Hunter Chalmers (1 yr)

Arbor Crew Southwest

Mik Miazio (8 yrs)

Beowulf Brower (3 yrs)

Arbor Crew East

VACANT

Edwin Torres (2 yrs)

Statewide

David Cass (9 yrs)

Adam Airolidi (3 yrs)



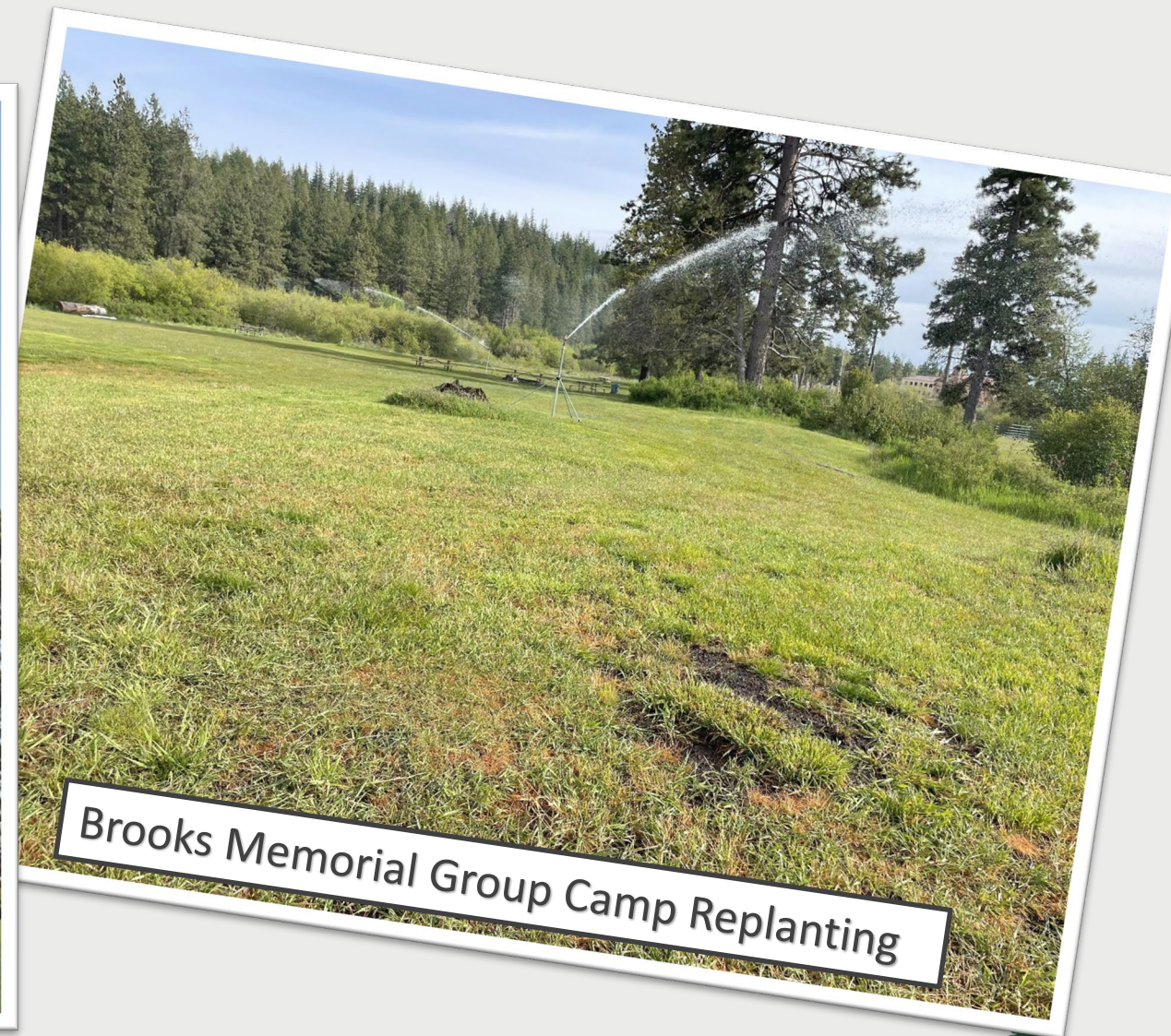
Highlights



Emel House Maple Cabling



Peace Arch Oak Root Zone Rehab



Brooks Memorial Group Camp Replanting



Highlights





Get in touch

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