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A banner image showing a dense forest of tall evergreen trees under a clear blue sky. The text "blue mountains" is written in a large, white, lowercase sans-serif font, and "FOREST RESILIENCY PROJECT" is written below it in a large, bold, lime-green, uppercase sans-serif font.

# blue mountains FOREST RESILIENCY PROJECT

BLUE MOUNTAINS RESTORATION STRATEGY

## Tonight's Agenda

**Welcome**

6:00 p.m

**Presentation**

6:10 p.m.

**Small Group Discussions**

6:30 p.m.

**Close-Out**



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# blue mountains FOREST RESILIENCY PROJECT

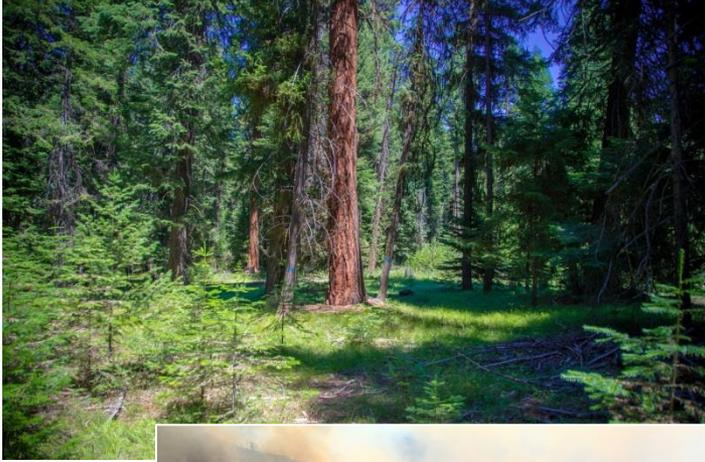
BLUE MOUNTAINS RESTORATION STRATEGY

# Proposed Action Overview

## Blue Mountains Restoration Strategy

Ochoco, Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests

# Why here? Why now?



- Millions of acres of overstocked forest in need of restoration
- Large and severe wildfires
- Insect and disease outbreaks
- Climate Change

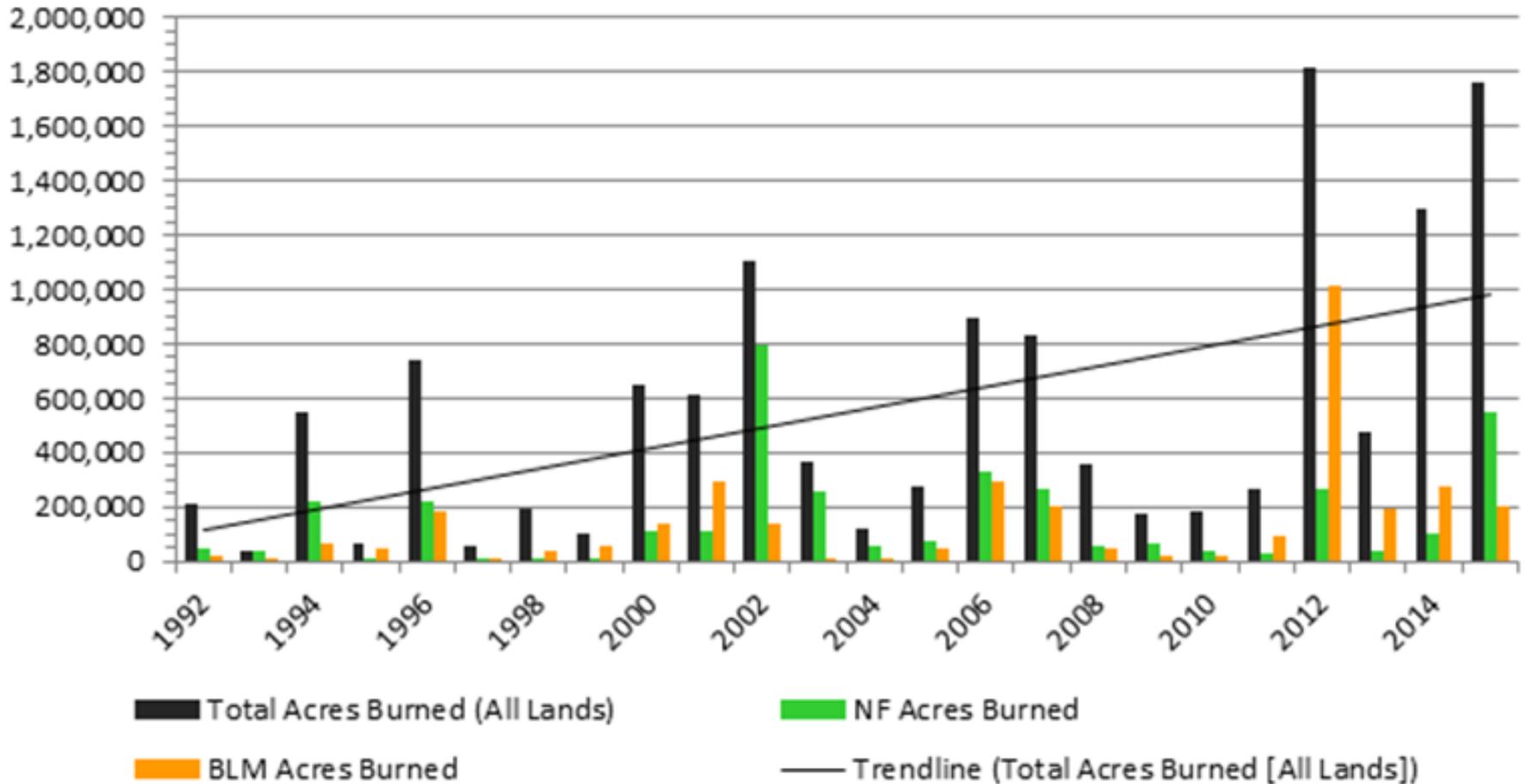


***The current pace of active management is not keeping pace with Forest growth***



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# Acres Burned by Wildfire in OR & WA (1992-2015)

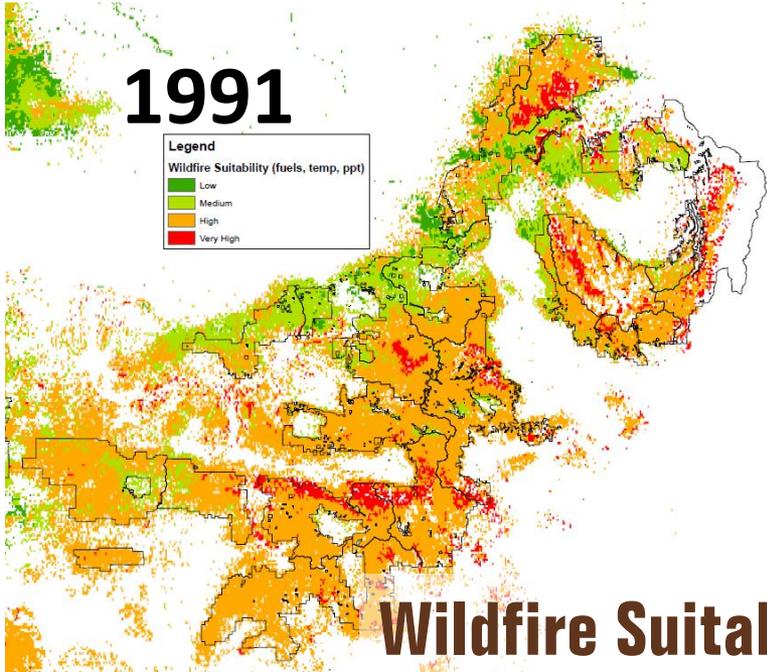


**282,160 acres burned on NFS lands  
in Blue Mountains in 2015**

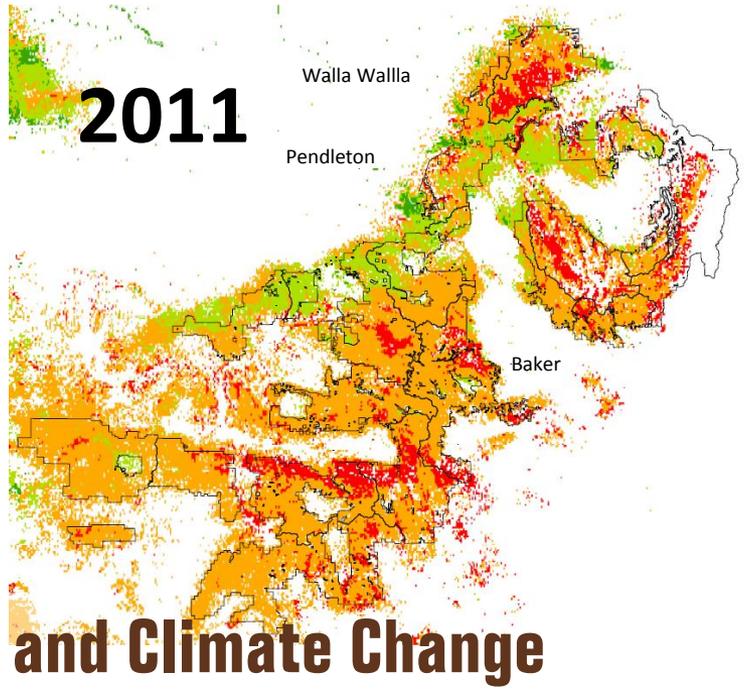


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**1991**

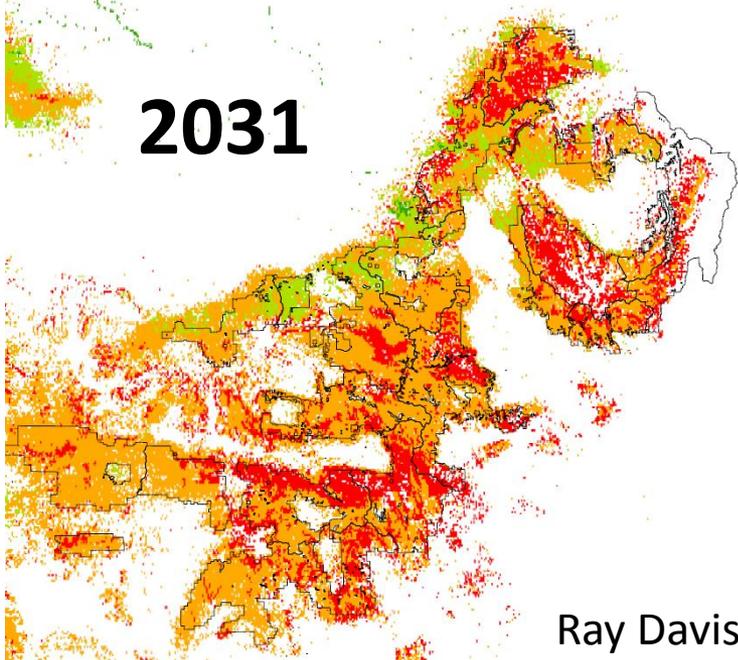


**2011**

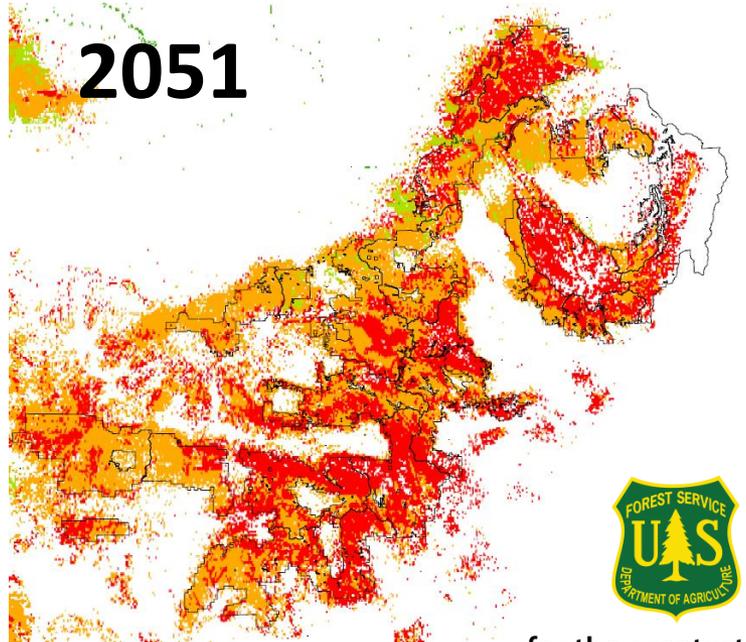


**Wildfire Suitability and Climate Change**

**2031**



**2051**



Ray Davis 2015



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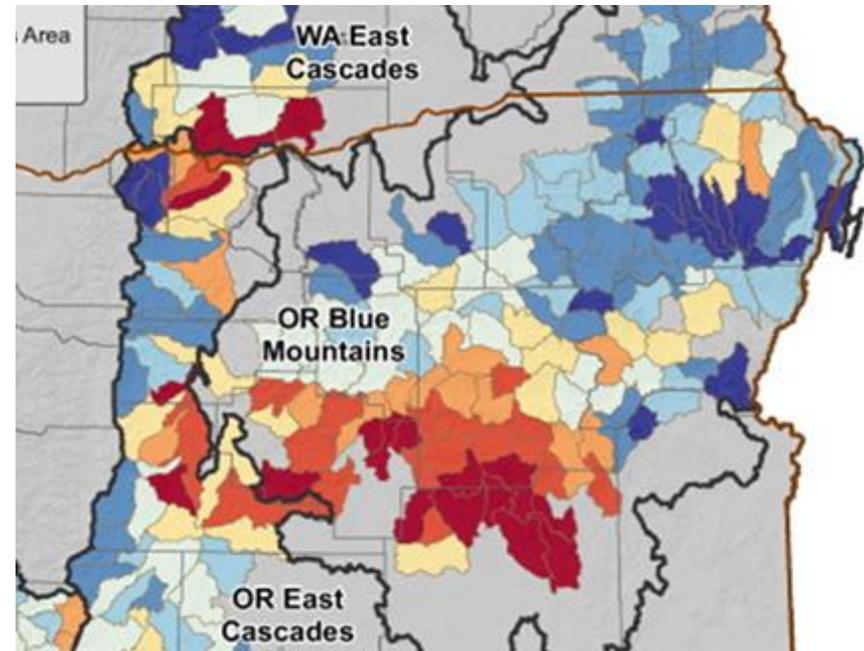
# Eastside Restoration Strategy

## Background

- Scientific Restoration Needs Assessment (partnership with The Nature Conservancy and the Forest Service)
- Charter Initiated by the Pacific Northwest Regional Forester

## Restoration Strategy Goals

- Learning among Forests, stakeholders, tribes and government agencies
- Learn from planning large-scale restoration projects
- Focus on planning *and* implementation

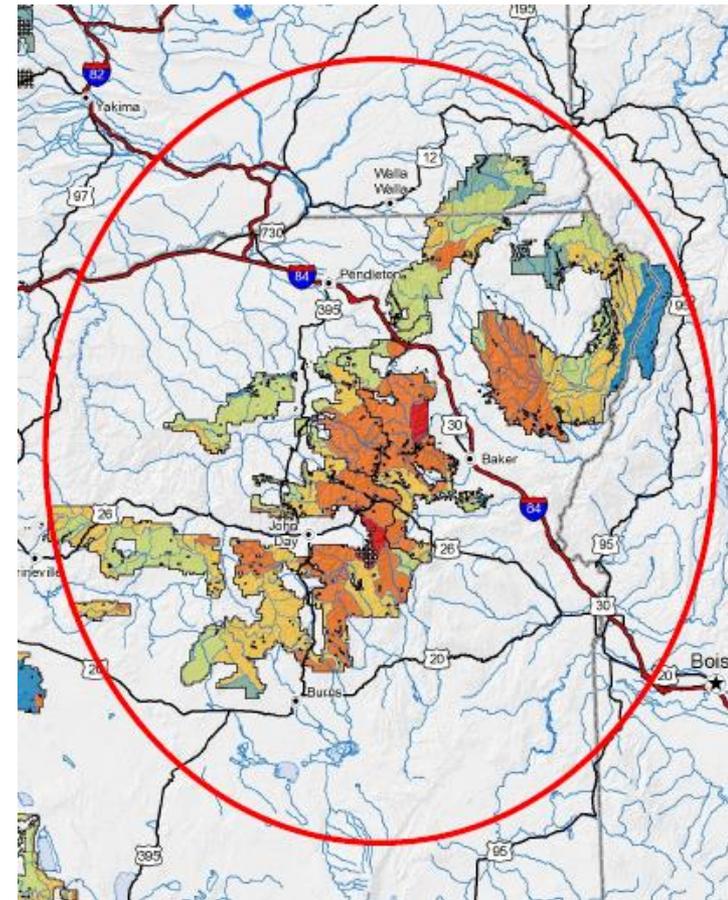


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# Blue Mountains Restoration Strategy Team

Charged by the Regional  
Forester to:

- Plan projects at large scale and faster pace
- Narrow focus – vegetation management
- Work with interested stakeholders, tribes, and local government agencies



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# Blue Mountains Forest Resiliency Project

## Project Goals

- Return the Blue Mountains to healthier conditions
- Reduce the risks of unusually large and severe wildfires
- Reintroduce the natural role of fire
- Contribute to local communities (reduced risk of fire spread, increased jobs, etc.)



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# Forest Resiliency Project

## Proposed Action

- **610,000 acres proposed**
  - Ochoco National Forest: 120,000 acres of treatment
  - Umatilla National Forest: 210,000 acres of treatment
  - Wallowa-Whitman National Forest: 280,000 acres of treatment
- **Designed to**
  - create resilient landscape forest patterns
  - Support safe and effective fire management

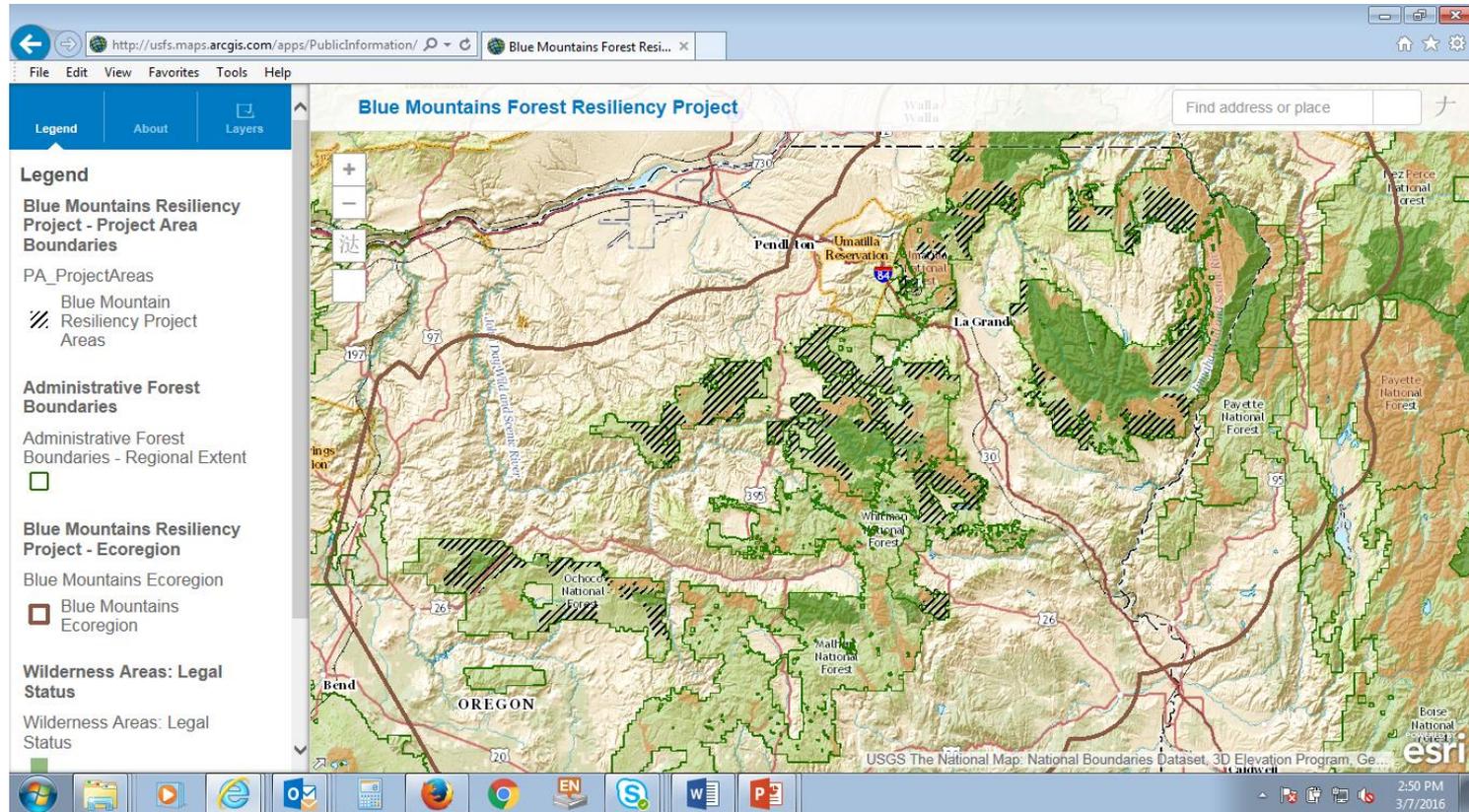


## Potential Treatment Activities



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# Forest Resiliency Project Interactive Map

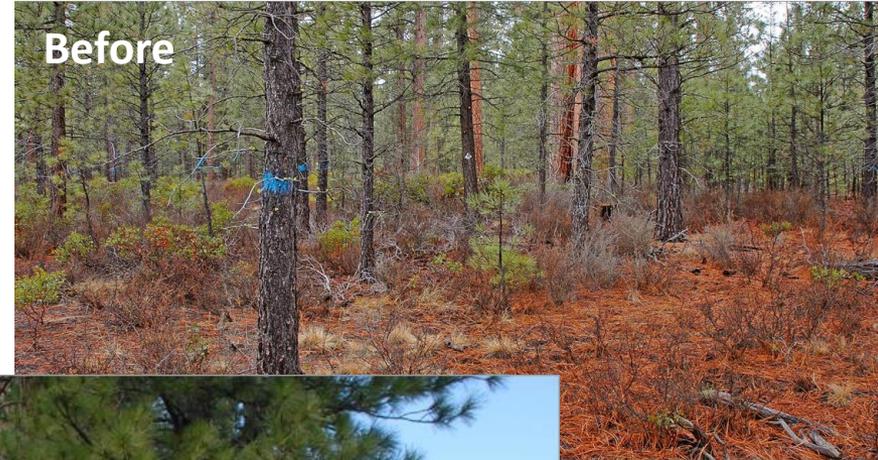


<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/bluemountainsforestresiliency/documents>



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# What does restoration Look like?



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# Other resource benefits of the Forest Resiliency Project

## Recreation

- Maintain current levels of recreation access and opportunities

## Aquatic Resources

- Conserve long-term conditions for federally listed fish species and their habitats
- Conserve long-term water quality and improve watershed health

## Wildlife

- Restore habitats to a healthy condition that is more resilient to natural disturbances.

## Sensitive Plants

- Conserve sensitive plants dependent on either open or closed forest conditions

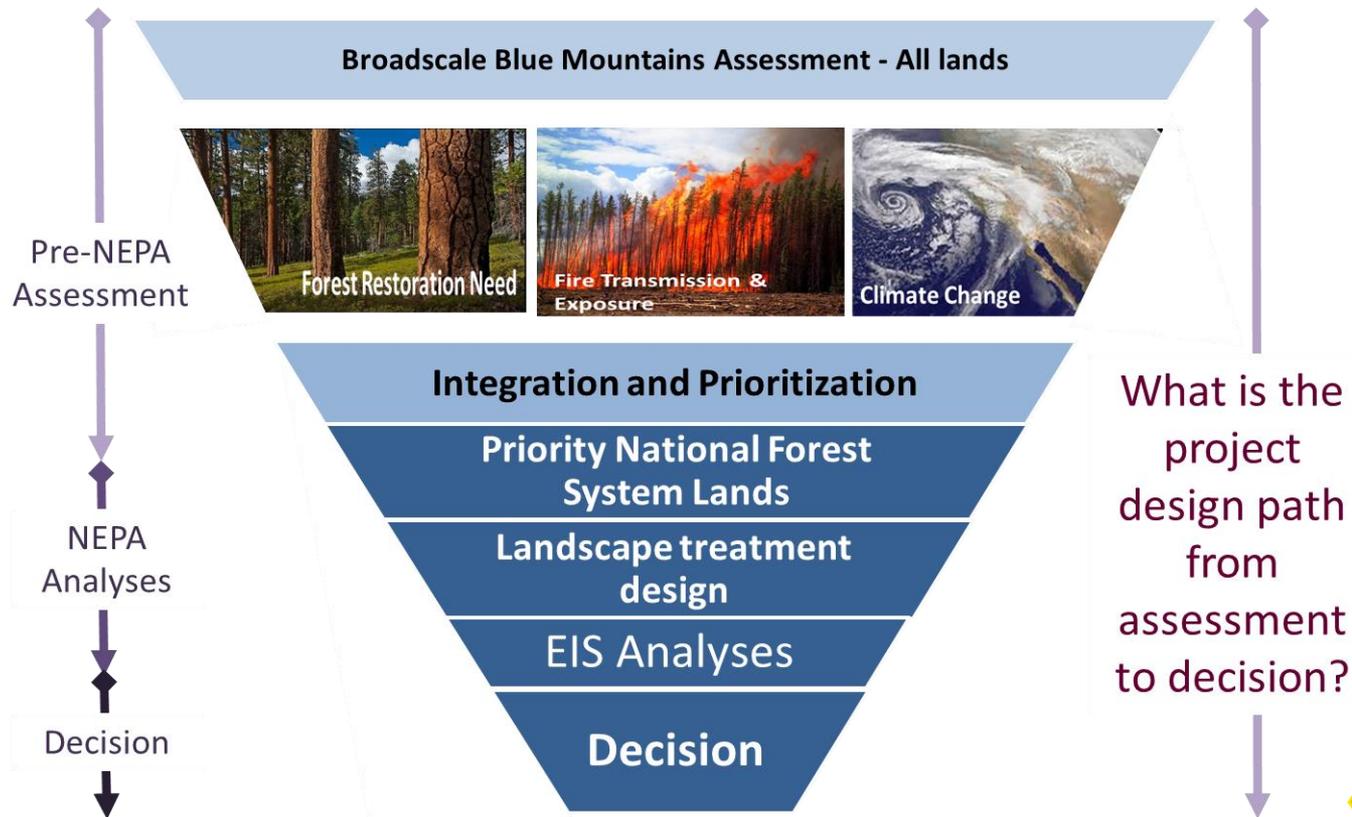
## Range

- Improved, and in some cases created forage as an incidental benefit of silvicultural treatments and prescribed fire.



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# Forest Resiliency Project Planning Process



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# The path forward for the Forest Resiliency Project

## Timeline

- **February 5, 2016-** Beginning of 60-day Scoping Period (comment period ends on April 5, 2016)
- **July 2016-** Anticipated Release of Draft EIS
- **December 2016-** Anticipated Release of FEIS and draft Records of Decision. Objection process begins
- **March 2017-** Resolution of objections on draft Records of Decisions released in December



# The path forward Get Involved!!

## How to Comment

- **Online:**  
<http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/forestresiliencyprojectcomments>
- **Email:** [r6restorationprojects@fs.fed.us](mailto:r6restorationprojects@fs.fed.us)
- **Postal Mail:** Blue Mountains Restoration Strategy Team, 72510 Coyote Rd., Pendleton, OR 97801.
- **Fax:** 541-278-3730



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# The path forward Get Involved!!

## Tips for Commenting

- Help the Forest Service identify what is right for the land, while also enhancing social and economic vitality
- Submit specific comments, which could include alternative ways to accomplish what is being proposed, including your rationale of why to do it that way
- All comments will be analyzed, read, and considered in the development of the project.



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# Open Discussion

**Thank you for your time and participation!**

*Follow our project at: <http://www.fs.usda.gov/goto/bluemountainsforestresiliency>*