

Forest Health and Resiliency



2025-27 Maintain Total Funding at \$6.0 million

Success Story: Forest Health
Treatments Across Time,
Ramsey Creek Wildlife Area



Pre-thinning, 2018



Post-thinning, 2019



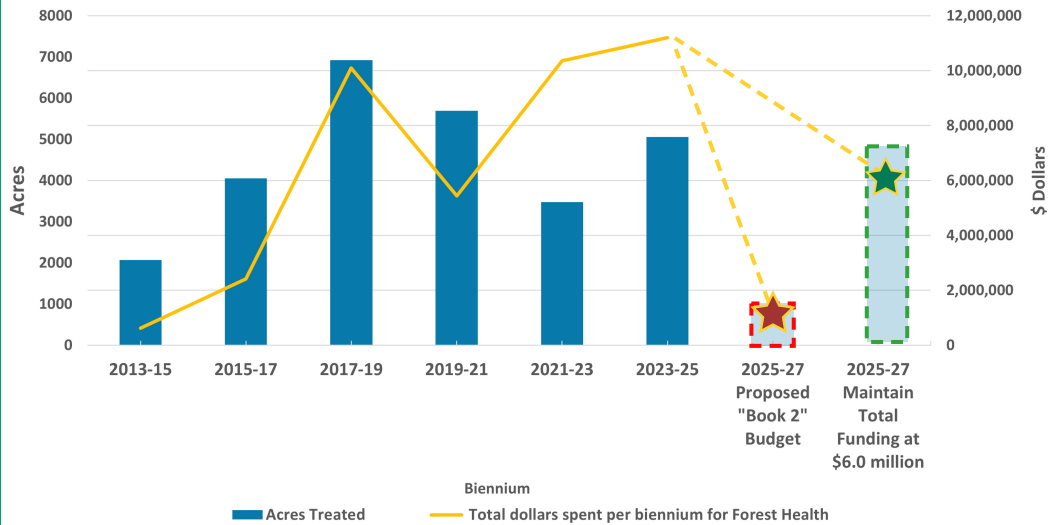
Post-prescribed burn, 2024

See also:
[Forest Health Storymap](#)
[Ramsey Creek 2018-24](#)

Contact information:
Cynthia Wilkerson
Deputy Director,
Wildlife Program
Cynthia.Wilkerson@dfw.wa.gov

WDFW aims to enhance the health of 100,000 acres of forested lands by 2037. With adequate funding, WDFW can average 5,000 acres of treatments per year, reducing wildfire risk and promoting species biodiversity. To achieve our vision, we seek \$6 million for 2025-27 to advance vital initiatives and protect WDFW-managed lands.

Forest Health Activity and Spending per Biennium



Treatment Progress
2014-2025

27,282
reported total
treatment acres

\$40.1 M
total spending in Forest
Health treatments

Base Funding Levels

Biennium	Total Funding
2013-15	\$618,000
2015-17	\$2.4 million
2017-19	\$10 million
2019-21	\$5.4 million
2021-23	\$6 million
2023-25	\$4 million
2024 Supplemental	\$2 million per FY*
2025-27	\$1.2 million*

*agency indirect removed to mirror capital budget

Key Points

- Gov Inslee's Book 2 proposed budget represents an 80% cut to WDFW's forest health and resilience work.
- These devastating cuts are on top of increasing costs of land management.
 - WDFW's economist estimates an 81.9% increase in land management costs since 2016, costs which directly carry over to forest health activities.
- The reduction will result in:
 - 3,000 fewer acres treated
 - Sole reliance on contracted crews for prescribed burning, with loss of institutional knowledge and specific skills
 - Increased wildfire risk and intensity with fewer treatments puts communities at higher risk, where WDFW lands are nearer to communities