



# **SOUTH SACHEEN FOREST HEALTH TREATMENT**

**Washington Department of Natural Resources  
Northeast Region**



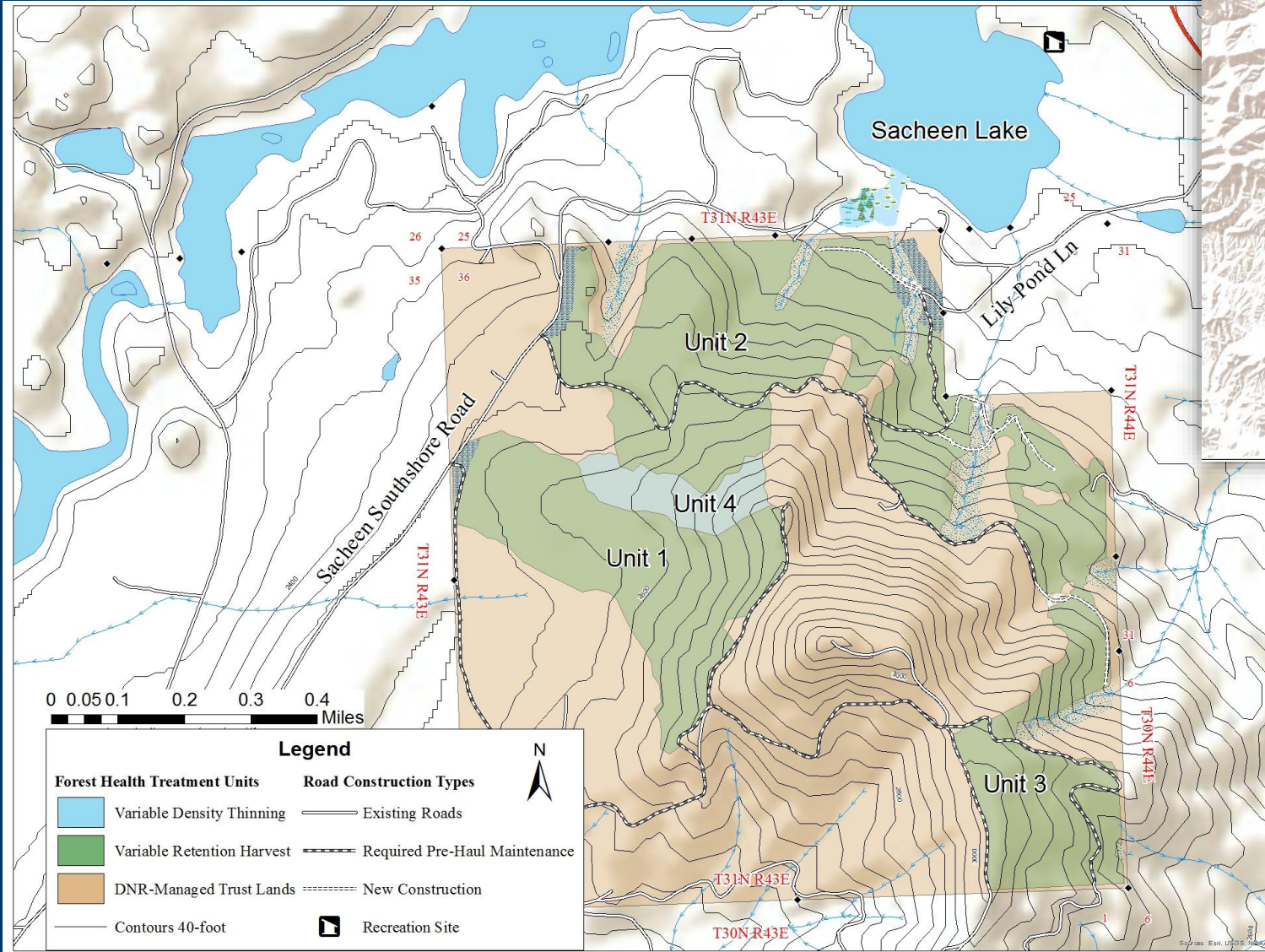
# Forested Trust Lands

Type of *public lands* that generate revenue for specific beneficiaries

- **State Lands** are here to provide equity across generations
- ***Sustainably managed*** to retain the long-term production capacity of the forest
  - Recognizing that near-term actions can create long-term economic, ecological, and social benefits



# UNIT LAYOUT



South Sacheen is a 230-acre, four-unit treatment located south of Sacheen Lake\*. This treatment is estimated to generate \$1.3 million to facilitate additional forest health activities and for school construction, depending on market conditions.

*\*Harvest unit boundaries are approximate and subject to change*

# Forest Health Treatments

## Many ecosystem components like...

- Trees
- Soil
- Water
- Wildlife habitat

## Can be threatened by...

- Other components (i.e. insects, and animals)
- Disease
- Catastrophic fire and other weather events
- Climate change

## DNR will implement practices to keep insects, disease, and other stressors to manageable levels

- Minimizes risk for our forests and our neighbors
- Maximize ecosystem productivity





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# Fir Engraver

[dnr.wa.gov](http://dnr.wa.gov)



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# Pine Beetle

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# Mistletoe

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# 2021 Ford Corkscrew Fire

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# Creating Healthier Forests

**Management activities, including prescribed fire, can be used to keep forests healthy and resilient to:**

- **Insects**
- **Disease**
- **Catastrophic fire events, exacerbated by drought and climate change**

**Emphasizing management of species composition and stocking levels**

- **Treating the underlying causes of forest health problems in addition to the symptoms**

**It is also important to treat localized outbreaks of insects, diseases, noxious plants and animal damage when necessary**



# Marking Standards

## Stands are painted to retain:

- Very large diameter, structurally unique conifers
- Large, structurally unique green trees suited for wildlife
- Legacy and snag recruits
- Dominant and codominant species

## We avoid painting:

- Trees with diseases like root rot or mistletoe
- Trees with a diameter less than 10 inches
- Hazard trees



# Post-Treatment

## Site Preparation for Planting

- **Occurs in the spring**
  - **Allows newly planted trees to grow without a lot of competing vegetation**
- **Preparation can take the form of herbicide or prescribed fire**
- **Area may look disordered after harvest but will grow back in a few years**
- **Around 220 trees per acre are planted evenly across every stand**
  - **Animals such as deer, moose, rabbits, various birds often have increased presence in young stands**



# Post-Treatment

## Aesthetics

- **Expect to see scattered and clumped mature trees remaining with varying openings**
- **There will be breaks in harvest through riparian buffers, protecting streams**
  - **Benefits wildlife and ecological function**



# CURRENT PROJECT TIMELINE



# OPERATIONS TIMELINE

- **1/23/2024: Auction date for timber harvest (Harvest may begin in the spring)**
- **10/26/2025: Contract end date for timber harvest completion**
- **Fall 2025 and/or fall 2026: Prescribed fire burning of mechanical slash piles**
- **Summer/fall 2026: Weed and vegetation control**
- **Spring 2027: Planting by hand crews**

\*Dates are subject to change, due to extensions, weather, ground conditions, among other factors.

# QUESTIONS?



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