

Forest Health Summary Points

Key Concepts

- Tree health ≠ forest health – a healthy system has sick/dying/dead trees.
- Whether something is a problem or not depends on goals/objectives.
- Managing for a healthy forest is all about managing stress.

Drought is the big issue right now

- Direct Impacts
- Indirect Impacts
- Cumulative Impacts
- Delayed Impacts

Identifying and dealing with problems

1. Multiple species; large area impacted indicates abiotic (environmental) stress.
2. Root disease has been the most common WWA biotic agent.
3. Insects should not be your first assumption (but may begin playing a larger role).
4. Discriminate between primary and secondary agents.

Treatment should long-term and system-focused

- “Products” are not the answer – no quick fix
- Right tree, right site
- Density management
- Just say no to grass
- Resilience in diversity

Other thoughts

- Tree mortality is not necessarily a bad thing
- Nature is complex and messy
- Adapt our expectations – learn to tolerate



Forestry

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
EXTENSION