



# Upland Forest Health Treatments

## 2018

### NORTH WARNER FOREST HEALTH PROJECT

Managing landscapes from ridgetop to ridgetop is a successful strategy to improve overall watershed function. Everything that occurs in the uplands affects water release, capture, and storage throughout the landscape. This type of management benefits timber stands, habitat for fish and wildlife, and working landscapes. Ridgetop-to-ridgetop restoration is possible through collaborative partnerships and quality planning followed by implementation. Because of this strategy, we can meet multiple resource objectives from the top of the watershed to the meadows and water bodies below. This trickle-down effect benefits natural resources, protects private and public lands, and positively impacts the economy.

**1. North Warner Forest Health:**

The North Warner Landscape covers 410,000 acres where private landowners and agencies are working across ownership boundaries to promote forest health and fire resiliency. Within this larger landscape, the North Warner Multi-Ownership Forest Health Project encompasses approximately 150,000 acres and focuses on dry forest restoration. This Project is unique due to the extensive stands of old legacy ponderosa pine intermixed with aspen and meadows, with greater sage grouse focal habitat immediately adjacent to the north and east. The landscape is at a severe risk of uncharacteristically intense disturbance due to heavy fuel loading and stand densities.

**2. 2017-2018 Treatments:**

Partnership collaboration between ODF, USFS, NRCS, OSU Extension, Lake County Watershed Council and 20 private landowners has led to forest health thinning on 5,082 acres private land, and 21,351 acres in the National Forest. Slash pile burning will begin this winter as conditions are appropriate.

**3. North Warner Phase II:**

The NRCS and Lake County Watershed Council were both awarded funding for a second phase

of forest health thinning for 2019 - 2021. Ten new property owners will be participating in these efforts, with a goal of thinning another 5,000 acres. This funding and treatment area ties directly into the Fremont Winema's project focal area, which is the Crooked, Mud and Honey Creek watersheds. The National Forest plans to treat another 12,800 acres within this unit.

**4. Aspen Stand Enhancement:**

Aspen stands provide valuable habitat for mule deer and other wildlife. To keep these stands healthy thinning out encroaching conifer and juniper trees is valuable for future recovery and sustainability of the aspen stand. This project removed 40 acres of juniper from within and around the aspen stand perimeter. This project was funded by OWEB and the property owner.

**5. Upland Juniper Treatment:**

The Lake County Watershed Council in partnership with two private landowners in the Sycan and Goose Lake Watersheds treated 70 acres of juniper this season. This project will improve vegetation condition, remove dense canopy cover, and increase available water r

