



# Good Neighbor Authority Treating Tribes and Counties As Good Neighbors Act



By Aaron Miles, Sr., Natural Resource Manager

# Idaho Lawmakers Introduce Bill to Manage Forests, Reduce Wildfire Risk

July 27, 2021

**WASHINGTON** – Today, U.S. Senator Jim Risch (R-Idaho) introduced the Treating Tribes and Counties as Good Neighbors Act, with Rep. Russ Fulcher (R-Idaho) introducing the House companion bill.

The legislation will extend full partnership eligibility for the Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) program – which facilitates federal forest restoration and management projects – to Tribes and Counties.

“The 2021 wildfire season underscores the need to use every tool in the toolbox to mitigate wildfire risk. The GNA program is just such a tool. Congress made the decision to extend GNA to Tribes and Counties in 2018, and we owe it to them to do so correctly,” **said Risch**. “This legislation gives all GNA partners the greatest ability to collaborate on forest management projects and reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires across the West.”

“Tribes and Counties in Idaho have the authority to decrease their reliance on federal land managers and oversee Idaho’s forests to reduce wildfire risk, but their current financial resources are lacking because they cannot retain receipts like the States. This financial hurdle is addressed by the ‘Treating Tribes and Counties as Good Neighbors Act,’ allowing Tribes and Counties to fully utilize the Good Neighbor Authority, ensuring new cooperative management projects throughout Idaho,” **said Fulcher**.

Supporters of the Treating Tribes and Counties as Good Neighbors Act include Governor of Idaho Brad Little, the Idaho Forest Group, the National Association of Counties, the Intertribal Timber Council, the National Association of State Foresters, and the National Congress of American Indians.

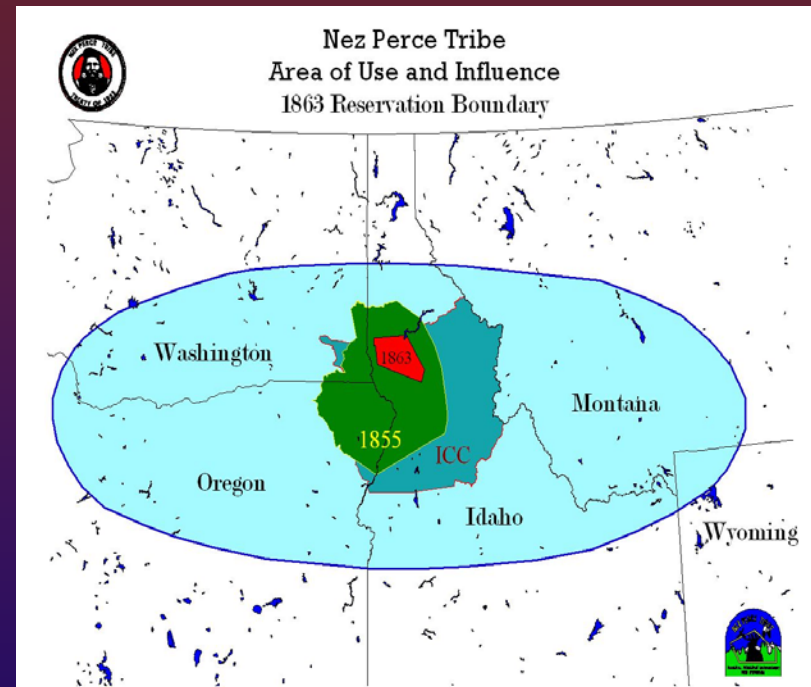
## **Statements of Support:**

“Idaho has demonstrated true leadership in the management of federal lands in our state. The level of collaboration across so many diverse interests and levels of government is a testament of our commitment to getting more people to work in our forests, reducing the risk of fire, and improving the overall health of our lands for future generations of Idahoans to use and enjoy. I want to thank Senator Risch and Congressman Fulcher for introducing this important bill to clarify the expenditure of Good Neighbor Authority revenues. Working together, we have created a blueprint for other states to follow.” — **Governor of Idaho Brad Little**

## Legal Instruments

1. Tribal Forest Protection Act 2004 (TFPA): initiated by the Intertribal Timber Council and member tribes to protect tribal trust land adjacent to federal land.
2. 638 Self-Determination: Farm Bill of 2018, Section VIII Forestry Section – allows Tribes to be eligible under the Good Neighbor Authority Agreements; permits the Secretary of Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into 638 self-determination agreements to take over management functions under the TFPA.
3. Good Neighbor Authority: Treating Tribes and Counties as Good Neighbors (Act) sponsored by US Senator Jim Risch and Congressman Russ Fulcher also supported by Governor Brad Little

# Nez Perce Tribe





# Tribe/Nez Perce Clearwater GNA Agreement



- ❖ NP Resolution 22-276
- ❖ Resolution adopts the Master Agreement
- ❖ NPT GNA is structured through Master Agreement (FS)
- ❖ Supplemental Project Agreements tier to the Master Agreement
- ❖ SPA specify terms and conditions for implementation of projects
- ❖ Immediate Focus – Ceded Lands Coordinator to develop projects (SPA's)

# Why GNA for Tribes?



- ❖ Growth & Capacity Development
- ❖ Resource Protection and Enhancement
- ❖ Climate Change Resiliency
- ❖ Regaining traditional ecological knowledge
- ❖ Bringing a Tribal Land Ethic to the Collaboration with USFS and other partners

# Department of Natural Resources

IRMP Coordinator  
*Kerey Barnowe-Meyer*

**Natural Resources Manager**  
*Aaron Miles, Sr.*

Office Specialist  
*Vacant*

**Forestry & Fire Director**  
*Howard Teaslev*

**Land Services Director**  
*Kim Cannon*

**ERWM Director**  
*Jack Bell*

**Cultural Resources Director**  
*Nakia Williamson*

**Wildlife Director**  
*Neil Thagard*

Inventory & Planning  
Forester  
*Jeffrey Cronic*

Project Lead Forester  
*Brian Kummet*

Timber Sales Forester  
*Andrew Sarcelos*

Forester  
*Selina Miles*

Allotment Forester  
Firewood Coordinator  
*Howard Teaslev*

Fire Mgmt Officer  
*Jeff Handel*

Fuels Planner  
*Tim Droege*

**Water Resources Director**  
*Ken Clark*

Climate Change Specialist  
*Stefanie Krantz*

104(B)(3)Wetlands  
*Ken Clark*

LUST Coordinator  
*John Loffredo*

106 & 319 Team Leader  
*Ken Clark*

Utilities Coordinator  
*Jason Vangen*

Solid Waste Coordinator  
*Linda Nemeth*

Bio-control Coordinator  
*Paul Brusven*

GIS Coordinator  
*Laurie Ames*

Horseman Specialist  
*Jake Whiteplume*

Agricultural Management  
*Kim Cannon*

NRDA Coordinator  
*Anthony Smith*

Emergency Management  
*John Wheaton*

Air Quality Coordinator  
*Julie Simpson*

Hanford Response  
*Jack Bell*

THPO/Archeology  
*Pat Baird*

Language Team Leader  
*Thomas Gregory*

Ethnography  
Coordinator

NAGPRA Coordinator  
*Robert Taylor*

Hanford Cultural  
*Mike Sobotta*

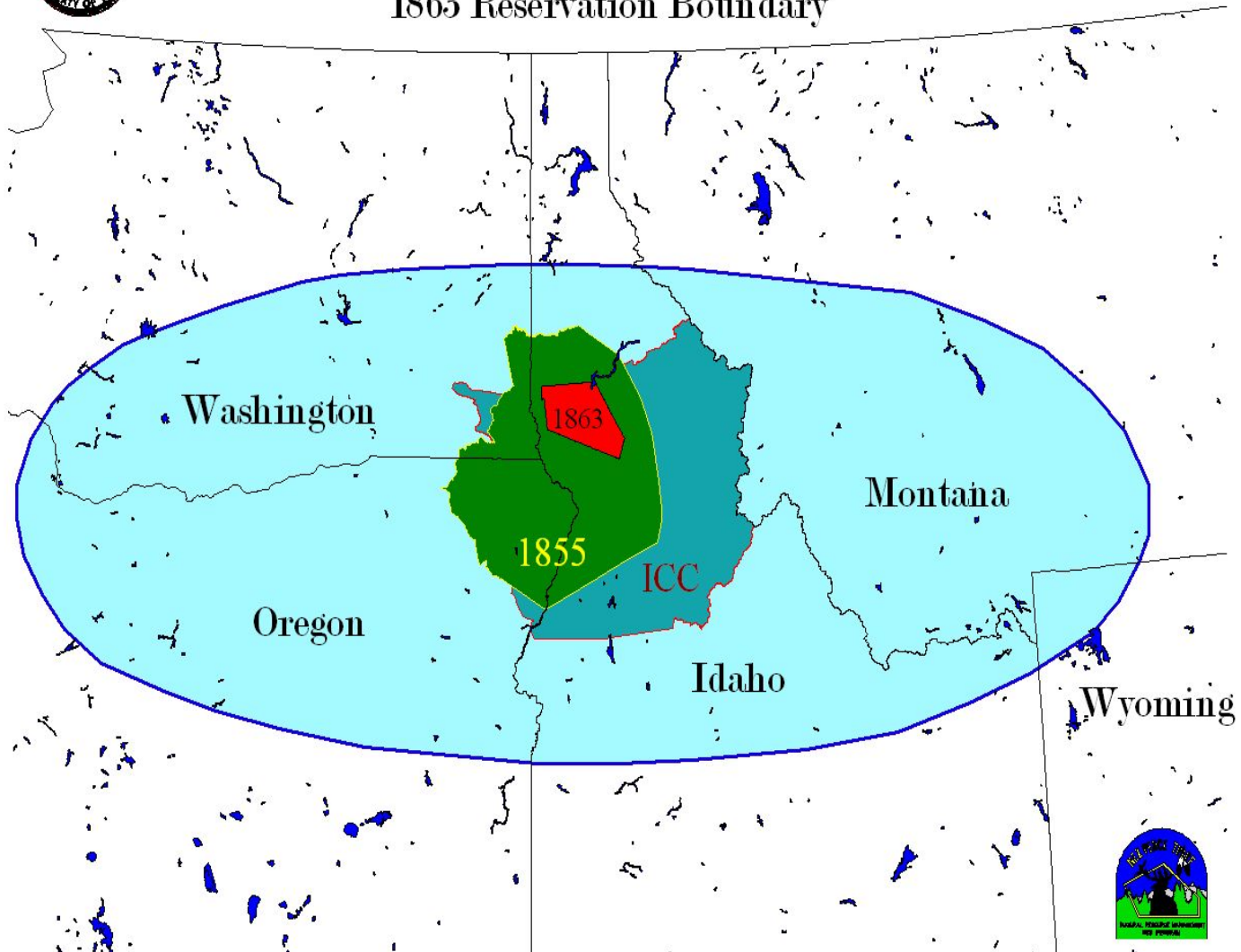
Precious Lands Team Leader  
*Angela Sondenaa*

Dworshak Mitigation Team Leader  
*Kerey Barnowe-Meyer*

On-Rez Wildlife Coordinator  
*Mary Williams*

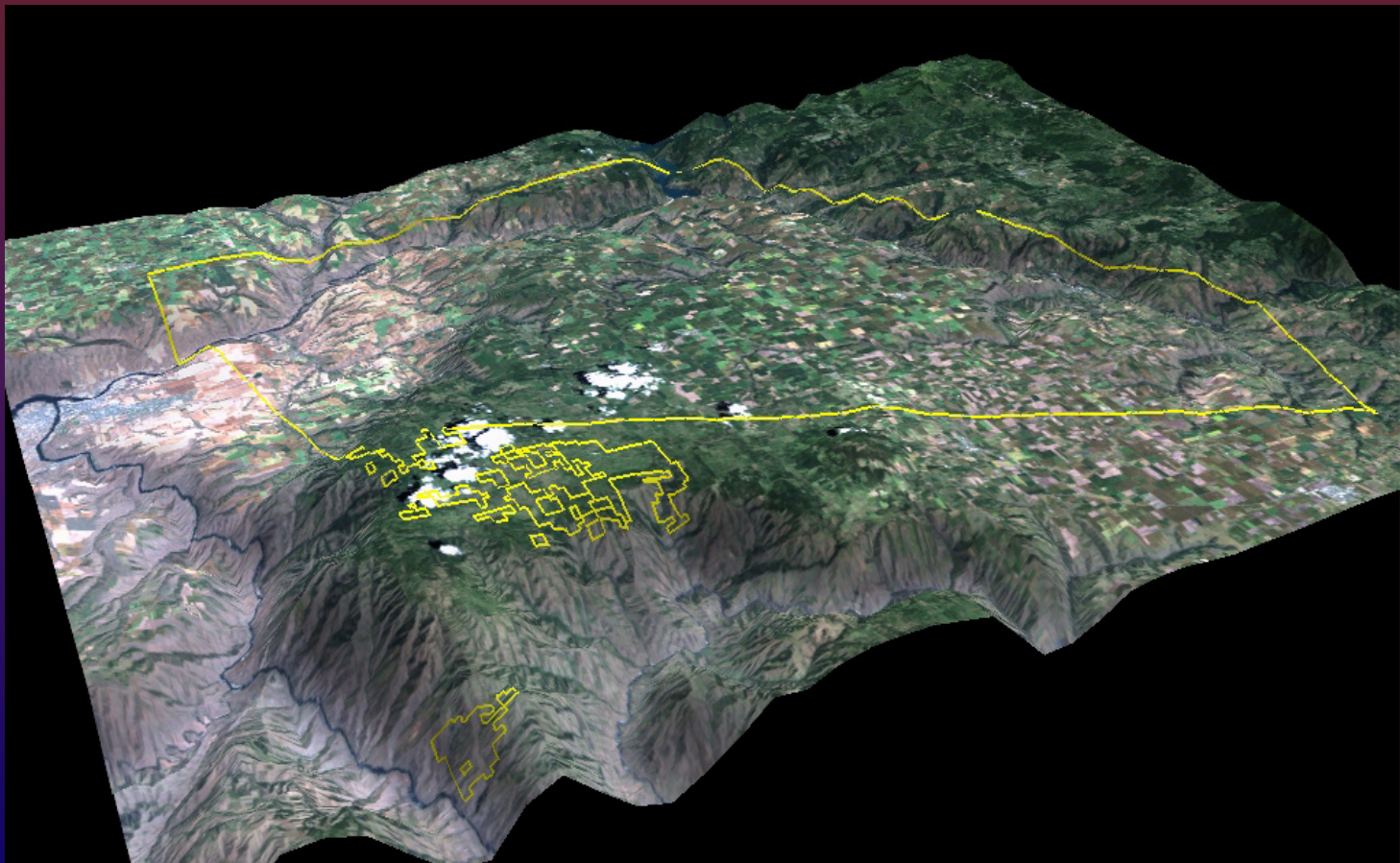


# Nez Perce Tribe Area of Use and Influence 1863 Reservation Boundary

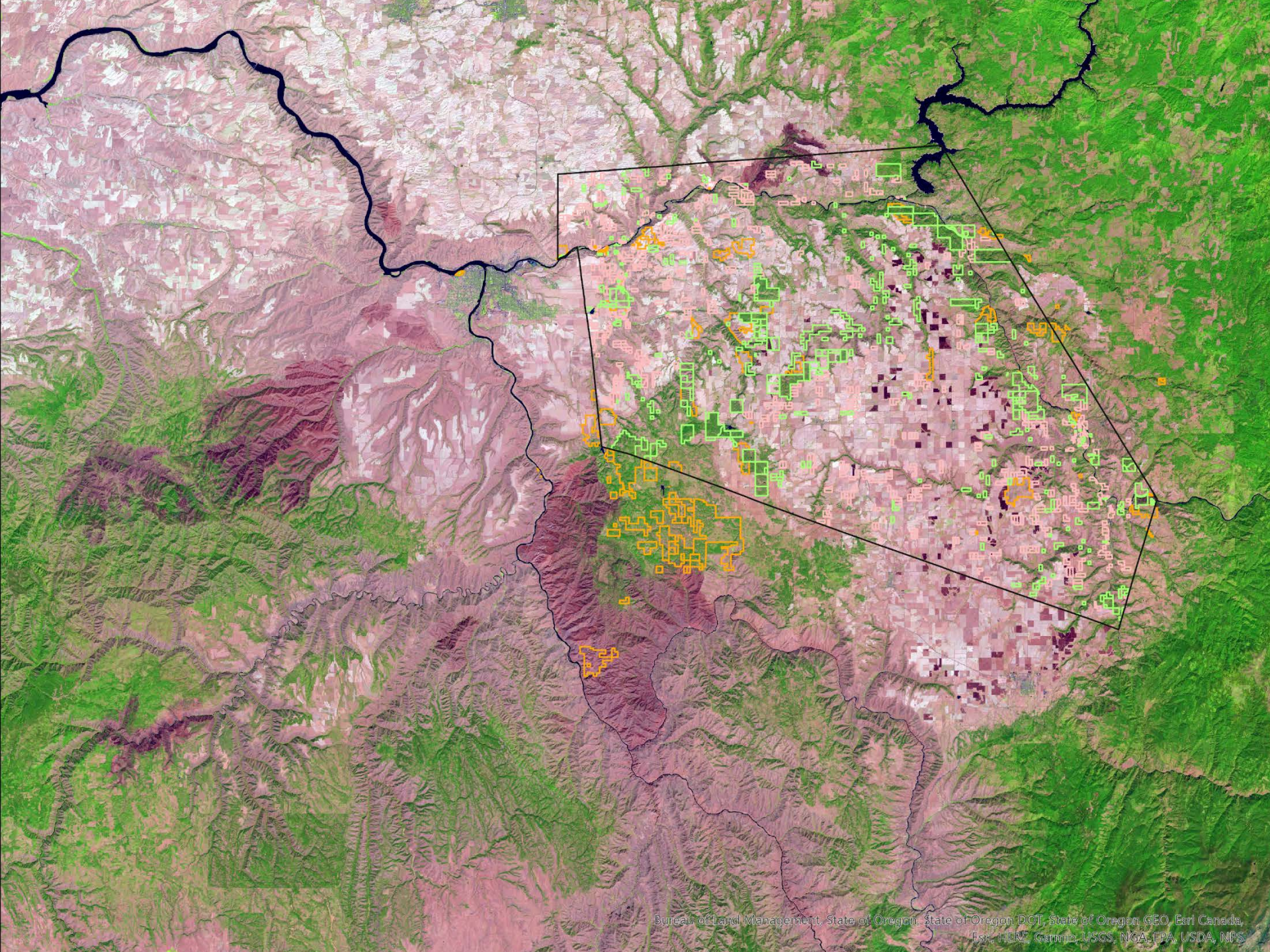




# Treaty of 1863 Reservation











# GNA Allows for Tribes to Restore & Protect Forest Conditions





# Fuels Reduction and Timber Harvest

## Late Successional



## Early Seral







# Tree Planting & Seeding







# Wildland Fires (Natural and Man made)

- Climate Change Adaptation
- Moving towards forest resiliency to wildfire and insects & disease
- Wildland Fire Suppression vs. Allowing wildfires to create mosaic forests (natural and prescribed fire)
- mastication



# High Severity, High Intensity Fires







# Insects & Disease

## (Endemic vs. Epidemic)





# Managed vs. Unmanaged







## To get you up to speed...

- ❖ Total project area as approved by N.P.T.E.C. is roughly 1000/ acres on the Maloney Creek Reserve in the area of the old Marek Ranch.
- ❖ Prior to the Tribe purchasing the land back there is a history of at least (7) prior timber harvests by previous owners and over 100 years of livestock grazing.
- ❖ Upon purchase of the property the Tribe logged a majority of it to pay down costs associated with the

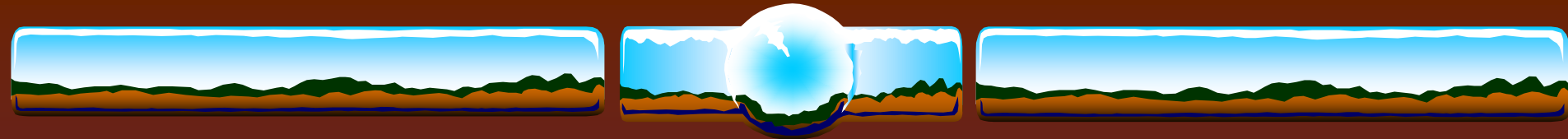
# Feller Buncher



# Forwarder











# Looking Forward...



Amending the language to GNA allowing tribes and counties to retain timber receipts