



Naneum Ridge State Forest

NANEUM RIDGE STATE FOREST is a 71,000-acre oasis of the central Cascade Mountains and also home to one of the largest elk herds in the state of Washington. Specific areas of the forest serve as a vital corridor for the winter and summer ranges of the Yakima and Colockum elk herds. Recreation is a huge draw to Naneum Ridge. Locals and visitors alike can spend days in the forest hiking, snowmobiling and horseback riding.

This is our third year supporting this post-fire restoration project. In 2015, we helped replant approximately 5,000 acres of state trust lands that burned in the Table Mountain Fire of 2012. The project focus is on burned habitat for the Northern Spotted Owl through the agency's Habitat Conservation Plan. A quick turnaround on planting after the fire will help get a jump start on competing vegetation and invasive species as well as preventing soil erosion into area fish-bearing streams.

Planting of more than 100,000 western larch, ponderosa pine and Douglas-fir trees started on April 20 and concluded on May 5. The project was supported by a crew of 13 people made up of 11 planters, one foreman to manage communications and one project coordinator that transferred seedlings to the planters throughout the day. The trees were grown and lifted by a contracted container nursery. All of the seedling trees were Styro 10 container stock grown from Washington Department of Natural Resources-collected seed harvested from appropriate seed zones and elevation ranges. The project was a huge success thanks to Arbor Day Foundation partners!

