

# Forest Health Improvements for the Northern Cheyenne

**USDA  
Forest  
Service**



NORTHERN AND  
INTERMOUNTAIN  
REGIONS

FOREST  
HEALTH  
PROTECTION  
PROGRAM

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Forest management is improving on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in Montana, thanks to a partnership between the Tribe and the Forest Service's Forest Health Protection Program.



Similar to other forests in the West, tree density in the forests on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation was much higher than historic averages. In many places the forests were made up of small, spindly trees that had been weakened by years of overcrowding and drought. The trees were susceptible to beetle infestations and catastrophic wildfires.



The Northern Cheyenne have conducted thinning projects for years. While their goal has been to improve stand conditions and reduce fire hazards, the projects have sometimes inadvertently created conditions that favored the growth of engraver beetle populations in untreated slash.

Members of the Forest Health Protection Program worked with the Tribal Foresters to improve the scheduling of their thinning and slash disposal projects. With an improved understanding of these aspects of their thinning treatments, the Northern Cheyenne can now realize the full benefits of their forest management efforts and be confident their work will lead to healthier forests.

## The Northern Cheyenne Updated Forest Management Efforts:

- Improve stand conditions.
- Reduce hazardous fuels.
- Address the engraver beetle problem.