BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME

...OR WILL THEY?

Bret Forrester, Tacoma Power
FERC LICENSE REQUIREMENT

Construct *up to* 200 acres of elk forage fields

- Few elk in the South Fork Skokomish River drainage
- None in the North Fork
Construction challenges:

- Topography
- Poor soils
- Proximity to elk
PLANTING STRATEGIES

- Used Native Grasses
- Planted in early April
- Applied Fertilizer
...What Grass?!  
Record drought in 2015
GRASS ESTABLISHMENT

Success ...finally!
MONITORING ELK USE

- Pellet group counts (counting poop)
- Qualitative evaluations of elk sign
- Remote cameras
THEY DID COME!
ON THEIR WAY TO THE FIELDS...
...FOLLOWED BY THE PREDATORS
HERD HEADED TO FORAGE FIELDS