



Washington  
State Department of  
Agriculture

# Lessons in Resilience: What Washington's Produce Program Learned From Funding Cuts

AFDO: Produce Track

*Luisa F. Castro, Assistant Director  
Food Safety & Consumer Services Division*

# Washington Agriculture



## THE FRESH TASTE OF WASHINGTON

The state's \$32 billion food and agriculture industry contributes 12 percent of the state economy and employs 160,000 people.

There are 39,000 farms in Washington some totaling 15.7 million acres. Washington's rich, fertile lands are nurtured by a mild climate and a unique growing season, warm days followed by cool nights. The Cascade mountain range creates microclimates that support varied crop diversity. Over 230 food, feed, and seed crops are grown each year, more than any other state except California. Washington ranked first in the nation in the production of 12 commodities: apples, pears, sweet cherries, and raspberries, hops, sprouts, all breeds, Concord and Niagara grapes, carrots, and sweet corn. A full third of the state is in pastureland or rangeland, supporting a large livestock industry. The waters bordering the state to the west support a thriving seafood industry. This natural wealth, combined with the state's proximity to world markets, has made Washington one of the leading exporters of food and agricultural products.

Washington food products are known worldwide for their quality, variety, and professional availability.

Combined with state-of-the-art food processing, world-class transportation and port facilities, and a cutting-edge research and technology sector, Washington state is an agricultural powerhouse.

WASHINGTON FARM BUREAU  
1-800-331-3276 www.wafb.com

If you are interested in joining a Farm Bureau in your county or want more information on member benefits such as health care, safety programs and business services, please call 800-331-3276 or go to www.wafb.com.

These icons represent the top commodities produced in Washington based on crop value.

APPLES	APRICOTS	ASPARAGUS	BAILEY	BEES	BLUEBERRIES	BULBS	CARROTS	CANOLA	CATTLE	CHERRIES	CHICKENS	CHRISTMAS TREES	CRANBERRIES	DRY BEANS	DRY PEAS	EGGS	GOATS	
GRAIN CORN	GRAPES	GRASS SEED	GREEN PEAS	HAY	HERBS	HOGS	HONEY	HOPS	HORSES	LENTILS	MILK	MINX	MINT	MUSHROOMS	NURSERY	NOCTURNALS	OATS	ONIONS
PEACHES	PEARS	POPCORN	POTATOES	RASPBERRIES	RHUBARB	SALMON	SEED	SHEEP	SHELLFISH	SNAP BEANS	STRAWBERRIES	SUGAR BEETS	SWEET CORN	TIMBER	TROUT	TURF GRASS	VEGETABLES	WHEAT

Image source: Washington Farm Bureau

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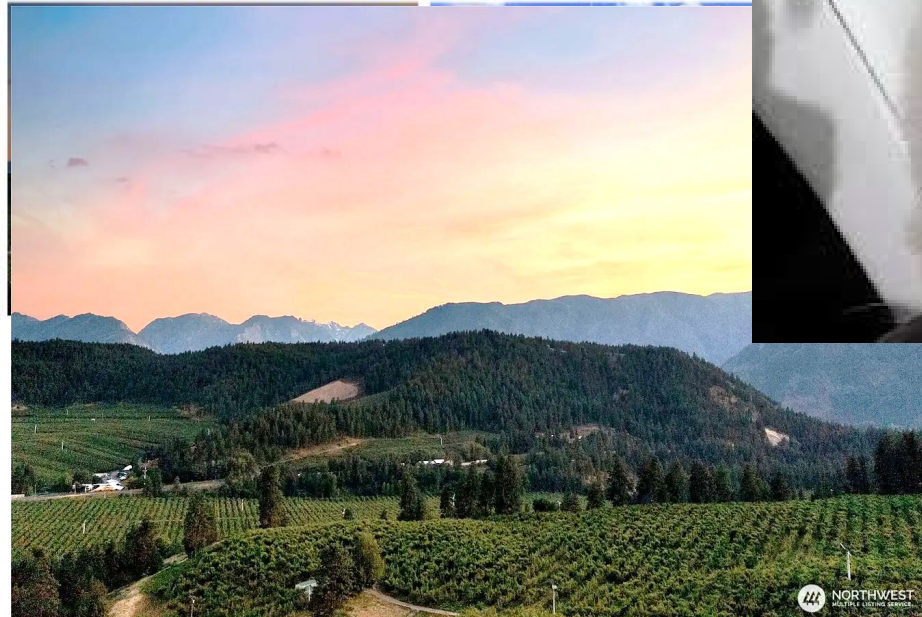
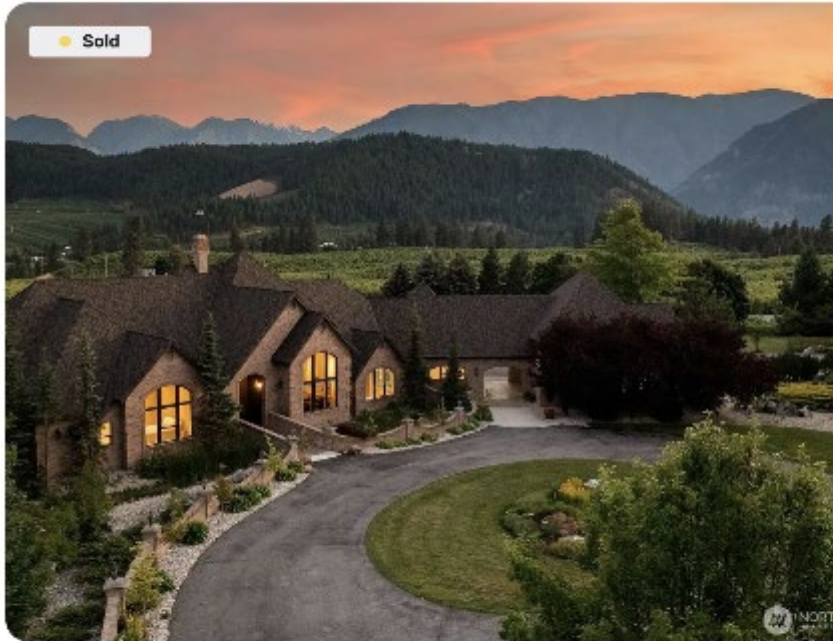


# Wahington Growers

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Listed by: BHHS Leavenworth&Cascade Prop  
Bought with: BHHS Leavenworth&Cascade Prop

**\$2,499,999**

10755 North Road, Leavenworth, WA 98826

**3  
beds**

# WSDA Food Safety & Consumer Services Division participation in Integrated Food Safety System



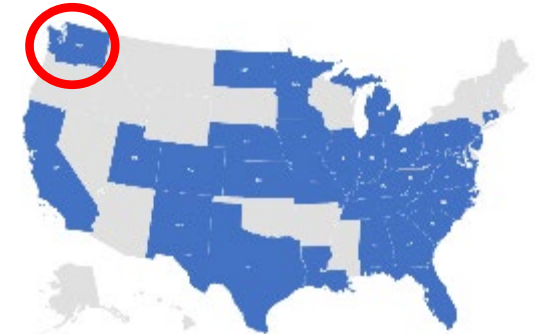
Food Safety - MFRPS



Food Safety – FDA Contract



Animal Food - AFRPS



Animal Feed – FDA Contract



Micro Lab – FFM



Produce Safety - FDA



Rapid Response Team



Food Protection Task Force

# Chapter 15.135 RCW Produce Safety Rule Implementation



PDF

[RCW 15.135.040](#)

## Federal cooperation program.

The department may take actions necessary to cooperate in implementation of the produce safety rule including, but not limited to, entering into cooperation agreements with the United States food and drug administration, conducting the compliance verification activities under [RCW 15.135.060](#), enforcing regulator compliance, and accepting federal funding to carry out such activities. The department may cooperate with the United States food and drug administration in implementation of the produce safety rule only to the extent that the department receives federal funding for such activities.

[ [2018 c 106 s 4.](#) ]



# Produce Safety Program

- CAP Enrollment Date – 2016
- CAP Reduction in FY26 – 29%
- On the Naughty List – 2023
- Number of Staff – Fluctuating
- Number of Inspectors – 6
- Number of Covered Farms – 1,071
- Number of QE farms – 935

# WSDA Produce Safety Team 2016 - 2021



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Jill Wischart

Management Analyst  
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Inspection  
Coordinator  
vacant

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# WSDA Produce Safety Team 2022 - 2025



**Travis Alexander**  
Inspector  
Western WA



**Leah Grewal**  
Inspection  
Admin Coordinator



**Karen Ullman**  
Education & Outreach  
Coordinator



**Bradley Guise**  
Administrative  
Assistant



**Connie Fisk**  
Program Manager



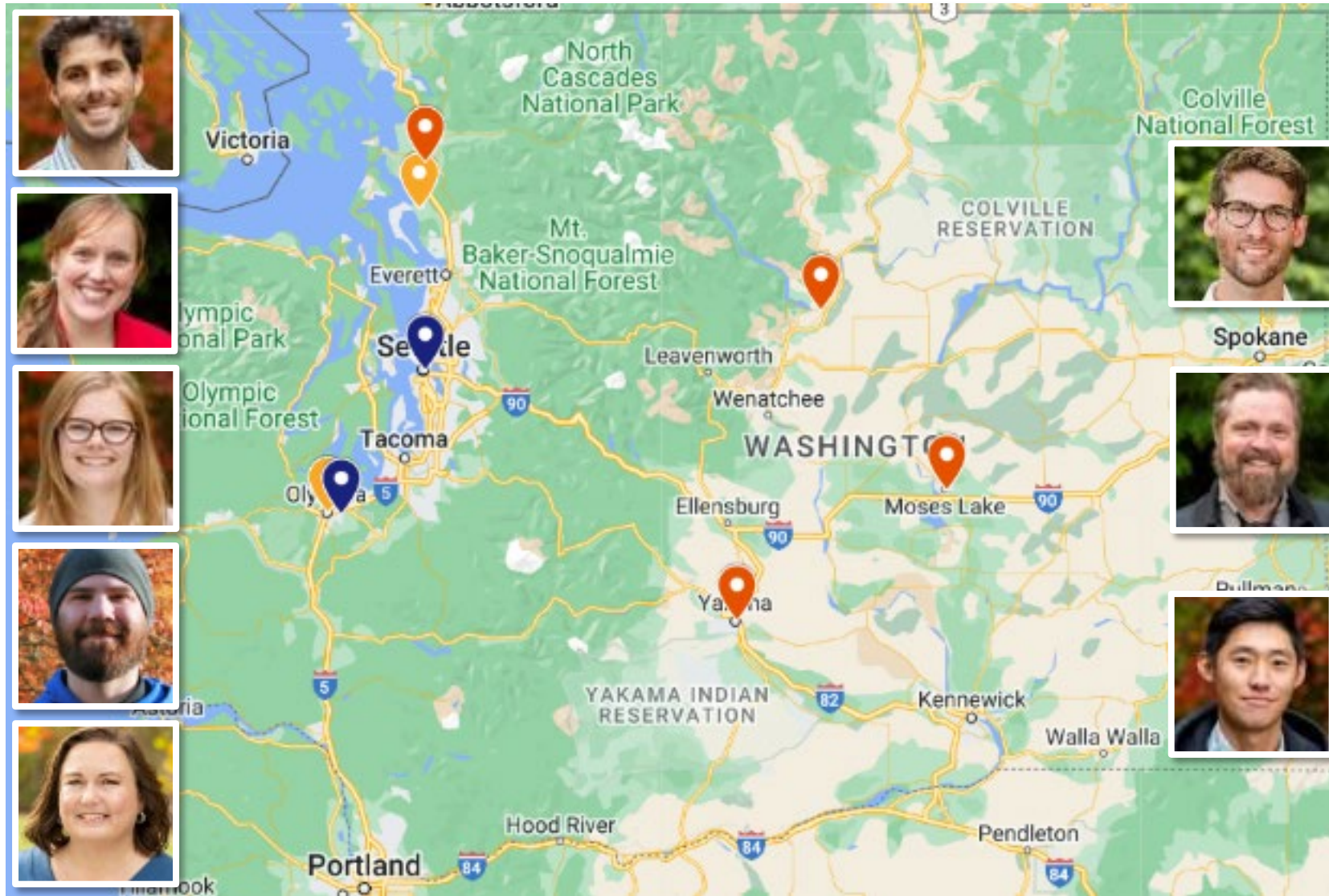
**Jerrid Higgins**  
Inspection  
Supervisor



**Thane Tupper**  
Inspector  
Northeastern WA



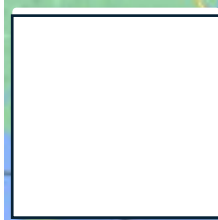
**Evan Low**  
Inspector  
Southeastern WA



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**Travis Alexander**  
Inspector  
Western WA



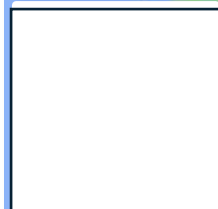
**Leah Grewal**  
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Admin Coordinator



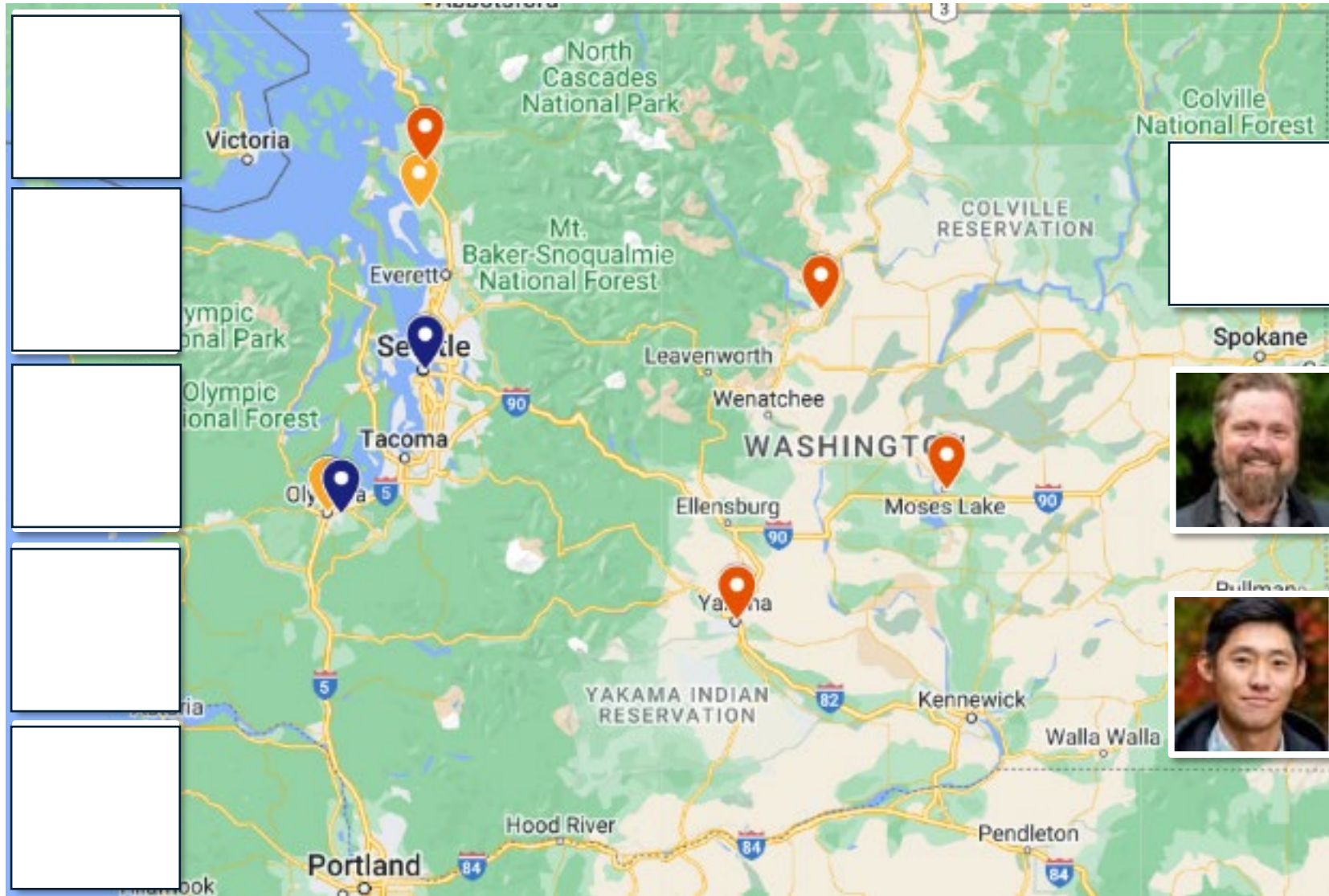
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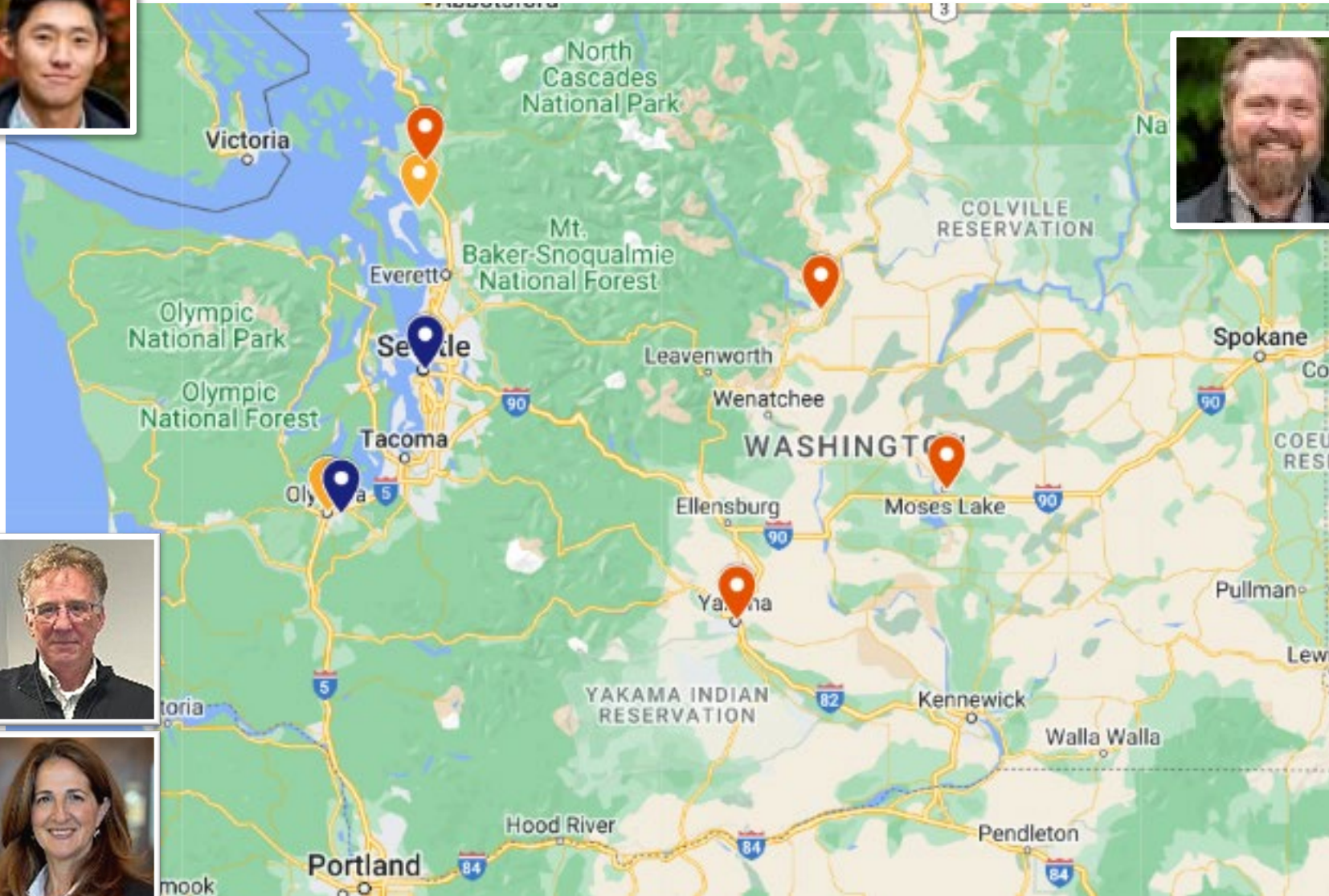
# WSDA Produce Safety Team 2022 - 2025



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**Thane Tupper**  
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**David Minor**  
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**Luisa Castro**  
PI



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**Jackie McCue**  
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Eastern WA



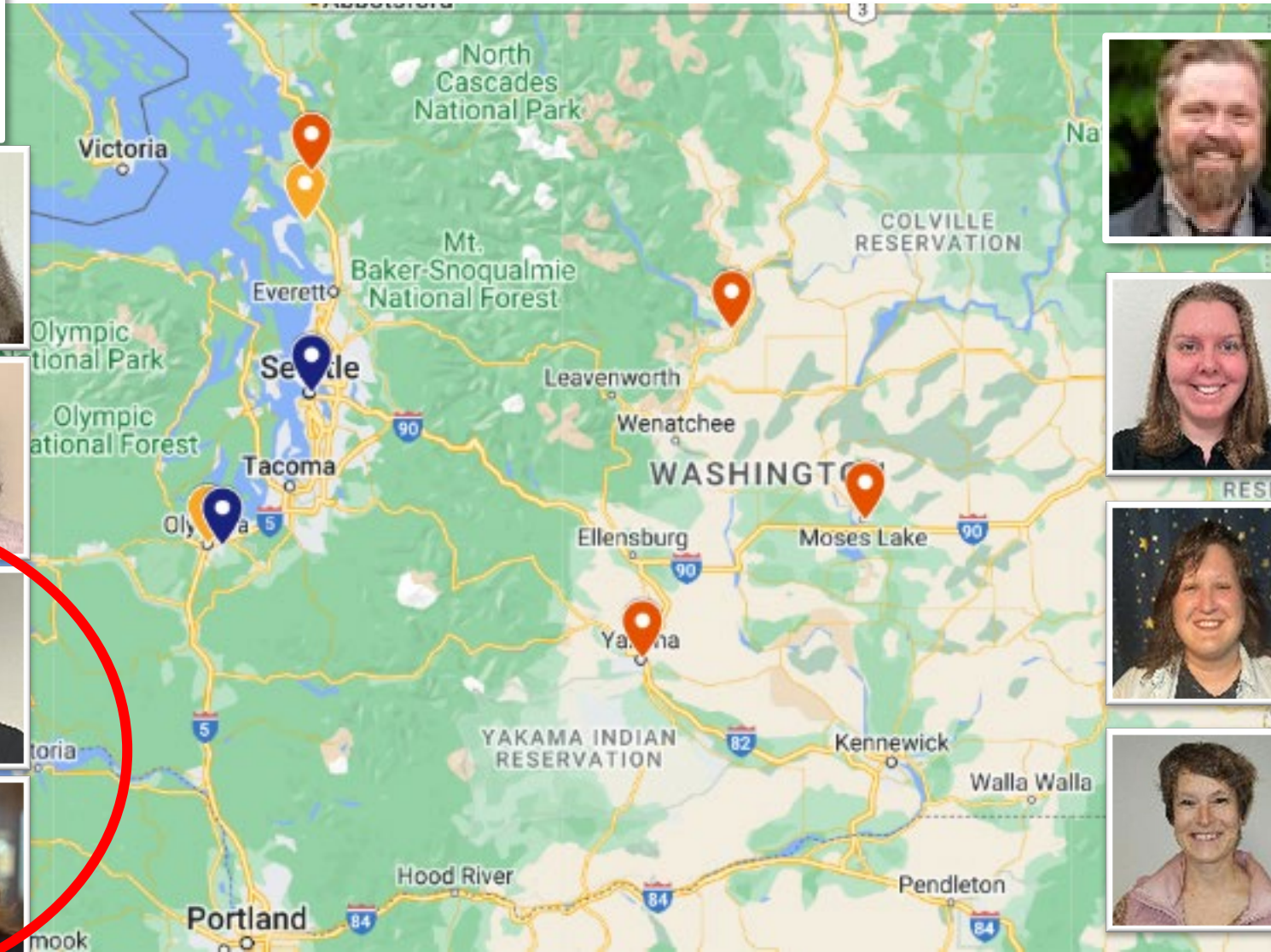
**Carrie Rucshner**  
Inspection Analyst



**David Minor**  
Coordinator



**Luisa Castro**  
PI



**Thane Tupper**  
Inspection  
Supervisor



**Breann Rea**  
Inspector  
Eastern WA



**Kat Reynolds**  
Inspector  
Eastern WA



**Emelia Gutzwiler**  
Inspector  
Eastern WA



# What Does the Future Look Like?



# “The Tools of the Past Can’t Solve the Problems of Today”



## Google Earth and Google Maps

Smarter Inspection Traveling



## Microsoft Bookings

Smarter Inspection Scheduling



## FoodPro

Inventory and Data Center



**Questions**