



HILARY S. FRANZ
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

\$3.35M GF-S

Investment that will increase DNR’s ability to apply scientifically guided conservation land management practices across our 167,000 acres.



Morning Star NRCA - Snohomish County



Dishman Hills NRCA - Spokane County



Woodard Bay NRCA - Thurston County

CONTACT

Brian Considine

Legislative Director

Cell: 360-764-0013

brian.considine@dnr.wa.gov

Olgy Diaz

Deputy Legislative Director

Cell: 360-918-3555

olgy.diaz@dnr.wa.gov

Natural Area Preserves Act 50th Anniversary

DNR manages more than 167,000 acres across 58 Natural Area Preserves and 39 Natural Resources Conservation Areas throughout the state.

The Natural Area Preserves Act (NAPA) passed in 1972 and recognizes the need for, and benefits of, permanently designating areas for conserving biodiversity. Our Natural Areas manage and support a diverse range of ecosystem types such as temperate rainforests, foothill grasslands, shrub steppe, bogs, dry forests, and salt marshes.

Funding is needed to celebrate our natural areas by allowing DNR to better identify, protect, and manage important natural area ecosystems for the next fifty years.

Areas for investment:

- Creation of a statewide map of Essential Conservation Areas (ECAs).
- Suitability planning for new conservation acquisitions
- Mapping of high forest conversion risk throughout Washington;
- Increased Natural Areas Program land management capacity; and
- Eastern Washington Forest Health Treatments.



Credit: 2022 Natural Heritage Plan.

The news outlet *Crosscut* featured DNR’s Natural Heritage and Natural Areas programs in an August 2022 article and identified that “DNR’s Natural Areas program is critical for preserving native biodiversity in the state.”



Statewide Map of Essential Conservation Areas

ECAs are locations that encompass rare species or ecosystems with significant conservation value and are needed to support the long-term survival of those targeted biodiversity features. This investment will identify ECAs throughout the state using existing information within the Natural Heritage Program database and, where necessary, conducting field surveys to ground-truth ecological conditions and ECA boundary needs. The map will serve as a blueprint for biodiversity conservation actions across the state. *(See illustration on back.)*

