



2021 DNR Legislative Priorities

Putting People and Places First

✓ Fully funded in governor's budget ✓ Partially funded in governor's budget

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“In the face of COVID-19 and wildfire destruction, our requests address the extraordinary need for job creation and community resiliency. This package supports and expands our work to protect communities and catalyze economic growth across Washington.”

Hilary Franz
Commissioner of
Public Lands

***Wildfire and Forest Health:** In light of the horrific destruction wildfire has inflicted on our state this year – one of the worst fire seasons in Washington’s history, one which has destroyed communities, blanketed our skies with smoke, and tragically taken life – DNR will again advance legislation to proactively support firefighters, restore the health of our forests, and create resilient communities. Once the immediate crisis of this year’s wildfires passes, the agency will consult with stakeholders and legislative partners to finalize a request focused on accelerating forest health efforts, increasing wildfire fighting capacity, and supporting wildfire resilient communities.

JOB CREATION

Capital

Forest Resiliency (Cost: \$25m): Scalable capital ask that crosses state, small landowner, and private lands, leverages funding for work on federal lands; links the Forest Action Plan, Forest Health Strategic Plan, and Wildfire Strategic Plan; and promotes rapid job creation in multiple sectors statewide. ✓

Derelict vessel removal and recycling (Cost: \$5.6m): Creates 30 jobs and leads to improved water quality and salmon habitat recovery in Snohomish County, Pacific County, and Port Townsend. ✓

Snohomish Watershed Restoration (Cost: \$2.3m): Creates six new Puget Sound Corps team positions and two FTEs to improve water quality and salmon habitat recovery within this priority watershed.

Puget Sound Corps (Cost: \$8m): Creates as many as 100 jobs, scholarships, and real life on-the-job training through trail building, forest health treatments, noxious weed abatement, and targeted work in aquatic reserves and natural areas in fragile watersheds. ✓

Sustainable Recreation (Cost: \$8.5m): Creates 127 jobs and utilizes Washington Conservation Corps crews to develop and renovate trails and campgrounds and increase public access. ✓

Jobs for Forests - Silviculture (Cost: \$13.1m): Creates hundreds of jobs and provides increasing returns to beneficiaries as growth increases in Westside stands.

Infrastructure:

- a. **Improving Roads for Salmon** (Cost: \$1.93m): Creates over 100 direct road construction jobs, opens up miles of salmon habitat, and keeps roads safe for timber hauling and recreation access. ✓
- b. **Grouse Ridge** (Cost: \$1.73m): Phase two of a project improving access to the Washington State Fire Training Academy. ✓
- c. **Structurally Deficient Bridges** (Cost: \$3.76m): Reconstructs and replaces 14 structurally deficient or obsolete DNR forest road bridges that will open up access to approximately 104,700 acres under management. ✓

Natural Areas Facilities Access and Preservation (Cost: \$5.05m): Creates 68 jobs through shovel-ready projects to improve facilities such as trails and day-use facilities. Investments will enhance natural areas and improve watershed health, provide additional opportunities for research and education, and improve recreational access. ✓

Family Forest Fish Passage Program- FFFPP (Cost: \$10m): Funds a cost share program that helps small forest landowners correct fish passage barriers and creates over 150 family-wage jobs. ✓

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Operating

Aggregate Resource Mapping (Cost: \$614K): Facilitates county-based sand and gravel and rock resource mapping to inform land-use planning and create economic opportunities. ✓

Columbia Basin Sequestration and Energy (Cost: \$1.92m): Produces maps and reports on opportunities and resource availability for the public and legislators regarding opportunities for geothermal development and geologic carbon sequestration in the Columbia Basin. ✓

Urban Forestry (Cost: \$1.3m): Modernizes the Evergreen Communities Act to help communities develop urban forestry plans aligning with other high priority goals, such as salmon and orca recovery, environmental health disparities, human health, and local air and water quality improvements with at least 50 percent of all program activities benefiting highly impacted communities. ✓

Northern Spotted Owl Safe Harbor (Cost: \$225K): Retains a contractor to finalize the Safe Harbor Agreement and complete environmental assessment.

Capital

Rural Broadband (Cost: \$2m): Removes barriers for broadband companies to lease sites on DNR land for underserved areas by increasing capacity at overburdened sites and developing new sites for leasing. ✓

School Seismic Updates (Cost: \$590K): Provides information needed to assess risk to school buildings for OSPI to assist their implementation of the K-12 school seismic retrofit grant program. ✓

Teanaway/Klickitat Community Forest (Cost: \$2.4m): Allows both forests to meet the goals of the Community Forest Trust Program and implement management plans. This request funds subprojects to further protect and enhance watersheds and restore vital habitat, enhance opportunities for forestry and grazing, and provide recreation opportunities. ✓

Rivers and Habitat Open Space Program- RHOSP (Cost: \$6.1m): Funds a competitive grant program that acquires perpetual conservation easements from private forest landowners to protect channel migration zones and critical habitat for threatened and endangered species. ✓

Forestry Riparian Easement Program- FREP (Cost: \$10.42m): Purchases 50-year forest riparian conservation easements from small forest landowners to offset the disproportionate financial impacts of the expanded riparian protections of the Forests and Fish law and rules. ✓

State Lands Replacement (Cost: \$6m): Preserves essential services for counties, helps maintain timber jobs, and provides funding to three economically-depressed counties. ✓

Agency Request (zero fiscal)

Recreational Immunity for Target Shooting (Cost: \$0): Amends RCW 4.24.210 to provide landowners with immunity for recreational target shooting and helps DNR designate areas safest for target shooting to prioritize the safety of all state lands users.

Northern Spotted Owl Safe Harbor Statutory Component (Cost: \$0): Amends RCW 76.09 to empower DNR to enter into a programmatic safe harbor agreement with the federal government to incentivize public and private forest landowners to grow older stands of timber increasing habitats for northern spotted owls.

Urban Forestry (Cost: \$0): Modernizes the Evergreen Communities Act to help communities develop urban forestry plans aligning with other high priority goals; such as salmon and orca recovery, environmental health disparities, human health, and local air and water quality improvements; with at least 50 percent of all program activities benefiting highly impacted communities.

AGENCY EFFICIENCY/REVENUE GENERATION

Operating

FPOne (Cost: \$3.68m): Replaces an essential statewide forest practices application review system (FPARS), develops an interactive e-business application, and improves program functionality, efficiency, and customer service. ✓

NaturE (Cost: \$2m): Replaces the contracts and revenue system that will become obsolete when One Washington goes live. ✓

Aerial Application of Herbicides (Cost: \$569K): Implements some of the 2019 Aerial Herbicide Application Working Group's recommendations as reported to the Legislature, including: updating best management practices, researching alternatives to chemicals for control of unwanted competing vegetation ("site prep/release"), and adding aerial application of herbicides to compliance monitoring. ✓

Logistics Technology Build-out (Cost: \$169K): Upgrades existing technology to streamline the burn permit process, ease the statutory burden of applying the Forest Fire Protection Assessment on the County Treasurer and citizens, and increase efficiencies for Fire Districts ordering essential firefighting personal protective equipment.

Fire Business Cost Tracking System (Cost: \$485K): Modifies current system to streamline the transition to a forthcoming statewide system by refining the collection of data, improving the accuracy/reliability of data, and providing financial information to identify costs for individual fires.

Capital

Richland 16 (Cost: \$2.5m): Funding to eliminate barriers to development in moving from agricultural to commercial use to create long-lasting economic growth and benefit to the common school trust.

Facilities Requests Priorities (Cost: \$6.54m): Funding to repair and maintain facilities to ensure safe workspaces for staff that serve communities in every county across the state. ✓

Agency Request (zero fiscal)

Commercial Real Estate (Cost: \$0): Extends the maximum lease term for commercial real estate to the industry average.

Improving Road Access (Cost: \$0): Amends RCW 79.36.350 which currently requires DNR to grant access for timber haul even in cases where DNR does not have control over the road in question.

Timber Sale Process Improvements (Cost: \$0): Allows DNR to auction timber more efficiently, increases flexibility when re-offering sales for bid. Changes include changing auction location from regional office to “location designated by agency,” opening up the opportunity for centralized or online auctions, and removing the requirement for local newspaper advertising (moves notice online).

Professional Realtor (Cost: \$0): Allows DNR to utilize a professional real estate service or auctioneer with permission of the Board of Natural Resources.

Survey Monument Preservation (Cost: \$0): Provides a different funding source for DNR’s Public Land Survey Office (PLSO) through a \$10 recording fee increase added to all recordings in order to ensure the Office is able to meet its legislated mandate and mission.