



HILARY S. FRANZ  
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

**“Our forests provide the air that sustains us, the materials that shelter us and the jobs that feed us. But these life-sustaining forests we depend on for so much are in trouble.”**

**Hilary Franz**

## CONTACT

**Brian Considine**  
Legislative Director

Cell: 360-764-0013  
brian.considine@dnr.wa.gov  
[www.dnr.wa.gov](http://www.dnr.wa.gov)

\*All dollar amounts are estimated and details are subject to change.

# Department of Natural Resources 2022 Legislative Agenda Summary

## AGENCY TRANSPARENCY & EFFICIENCY

### 1. Fire Suppression Administrative Investment (GF-S \$17.1M)

Removal of current operating budget proviso allows investment in administrative support for DNR’s fire suppression work. This investment is critical to ensure agency can have dedicated funding necessary to support our wildland fire fighting force. Investment will also allow for agency fiduciary trust and dedicated funds to be restored and savings created by this investment will be used to further protect state lands and waters. This investment aligns with recommendations from the independent, Legislature-mandated review by Stellar LLC and zero-based budget review of DNR’s Wildfire Division by agency and budget staff.

### 2. Agency Administration Backbone Assessment (GF-S \$350k)

Funding for an independent consultant to review DNR administrative services and provide recommendations on how best to staff the agency’s administrative services so it can most effectively and efficiently operate the full range of DNR programs and services consistent with recommendations from Stellar LLC.

### 3. Implementing the State Auditor’s Office Recommendations (GF-S \$680k)

Funding at the unanimous request of the Forest Practices Board to address recommendations made by the State Auditor’s Office in its January 2021 performance audit of the Forest Practices Adaptive Management Program.

### 4. Timber Sale Improvements (SB 5201)

This bill, introduced in 2021, updates RCWs to streamline the process of taking timber sales to auction, allowing DNR to respond more quickly to market demands. This change will increase the value of the timber, and increase returns to schools, county governments, and other beneficiaries.

### 5. Commercial Real Estate Lease Terms (HB 1430)

This bill was also introduced in 2021 and increases DNR lease lengths from 55 to 99 years. Increasing the maximum lease term to the industry standard will allow DNR-managed commercial properties to be more competitive for prospective lessees. This maximizes revenues to state beneficiaries by minimizing the time properties sit vacant or undeveloped.

## CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND SALMON RECOVERY

### 1. Keep Washington Evergreen (GF-S \$1.075M/Cap \$25M)

(1) Establish goals to restore the health of one million acres of working forests; conserve one million acres of forests; and plant one million acres of trees by 2040.



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This will fund an effort to identify, map, and prioritize our most threatened working forests and develop a strategic plan to meet the established goals.

(2) Creation of a rapid response fund to acquire critical forested lands at risk of permanent conversion, either for conservation or to keep working forests working, ensuring that DNR can more effectively fulfill one of its important roles as steward of high-value conservation lands across the state.

## **2. Drought Resilient Washington (GF-S \$450k)**

Funding to evaluate the effect of drought on state trust lands, such as agricultural and forested lands, and neighbors through a targeted analysis that would build on existing DNR practices while evaluating opportunities for improved water rights, storage, and conservation to further watershed health and drought mitigation.

## **3. Derelict Vessel Removal Program (GF-S \$7.5M)**

Investment to stabilize DNR's Derelict Vessel Removal Program to ensure there is reliable and consistent funding for the program to remove more vessels, addressing a backlog and decreasing the total of derelict vessels to protect our waterways and improve fish habitat. This request will allocate 25 percent of the current watercraft excise tax, approximately \$7.5 million per biennium, for this program.

## **4. Watershed Resilience Action Plan Implementation (GF-S \$400k)**

Investment in critical salmon recovery projects prioritized in DNR's Watershed Resilience Action Plan, including a watershed steward to lead and coordinate implementation of the Action Plan, a fish passage barrier survey coordinated with small forest landowners, a water quality assessment to identify contamination harmful to salmon populations, and partnering with local schools to have Water Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 7 serve as an outdoor classroom for salmon recovery.

## **5. LiDAR (GF-S \$3.4M)**

Investment in the state's LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) program to ensure DNR can collect critical information for better and more equitable land and hazard management. This will allow DNR create a more equitable and predictable collection cycle that will be used to assess and monitor riparian pathways, forest health projects, fish habitat, and flood and geological hazards, including landslides, tsunamis, earthquakes, volcanic hazards, leading to more resilient communities across our state.

## **6. Climate Commitment Act Supplemental Funding (GF-S \$441k)**

Funding to implement the Climate Commitment Act's establishment of a small forest landowner work group to provide recommendations for a carbon offset credit pilot project.

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### **COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

## **1. Recreation Enforcement and Maintenance (GF-S \$3.2M)**

Investment in keeping our public lands safe and clean by funding essential enforcement, education, and maintenance positions necessary to protect our public lands and the public that uses them. Funding ensures DNR can address concerns from our Tribal partners to invest in measures that prevent further abuse and misuse



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of public lands and cultural resources to ensure the state continues to be good stewards of our public lands.

**2. Puget SoundCorps (Cap \$4.8M)**

Investment in DNR's Puget SoundCorps that provides young adults, including young people of color, and veterans workforce development opportunities through an immersive job experience that restores and protects our public lands. Allows DNR to retain and/or rehire seven Corps crews and add 10 new crews focused on forest health, wildfire response, salmon recovery, and habitat restoration.

**3. Bridge Replacements (Cap \$2.2M)**

Funding to replace four structurally deficient bridges to support the agency's timber harvest and revenues, wildfire suppression activities, and allow for recreational access.

**4. Silviculture (Cap \$3.9M)**

Investment in critical silviculture work that will create jobs and resilient forest conditions and maximize the revenue-generating capacity of forest stands to the benefit of trust beneficiaries, including local schools and community services. Work will include treatments for healthy forests, tree planting, and noxious weed and vegetation management. Creates jobs for eighty-six contract labor workers and eight non-permanent DNR staff positions, while generating an estimated \$55 million in additional revenue for trust beneficiaries.

**5. Encumbered Lands (Cap \$28.3M)**

Provides a long-term solution to the State Forestland Replacement Program. Investment in forest land assets where timber revenue opportunities are constrained under the Endangered Species Act. DNR will utilize a trust land exchange and reinvestment strategy to address disproportionate economic impacts from state forest lands in three Southwest Washington counties.

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