



**HILARY S. FRANZ**  
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

# 2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP



## SUCCESSFUL DNR BILLS

***THANK YOU TO  
DNR STAFF AND  
AGENCY PARTNERS  
WHO WORKED  
HARD TO MAKE  
THE 2024 SESSION  
SUCCESSFUL.***

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### **HB 2091 | Fallen Firefighter Memorial**

The bill establishes a fallen firefighter memorial on the Capitol Campus in Olympia to honor, commemorate, and remember the lives lost in the line of duty. The Capital Budget provided \$371,000 for DNR to work with the State Capital Committee, Department of Enterprise Services, and several nonprofit and firefighter groups on the design, establishment, and maintenance of the memorial.

### **HB 2003 | Leasehold Excise Tax Exemption**

The bill created an exemption to the leasehold excise tax for qualified affordable housing built on public lands. The exemption applies when the lessee commits to renting or leasing 100 percent of the housing units to low- and moderate-income households and the lease term is at least 20 years. The bill also makes affordable housing for low-income households a priority for DNR and any lessee when receiving this exemption.

### **HB 2165 | Recreational Use Fees**

The bill gives DNR the authority to charge fees for use of the property without losing their recreational immunity, in the same way that current law applies to other public agencies like the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Any fee structure would go through the rulemaking process that includes public review and receive approval by the Board of Natural Resources.

## HIGHLIGHTS



**3 Agency Request  
Bills Passed the  
Legislature**



**\$44.7M in new  
operating budget  
investments**



**\$67.6M in new  
capital budget  
investments**



**\$72.6M in new  
Climate  
Commitment Act  
Investments**

## TOP LINE BUDGET ITEM



### Forest Health and Wildfire Resilience (HB 1168) Funding

The Legislature provided transfer of \$19M of GF-S funding for HB 1168 resilience work, and an additional \$10 million of Climate Commitment Act funding for forest health treatments. This provides full funding to DNR allowing the agency to continue the critical forest health and wildfire resilience work for the 2024, and into 2025 wildfire seasons.

## TOP BUDGET SUCCESSES



### Wildfire Reforestation and Grants

#### \$10 million from Climate Commitment Act (CCA)

\$7.5 million of the funding is for post-wildfire reforestation of forestlands managed by DNR with expenditures for the benefit of state trust lands. \$2.5 million of the funding is for DNR to administer grants for post-wildfire reforestation on lands owned by tribes, nonprofit organizations, industrial and nonindustrial private forest landowners, local governments, and other state agencies.

### Trust Land Transfer

#### \$10.8 million from Natural Climate Solutions Account (NCSA)

Funding for nine parcels to continue trust land transfers of economically under-performing state lands to other purposes and acquire replacement properties for the trust and trust beneficiaries.

### Encumbered Lands

#### \$15 million from Natural Climate Solutions Account (NCSA)

Funding for DNR to acquire working forestlands for increased carbon sequestration and carbon storage through sustainable timber harvests. The Legislature intends that the lands serve as replacement lands for designated conservation and existing encumbered state forestlands.

### Quinault Forest Legacy Acquisition

#### \$25 million from Natural Climate Solutions Account (NCSA)

Pass through funding to help the Quinault Tribe acquire over 11,000 acres of privately owned forestlands within the boundaries of the Quinault Reservation to manage lands by balancing cultural and economic benefits, while also addressing climate change.

### Recreational Target Shooting

#### \$1.32 million from General Fund-State (GF-S) & Model Toxic Control Act (MTCA)

#### \$900,000 in State Building Construction Act (SBCA) & Firearms Range Act (FRA)

Funding to address the increasing public safety and environmental hazard challenges from recreational target shooting on DNR-managed public lands. Capital funding will allow DNR to launch two pilot programs—NE Region and Olympic Region—to address immediate concerns in these communities. Pilot sites will provide a blueprint to utilize operation funding for an outreach and designation process for other, more densely populated areas of the state, where target shooting management is highly needed.

### Kelp & Eelgrass

#### \$593,000 from Natural Climate Solutions Account (NCSA)

Funding for DNR to conduct remote sensing, stressor studies, and imagery and survey work of kelp forests and eelgrass meadows pursuant to the state health and conservation plan in RCW 79.135.440.

### YMCA Camp Colman

#### \$3.7 million from State Building Construction Act (SBCA)

Pass through funding to help YMCA mitigate disruptions after DNR's removes a tidal gate at Whiteman Cove and return the area to an estuary. This important change will impact the Camp's infrastructure, facilities, and programming. However, there is an opportunity for the Camp to showcase this new estuary as a centerpiece of their environmental learning program with an emphasis on underserved youth.



## 2024 DNR Related Bills

- Geothermal Energy Resources (SB 6039)
- Forestland Compensating Tax (HB 1818)
- Forest Riparian Easements (SB 5667)
- Wildland Urban Interface (SB 6120)
- Agriculture & Forestry Biomass (SB 6121)
- Solid Waste Dumping (HB 2207)