



HILARY S. FRANZ
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

\$7.8M GF-S

Twelve DNR Officers are responsible for 5.6 million acres of public lands – the equivalent of two officers covering an area the size of Rhode Island.

1.8 DNR law enforcement officers cover the size of Rhode Island in Washington!



Protect Public Lands and Tribal Rights

DNR manages 5.6 million acres of DNR public lands, including over 1,200 miles of trails, 160 recreation sites and more than 70 campsites.

Use of public lands continues to rise across the state and new investments are needed for DNR to manage public lands for this increased use. DNR saw a 21 percent increase in visitor activity. Additionally, our law enforcement officers have seen a 40 percent increase in calls for service since 2017.

This investment will increase law enforcement capacity to deter illegal use of public lands, allow DNR to develop a comprehensive recreation plan, continue to gather and analyze public lands visitation data, and establish a first foods pilot program.



Addressing Inadequate Law Enforcement Staffing

\$5.5 million (GF-S) is requested to add ten (10) law enforcement officers to address the strain being put on our public lands and cultural resources. DNR has twelve law enforcement officers for the entire state—the equivalent of two officers covering an area the size of Rhode Island—with significantly fewer resources than sister state agencies. The increased visitor traffic on DNR public lands has caused a 40% increase in calls since 2017.

Additional officers will reduce response times for emergencies or complaints, provide more education of visitors about wildfire risk and leave no trace principles, and more effectively deter illegal activities harming our natural and cultural resources.

Such activities include illegal garbage dumping, vehicle abandonment, establishment of unsanctioned trails, overcrowding of trailheads, theft, and vandalism.



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Land Manager	Acres of land open to the public	Law Enforcement staff	Acres per LEO	Visitor Days in 2020	Visits per LEO
State Parks	139,857	133	1,052	37,991,000	285,647
WDFW	1,000,000	138	7,246	29,069,000	210,645
DNR	5,600,000	13	430,769	20,080,000	1,544,615



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Addressing Recreation Planning and Carrying Capacity

\$1.83 million (GF-S) is requested to provide the agency with additional resources to establish a long-term outdoor access and recreation plan and continue to develop analytical tools to estimate the carrying capacity for DNR-managed lands. Establishing a recreation plan will help direct future funding to meet our recreation management needs and allow us to set goals and measurable outcomes for safe, responsible public access and recreation use on state lands.

In addition, we will utilize DNR's Natural Heritage program and on-going data collection tools to assess the recreational carrying capacity of popular landscapes and develop carrying capacity guidelines.

Establishing a First Foods Program

\$450k request to establish a new First Foods program at DNR. Increased recreational usage can harm Tribal access to culturally important foods such as berries, camas, fish, shellfish, or game. DNR will work with our Tribal partners to identify and select two pilot projects that will promote first foods, traditional harvest or agricultural practices, and tribal access to hunting, gathering, and fishing areas.



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