



HILARY S. FRANZ
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

\$3.84 million GF-S

Tribal Nations are an important partner to DNR in stewardship and management of our shared public lands, waters, and resources.

“We have to take care of [the environment] in a way that ensures the next generations have the same opportunity that we all have had.”

– Glen Gobin, Tulalip Tribes,
Testimony on HB 1173

CONTACT

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Growing Roots for the Next Seven Generations

DNR’s Tribal Affairs program must expand to allow us to maintain meaningful relations with our Tribal Partners and build trust for future generations.

DNR’s Tribal Affairs is a Team of One

DNR manages 5.6 million acres of land, all of which intersects with Tribes. Currently, coordination and collaboration with 32 tribes and more than 200 tribal leaders is done by DNR’s Director of Tribal Relations. To serve Tribes better, and the underrepresented communities they belong to, we must expand Tribal Affairs to better serve our Tribal Partners and Tribal Communities.

Investment in Tribal Relations and Government-to-Government Trainings

It is vital that DNR invest in tribal relations so we can better engage in government-to-government discussions regarding cultural resources, land transactions, clean energy, aquatic land restorations, and every aspect of DNR’s programs that intersect with Tribes.



Additionally, the Legislature continues to correctly be more inclusive of Tribes in new legislation but the agency has not received any resources to support the new work.

Lastly, we must invest more in Tribal Trainings and Outreach Services to ensure all DNR staff have the tools they need to properly consider Tribal Treaty Rights, Tribal Cultural Resources, and issues emerging issues around our regions.

This investment will:

- Expand the Tribal Affairs Program (\$2.1M)
 - Deputy Director
 - Cultural Resources Specialist
 - Two Regional Tribal Resilience Liaisons
- Allow DNR to Provide more Training and Outreach Services to Staff (\$300k)
 - Contract for more Government-to-Government Trainings
 - Build an In-house Training Program



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An expanded Tribal Affairs Team will ensure work on tribal issues is robust, meaningful, and supported statewide. It will also ensure we have the resources to do the necessary government-to-government work on our 2023 decision package priorities, including:

First Foods

At the 2022 DNR Tribal Summit, tribes highlighted their concern that increased recreational usage of forests, state lands, and state aquatic lands prevents access to culturally important foods for tribes. Funding of \$450k is requested to establish a new First Foods program at DNR. The program will support work with our DNR and 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.



Workforce Development

Washington needs an inclusive approach that is rooted in equity and environmental justice to address increasing workforce shortages in the field of natural resources. DNR is requesting funding to support tribal forestry and wildland fire management training for adults and young adults, which would include hands-on learning for youth. Totalling \$950,000, these programs aim to support the vision of the Intertribal Timber Council Workforce Development Strategic Plan and tribal nation interests for workforce training in order to fill vital roles in tribal and non-tribal natural resource agencies.

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