HILARY S. FRANZ
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

$965k - FY2025 (GF-S)

Implementing 2SHB 1578

Signed during the 23–25 Legislative Session, 2SHB 1578 states DNR must "by July 1, 2028, implement a postwildfire debris flow program."

To achieve the agency's goals and to fulfill the legislative intent, ongoing funding is requested from GF-S Operating Budget. This proposal requires $965,056 in FY25 and $1,885,000 per biennium thereafter, which will cover six FTEs, monitoring equipment, and travel costs to conduct:

→ Landslide hazard data analyses and assessments, including lidar-based alluvial fan mapping

→ Burned-area assessments, including field reconnaissance following debris flows

→ Outreach to local communities and emergency managers

→ Monitoring and modeling to determine early warning trigger points for debris flows for at-risk communities and infrastructure

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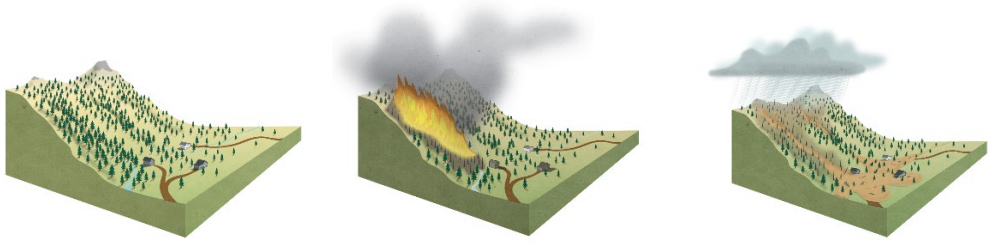
Post-Fire Debris Flow Program

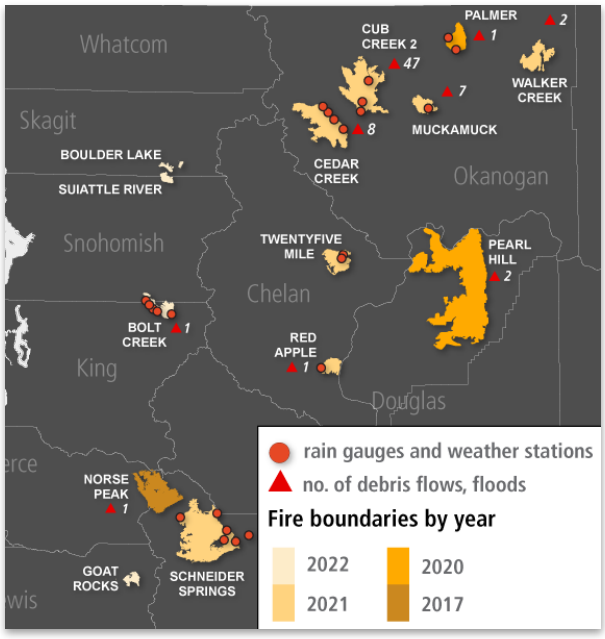
WILDFIRES DRAMATICALLY INCREASE THE RISK OF FLASH FLOODING AND DEBRIS FLOWS



For years following a wildfire, even modest rainstorms can produce unusually high runoff that turns into flash floods and (or) debris flows. Debris flows can travel a considerable distance, disrupting roadways and other infrastructure lifelines, destroying private property, and causing flooding. Due to their speed and magnitude, debris flows pose an immediate, critical threat to public safety.

The images above, captured by a DNR motion-activated camera, show a drainage within the 2022 Cedar Creek burn area before and during a recent debris flow. This debris flow, and two previous debris flows, impacted several homes and roads in a small community.

POST-FIRE DEBRIS FLOW PROGRAM



This proposal seeks to fully fund a post-fire debris flow program within DNR's Washington Geological Survey to conduct landslide hazard data analyses and assessments, including lidar-based alluvial fan mapping, burned-area assessments, and modeling to determine triggers for post-wildfire debris flow early warning for at-risk communities and infrastructure.

Left: Map of fires currently monitored by the Survey and locations where post-fire debris flows have occurred.