



# Strengthening Washington's Wildfire Fighting Force

**Department of Natural Resources asks Legislature for funding to equip and train more in-state firefighters.**

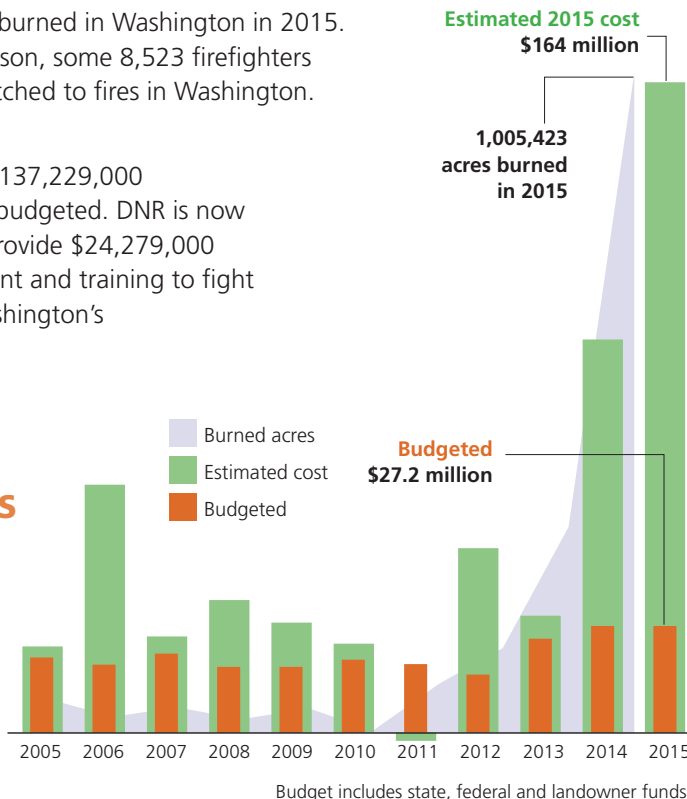


Washington has endured consecutive record-breaking wildfire seasons that have inflicted catastrophic harm on communities and landscapes. The explosive growth of these wildfire seasons shows the urgent need to increase the capacity of our on-call, in-state wildfire fighting forces.

A record 1,005,423 acres burned in Washington in 2015. At the peak of the fire season, some 8,523 firefighters and personnel were dispatched to fires in Washington. More were needed.

This wildfire season cost \$137,229,000 more than the legislature budgeted. DNR is now asking the legislature to provide \$24,279,000 for more people, equipment and training to fight the growing threat of Washington's wildfires.

**WASHINGTON'S GROWING WILDFIRE SEASONS HAVE PUSHED FIREFIGHTING COSTS BEYOND BUDGET**



**FUNDING PACKAGE ▼**

**LOCAL FIRE DISTRICT ASSISTANCE GRANTS**

**\$6,131,000**

Our local fire districts are among the first responders to wildfires. These grants will help them modernize and increase their ability to fight fires.

**JOINT TRAINING**

**\$6,948,000**

We need wildfire fighting crews to include DNR, fire district volunteers, tribes, Washington National Guard and private contractors. Training them together will allow them to more effectively fight fire together.

**COORDINATED COMMAND**

**\$3,204,000**

Experienced firefighting leaders staged in vulnerable communities during wildfire season allows fire fighters to work more quickly and effectively.

**FIRE COMMUNICATIONS**

**\$1,200,000**

Firefighters need modern, well-maintained radios to work together safely and productively.

**AERIAL ATTACK**

**\$443,000**

Helicopters and airplanes keep fires small when dispatched and guided by experienced aviation experts.

**WILDFIRE PREVENTION AND FUELS REDUCTION**

**\$6,353,000**

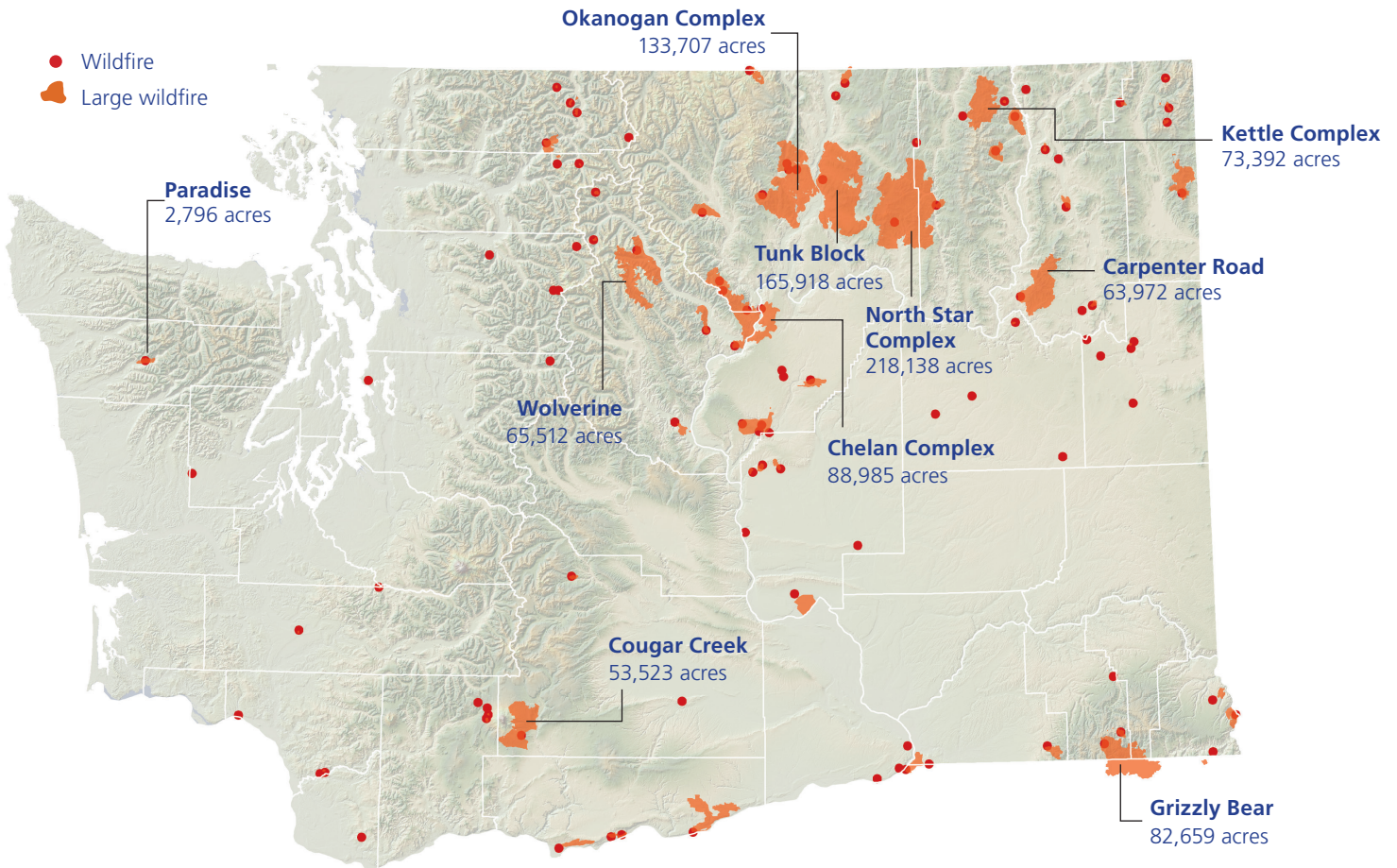
Investments in forest health, Firewise communities and wildfire prevention education will make our forests more resilient and our communities safer before fires strike.

For DNR's full supplemental budget request, visit [1.usa.gov/1LxWc03](http://1.usa.gov/1LxWc03)

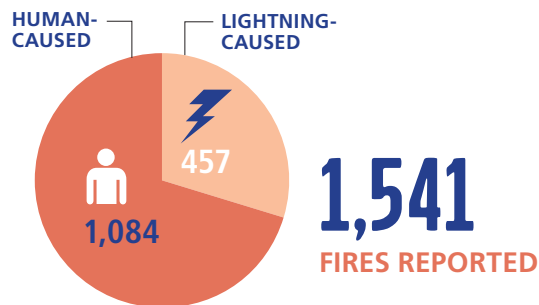
# 2015 Fire Season At-a-Glance



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**Natural Resources**  
Peter Goldmark - Commissioner of Public Lands



- Wildfire burned 1,005,423 acres of Washington
- There were 59 fires that burned at least 100 acres of timber or 300 acres of grass or brush
- The North Star Complex was the state's largest wildfire at 218,138 acres
- Wildfires destroyed 499 structures; 307 primary residences, 21 commercial structures, and 171 outbuildings
- The fire season peaked on August 19, when 22 large fires were actively burning across Washington



**8,523**   
FIREFIGHTERS & PERSONNEL  
DEPLOYED AT THE PEAK  
OF WASHINGTON'S  
FIRE SEASON

**\$320 million\***  
ESTIMATED TOTAL  
FIREFIGHTING COST TO DATE  
IN WASHINGTON STATE

\* NOT ALL COSTS HAVE BEEN REPORTED.