



2025-27 Statewide Lidar Acquisition & Refresh

THE VALUE OF LIDAR

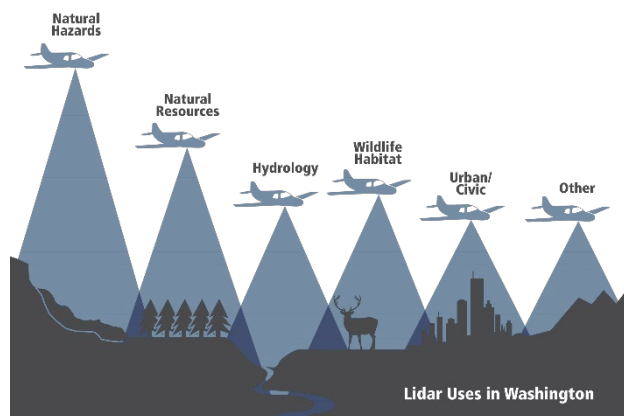
Since the establishment of the WGS Lidar Program in 2015, the Survey has been collecting, compiling, processing, and distributing lidar (Light, Detection, and Ranging) for the benefit of the State. WGS is continuously receiving requests for more frequent lidar collection, as most natural resource, habitat, forestry, or conservation decisions in Washington require use of lidar as critical input to workflows and analyses. Complete statewide coverage and a predictable update cycle are required for measurement of progress on key deliverables across the state.

\$7.8M Operating Request (Ongoing GF-S)

10-Year Lidar Refresh

For 2025–27 and ongoing, this proposal requires \$7,848,800 per biennium, which will cover lidar collection costs, two FTEs, storage infrastructure, and agency administrative costs to process and distribute the data to partners and the public.

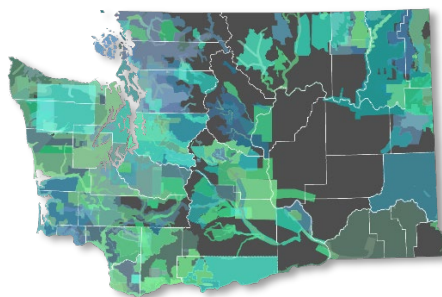
This will align the distribution of lidar data with DNR IT Department enterprise systems and goals, while sustaining and improving the IT systems that support the data.



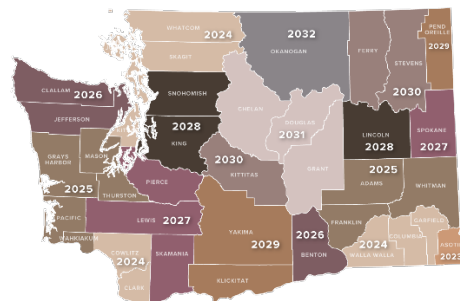
Internal and external partners rely on lidar to meet their goals. This includes initiatives to monitor riparian pathways by the Departments of Ecology and Fish and Wildlife, along with the Northwest Indian Fish Commission. The Department of Ecology is also using lidar to modernize Washington's hydrography. DNR's implementation of forest practices rules requires lidar to conduct accurate assessments of unstable slopes, fish habitat, forest wetlands, and stream characteristics.

10-YEAR COLLECTION STRATEGY

A 10-year lidar refresh collection strategy will create a cost-effective, consistent, and predictable baseline for those reliant upon lidar across the state, providing planning efficiencies while reducing redundant, individual, and costly efforts.



Lidar holdings as of 2021, with state funding, grants, and partnerships. Coverage was patchwork, incomplete, and irregular.



Proposed lidar collection strategy, with larger, predictable collections over whole jurisdictions.

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Working with federal grant programs will also help expand collection areas and reduce the refresh timelines, taking a ten-year refresh cycle and reducing it to six years or fewer. This will produce renewed baseline elevation data for Washington programs to complete monitoring work and assessments on a more frequent basis and be more responsive to our partners' needs.