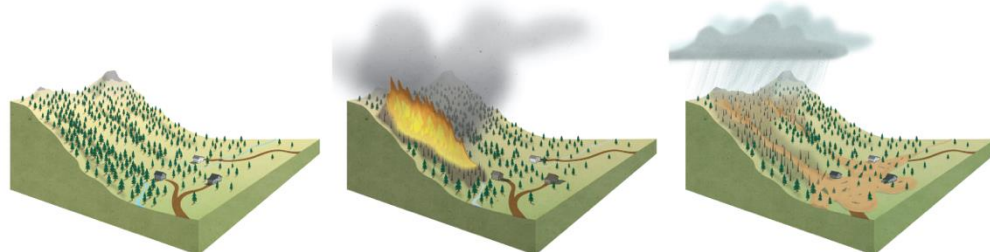




Washington State Burned Area Assessment, Stabilization, and Recovery Coordination

WILDFIRES CAUSE DAMAGE LONG AFTER THE FIRE IS OUT



Severe wildfires cause significant damage to landscapes, people, and infrastructure, leaving communities vulnerable to hazards like burned debris, landslides and flooding (Figure 1). The problem is exacerbated by climate change, lack of coordinated information sharing about the post-fire hazards, insufficient funding, and often lack local capacity to plan for and mitigate hazards created by severe fire.



The images above, captured by a DNR motion-activated camera, show a before-and-during view of a damaging debris flow from the 2021 Cedar Creek burn area.

DNR stands ready to address this legislatively mandated and vital issue. However, the legislature did not fully fund the directives in 2SHB-1578, leaving a critical gap in funding. This proposal seeks to close the gap and fund two main critical programs:

FUND THE POST-WILDFIRE DEBRIS FLOW PROGRAM

Goal and impact: Conduct hazard assessments, including lidar-based mapping and modeling, to provide warning for communities and inform emergency management decisions. This program will identify risks and aid decision-making for public safety, water quality, habitat management, and infrastructure stability.

FUND BURNED-AREA ASSESSMENTS, STABILIZATION, AND RECOVERY

Goal and impact: Develop and pilot a team structure to assess, prioritize, and fund post-wildfire mitigation and recovery projects, with a focus on increasing resilience, reducing risk, and building capacity at the local, county, and tribal governments. The team will pilot recovery efforts focused on post-fire treatments for public safety and resource protection, ensuring faster and more effective recovery.

\$7.6M Operating Request (GF-S)

Implementing 2SHB 1578

In the 2023 Legislative Session, 2SHB-1578 was passed into law but only partially funded.

Post-fire recovery is inherently a complex, multiagency, multi-scale problem, requiring a collective interagency strategy that works across boundaries before, during, and after fire.

This proposal seeks to fully fund the two components of 2SHB 1578:

- 1) Post-Wildfire Debris Flow Program (\$1.5M in FY26/27 and \$1.4M ongoing)
- 2) Burned-Area Assessment, Stabilization, and Recovery Coordination Team (\$6.1M in FY26/27 and \$8.8M ongoing)