

Report on Long-Term Forest Health & Reduction of Wildfire Danger (HB 1168)

RCW 76.04.516

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WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Executive Summary	3
Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration, and Community Resilience Account.....	14
Wildland Fire Protection 10-year Strategic Plan.....	23
RCW 76.06.200 and 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan	33
Developing Markets for forest residuals and biomass	40
Projected Ongoing Need & Recommendations	42
Appendices.....	47

Executive Summary

This report examines the first fiscal year (FY 2022) financials and program implementation to date associated with the Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration, and Community Resilience Account (Account) established by Second Substitute House Bill 1168 (2SHB 1168) in 2021.

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) began to plan for implementation of activities connected with the Account before 2SHB 1168 passed the Washington State Legislature and was subsequently signed into law. DNR envisioned ways to better organize programs and people, create closer, stronger partnerships and engage with communities taking advantage of this historic opportunity to positively change the trajectory of wildfire suppression, thereby reducing losses and costs, and improving forest conditions to better protect communities, water quality, and cultural and natural resources all across Washington.

The agency was prepared to begin immediately implementing key components of the 2SHB 1168 Account when resources became available to DNR in July of 2021, this included: the reduction of human caused wildfires; lowering the size, scale and geography of catastrophic wildfires; reducing the numbers of communities, landscapes and populations at risk from wildfire; and creating resilient landscapes and communities.

This report will demonstrate how DNR has embraced the challenge of the difficult work ahead and our continued commitment to work tirelessly to ensure we achieve the vision of effective wildfire response, forest restoration, and community resilience for all Washingtonians.

Legislative Leadership

None of this would be achievable without the vision, leadership and commitment of the state Legislature. By unanimously passing this historic bill, the Legislature made a commitment to create a better and more resilient Washington state: a state that values and supports all communities and peoples; is less prone to the devastating effects from catastrophic wildfires; and where forests, landscapes, and their resources can thrive and function and continue to do so for future generations.

Progress to Date

DNR has achieved some remarkable successes represented in this report since receiving initial funding in July 2021. Highlights to date show significant progress toward

accomplishing the goals of the 10-Year Wildland Fire Protection Strategy; 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan: Eastern Washington; and 2020 Washington Forest Action Plan across each of the main areas of the new 2SHB 1168 Account.

Highlights in Wildfire Response

- Expanded several existing hand crew leadership positions to year-round positions to improve retention and cohesiveness of the crews. Additional positions were split out for the crew leadership positions for four short hand crew modules in Western Washington, and three new 20-person crews in DNR's Southeast Region (Chelan, Kittitas, and Klickitat).
- Recruited for 15 permanent program specialist positions needed to manage and directly supervise both the existing resources and the additional resources provided by the Account. These positions plan work, hire and train seasonal firefighters and function as overhead on extended attack and large fires. Positions were filled prior to the 2022 wildfire season and the remaining will be filled in FY 2023.
- Purchased six logistics trailers, a semi-tractor, pumps, hand tools, hose and fittings, chainsaws and generators for assisting with state mobilization incidents. This provides state mobilization fires with the same resources as other larger fires improving the likelihood of keeping fires smaller. With complications due to supply chain issues, the equipment was received and utilized on the landscape for the 2022 season, but the trailers were unable to be readied in time for the 2022 season. Build work and construction will continue in the off-season and should be completed for use during the 2023 fire season.
- Awarded \$550,000 in grants to forty-three local fire protection districts across the state that provided the opportunity for the districts to acquire and/or improve existing, new, Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) or Federal Firefighter Property (FFP), DNR surplus engines or other equipment related wildland fire suppression activities. This allowed departments or districts with insufficient primary funding or budgets to enhance their response capabilities.
- Awarded \$1,100,000 to twelve fire protection districts across the state to expand their ability to respond to wildland fire suppression efforts and other active fire related needs through the acquisition of additional operational firefighting and/or suppression equipment.
- Awarded \$90,000 to five fire protection districts across the state to allow acquisition of additional operational firefighting and/or wildland firefighting personal protection equipment.
- Awarded \$600,000 to fifty-five fire protection districts across the state that were paired with U.S. Forest Service Volunteer Fire District Assistance grants program

providing fire protection districts the opportunity to purchase wildfire suppression equipment and/or supplies.

- Purchased and received fourteen out of sixteen heavy equipment dozers for constructing fire containment lines. The fourteen dozer transports are arriving now at a vendor to configure additional loading and unloading functions. These resources will be available for the 2023 fire season.
- Hired two aviation operations program managers in spring 2022, two fixed-wing pilots, and a tanker base manager. Positions enhance the effectiveness and use of wildfire suppression aircraft during fire season. In the process of hiring two additional airplane pilots and an unmanned aerial systems coordinator.
- Entered into contracts for two DAHER Kodiak K100 utility type aircraft. The first aircraft has been accepted and is in the process of mission specific modifications, with delivery expected in March 2023. The second aircraft will be purchased in December 2022 and is scheduled for delivery in May 2023.
- Invested in extending the service of the state's fleet of UH-1H Huey helicopters. This included installing new, modern composite tail rotor blades on 100% of the fleet, and new composite main rotor blades on 75 % of the fleet. In addition, DNR began upgrading the functionality of the digital cockpits in these aircraft, with one of nine aircraft complete. An additional three aircraft cockpits will be upgraded by the 2023 fire season.
- Hired supervisors for post-release correction crews with anticipated full crew deployment in 2023.
- Initiated development on an enhanced the Fire Cost Tracking System to ensure suppression cost tracking continues to meet state accounting standards.
- Developed ten fiscal analyst positions to increase accountability and transparency around suppression costs incurred by DNR.

Highlights in Forest Restoration

- Awarded over \$2.5 million in All-Lands Direct Investments to twenty organizations to conduct forest health treatments on 3,339 acres, prep and layout forest health treatments on 3,000 acres, maintain 1.5 miles of road, install 34 beaver dam analogs, re-locate 15 beavers onto national forest lands in drought vulnerable watersheds, plant 700 native plants, and distribute 200 pounds of native seed in priority landscapes.
- Invested \$476,000 through the [Building Forest Partnership](#) competitive grant program to forest collaboratives to engage communities and grow partners to meet our state's forest health strategic plan goals, resulting in 23,167 acres of collaboratively developed forest health treatments planned.
- Completed 10,773 acres of forest health treatments through financial cost-share with small forest landowners to date using and leveraging funds from the Account,

including expansion of cost-shares to Western Washington small forest landowners for the first time.

- Launched [DNR's Landowner Assistance Portal](#), a one-stop shop for a small forest landowners' information needs, including a new [Find Your Forester online map tool](#) to help landowners find the technical expertise to address their needs.
- Hired a Federal Lands Environmental Planning National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) program manager to support increasing the pace and scale of landscape scale restoration planning on national forests with contracted projects to support NEPA on two national forests completed in FY 2022.
- Managed thirty active projects under Good Neighbor Authority on federal lands that were either funded by and/or leveraged funds from the Account. To date the work amounts to 36,000 MBF sold, 5,800 acres of treatment completed, 10 fish passage projects completed, 108 miles of road maintenance completed and 6 road miles decommissioned.
- Sold 614 acres of commercial forest health timber sales and completed 9,968 acres of non-commercial treatments using initial allotments.
- Completed an additional 5,925 acres of non-commercial forest treatments, implemented 51 miles of road maintenance/closures to reduce sediment delivery to surface waters, and conducted 988 miles of roadside weed control using additional funding from Forest Resilience, State Uplands.
- Completed over 200 acres of prescribed burns, including a cooperative, cross-boundary prescribed fire operation on more than 250 acres of land in northern Okanogan County. Funding from the Account not only provided some resources to support prescribed burns on DNR State Uplands acres, but has also funded DNR staff and resources to deliver 1,613 acres of prescribed burns and 775 piles burned on Colville Confederated Reservation, federal, local, and private lands in FY 2022. Another 1,500 acres of DNR-led or supported prescribed burns are planned for implementation in FY23with funding from the Account, including burning underway this fall.
- Established a Post-Fire Recovery Program within Forest Resilience Division including investments to local, state, and federal partners for accomplishing on the ground efforts to establish, implement, and coordinate post-fire recovery underway.
- Completed field data collection between DNR and University of Washington scientists on post-wildfire natural tree regeneration from wildfires that burned between 2012 and 2017. Data will be analyzed and a scientific report completed by June 2023 to inform managers.

- Fulfilled of RCW 76.06.200's Forest Health Assessment and Treatment Framework including assessment of forest conditions to quantify forest restoration and management needs. This biennium, assessment is now complete across 37 priority landscapes covering 4,165,780 acres in eastern Washington - each with a completed landscape evaluation providing a scientifically grounded blueprint of forest health treatment need and scale. Landowners can use these evaluations on a voluntary basis to improve their forests, and DNR can use them to track benchmarks and progress across each landscape. DNR has committed to analyze 10 more priority-planning areas next biennium, representing an additional 1,108,883 acres. This expands our footprint to focus DNR resources on implementing the forest health plan with partners across 47 total priority planning areas totaling more than 5.2 million acres.
- Increased the number and diversity of partnerships, leading to a corresponding increase in the size and complexity of forest health projects and wildfire risk reduction activities being planned and implemented across the state.
- Implemented cutting-edge forest health monitoring, led by DNR scientists, to track progress toward our goals while monitoring the effectiveness of forest health treatments in the face of wildfire, drought, and insects and disease. This includes treatment tracking where DNR and our partners have reported 493,460 acres of completed forest health treatments across eastern Washington since the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan's adoption in 2017, impacting 309,556 footprint acres as well as continued development of the [Forest Health Tracker](#) to provide a powerful dashboard to visualize and learn more about forest health treatments statewide.

Highlights in Community Resilience

With funding from the Account, DNR has successfully hired seven of the eight positions outlined in the Fiscal Note for HB 1168. An Assistant Division Manager in DNR's Wildland Fire Management Division was hired in spring of 2022 to provide oversight of the Community Resilience program, and six Community Resilience Coordinator positions were hired in the summer of 2022. These positions are crucial to effectively achieving the outcomes envisioned by the legislature in HB 1168.

Wildfire Ready Neighbors

Wildfire Ready Neighbors was launched as a new program in spring of 2021, in Chelan, Okanogan and Spokane counties. It was expanded in spring 2022 to Spokane and Yakima counties with additional communities in Chelan County. Wildfire Ready Neighbors focuses on increasing community resistance and resilience in the face of ever increasing

wildfire danger. WRN uses an innovative outreach approach that employs the power of “social marketing” to drive community awareness and interest in making their homes better prepared for wildfire. The initiative also harnesses existing community partners such as local fire districts, conservation districts, and non-profit organizations to add capacity to DNR forces to complete home wildfire assessments. This approach not only adds capacity, it opens doors and makes lasting connections within communities to work together to improve wildfire preparedness.

Wildfire Ready Neighbors provides a compelling, easy to access, and free opportunity for the public to become better prepared. Community members are directed to [Wildfire Ready Neighbors! | There's Strength In Neighbors \(wa.gov\)](https://wildfireready.dnr.wa.gov), or wildfireready.dnr.wa.gov, guided through providing basic information about their home, and then receive a customized preparedness plan that shows them the steps they can take to improve the resistance of their home to wildfire. They are also then invited to request a visit from a wildfire professional, either from DNR, a local fire district, or other partner staff, to have a more in-depth assessment completed of their home, and receive a detailed plan of action. They are also provided with other useful information about becoming better prepared for wildfire, information concerning contractors that can assist them with completing the work, programs that can help pay for it, and finally, other existing and more in-depth programs they can participate in that can help them continue to increase their preparedness and maintain it into the future.

Achievements as a result of the spring 2022 launches of the program:

- 1,058 Wildfire Ready Neighbors visited the web site and received an online plan or requested a home visit
- 591 in-person Wildfire Ready Home Visits and/or Forest Health Consultations were requested
- About a dozen community partners were engaged, including local fire departments, conservation districts, DNR and more.
- More than 1,546,000 campaign impressions (social and digital ads, direct mail, cable TV, radio, earned media, etc.) were generated.
- Participants committed to take 4,997 individual actions to reduce their wildfire risk.

Program marketing also took place in Okanogan, Klickitat and Kittitas in the fall of 2022 in smaller communities than the spring marketing campaigns. Overall numbers in the categories described above are expected to increase as this program moves to more and more communities and more people become aware of and make use of the program.

It's also recognized that the threat of wildfire is not only an eastern Washington issue, and in the spring of 2023, WRN will be launched in Pierce, Thurston, and Mason counties, reaching communities at high risk of wildfire in western Washington. Finally, in addition to targeting the communities most at risk to wildfire, WRN is also focused on providing assistance to communities that have been disproportionately affected by climate change and those that experience greater barriers to achieving preparedness due to social inequities.

Community Wildfire Defense Grants (CWDG)

[CWDG](#) is a new grant program under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and DNR is the lead for Washington State in working with partners to apply for these grant funds. DNR will also administer the program once grants are awarded. The purpose of this program is to increase actions taken by homeowners and landowners on their property to be prepared for the next wildfire. Specific activities include developing and working with Firewise USA™ sites and to partner with Wildfire Ready Neighbors to conduct wildfire home risk assessments. The program will allocate \$160,000,000 per year to states for the next five years in support of these activities. Community Wildfire Defense Grants applications opened August 2022 and closed on October 2022. There were 45 applications submitted during that period with a total amount requested for grants under the program of \$53,980,256. This included 18 requests for updates to existing Community Wildfire Protection Plans as well.

Micro Grants

The purpose of the micro grant program is to encourage Firewise USA™ sites and communities to celebrate Wildfire Awareness Month. Funds from the program are used to implement Firewise USA™ site action plans and to encourage communities to host events with the goal of becoming a Firewise USA™ site.

In the spring of 2022, DNR provided 22 micro grants to existing Firewise USA sites and/or potential sites. The money is typically used for a cleanup event or maybe a small project or gravel in Zone 1 around structures. DNR views these grants as an important tool to engage effectively with a community and discuss how to allocate these grant resources in the best way possible to protect their community. This leads to further discussion on how to get even more work done.

Equity and Inclusion Grants for Wildfire Preparedness

Worked on identifying barriers for Latino community engaging in fire adaptation. DNR is continuing to work on finalizing a two-year funding agreement with Latino community organizations on programs to reach more Spanish speaking members with wildfire preparedness and prevention education.

In 2022, DNR was able to focus efforts in Latino communities that included completing 60 Wildfire Ready Neighbors Wildfire Ready plans. The same communities held 14 community events to provide wildfire adaptation and prevention education and vegetation cleanup.

Conservation District Community Response

This program passes through to the Washington State Conservation Commission for coordination with conservation districts. The purpose of this program is to increase actions taken by homeowners and landowners on their property to be prepared for the next wildfire. Specific activities included developing and working with Firewise USA™ sites and partner with Wildfire Ready Neighbors to conduct wildfire home risk assessments.

Accountability

To provide immediate investments towards implementation of the bill, the legislature committed \$130,423,000 to DNR from the state general fund for the 2021-23 biennium before the Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration, and Community Resilience Account was established. Consistent with the direction provided by the legislature, funds were fully obligated and allotted to programs at DNR to meet legislation direction and intent. This report provides an overview of how the funds were allocated by the agency for the biennium, expenditures in Fiscal Year 2022, deliverables associated with fund allotments, and a progress report on deliverables through October 31, 2022.

This investment by the legislature was critical to the success of DNR quickly starting work to meet the goals established of the legislation. With the urgency of moving to implement projects, hire staff, and secure equipment, little time was left to engage fully with external partners on their specific resource needs for F Y22. The full report discusses what DNR is doing currently to ensure robust and meaningful collaboration occurs with all partners.

The legislature directed that DNR meet certain thresholds for investments in three key areas: wildfire response, forest restoration and community resilience. Table 1 highlights those expenditures and provides those expenditures through the end of FY 2022. See Appendix A for additional expenditure details.

Table 1. 2021-2023 funding appropriated to DNR to implement House Bill 1168 allocated by the agency through spending plans by account category

Account Category	2021-2023 funding level	Percentage
Wildfire Response	\$70,837,000	57%
Forest Restoration	\$34,491,400	27%
Community Resilience	\$19,670,600	16%
2025-2034 Sustainable Harvest (one time account allotment)	\$5,424,000	n/a
Total	\$ 130,423,000	100%

The legislature asked DNR to provide the following information related to the accounting of expenditures from the Account:

- **The type and amount of expenditures made from the Account, by fiscal year, and the purpose of those expenditures.**

Table 3 in the main body of the report and Appendix A provide this information.

- **The amount of unexpended funds from the Account.**

In FY 2022 DNR was appropriated \$43,316,000 to implement 2SHB 1168. DNR expended \$40,220,817 of that appropriation, leaving \$3,095,183 (7.15%) unexpended, and as a result, these *unexpended funds* lapsed to the state general fund. DNR attributes the accumulation of unexpended funds across programs to a nationwide slowdown in production, transportation, and slower than usual hiring.

Table 2. Fiscal Year 2022 funding appropriated to DNR to implement House Bill 1168 and expenditures (excluding one-time account allotment for 2025-2034 Sustainable Harvest)

Account Category	FY 2022 Approp.	Approp. by Percent	FY 2022 Expend	Expenditures by Percent
Wildfire Response	\$16,026,920	37%	\$16,729,073	40%
Forest Restoration	\$19,059,040	44%	\$16,180,535	42%
Community Resilience	\$8,230,040	19%	\$7,311,208	18%
Total	\$43,316,000	100%	\$40,220,817	100%

- **The amounts of any unobligated funds and recommendations for distribution of any unexpended or unobligated funds to fire protection districts.**

For FY 2022 funding was provided from the state general fund (GFS) and all unexpended funding was lapsed back to GFS at the end of the fiscal year, leaving no unobligated funds. Starting in FY 2023, funding will be deposited into a dedicated account and DNR will provide recommendations on how any unexpended or unobligated funding could be dispersed.

Recommendations

The legislature intended to commit “to provide \$125,000,000 per biennium over the next four biennia, for a total of \$500,000,000,” to achieve these goals. DNR is going into its first full biennium with these intended investments and recommends full funding of the Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration, and Community Resilience Account for the 2023-2025 biennium.

DNR continues to support an integrated partnership with other state agencies to achieve the outcomes identified by the Legislature, and recommends the legislature consider full and robust support of associated budget requests from the Account and other general fund and capital budget sources to those agencies.

Concurrently with this policy-level decision package, and if appropriated, DNR will utilize Carry Forward Level funding of approximately \$94.8 million to support the continued delivery of new programs and staff funded through the initial 2021-23 biennium budget allocation associated with 2SHB 1168. A more detailed overview of DNR’s 2023-25 policy-level and carry-forward operating budget request is provided in the full report.

Additionally, DNR expects there will be additional investment opportunities for Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration, and Community Resilience as the agency continues to move Washington’s forests from high risk to a more resilient state that protects our communities, ecosystems, and economies.

In the 2023-25 biennium, increased investments in workforce development, western Washington forest health, and expansion of DNR’s Wildfire Ready Neighbors program into western Washington are opportunities and priorities for the agency. Long-term natural resources workforce development (Section 5, 2SHB 1168) remains of vital importance for the sustainability of our forest health. DNR has worked with diverse stakeholders and facilitated a working group that has guided framework development for natural resources training, education, and workforce development for youth, young adults and adults across urban and rural communities statewide, and recommends additional investment to accomplish the goals identified by the Legislature.

Additionally, the state needs a forest health plan for our westside forests. Westside forests are very different than our eastside forests, and we need to build a different plan for them. Our 2020 Forest Action Plan and 10-Year Wildland Fire Strategic Plan provide a strong foundation to build from, and we recommend additional funding to take the next two years to gather necessary information and collaboratively develop a western Washington

forest health strategy.

Lastly, we recommend funding to extend our successful Wildfire Ready Neighbors Program to western Washington. We are thankful for Legislative funding last session to launch pilot programs in Thurston, Mason, and Pierce counties in 2023. However, there are many additional at-risk communities where this program will be beneficial.

Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration, and Community Resilience Account

The Legislature found that increasing the pace and scale of science-based forest health activities to reduce hazardous fuels and restore fire resilient forests, on federal, state, tribal, and private lands, will reduce the risk and severity of wildfires, protect cultural and archaeological resources, and improve fish and wildlife habitat. The efforts will also expand recreational opportunities, protect air and water quality, create rural economic opportunities, provide critical wood products, and increase long-term carbon sequestration on our natural resource lands. It found that the long-term, sustainable investment in wildfire response, forest restoration, and community resilience was of utmost importance to the health and safety of our environment, our economy, our communities, and the well-being of every resident in Washington. With the passage of House Bill 1168 that was signed into law July 25, 2021, the legislature committed the resources and established an account to help our state meet the challenge at scale.

By establishing the Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration, and Community Resilience Account, the Legislature commits funding to successfully implement the [Washington State Wildland Fire Protection 10-Year Strategic Plan](#), [20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan: Eastern Washington](#), and the activities developed to facilitate implementation of the [Washington State Forest Action Plan](#). Specifically, the Legislature directed that the “account may only be used to monitor, track, and implement:”

- Activities consistent with the goals contained in the state’s Wildland Fire Protection 10-year Strategic Plan including, but not limited to, funding for firefighting capacity and investments in ground and aerial firefighting resources, equipment, and technology, and the development and implementation of a wildland fire aviation support plan in order to expand and improve the effectiveness and cost-efficiency of the department’s wildland fire aviation program;
- Activities to restore and improve forest health and reduce vulnerability to drought, insect infestation, disease, and other threats to healthy forests including, but not limited to, silvicultural treatments, seedling development, thinning and prescribed fire, and post-fire recovery activities to stabilize and prevent unacceptable degradation to natural and cultural resources and minimize threats to life and property resulting from the effects of wildfire. Funding priority must be given to programs, activities, or projects aligned with the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan,

and the Washington State Forest Action Plan across any combination of local, state, federal, tribal, and private ownerships;

- Activities for homes, properties, communities and values at risk including, but not limited to: potential control lines or strategic fuel breaks in forests and rangelands near communities; improved warning and communication systems to prepare for wildfires; increased engagement with non-English speaking communities in their home language for community preparedness; and the National Fire Protection Association’s Firewise USA and the Fire-Adapted Communities programs to help communities take action before wildfires.

The Legislature committed to an intent to provide \$125,000,000 per biennium over the next four biennia for a total of \$500,000,000 to fund the investments necessary to implement these strategies. Legislative direction specified that appropriations for forest health activities (also referred to as forest restoration activities) funded by the account shall not be less than 25% of biennial appropriated funding, and community resilience activities shall not be less than 15% percent of biennial appropriated funding.

Accountability

To provide immediate investments towards implementation of the bill, the Legislature appropriated \$130,423,000 to DNR from the state general fund for the 2021-23 biennium before the Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration, and Community Resilience Account was established. Consistent with the direction provided by the Legislature, funds were fully obligated and allotted to programs at DNR to meet Legislation direction and intent. This report provides an overview of how the funds were allocated by the agency for the biennium, expenditures in FY 2022, deliverables associated with fund allotments, and a progress report on deliverables through October 31, 2022.

Table 1. 2021-2023 funding appropriated to DNR to implement House Bill 1168 allocated by the agency through spending plans by account category

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Total	\$ 130,423,000	100%

Agency administrative costs are calculated at 31% of staff salary and benefits, staff-related goods and services, and travel. This agency administration funds expenditures necessary to agency and regional operations. Central service costs include executive management and traditional administrative service programs such as communications, policy and legislative services, employee safety, legal affairs, environmental analysis, records and public disclosure, budget, finance, economics, contracts and procurement, human resources, workplace culture and development, information technology, fleet, radio, and facilities. Regional operations include administrative leadership and administrative support to include finance, human resources, information technology, and facilities for all six DNR Regions.

In FY 2022, \$43,316,000 was provided to DNR which was critical to the success of DNR quickly starting work to meet the goals established by the legislature. Table 2 highlights FY 2022 allotments and expenditures. See Appendix A for additional expenditure details.

Table 2. Fiscal Year 2022 funding appropriated to DNR to implement House Bill 1168 and expenditures (excluding one-time account allotment for 2025-2034 Sustainable Harvest)

Account Category	FY 2022 Approp.	Approp. by Percent	FY 2022 Expend	Expenditures by Percent
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Community Resilience	\$8,230,040	19%	\$7,311,208	18%
Total	\$43,316,000	100%	\$40,220,817	100%

At the request of DNR, \$12,475,000 million in funds from the Account originally allocated for FY 2022 were approved by the Legislature to be moved into FY 2023. On July 1, 2022 all funding approved to be spent in FY 2023 were moved into the Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration, and Community Resilience Account.

During the 2021 legislative session, DNR submitted a fiscal note on House Bill 1168 that detailed how funding would be utilized in 2021-2023 if awarded, and what would be delivered with these funds. DNR is on track to meet or exceed all deliverables in our fiscal note.

Table 3. DNR allocation of appropriated 2021-2023 funding to implement HB 1168 by major program area, account funding category, and fiscal note deliverables including summary of progress towards deliverables as of October 31, 2022

DNR Major Program Area	2021 -23 Funding Allocated to Major Program Area	Fiscal Year 2022 Expenditures (As of 6/30/22)	Fiscal Note Deliverables for 2021-23	Progress to Date on Deliverables (as of October 31, 2022)
Preparedness	\$16,875,000	\$2,419,330	<p>20-person Hand-crews (three) for Additional on-the-ground wildfire prevention resources. Three 20- person hand crews for additional on-the-ground wildfire prevention resources.</p> <p>FTEs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 3.0 FTE forest crew supervisor 2 (6 months in FY 2022, 12 months each FY ongoing) - oversight and management of four permanent hand crews to perform wildfire preparedness and prevention duties. - 60.0 FTE forest fire fighter (6 months in FY 2022, 12 months each FY ongoing) - Three permanent hand crews to perform wildfire preparedness and prevention duties. 	<p>Utilized funding to transition several existing hand crew leadership positions on three 20-person hand crews to year-round position to improve retention and cohesiveness of the crews. Additional positions were split out for the crew leadership positions for four short hand crew modules in Western Washington, and three new 20-person crews in Southeast Region (Chelan, Kittitas, Klickitat).</p> <p>Recruited for 16 permanent program specialist positions needed to manage and supervise both the existing resources and the additional resources provided by the Account. These positions plan work, hire and train seasonal firefighters and function as overhead on extended attack and large fires. A majority positions were filled prior to the 2022 wildfire season, remaining will be filled in fiscal year 2023.</p>
Preparedness	\$9,962,000	\$6,854,887	<p>Additional 20 permanent wildland fire ops tech 2s, 16 dozers with four transports. 20.0 FTE wildland fire operations tech 2's function as initial attack dozer operators and support extended attack and large fires. They will operate roll-back truck transports and perform minor, routine maintenance on assigned dozers and transports. DNR Regions currently rely on dozers that are called away from logging and/or excavation work. This delay causes fires to escape initial attack and grow larger. Many private operators have little or no fire training and experience, requiring close supervision which pulls trained fire leadership away from other assignments. Professionally trained wildfire operators function independently and are highly proficient in fire line construction.</p>	<p>DNR purchased and received 14 out of 16 heavy equipment dozers for constructing fire containment lines. Fourteen dozer transports are arriving now at a vendor to configure additional loading and unloading functions. These resources will be available for 2023 fire season.</p> <p>Twenty wildland fire operations technician positions were created to enhance leadership capacity throughout the state. Two of these positions have been hired to date.</p>
Preparedness	\$17,101,000	\$2,100,095	<p>Increasing aerial response capability and meeting future aerial response needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - increase service of current UH-1H fleet, purchase 1 Pilatus PC-12 Multi-Mission Aircraft (MMA) with FLIR, establish night vision response capability, purchase Qwest Kodiak Air Attack- Intelligence Platform with FLIR sensor package, additional expense necessary to implement this major element. This package partially implements the aerial response portion of the Wildfire Strategic Plan. <p>2.0 FTE of wildfire program coordinator 2. One will manage span-of-control in</p>	<p>DNR has enhanced the effectiveness and use of wildfire suppression aircraft by hiring two aviation operations program managers in spring 2022, two fixed-wing pilots and a tanker base manager. DNR is in the recruitment phase of hiring two additional airplane pilots and an unmanned aerial systems coordinator.</p> <p>DNR successfully solicited, identified, and awarded contracts for 2 DAHER Kodiak K100 utility type aircraft. The first aircraft has been accepted and is in the process of mission specific modifications, with delivery expected in March 2023. The second aircraft will be purchased in December 2022 and is scheduled for delivery in May 2023.</p>

			air operations and implement the night operational concepts, including night vision helicopter operations and FLIR missions across the state. The positions plan missions, develop policy, and procedure guidance and supervise fixed wing pilots and other aviation staff. The second PC2 establishes an Unmanned Aerial System (drone) program. The UAS coordinator will develop policy-procedure-guidance, coordinate with the FAA and other agencies, train internal staff and cooperators and serve as The UAS Chief Pilot for DNR.	DNR invested in extending the service of the state's fleet of UH-1H "Huey" helicopters. This included installing new, modern composite tail rotor blades on 100% of the fleet, and new composite main rotor blades on 75% of the fleet. In addition, DNR began upgrading digital cockpit with one of nine aircraft complete. An additional three aircraft cockpits will be upgraded by the 2023 fire season.
Preparedness	\$4,490,000	\$141,303	Train, equip, house and conduct with a 20-person formerly incarcerated crew to mirror the training and operations of DNR's current Type 2 Initial Attack 20-person crews in both Northeast and Southeast regions, conducting forest health and prevention work including use of prescribed fire as a prescribed fire module, when not preparing for or recovering from fire season. Individuals are selected for this opportunity from DNR's current, past, and future incarcerated crews. Providing additional training and opportunities once the individual is released. In addition to the training and work, funding provides re-integration, counseling, and coaching for family, job, and financial issues. An officer will be attached to this unit to ensure all post release requirements are met.	Initial implementation and hiring of supervisors took place in anticipation of full launch in FY 2023.

Firefighter Property and Assistance	\$10,929,000	\$4,406,639	<p>Increase local fire service capacity – Comprised of five components – Wildfire program coordinators, fire engines, air tanker support capacity, fire cache, and grant funding for volunteer and rural fire districts.</p> <p>Volunteer/rural FD operational grants; PPE/equipment/maintenance of fire equipment.</p> <p>DNR to start up and establish a new state grant program to supplement the current federal grant program DNR facilitates.</p> <p>Cost match for Federal Volunteer Fire Assistance (VFA) grants</p>	<p>Purchased of six logistics trailers, a semi-tractor, pumps, hand tools, hose and fittings, chainsaws and generators for assisting with state mobilization incidents. Provides state mobilization fires with the same resources as other larger fires improving the likelihood of a keeping fires smaller. With complications due to supply chain issues, the equipment was received and utilized for the 2022 season, but trailers were unable to be readied in time. Build work and construction will continue in the off-season and should be completed for use in 2023 fire season. Awarded:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$550,000.00 in grants to 43 local fire protection districts across the state that provided the opportunity for the districts to acquire and/or improve existing, new, Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) or Federal Firefighter Property (FFP), DNR surplus engines or other equipment related wildland fire suppression activities. This allowed departments or districts with insufficient primary funding or budgets to enhance their response capabilities. • \$1,100,000 to 12 fire protection districts across the state to expand their ability to respond to wildland fire suppression efforts and other active fire related needs through the acquisition of additional operational firefighting and/or suppression equipment. • \$90,000.00 to five fire protection districts across the state to allow acquisition of additional operational firefighting and/or wildland firefighting personal protection equipment. • \$600,000.00 to 55 fire protection districts across the state that were paired with U.S. Forest Service Volunteer Fire District Assistance grants program providing fire protection districts the opportunity to purchase wildfire suppression equipment and/or supplies.
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Community Resilience	\$6,038,000	\$2,368,387	<p>Creation of regional community wildfire preparedness capacity for outreach and support to communities for community wildfire preparedness, Firewise USA, or fire adapted communities work. Organized by the existing community wildfire preparedness coordinator (Forest Resilience Division), this allocation supplements an existing 0.5 FTE in each region to create a total of eight full-time staff (4.0 FTE WFPC1; 1 per region in Western Washington and two per region in Eastern Washington). Duties would include meeting with communities, neighborhoods, and other interested groups as well as organizing, attending, and hosting events to provide wildland fire risk reduction education to residents, landowners, visitors, and others. Includes standard G&S, and travel.</p>	<p>Equity and Inclusion Grants for Wildfire Preparedness: Finalizing a two-year funding agreement with Latino community organizations on programs to reach more Spanish speaking members with wildfire preparedness and prevention education. In spring 2022 DNR launched Wildfire Ready Neighbors in 3 counties in eastern WA: Spokane, Chelan and Yakima to increase community resistance and resilience in the face of ever increasing wildfire danger.</p> <p>Achievements as a result of the initial launch of the program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 1,058 Wildfire Ready Neighbors visited the web site and received an online plan or requested a home visit, o 591 in-person Wildfire Ready Home Visits and/or Forest Health Consultations were requested, 15 community partners were engaged, o 1,546,000 campaign impressions were generated, o 4,997 individual actions participants committed to take some action to reduce their wildfire risk. <p>Established micro grant program to encourage Firewise USA™ sites and communities to celebrate Wildfire Awareness Month.</p> <p>Conservation District Community Response program passes funds through to the Washington State Conservation Commission to increase actions taken by homeowners and landowners to be prepared for wildfire including developing Firewise USA™ sites, partnering with Wildfire Ready Neighbors, and wildfire home risk assessments.</p>
Wildfire Policy and Business Systems	\$4,888,000	\$545,917	<p>Development of an Advanced Fire Detection System that will contain detection cameras and equipment installed on high vantage points, like mountain tops, utilized to detect fires early so that response can be triggered quickly.</p> <p>A fire business system to provide a verifiable way to identify and track costs associated with individual fires. DNR will modify the current fire reporting system they have to allow for better accuracy and improve the amount of time it takes to pull costs together to report on individual fires.</p>	<p>Identified and mapped current unprotected lands, draft policy changes. Initiated contract to start the development of the Advanced Fire Detection System. Started development on an enhanced the Fire Cost Tracking System to increase accountability and transparency around suppression costs incurred by DNR.</p> <p>Hired one management analyst 4 focused on meeting reporting requirements related to the Long Term Forest Health bill requirements</p>

Forest Resilience Planning, Science, & Monitoring	\$4,866,700	\$2,662,652	Administer direct investment and competitive grant programs to implement 3,000 acres of forest health treatments in priority landscapes, complete collaborative planning on 10,000 acres, data collection and monitoring of treatments and changed conditions, and reporting. Business systems and technology buildout for improved reporting	Awards to 20 organizations to conduct forest health treatments on 3,339 acres, prep and layout forest health treatments on 3,000 acres, maintain 1.5 miles of road, install 34 beaver dam analogs, re-locate 15 beavers onto national forest lands in drought vulnerable watersheds, plant 700 native plants, and distribute 200 pounds of native seed in priority landscapes. 23,167 acres of collaboratively developed forest health treatments planned. Forest health treatment tracking database and monitoring tools improved, including improvements to Forest Health Tracker.
Service Forestry (Division and Regions)	\$14,086,440	\$3,358,885	Build out a Western Washington Service Forestry Program, and implement 13,100 acres of cost-share projects with willing landowners.	10,773 acres of forest health treatments completed through financial cost-share with small forest landowners to date using and leveraging funds from the Account, including expansion of cost-shares to western Washington small forest landowners for the first time. Launch of DNR's Landowner Assistance Portal, a one-stop shop for a small forest landowners information needs including a new Find Your Forester online map tool to help landowners find the technical expertise to address their needs.
Federal Lands/GNA	\$8,580,900	\$2,858,532.31	Establish a Good Neighbor Authority NEPA support team and implement 14,100 acres of forest health treatments statewide, generate 46,000 MBF statewide, install and/or repair 23 aquatic organism passages, maintain and restore 85 miles of road.	DNR has hired a Federal Lands Environmental Planning NEPA Program manager to support increasing the pace and scale of planning on national forests with contracted projects to support NEPA on two national forests completed. Using the Good Neighbor Authority on federal lands, DNR has 30 active projects funded by and/or leveraging funds from the Account. To date 36,000 MBF sold, 5,800 acres of treatment completed, 10 fish passage projects completed, 108 miles of road maintenance completed and 6 road miles decommissioned.
Prescribed Fire (Rx) & Fire Recovery	\$3,705,318	\$265,744	Implement 1,000 acres of state supported prescribed fire, and establish permanent management and support of the Prescribed Burn Training and Certification. Establish a post-fire recovery program, and provide funding to local, state, and federal partners for accomplishing on the ground efforts to establish, implement, and coordinate post-fire recovery.	In addition to support for State Uplands prescribed burns, but has funded DNR staff and resources to deliver 1,613 acres of prescribed burns and 775 piles burned on Colville Confederated Reservation, federal, local, and private lands in Fiscal Year 2022. 1,500 acres of DNR led or supported prescribed burn is planned for implementation in fiscal year 2023 with funding from the Account, including burning underway this fall.
Business and Operations - Forest Regulation & Resilience	\$127,315	\$172,400	Establish a business support team for Forest Resilience in coordination with Forest Regulation.	New budget and administration staff have been hired to build out business and operations team.
State Uplands	\$4,345,800	\$3,738,471	Conduct non-commercial treatments on 13,200 acres and support 1,100 acres of otherwise non-viable commercial projects, while commercial projects generate 5.5 MBF.	Using initial allotments, in FY 2022 614 acres of commercial timber sales were sold, and 9,968 acres of non-commercial treatments (primarily pre-commercial thinning, vegetation and noxious weed control, and broadcast burning) were completed. Treatment deliverables were exceeded due to favorable contract bid prices. When additional funding became available from Forest Resilience Division's initial allotment, \$1,223,000 was allocated to State Uplands to accomplish 5,925 acres of additional

				non-commercial treatments. For post-wildfire natural tree regeneration monitoring, field data collection is complete following the 2022 field season. Through an interagency agreement with the University of Washington, a first year doctoral student has begun data preparation and analysis, which will comprise the first chapter of their dissertation.
Forest Regulation	\$1,523,500	\$262,870	Develop educational guidance and alternate plan templates, and integrate existing programs consistent with the recommendations from the UW Report on Washington's small forest landowners in 2020.	Three regulatory assistance foresters have been hired and onboarding was completed. These positions are the subject matter experts regarding forest practices applications, alternate plans, and road inventories for small forest landowners. The foresters are functionally embedded in region forest teams and are supervised by the regulatory assistance program manager in the Forest Regulation Division.
2025 – 2034 Sustainable Harvest	\$5,400,000	\$1,166,510	n/a	n/a
Agency Admin/ Facilities	\$17,504,027	\$6,898,193	n/a	<p>Examples of administrative activities completed in FY 2022 in support of achieving HB 1168 outcomes.</p> <p><i>Facilities:</i> Purchased of the Dallesport School, expanded the lease of the existing Wenatchee Work Center, leased Kulshan Fire Station in Bellingham, leased space in Republic and Desautal Pass to house seasonal staff, expanded Spokane Work Center lease, and expanded Northeast Washington Interagency Communications Center. Activities scheduled for completion in FY 2023 include acquiring additional space at the Black Hills/Capital Fire station, leasing space in Spokane for a post-release crew, and work to achieve permitting of occupancy for Dallesport School</p> <p><i>Fleet:</i> Purchased 10 new fire engines for wildfire suppression, 33 crew cab and extended cab pickups for supervisors, 14 JD 550K bulldozers for wildfire suppression and forest resilience activities, one semi-trailor for use in DNR's Fire Cache, six enclosed trailers to carry equipment in support of DNR and fire protection districts during wildfire suppression, two HD tilt deck trailers for hauling equipment from DNR's cache in support of fire suppression.</p> <p>Hiring, payroll and all other administrative support for 1168 staff, supplies, equipment and facilities acquisition costs.</p>
Total	\$130,423,000	\$40,220,817		

* End-of-year expenditures will be provided to the legislature during regular reporting when fiscal years have officially closed.

Wildland Fire Protection 10-year Strategic Plan

In 2019, DNR released the [Washington State Wildland Fire Protection 10-Year Strategic Plan](#) with goals and outcomes that reflected extensive stakeholder input as well as extensive discussions with the Wildland Fire Advisory Council, DNR management, and senior managers from local, state, and federal wildland fire management agencies. Funding from the Washington State Legislature to implement HB 1168 are directly contributing towards our progress to implement this strategic plan.

Vision, Goals and Outcomes

The plan envisions working collaboratively across jurisdictional boundaries and with engaged communities, to safeguard what we value, to ensure all of Washington is adapted and prepared for wildfire and that our landscapes are healthy and resilient. It both prioritizes preventing wildland fire, and using fire where allowable to safely suppress unwanted fire. It builds on decades of partner-led work and addresses the critical challenges, risks, and opportunities associated with preparing for, responding to, and recovering from wildland fires in Washington. The plan takes both a short- and longer-term approach to achieving better fire outcomes through an integrated set of strategies and actions to be implemented before, during, and after fire. It offers solutions to emergent needs and issues and expected future conditions, and in doing so establishes the following goals and associated outcomes:

Goals

- Washington's preparedness, response and recovery systems are fully capable, integrated, and sustainable.
- Landscapes are resilient.
- Communities are prepared and adapted for current and future fire regimes.
- Providing a safe and effective response.

Outcomes

- Safety of the public and firefighters is provided for; wildland fire is suppressed

when necessary and used where allowable.

- Unwanted human-related wildland fires are virtually eliminated.
- Costs to suppress wildland fires are reduced; risks and losses to communities and the economy are minimized.
- Communities and ecosystems are resilient and healthy; both can withstand and recover from wildland fire.

Similar to the vision, the goals and outcomes established for this plan reflect extensive stakeholder input as well as extensive discussions with the WFAC, DNR management, and senior managers from local, state, and federal wildland fire management agencies. These goals and outcomes align with the National Cohesive Strategy, are closely linked to the vision, and provide the basis for the strategies and actions recommended in this plan.

Strategies to Achieve the Goals and Outcomes

The plan provides 10 strategies that when implemented are designed to achieve the plan's goals and outcomes, and result in better fire outcomes for all of Washington. These strategies address critical issues raised by stakeholders—improved coordination, a fully capable workforce, and better funding—as well as establish a risk-based approach to prioritizing investments and actions.

The first four strategies address cross-cutting issues which must be solved to realize system wide improvement in wildland fire management.

Goal 1 - Washington's preparedness, response, and recovery systems are fully capable, integrated, and sustainable

- Strategy 1 - Provide leadership and coordination to guide implementation and facilitate agency alignment.
- Strategy 2 - Use risk assessment to inform mitigation and protection planning and to establish priorities.
- Strategy 3 - Enhance and sustain a highly capable workforce.
- Strategy 4 - Advance sustainable funding.

The remaining strategies are designed to achieve resilient landscapes, fire-adapted communities, and safe and effective response (goals 2, 3, and 4 respectively). They address

the challenges of managing fuels and vegetation, effectively engaging communities, preventing human-related fires, meeting post-fire recovery needs, addressing gaps in protection, and improving the effectiveness of response.

Goal 2 - Landscapes are resilient—in the face of wildland fire, they resist damage and recovery quickly.

- Strategy 5 - Expand programs and practices to manage fuels and vegetation.

Goal 3 - Communities are prepared and adapted for current and future wildland fire regimes.

- Strategy 6 - Establish and sustain fire-adapted communities.
- Strategy 7 - Reduce human-related wildland fire.
- Strategy 8 - Meet post-fire recovery needs, building on current capacity and capabilities.

Goal 4 - Response is safe and effective.

- Strategy 9 - Establish effective protection for all lands.
- Strategy 10 - Improve response planning, operations, and infrastructure.

Plan Implementation

To fully implement the plan requires action by the state Legislature, state and federal agencies, affected communities, tribes, the private sector, and other stakeholders to systematically implement the strategies over the next several years. The Legislature took significant action when it established the Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration, and Community Resilience Account. The Account provides DNR and partners the resources and policy direction to focus on key priorities and address the highest risks first, and put in place building blocks that will lead to improved fire outcomes for years to come.

Immediately below are implementation priorities for the short and near term as envisioned by those stakeholders involved in the Plan's development.

Establish the leadership structures, organizational framework, and working groups as the foundation for Plan implementation.

- Create an executive-level leadership forum to provide high-level guidance and facilitate alignment.

- Assign the Wildland Fire Advisory Committee the responsibility of overseeing risk planning, prioritizing mitigation resources, and ensuring stakeholder engagement.
- Establish regional councils and local coordinator positions in at-risk counties (Strategy 1). Selectively create working groups and task forces to develop and advance solutions to high priority issues and challenges.

Use risk assessment to inform resilience and protection planning and establish priorities.

- Invest in the capacity and tools to quantify the state's current and projected wildland fire risk.
- Use these tools to conduct state, regional, and local planning and strategically prioritize actions and investments. (Strategy 2).

Increase the workforce and capacity across agencies and partners to address current and projected wildland fire management needs

- Establish new positions for year-round fuels treatment and response capabilities. (Strategy 3)
- Increase resources for prevention (Strategy 7) and recovery (Strategy 8) Invest in response infrastructure (Strategy 10).

Develop and deploy new methods and approaches to inclusively engage communities and foster behavior change.

- Conduct pilot projects, engage limited English proficiency communities (Strategy 6).

Enact policies to enable comprehensive wildland fire protection services statewide.

- Through legislation, establish rangeland fire protection associations as an option for protection in currently unprotected communities. In addition, facilitate the annexation or creation of new fire districts, so that within two years, no lands or communities are unprotected (Strategy 9).

Invest in resilience and community preparedness,

- With priorities identified, increased capacity, and engaged communities, ramp up investment in programs and actions to create resilient landscapes, and fire-adapted communities.
- Accelerate funding for, and implementation of, the 20-year Forest Health Strategic

Plan for Eastern Washington (Strategy 5, 6, and 7).

Address post fire recovery needs.

- Create a taskforce to recommend solutions and establish a Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) team (Strategy 8).

Invest in infrastructure, facilities and support to improve response.

- Increase wildland fire fighting workforce, expand training, increase air capacity, and improve facilities (Strategy 3 and 8).

Advance a sustainable funding solution.

- Convene a high-level Task Force to identify and recommend to the Legislature a durable, robust funding mechanism for wildland fire protection and response capabilities, and investments in forest health, fire-adapted communities, and post-fire recovery. Engage the Legislature to ensure sufficient funding to reduce risks and provide for the long-term safety and resilience of communities (Strategy 4).

The Legislature identified four outcomes that are intended to gauge the effectiveness of current and future investments in wildfire response, forest restoration and community resilience. These outcomes include reducing human caused wildfires; lowering the size/scale and geography of catastrophic wildfires; reducing the number of communities, landscapes, and populations at risk; and creating resilient landscapes and communities. Each of these outcomes have a relationship to the goals, strategies, outcomes and the priorities for implementation identified in the Plan.

What follows is a synopsis of how investments in activities and resources, past, current and ongoing are achieving, and can continue to achieve, the outcomes identified by the legislature.

Reducing human-caused wildfires

Investments to achieve community preparedness and resilience inherently bring about awareness of the risks of human-caused wildfires that may result in fewer such fires. DNR staff and local fire protection district staff meet and interact regularly with landowners and the public, and provide advice on managing, clearing and disposing of flammable vegetation in a way that reduces the risk of wildfire ignitions.

DNR is coordinating with interagency wildland fire partners to implement the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFRDS) Operating Plan. With partners, DNR staff evaluated criteria that establishes fire danger ratings and industrial fire precaution levels and burning restrictions. Changes are documented on websites and daily reports and communicated in advance to the public via news releases and social media.

Annually, DNR staff target to complete 600 tool inspections statewide and provide training to industry representatives on fire regulations annually.

DNR chairs the Utility Wildland Fire Protection Advisory Committee and works directly with utilities, landowners and the other stakeholders to provide recommendations on reducing the risk of wildfires from utility infrastructure. The committee is an example of implementing the priority to establish the leadership structures, organizational framework, and working groups as the foundation for Plan implementation.

It must be noted that the causal relationship between the implementation of these activities and the reduction in human caused wildfire is difficult to quantify. Too many variables exist that may have an effect on the numbers of human-caused fires in any given year. Intuitively one can assume these activities will have some affect, but there are no clear metrics designed to demonstrate this definitively.

Lowering the size/scale and geography of catastrophic wildfires

Similar to implementation of the activities intended to reduce human-caused wildfires, it is not possible to measure a direct cause and effect relationship between wildland fire management investments and activities designed to lower the size/scale and geography of catastrophic wildfires, and an actual reduction in those fires. Again, there are too many variables to be able to attribute an overall reduction to any particular investment or activity. That is not to say that certain investments and activities do not have a positive effect over space and time. The experience of wildland fire managers tells us that they do, but direct cause and effect relationships on a landscape scale are difficult to quantify but may be observed at a local scale. With this understanding, it's reasoned that scaling up investments and activities that have a positive effect on a reduced scale will result in fewer and smaller fires if applied to larger geographic and longer time scales.

To achieve outcomes at landscape scales, DNR is investing in activities and resources consistent with the Plan's implementation priorities. DNR continues to invest in infrastructure, facilities and support to improve wildland fire response. It includes

investments to increase our wildland fire fighting workforce, expand wildland fire training, increase air operations capacity, and improve operational facilities. It includes investing in community resilience and preparedness activities to reduce the potential for losses and costs that often define catastrophic wildfires, all with the intention of lowering the size/scale and geography of wildfires overall.

Examples of this approach include providing local fire protection districts in wildfire prone areas of the state with surplus DNR engines. Local fire protection districts play a crucial role as initial responders in lowering the size/scale and geography of catastrophic wildfires. DNR is investing funding from the Account to accelerate the replacement cycle of DNR's wildland fire engine fleet with the result being additional engines, which would typically have been disposed of as surplus vehicles.

Other investments include using funds from the Account to increase grant funding to fire protection districts to enhance their ability to equip and train volunteers for wildland fire suppression across the state; and building out additional supply trailers used during suppression operations and equipping the trailers with added tools, pumps and other equipment that can be available for use by fire protection districts during a State Mobilization fire.

DNR is investing resources from the Account toward hiring additional seasonal firefighters and supervisors to increase the workforce and capacity to address current and projected wildland fire management needs. DNR is procuring two dozers, four excavators, and transports now, with an additional 12 dozers to be procured over the remainder of the biennium, to enhance DNR's ability to keep wildfires small.

DNR is extending the service life of the existing UH-1 helicopter fleet by investing \$3 million in additional maintenance, and adding additional capacity to manage helicopter night operations and an unmanned aerial systems program to effectively use these resources to limit the size of wildfires.

Comprehensive wildland fire protection services statewide are critical to reducing the size/scale and geography of catastrophic wildfires. Under HB 2561 (2019), the legislature directed the Wildland Fire Advisory (WFAC) to develop recommendations on a framework for wildland fire protection on lands with no existing protection. WFAC recommended

that DNR assume the protection. DNR continues to evaluate resource and infrastructure requirements and policy considerations.

Reducing communities, landscapes, and populations at risk

DNR is investing in increased capacity and engaging with communities to ramp up investment in programs and actions to create resilient landscapes and fire-adapted communities.

With funding from the Account, DNR is hiring positions that will assist in the administration of the nearly \$20 million in wildland fire and community resilience grants that DNR received as part of 1168. They will oversee the grant agreements, assist in tracking and reporting on the grants, producing grant guidance, and ensure that grants are equitably distributed.

DNR is utilizing funding through the Account to build out regional community wildfire preparedness capacity for outreach and support to communities conducting community wildfire preparedness, participating in Firewise USA, or fire adapted communities' activities.

In spring of 2021, DNR launched a new program called Wildfire Ready Neighbors. The program's initial rollout occurred in three counties in eastern Washington: Chelan, Okanogan and Spokane in the spring of 2022. Wildfire Ready Neighbors focuses on increasing community resistance and resilience in the face of ever increasing wildfire danger. WRN uses an innovative outreach approach that employs the power of "social marketing" to drive community awareness and interest in making their homes and small, private forests better prepared for wildfire. The initiative also harnesses existing community partners such as local fire districts, conservation districts, and non-profit organizations to add capacity to DNR forces to complete home and forest wildfire assessments. This approach not only adds capacity, it opens doors and makes lasting connections within communities to work together to improve wildfire preparedness.

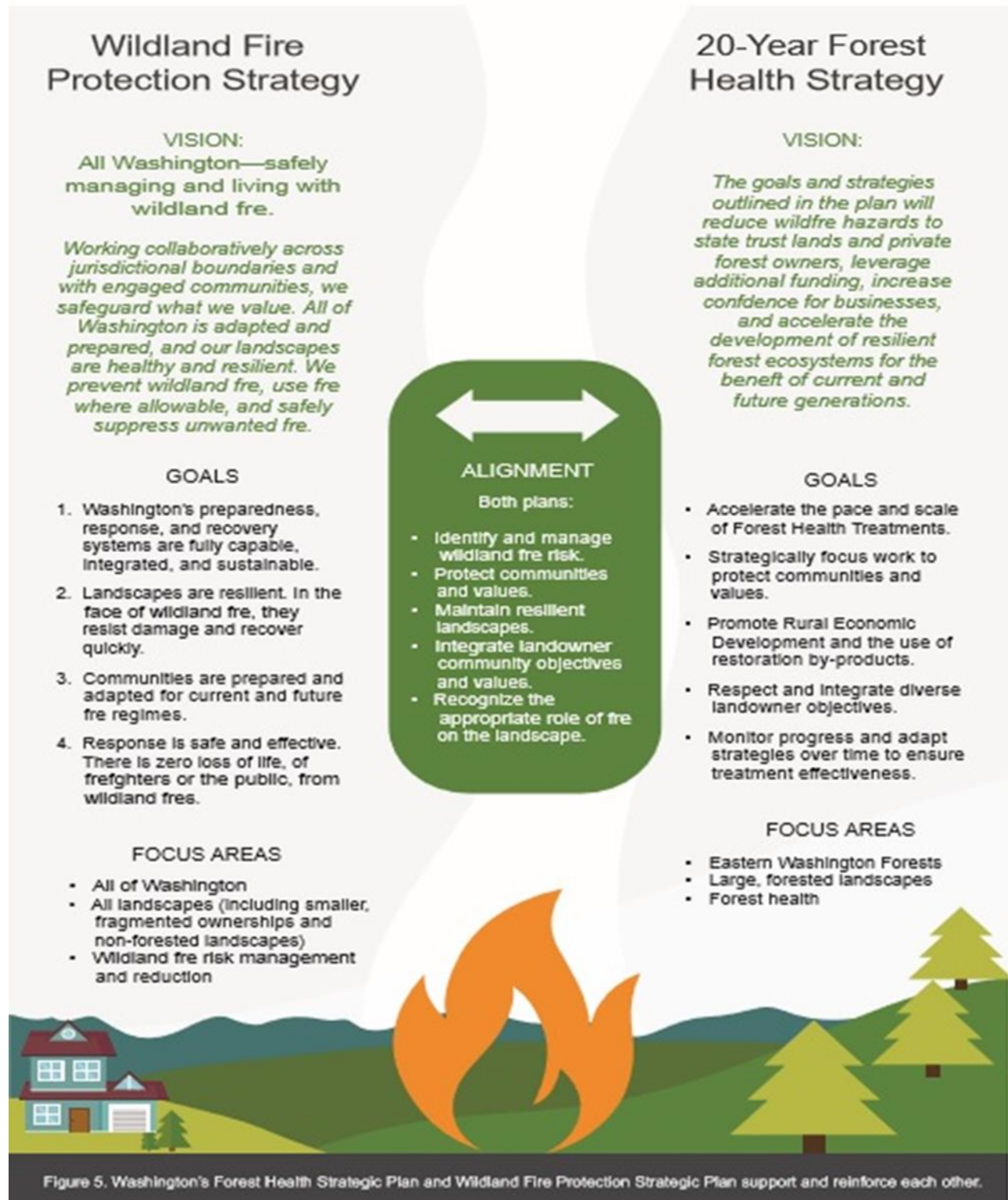
In fall of 2022, DNR acted as the lead for Washington State in working with partners to apply for Community Wildfire Defense Grants (CWDG). CWDG is a new grant program under the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which presents exciting opportunity to leverage state funding. DNR will also administer the program was grants are awarded.

The purpose of this program is to increase actions taken by homeowners and landowners on their property to be prepared for the next wildfire. Community Wildfire Defense Grants applications opened August 2022 and closed on October 2022. There were 45 applications submitted during the application period with a total amount requested for grants under the program of \$53,980,256. This included 18 requests for updates to existing Community Wildfire Protection Plans.

Alignment with the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan for Eastern Washington

The Plan is considered a companion to the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan: Eastern Washington. Both plans look comprehensively at how fire can best be safely managed to both reduce losses and costs and to achieve resilient and healthy ecosystems and communities. Figure 1 is an overview of how both plans align to identify and manage wildland fire risk, protect communities and values, maintain resilient landscapes, integrate landowner community objectives and values and recognize the appropriate role of fire on the landscape.

Figure 1. Wildland Fire Protection Strategy aligns with 20 Year Forest Health Strategy



RCW 76.06.200 and 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan

Washington has more than 22 million acres of forestland. From the lush rainforests on our coasts, to the rugged sub-alpine forests along the Cascade Crest, and the pine-dominated hillsides surrounding the Columbia Plateau, forests are integral parts of our landscapes and communities that provide a wealth of benefits to our state. They provide sustainable forest products and jobs, clean air and water, wildlife habitat, and world-class outdoor recreation.

Forest ecosystems, as evidenced by recent wildfire seasons, are facing significant threats. Climate change is shifting precipitation patterns, increasing the rate and intensity of severe weather events. Drought is leading to tree die-off, increasing forest susceptibility to insect and disease outbreaks. Invasive species are threatening native plants and wildlife habitat. An increase in severe wildfires is endangering communities, while damaging our forests and infrastructure. The Washington State Legislature has recognized that our forests face unprecedented threats that require bold action, and provided direction and resources over several biennia.

RCW 76.06.200 requires DNR “to proactively and systematically address the forest health issues” and to assess, treat, and track progress. Washington Department of Natural Resources, in close coordination with our partners in shared stewardship, is working strategically to tackle our wildfire and forest health crisis at the pace and scale it demands. The submission of this biennial legislative report marks the fifth anniversary of the release of the [20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan: Eastern Washington](#). The 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan is integrated into our statewide [Forest Action Plan](#) and is the framework focusing and directing implementation of the forest health assessment and treatment framework required by RCW 76.06.200. This report provides key information on the state’s progress to create resilient forests through fulfillment of RCW 76.06.200.

DNR and our partners have made significant progress. Highlighted accomplishments since our December 1, 2020 report include:

- Assessment of forest conditions to quantify forest restoration and management needs across 37 priority landscapes covering 4,165,780 acres in eastern Washington. This greatly exceeds the statutory requirement of analyzing 200,000 acres of fire prone land each biennium.

- Presentation of new landscape evaluation summaries for 8 priority planning areas, providing a scientifically grounded blueprint of forest health treatment need and scale. Landowners can use these evaluations on a voluntary basis to improve their forests, and DNR can use them to track benchmarks and progress across each landscape.
- A commitment by DNR to analyze 10 more priority planning areas next biennium, representing an additional 1,108,883 acres. This expands our footprint to focus DNR resources on implementing the forest health plan with partners across 47 total priority planning areas totaling more than 5.2 million acres.
- An increase in the number and diversity of partnerships, leading to a corresponding increase in the size and complexity of forest health projects and wildfire risk reduction activities being planned and implemented across the state.
- Landowners invested significant resources to accelerate implementation of forest health treatments. DNR and our partners have reported 493,460 acres of forest health treatments across eastern Washington since the plan's adoption in 2017, impacting 309,556 footprint acres.
- Investments in cutting-edge forest health monitoring, led by DNR scientists, to track progress toward our goals while monitoring the effectiveness of forest health treatments in the face of wildfire, drought, and insects and disease.

Assessing the resilience of forested landscapes and quantifying forest restoration needs have resulted in ground-breaking scientific work in Washington. We have bolstered our efforts to coordinate forest health and wildfire risk reduction activities. Between 2017 and 2022, DNR and partners assessed forest conditions and treatment needs on 37 priority landscapes in eastern Washington. The assessments identified the need for a range of forest health treatments on 962,070-1,385,820 acres to restore forest health and resilience, underscoring the need to not only meet but exceed the initial goal established by RCW 76.06.200 to assess and treat one million acres of land by 2033. [Text Wrapping Break][Text Wrapping Break]Within these assessments, DNR is working with partners to prioritize forest health treatments that benefit both forest health and wildland fire operations. This process of dual-benefit prioritization results in the identification of potential control lines (PCLs) and potential operational delineations (PODs), which aid in fire suppression and response.

Forest health treatments take multiple forms, including commercial harvest, non-commercial thinning, prescribed burning, and in places where appropriate, managed

wildfire. Conducting treatments at a scale commensurate with the restoration need and in coordination with multiple landowners is an extraordinary logistical, economic, and social challenge. Each landowner maintains their own set of management objectives, requirements for environmental review, and unique priorities and barriers that impact their ability to increase the scale of treatments. Since 2017, landowners and managers in eastern Washington have reported implementation of 493,460 acres of forest health treatments, impacting 309,556 footprint acres. Treatments are reported by category: commercial, non-commercial, and prescribed fire. In many cases, more than one kind of treatment is needed on a given acre to meet forest restoration objectives. Treatment data reported to DNR is uploaded into [Forest Health Tracker](#), a novel all-lands online tool used to compile and display forest health project information from across Washington. This tool can be used to understand where investments in forest health treatments are being implemented, identify areas prioritized for treatment, and evaluate opportunities to better achieve cross-boundary outcomes.

Tracking progress, however, is about more than just counting acres. Understanding how forest conditions are changing requires that we monitor and evaluate forests at multiple scales. A primary goal of the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan is to “develop and implement a forest health resilience monitoring program that establishes criteria, tools, and processes to monitor forest and watershed conditions, assess progress, and reassess strategies over time.” Monitoring is essential for reporting and accountability, building shared understanding and trust, and informing adaptive management to increase the effectiveness of our work over time. Assessing the progress made towards our goals under the [20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan Monitoring Framework](#) requires answering two main questions:

- *How are forest conditions and associated forest health indicators changing over time?*
- *What are the outcomes of forest health treatments?*

Since our 2020 RCW 76.06.200 legislative report, meaningful advancements in monitoring have played out at two ends of the spatial spectrum: stand level treatment monitoring and regional remote-sensing change detection. During the last biennium, DNR staff and partners developed a common methodology to collect data on completed treatments and to assess if treatment objectives were met. In some locations, monitoring data is supplemented by the use of photo monitoring and [drones](#) to expand our perspective and document a point in time. DNR scientists also utilize satellite imagery to detect and monitor changes in forest conditions at a landscape scale, providing an additional line of

evidence to evaluate the impacts of disturbances like wildfire, drought, and insects and disease. Forest ecosystems are inherently dynamic, and the collective effort of our monitoring partners combined with the use of tools such as drones and satellite imagery increase our ability to more accurately and effectively assess forest resilience and treatment outcomes across eastern Washington.

Wildfire is the primary disturbance agent affecting eastern Washington forests. Following the 2021 wildfire season, DNR scientists released the first [Work of Wildfire Assessment](#). The report formalizes an approach for evaluating the impacts of wildfires on forest resilience. In 2021, wildfires affected 463,345 forested acres in eastern Washington. The assessment found that those wildfires had both positive and negative effects on forest resilience and wildfire risk reduction objectives. Severe impacts occurred on an estimated 125,000 acres in dry forests and portions of moist forests. Conversely, fires likely had beneficial effects on landscape resilience and wildfire risk in many locations. Low- and moderate-severity fire (<75% tree mortality) occurred across an estimated 230,000 acres of dry and moist forests, reducing hazardous fuels and tree densities. The assessment found many examples where prior forest health treatments gave fire managers more options to directly engage and safely manage fires.

Prescribed fire is a critical management tool for reducing forest fuels that contribute to high severity wildfire and tree mortality. Low intensity fires are intentionally applied by trained practitioners to improve forest ecosystem health and resiliency. DNR made significant progress this biennium in increasing the use of prescribed fire in eastern Washington in policy and practice. This year, for the first time in more than a decade, DNR implemented prescribed burns on state trust lands. Policies have been developed to ensure the highest standards of safety will be met for prescribed fire. [Text Wrapping Break][Text Wrapping Break]The agency launched a Certified Burner Program to increase the number of trained professionals who can safely plan and implement prescribed fires. Additional case studies in this report highlight the work of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Chelan County, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, and other partners, all of which are working to increase their use of prescribed fire. Prescribed fire across all-lands is a key strategy to improving forest health outcomes and reducing wildfire risk.

Reducing the impact of wildfires on values at risk, such as homes, timber resources, drinking water, critical habitat, and infrastructure requires not only investments in healthy forest landscapes, but also fuel breaks, defensible space, and home hardening. DNR published a white paper in 2021 entitled, [The Role of Shaded Fuel Breaks in Support of Washington's 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan](#). The paper summarizes key findings

from the scientific literature and makes recommendations to guide integrated implementation of fuel breaks with landscape-scale forest health treatment activities. Fuel breaks are not a replacement for landscape-scale restoration. Both will be required to effectively reduce wildfire risk.

A key focus of future monitoring, and an emerging area of concern among scientists and practitioners, is the role of drought as a disturbance agent in our forests. Scientists predict that climate change will lead to increased incidence of drought. In 2021, Washington experienced a historically dry spring, followed by a record-breaking heat wave. The abnormal conditions affected water supplies across Washington, prompting a drought emergency for most of the state. Drought has profound impacts on forest health, and low fuel moistures influence how fire spreads. Following the 2014-2015 drought, forest health scientists at DNR mapped more than 1.5 million acres affected by wildfire and estimated that 3.4 million trees had been recently killed. The impacts of the 2021 drought will continue to play out over the next few years. DNR and our partners are using HB 1168 resources to make investments to prepare forests for drought and improve watershed resilience. Integrating aquatic restoration into uplands forest management will be essential to ensure our forests, fish and wildlife, and downstream water users are prepared for future drought.

Developing a durable and actionable strategic plan requires cooperation and partnerships. The 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan was crafted with input from Tribes, conservation groups, timber industry, county governments, federal agencies, and other state agencies. This collaborative approach remains a signature theme of plan implementation. Collaborating is predicated on the idea that wildfire knows no boundaries, and thus we must work with our neighbors in order to effectively reduce risk. Partners and stakeholders remain involved at every level of the implementation process – from the statewide [Forest Health Advisory Committee](#) to stand-level monitoring occurring in recently treated forests. This collaboration is also being facilitated through critical investments like the [Building Forest Partnerships Grant Program](#), which supports diverse interests working together towards shared forest health goals. Partnerships and collaboration have led to increased success in coordinating the implementation of cross-boundary forest health treatments, and remain a key part of our strategy moving forward.

DNR commissioned a third-party social science monitoring assessment to evaluate the perspectives of highly engaged partners and stakeholders. The assessment included surveys and interviews with more than 120 unique individuals from across the state. Key findings include that partners remain committed to the goals of the plan, and see the strategy as guiding the assessment of forested conditions and the implementation of

forest health activities. Significant progress is being made from the perspective of engaged stakeholders, however additional work is needed to effectively align and coordinate implementation timelines and cross-boundary treatments.

Another emerging area of work associated with the implementation of the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan is environmental justice and equity. The most vulnerable populations in society often bear disproportionate impacts from unhealthy ecosystems and natural disasters. Wildfires spread dense smoke across the region, impacting human health and quality of life. Degraded forest conditions impact the cultural, spiritual, and economic connections between people and the natural world. As part of the on-going implementation of the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan, DNR is actively developing an *Environmental Justice Implementation Plan for Forest Resilience*. The environmental justice plan, which is intended to supplement the Forest Action Plan and 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan, is being crafted in partnership with environmental justice leaders and affected communities. The actions identified in the plan will foster more equitable outcomes and reduce negative impacts associated with poor forest health to the most vulnerable Washingtonians.

Rural economic activity and community well-being are inextricably linked to the health and resilience of Washington's forests. This year the U.S. Climate Alliance, in partnership with research firm RTI International, conducted an economic analysis of the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan. The researchers found that implementing the strategic plan supports 1,518 to 2,572 jobs and \$67.6 to \$112.4 million in annual wages ([Woolacott et al. 2022](#)). Having forest health workers and contractors available to conduct forest health treatments, however, is a significant challenge, especially as many landowners seek to significantly increase their treatment footprint. Private industry is an essential partner in achieving the state's forest health and wildfire risk reduction goals. Continued investments in workforce development, biomass utilization technologies, and small businesses remain a critical part of our collective work.

Historic investments in forest resilience and wildfire risk reduction have been made by Washington State and our federal partners over the last two years. In complement to HB 1168, the federal government passed the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which was signed into law in November 2021. That legislation invests more than \$3 billion in hazardous fuels treatments across the country. The USDA Forest Service announced the national [10-Year Strategy to Confront the Wildfire Crisis](#) in January 2022, which was followed by a commitment to direct resources in four counties east of the Cascades through the [Central Washington Initiative](#).

These state and federal investments, and the additional resources they leverage, are vital to delivering on our strategic plans and legislative direction to increase the health, vibrancy, and resilience of our state's forests and communities today and into the future.

Released in 2017, the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan laid the foundation and catalyzed action to increase the health and resilience of Washington's fire prone forests and communities at the pace and scale of the threats facing them. Tremendous progress has been made in the past five years, but looking ahead, there is no doubt about the work still to be done. [Read DNR's December 1, 2022 full progress report on RCW 76.06.200 here.](#)

Developing Markets for Forest Residuals and Biomass

ES2HB 1168 directed that “The department must explore opportunities and developing markets for the utilization of woody biomass residuals from forest treatments, including biochar.” This direction is consistent with rural economic development goals of both the Forest Action Plan and 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan. This biennium, DNR worked across programs to expand our engagement with external partners to meet this direction and this section includes several highlights.

DNR staff have engaged with multiple start-up companies, NGO’s, and universities interested in wood innovation. This has included discussions with the former Longview Fibre timber mill currently being used as a compost facility that includes forest residuals, community based organization – C6 Forest to Farm – exploring start-up of a biochar facility in central Washington, researchers with state universities exploring biofuels/biochar/biomass utilization, and Myno Carbon Corporation.

In spring, DNR wrote a letter of support for Myno Carbon Corporation's Starting the Virtuous Cycle: Large-Scale Biochar Production & Research to Catalyze Climate-Smart Commodity Markets grant proposal to USDA that included plans to develop a large-scale biochar production facility using waste timber products would help to reduce the cost of biochar and improve product consistency while adding value to waste timber materials like sawdust and slash piles. If funded, DNR committed to work with Myno to execute the following grant deliverables:

- If research funds and researchers can be identified, help to identify approximately 40 acres of forest land owned by willing landowners interested in participating in biochar trials and another 10 acres that could serve as control plots.
- Work with Myno to develop specifications for biochar materials that can be applied by timber owners with the least amount of cost and effort.
- Work with Myno and an identified research institution to develop monitoring plans for each site and coordinate to ensure management activities do not interfere with monitoring goals.
- Work with Myno to develop outreach materials and hold learning sessions to disseminate the results of monitoring and economic viability of biochar as a soil amendment for forest land owners.

Additionally, DNR staff participated in the review panel for FY22 USDA Wood Innovations Program grant proposal. The program expands and creates markets for wood products and wood energy that support long-term, sustainable management of national forest and other forest lands. The program has two national competitive grants programs, and focus areas this year included mass timber, renewable wood energy, and technological development that supports fuel reduction and sustainable forest management. A proposal in Washington focused on exploring wood innovation in central Washington was funded.

Projected Ongoing Need and Recommendations

For the 2023-2025 biennium, DNR must continue to build on the initial 2SHB 1168 investments identified in this report. Therefore, DNR needs full funding of the Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration, and Community Resilience account and recommends an appropriation for \$125 million, as identified now in statute, to the Account for the 2023-2025 biennium.

DNR received \$94.8 million in 2023-2025 carry-forward level funding (Table 4), and is requesting an additional \$25.2 million in 2023-2025 to fund partners implementing our state forest health and wildland fire strategic plans. These partners include “state agencies, federally recognized tribes, local governments, fire and conservation districts, nonprofit organizations, forest collaboratives, and small forest landowners.” DNR is proud to assume the role of Account manager and the fiscal and programmatic steward of all Account funds for non-state and state partners.

Further, the comprehensive funding package identified in this proposal meets and exceeds the minimum appropriation thresholds established in legislation that forest health activities funded by the Account shall not be less than 25% and community resilience activities funded by the Account shall not be less than 15% of the biennial appropriated funding.

To accomplish these objectives, DNR recommends instituting the following process for state agency and policy-level fund disbursement requests:

State Agency Requests: To facilitate an all-lands, all-hands approach, DNR supports a strategy in which direct allocations are provided to those state agencies producing core deliverables consistent with these plans. For the 2023-25 Biennium, DNR supports the Washington State Conservation Commission’s (SCC) request for \$5 million to deliver community resilience and forest restoration projects through the conservation districts statewide. DNR also supports the separate, non-Account requests for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) and Washington State Parks (Parks) including DFW’s request for approximately \$6 million from the dedicated capital-funded Forest Resiliency Account – Hazardous Fuels Reduction and Forest Health (25F), and Parks’ request of approximately \$1 million in capital funding, and \$500 thousand as a component of the general fund operating budget.

Policy Level Pass-through Request: DNR requests \$25.2 million in available funds from the Account be provided to the agency for direct disbursement through DNR's existing programs. DNR's programs are in the best position to distribute this funding in a transparent, consistent, and accessible manner to implementation partners.

DNR's programs that provide ability to pass-through funding to implementation partners facilitate an effective allocation of funding for project expenditures from the Account to stakeholders and partners as specified in 2SHB 1168. Specifically, these programs provide for the following:

- Funding of activities consistent with the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan, 10 Year Wildland Fire Protection Strategic Plan, and Forest Action Plan;
- Clear and transparent methodologies to access and/or apply for funds;
- Equitable and/or competitive processes for the prioritization of disbursements for activities;
- Existing contracting mechanisms and methodologies to facilitate effective transfer of funds;
- Existing reporting processes and programmatic oversight, resulting in increased accountability.

Additionally, DNR has engaged the expertise and leadership of the Forest Health Advisory Committee and the Wildland Fire Advisory Committee, per the requirements of 2SHB 1168, to determine the distribution of remaining funds. DNR will utilize these committees to conduct a robust Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC) review of all applicable pass-through programs by spring 2023.

The review QA/QC review process will include:

1. An overarching review of available programs, what they fund, how they function, and the programmatic targets they seek to deliver.
2. Recommendations to DNR on programmatic and communication based improvements to pass-through programs to improve transparency, establish or refine criteria for prioritization, accelerate allocation of funds to outside entities, and improve tracking, reporting, and accountability.
3. Evaluation and recommendations to DNR on how to better and more consistently integrate environmental equity considerations into pass-thru program criteria.
4. Identification of gaps in existing DNR pass-through programs to highlight where potential novel restoration, resilience, and preparedness proposals do not have a suitable funding pathway and recommend potential solutions.

As a result of the QA/QC process the committees will recommend, based on current deliverables and goals: (a) the relative prioritization of each pass-through program to one another, and (b) recommended funding levels for each pass-through program.

If appropriated, DNR will utilize the carry forward level funding of \$94.8 million to support the continued delivery of new programs and staff funded through the initial 21-23 Biennium budget allocation associated with 2SHB 1168. Specifically, carry forward funds will deliver on the activities and priority program areas in Table 4.

Table 4. DNR proposed 2023-2025 Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration, and Community Resilience Account carryforward funding by major program area and anticipated deliverables

Major Program Areas	Requested 2023-25 Carryforward Funding Level	Deliverables Anticipated with Carryforward Funds
Wildfire Preparedness	\$35,429,980	Preparing for wildland fires throughout the state, including hiring and training and equipping newly established firefighters, including a post-release crew, and leadership positions to improve span of control during suppression operations; operate heavy equipment and hire and train supervision for improved initial attack; operate newly acquired aircraft and provide additional aviation support.
Firefighter Property and Assistance:	\$6,601,780	Increase communications, planning, and information transfer between DNR and local fire districts. Facilitate training opportunities for local fire districts and provide staff support for ongoing grant funding to fire service.
Policy and Business Systems	\$4,678,780	Continue the build out of DNR's fire detection system that includes installation of detection cameras and equipment and their maintenance, train dispatch and fire managers and cooperators in the use of the systems; meet reporting requirements related to the Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration, and Community Resilience Account and implementation of the 10-Year Wildfire Strategic Plan.
Planning, Science, & Monitoring	\$ 3,634,781	Administer direct investment to implement 460 acres of forest health treatments in priority landscapes, data collection and monitoring of treatments and changed conditions, and Division IT and data support.
Service Forestry (Division and Regions)	\$ 15,376,001	Maintain expanded statewide Service Forestry program providing technical assistance, Forest Stewardship Plan development, and 12,750 acres of cost-share projects with willing landowners.
Federal Lands	\$ 6,175,380	Complete 3,000 acres of forest health treatments, four aquatic organism passages installed, 15 miles of road maintained and restored, and perform 5 NEPA service contracts across five national forests.
Prescribed Fire & Fire Recovery	\$ 2,988,580	Implement 400 acres of state-led prescribed fire, and maintain the Prescribed Burn Training and Certification program including training courses for staff and partners. Maintenance of post-fire recovery program, including a program manager.
Business and Operations	\$ 1,138,998	Maintain business support team in coordination with Forest Regulation.

State Uplands Restoration and Management	\$ 5,431,580	Delivery of direct management activities to restore forest health and function on DNR State Trust Lands and Natural Areas and continuation of key staff capacity, including the delivery of 1,000 acres of prescribed broadcast burning, 500 acres of other fuels treatments, 1,500 acres of noxious weed control, and 8,400 acres of noncommercial forest health thinning.
Forest Regulation	\$ 2,028,880	Delivery of support and education for small forest landowners
Community Resilience	\$2,516,680	Continue to develop regional community wildfire preparedness capacity for outreach and support to communities to enhance wildfire preparedness and to be able to participate in Firewise USA, or fire adapted communities work. This includes meeting with communities, neighborhoods, and other interested groups as well as organizing, attending, and hosting events to provide wildland fire risk reduction education to residents, landowners, visitors, and others.
Exec/External Affairs Functions	\$1,247,080	Core functions in support of outreach and communication, including continued support of the External Affairs Manager for Community and Forest Resilience, development of a Limited English Proficiency program to assist communities in preparing and responding to wildfire, supporting the continued launch and expansion of Wildfire Ready Neighbors, among other major external affairs functions.
Facilities	\$ 7,551,500	Ongoing leases and operational costs associated with facilities for equipment, staff, and wildfire response.
Total	\$94.8 million	Administrative costs are calculated at 31% of staff salary and benefits, staff-related goods and services. and travel

With lessons learned from the 2021-23 biennium, DNR recommends that funding allocations from the wildfire response, forest restoration, and community resilience account are made for the biennium and expenditures are not restricted to an individual fiscal year within the biennium that the award is made.

DNR continues to support the integrated partnership with other state agencies to achieve the outcomes identified by the Legislature, and strongly encourage full and robust support of associated budget requests from the Account and other general fund and capital fund sources.

In the 2023-25 biennium, increased investments in workforce development, western Washington forest health, and expansion of DNR’s Wildfire Ready Neighbors program into western Washington are opportunities and priorities for the agency. Long-term natural resources workforce development (Section 5, 2SHB 1168) remains of vital importance for the sustainability of our forest health. DNR has worked with diverse stakeholders and facilitated a working group that has guided framework development for natural resources training, education, and workforce development for youth, young adults

and adults across urban and rural communities statewide, and recommends additional investment to accomplish the goals identified by the Legislature.

Additionally, the state needs a forest health plan for our westside forests. Westside forests are very different than our eastside forests, and we need to build a different plan for them. Our 2020 Forest Action Plan and 10-Year Wildland Fire Strategic Plan provide a strong foundation to build from, and we recommend additional funding to take the next two years to gather necessary information and collaboratively develop a western Washington forest health strategy.

Lastly, we recommend funding to extend our successful Wildfire Ready Neighbors Program to Western Washington. We are thankful for Legislative funding last session to launch pilot programs in Thurston, Mason, and Pierce counties in 2023. However, there are many additional at-risk communities where this program will be beneficial.

DNR remains committed to providing leadership and programs to strategically utilize Account funds to increase the preparedness and resilience of our state to wildfires and other factors influencing our forest and community health. We look forward 2023-25 investments by the Legislature that will allow us to continue to build on the great work we accomplished since 2SHB 1168 went into effect in July 2021.

Appendices

Appendix A – Fiscal Year 2022 DNR Expenditures Worksheet

Long Term Forest Health								
FISCAL YEAR 2022 EXPENDITURES BY ACTIVITY								
Expenditure Activity	Sum of Expenditures	Forest Restoration %	Forest Restoration \$	Community Resilience %	Community Resilience \$	Wildfire Response %	Wildfire Response \$	TOTAL
Central Services and Regional Administration	6,898,193.32	32%	2,196,314.11	14%	998,652.54	54%	3,703,226.67	6,898,193.32
125-Interagency Payments	558,885.51	42%	234,731.91	18%	100,599.39	40%	223,554.20	558,885.51
127-Atg Legal Services	250,071.89	42%	105,030.19	18%	45,012.94	40%	100,028.76	250,071.89
150-Administration Program Adj	2,877,272.00	42%	1,208,454.24	18%	517,908.96	40%	1,150,908.80	2,877,272.00
744-Fhrd 1168 Support	506.96	42%	212.92	18%	91.25	40%	202.78	506.96
555-NRB Rent	102,586.25	42%	43,086.23	18%	18,465.53	40%	41,034.50	102,586.25
568-Region Admin Adjustments	1,065,517.00	42%	447,517.14	18%	191,793.06	40%	426,206.80	1,065,517.00
58F-1168 Infrastructure	1,894,397.52	5%	94,719.88	5%	97,969.29	90%	1,701,708.35	1,894,397.52
Agency Planning and Implementation	148,956.19	42%	62,561.60	18%	26,812.11	40%	59,582.48	148,956.19
203-Human Resources Hb 1168	77,763.65	42%	32,660.73	18%	13,997.46	40%	31,105.46	77,763.65
209-Community Resiliency Policy Office	71,192.54	42%	29,900.87	18%	12,814.66	40%	28,477.02	71,192.54
Forest Regulation	262,870.44	100%	262,870.44	-	-	-	-	262,870.44
2F1-Fpa Processing With Fh Treatment	86,502.35	100%	86,502.35	0%	-	0%	-	86,502.35
25Y-Sflo Regulation Assistance	176,368.09	100%	176,368.09	0%	-	0%	-	176,368.09
Forest Resiliency	9,318,212.39	85%	7,952,580.38	15%	1,365,632.01	-	-	9,318,212.39
289-Post Fire Recovery	9,066.52	25%	2,266.63	75%	6,799.89	0%	-	9,066.52
Fh Strategic Planning	2,582,868.28	100%	2,582,868.28	0%	-	0%	-	2,582,868.28
Forest Health Field Operations	185,231.09	0%	185,231.09	0%	-	0%	-	185,231.09
27K-Fh Strike Team	12,831.58	100%	12,831.58	0%	-	0%	-	12,831.58
27S-All Lands Fh Administration	172,399.51	100%	172,399.51	0%	-	0%	-	172,399.51
276 - Information Technology and Data Mgmt 1168	79,783.46	100%	79,783.46	0%	-	0%	-	79,783.46
Gna Ops and Admin	2,858,532.31	100%	2,858,532.31	0%	-	0%	-	2,858,532.31
273-Nepa Operations	48,412.51	100%	48,412.51	0%	-	0%	-	48,412.51
274-Nepa Contracts	231,794.18	100%	231,794.18	0%	-	0%	-	231,794.18
28H-Gna Statewide Implementation	1,165,212.19	100%	1,165,212.19	0%	-	0%	-	1,165,212.19
28J-Gna Statewide Contracts and Investme	1,413,113.43	100%	1,413,113.43	0%	-	0%	-	1,413,113.43
Prescribed Fire	243,846.09	87%	228,567.83	0%	15,278.26	0%	-	243,846.09
28M-Presc Fire Planning and Policy	1,925.46	100%	1,925.46	0%	-	0%	-	1,925.46
28P-Presc Fire Treatments	203,724.98	100%	203,724.98	0%	-	0%	-	203,724.98
2P2-Prescribed Burn Cert Training	38,195.65	60%	22,917.39	40%	15,278.26	0%	-	38,195.65

Service Forestry State	3,358,884.64	60%	2,015,330.78	40%	1,343,553.86	0%	-	3,358,884.64
28K-Ewa Svc Forestry ST Staff	1,392.74	60%	835.64	40%	557.10	0%	-	1,392.74
28Q-Ewa Svc Forestry ST Cost Share	2,406,510.24	60%	1,443,906.14	40%	962,604.10	0%	-	2,406,510.24
28T-Wwa Svc Forestry ST Staff	482,929.91	60%	289,757.95	40%	193,171.96	0%	-	482,929.91
28V-Wwa Svc Forestry ST Cost Share	23,188.86	60%	13,913.32	40%	9,275.54	0%	-	23,188.86
28W-Svc Forestry Program Management	444,862.89	60%	266,917.73	40%	177,945.16	0%	-	444,862.89
Forest Resources	4,123,005.40		4,123,005.40		-		-	4,123,005.40
637-Hcp and Scientific Consultation	41,960.87	100%	41,960.87	0%	-	0%	-	41,960.87
77Q-Informatics	1,166,509.45	100%	1,166,509.45	0%	-	0%	-	1,166,509.45
Silviculture	2,914,535.08	100%	2,914,535.08	0%	-	0%	-	2,914,535.08
77K-LT Forest Health Non Commercial 1168	2,815,676.11	100%	2,815,676.11	0%	-	0%	-	2,815,676.11
77N-1168 Fh Planning, Research and Moni	98,858.97	100%	98,858.97	0%	-	0%	-	98,858.97
Product Sales and Leasing	160,082.23		160,082.23		-		-	160,082.23
752-LT Forest Health Commercial 1168	160,082.23	100%	160,082.23		-		-	160,082.23
Engineering	621,892.76		621,892.76		-		-	621,892.76
532 - Forest Road Maintenance	621,892.76	100%	621,892.76	0%	-	0%	-	621,892.76
Wildland Fire Mgmt Division	18,836,560.93		1,412,328.14		4,946,924.13		12,477,308.67	18,836,560.93
21U-Wfm Fire Business Fiscal Staff	375,132.39		-		-	100%	375,132.39	375,132.39
238-Post Release Crew Prog Implementation	124,165.64	15%	18,624.85	10%	12,416.56	75%	93,124.23	124,165.64
23J-Fire Assessment Program	30,316.25		-		-	100%	30,316.25	30,316.25
Community Resilience	2,368,387.19		-		2,368,387.19		-	2,368,387.19
231-WF Prevention	8,603.50		-	100%	8,603.50		-	8,603.50
283-Community Resilience Program Mgmt	136,596.97		-	100%	136,596.97		-	136,596.97
28B-Community Resilience Grant Program	5,263.67		-	100%	5,263.67		-	5,263.67
28D-Regional Community WF Preparedness	2,217,923.05		-	100%	2,217,923.05		-	2,217,923.05
21Q-Fire Cache Logistic & Equip Support	866,556.64		-		-	100%	866,556.64	866,556.64
Firefighter Property and Assistance	2,267,594.73		-		1,131,097.23		1,136,497.50	2,267,594.73
234-Fire Dist Assist Coordinators	7,714.68		-	15%	1,157.20	85%	6,557.48	7,714.68
235-Fire Dist Assist Proviso	2,259,880.05		-	50%	1,129,940.03	50%	1,129,940.03	2,259,880.05
28S-WF Technology Proviso	51,003.94		-		-	100%	51,003.94	51,003.94
Preparedness	12,675,489.59		1,393,703.29		1,435,023.15		9,846,763.15	12,675,489.59
214-Readiness	137,421.67	15%	20,613.25	10%	13,742.17	75%	103,066.25	137,421.67
21B-20 Person Hand Crews	1,921,790.54	15%	288,268.58	10%	192,179.05	75%	1,441,342.91	1,921,790.54
21C-Post Release Hand Crews	17,137.94	15%	2,570.69	10%	1,713.79	75%	12,853.46	17,137.94
21D-Dozers Heavy Equipment Program	6,854,887.16	15%	1,028,233.07	10%	685,488.72	75%	5,141,165.37	6,854,887.16
21H-Increased Aerial Response	2,100,095.79		-	15%	315,014.37	85%	1,785,081.42	2,100,095.79
21J-Increased Local Fire Service Capacit	1,272,488.33		-	15%	190,873.25	85%	1,081,615.08	1,272,488.33
21K-Unprotected Lands Scoping & Implemen	11,550.19		-		-	100%	11,550.19	11,550.19
21M-Span of Control	360,117.97	15%	54,017.70	10%	36,011.80	75%	270,088.48	360,117.97
230-Silvicultural Burn Permit Rvw & Processing	38,200.00		-		-	100%	38,200.00	38,200.00
28F-WF Policy and Coordination	39,714.56		-		-	100%	39,714.56	39,714.56
Grand Total	40,220,817.47	42%	16,729,073.46	18%	7,311,208.67	40%	16,180,535.34	40,220,817.47