



**DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES**
**OFFICE OF THE
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS**
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November 27, 2024

The Honorable Bernard Dean
Chief Clerk of the House
338B Legislative Building
Olympia, WA 98504

The Honorable Sarah Bannister
Secretary of the Senate
312 Legislative Building
Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Chief Clerk Dean and Secretary Bannister:

Please accept the enclosed report, submitted on behalf of Department of Natural Resources (DNR), as directed by the Legislature in the Sec. 310 (7) of the 2023-2025 Operating Budget (C 475, L 23). The bill as passed directed the DNR to report to the Governor and Legislature on the on the previous wildfire season as recommended by the Wildfire Suppression Funding and Costs (18-02) report of the joint legislative audit and review committee. The first report was due December 1, 2023, with this subsequent follow up report due December 1, 2024.

An addition to the 2024 Wildfire Season report is the inclusion of reporting requirements under ESHB 1498 (RCW 76.04.192) which addresses aviation assurance funding in response to wildland fires. The new law added a few reporting requirements within the annual Wildfire Season report.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at 360-486-3469 or Brian.Considine@dnr.wa.gov

Sincerely,

Brian Considine
Legislative Director
Office of the Commissioner of Public Lands

Enclosure: Legislative Report – Wildfire Season 2024

cc: Members of the Senate Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks Committee
Members of the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee
Members of the House Appropriations Committee

Members of the House Capital Budget Committee

Members of the House Environment & Energy Committee

Members of the Senate Environment, Energy, & Technology Committee

Members of the Senate Ways & Means Committee

Ruth Musgrave – Senior Policy Advisor, Natural Resources, Office of the Governor

Jim Cahill – Senior Budget Advisor, Natural Resources, Office of Financial Management

Lisa Borkowski – Budget Advisor, Natural Resources, Office of Financial Management

Wildfire Season 2024

Washington Department of Natural Resources
Wildland Fire Management Division

Prepared by
Washington State Department of Natural Resources
Wildland Fire Management Division
December 1, 2024



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

Table of Contents

Table of Contents	2
Executive Summary	3
Fire Season Overview	4
Aviation	8
Fire Weather, Fuels, and Fire Danger	10
Large Fire Summary.....	14
Fire Season Statistics for DNR Fires.....	16
Financial Highlights	21
HB 1168 Highlights.....	23
HB 1498 Implementation.....	24
HB 1578 Implementation.....	26
Appendices	29
Definitions.....	29
Tables and Figures.....	31

Please note that these statistics are derived from regional input of data into the Fire Incident Reporting System, an internal DNR system. Statistics may vary throughout the season until finalized at the end of the calendar year. Statistics and other fire season information presented here are the most up-to-date and accurate information provided through Sept. 30, 2024. The large fires described in this report are those fires that started on DNR protection or are otherwise of interest to DNR. This report does not include details or statistics for all agency fires, except in those instances where DNR was directly involved in supporting those fires. The DNR Fire Year ends on December 31, 2024, and an end of year statistical report will be made available on February 1, 2025.

Executive Summary

Introduction:

Preparedness for the 2024 fire year was headlined by normal seasonal readiness preparations with continued HB 1168 implementation. DNR's Wildland Fire Management program achieved full implementation of HB 1168. With those enhancements, DNR is again on track to meet the Agency Performance Measure of keeping 95 percent of fires under 10 acres. Through the first three quarters of the fire year, before final data are available, DNR is at 93.6 percent of fires contained under 10 acres.

Despite success in initial attack and extended attack, four significant incidents occurred in eastern Washington. The Pioneer, Swawilla I, Cougar Creek, and Retreat Fires required the mobilization of resources from across the country. Numerous incidents were held below the Complex threshold, being contained at the Type 3 complexity level.

Noteworthy successes included state-to-state agreements, which helped facilitate the movement of resources from 25 states into Washington. In addition, Aviation Assurance funding allowed DNR to provide immediate-need aerial resources to local fire districts. Numerous fires were slowed or stopped, preventing significant damage and the need for State Mobilizations.

Highlights you will see in this report:

- Fire Season Overview describing key events and actions throughout the 2024 wildland fire year.
- Fire Weather, Fuels, and Fire Danger, with an analysis of factors that drove fire activity in 2024.
- Statistical overview, including large fire data, ownership acres burned and forested vs. non-forested acres.
- The DNR Aviation report, including fire response statistics.
- Year-to-date financial detail from 2024 incidents.
- Additional specific detail on HB 1168 activities.
- Aviation assurance activities under HB 1498 (2023 Session).
- Accomplishments related to HB 1578, Cascading Effects of Wildfire Act.
- A map of large fires referenced in this report.

The most important objective throughout the 2024 fire year remained firefighter and public safety. There were no reported civilian or firefighter fatalities because of wildland fires in Washington. Minimizing the public health impacts of wildfire smoke is an ongoing challenge for fire managers. The adverse effects of smoke were constantly factored into the development of incident strategies, consistent with firefighter safety. DNR continues to implement HB 1578 to incorporate wildfire smoke mitigation, along with expansion of the Wildfire Ready Neighbors community resilience efforts into western Washington. Fortunately, the impacts of wildland smoke were very low during the 2024 season.

Fire Season Overview

Washington's 2024 fire season started off with moderate conditions, without a lot of early season spring fires. A series of low-pressure systems cycled through the state from April through June, bringing wetting rain that maximized the green-up period and gave vegetation high levels of live fuel moisture heading into the start of July. Then initial attack fire activity picked up dramatically and thunderstorms with abundant lightning became the highest concern through much of the summer. Overall, Washington fared well in 2024, with less acres burned and less fire occurrences than the previous 10-year average. However, the same can't be said for Oregon, Washington's neighbor to the south. Because of the elevated large fire activity in Oregon, Preparedness Levels (PL) in the Northwest Geographic Area stayed at a PL 4 or 5 for a record number of days in 2024. Resource limitations were real concerns, but DNR has developed into a more resilient fire organization with more aviation and ground assets under agency tactical control than ever, which proved critical in a year like 2024 where the national system was at maximum capacity.

Aggressive initial attack response with ground and air resources proved to be successful for much of the fire starts in Washington. However, even with effective pre-suppression planning and aggressive initial attack, Washington experienced several long-duration and costly wildfires. The operational tempo of the season was high from early July and didn't moderate until October due to the ongoing initial attack fire load and the large fire extended attack support.

The Pioneer Fire was the first large fire in 2024 and continued to be a major incident throughout the summer, with five rotations of Complex Incident Management Teams (CIMTs) and Type 3 Incident Management Teams (IMTs) until the fire was finally controlled in October. This fire started early on June 8th on DNR protection about halfway up Lake Chelan on the eastern shoreline. The fire quickly burned outwards onto steep and inaccessible shorelines and up towards high-elevation forests and wilderness lands. Even with a high commitment of specialty ground and aviation resources combating the fire immediately after initially reported, the fire continued to spread to 38,729 acres by the time it was controlled. The fire ultimately burned north toward the remote and historic town of Stehekin, forcing the evacuation of this community. A considerable investment in aerial-delivered retardant along a rugged ridgeline above Stehekin proved to be a successful control feature to minimize additional impact to the Stehekin River Valley and stop the spread to the northeast over the mountains into the Methow Valley.

Another major 2024 DNR fire was the Cougar Creek Fire that started on July 15th in the far southeast corner of Washington, in the Blue Mountains. This fire grew to 24,091 acres throughout July and August and had two rotations of CIMTs assigned, as well as two Type 3 IMTs that worked on initial attack and



Figure 1: Ezequiel Martinez from the Chelan Handcrew showing firing operations on the Airport Prescribed Fire on May 17, 2024.

then at transition when the incident finally downsized and was turned back to the local fire unit to manage.

The Retreat Fire started east of Naches on July 23rd. This fire burned 45,601 acres and threatened the communities of Tieton and Rimrock Lake. The other Complex incidents that stressed the system were the Swawilla I and Bridge Creek fires on the Colville Indian Reservation, which included substantial fee simple lands under DNR fire protection. The Retreat, Swawilla I, and Bridge Creek fires also required multiple rotations of CIMTs and Type 3 organizations to control. In total, there were nine other Type 3 DNR incidents in eastern Washington. The latest of the season's large incident responses was the Goosmus Fire that occurred on September 25th north of Curlew, burned over 1,700 acres and was driven by a very aggressive late season dry cold front.

Western Washington had a few large fires in 2024. Considering the persistent drought conditions in the North Cascades and Olympic Mountains leading up to the fire season, western Washington fared quite well due to successful initial attack and use of specialized aviation resources. All the large westside fires occurred in challenging terrain and on industrial timberland with lots of slash and heavy timber. The Dearinger Fire was the first Type 3 incident, which started June 22nd and burned 48 acres of very steep and inaccessible terrain outside of Darrington. Another westside fire of concern was the Donkey Fire, which started on July 12th and burned approximately 40 acres in steep terrain of standing and felled and bucked heavy timber south of Pe Ell.



Figure 2: DNR File Photo. HB 1168-funded handcrews in western Washington working on the 2620 Road Fire, Olympic Region.

Two large fires in western Washington that burned later in the season were 2620 Road Fire and Huckleberry Ridge Fire. On August 14th, the 2620 Road Fire started on the ridgeline above Brinnon on the Olympic Peninsula, ultimately burning nearly 397 acres. The last big westside fire was the Huckleberry Ridge Fire, which started on September 4th during a hot and dry red flag weather event and burned almost 300 acres south of Pe Ell. All these large westside fires utilized the Western Washington Type 3 IMT and required between 150 to 400 personnel to respond, along with aircraft to stop fire spread and put the fires out.

DNR did a considerable amount of dispatching for single resources and some crew resources out of state, as well as supporting the importing of resources from other states to assist during the critical part of Washington's summer. In addition, DNR assembled a statewide support team to manage the movement of resources across the state and ensure their safety during their assignments. Statewide support also included a planning cycle and information exchange so that pertinent details of the incidents, weather and fire danger, and other planning products could be shared with partners, executives, legislative staff, and other interested parties. The team was comprised of DNR personnel and other agency personnel assigned to work on the support team. Additionally, at the very end of September, many individuals were dispatched through Emergency Support Function 4 (Firefighting) to North Carolina in the aftermath of Hurricane Helene (these personnel returned in October).

Table 1 below shows the resources deployed out of state, and Table 2 shows the resources that were brought into the state to augment staffing and support priority incidents. These resources were in addition to the general national system of resource mobilization and show DNR’s cooperative relationship with many other state wildland fire agencies to prioritize initial attack fires and large DNR-jurisdiction fires.

Table 1: 2024 Out of State Dispatches – February through September

TO STATE	DNR CIMT MEMBERS	DNR SINGLE RESOURCES	FIRE DISTRICT CIMT MEMBERS	FIRE DISTRICT SINGLE RESOURCES	TOTALS
TEXAS		146		1	147
ARKANSAS		2			2
MISSOURI		1			1
VIRGINIA		2			2
NEW HAMPSHIRE		1			1
COLORADO		3			3
ARIZONA		2			2
NEW MEXICO		6			6
OREGON	219	177	135	48	579
ALASKA		21			21
CALIFORNIA		14			14
IDAHO		3		3	3
MONTANA		5			5
TOTAL DNR OUT OF STATE 602					
TOTAL FIRE DISTRICT OUT OF STATE (DISPATCHED BY DNR) 187					

Table 2: 2024 Partner State and NW Compact (Canada) Resource Surge Support – through September

STATE FROM	ENGINE CREW PERSONNEL	HEAVY EQUIPMENT BOSSES	DOZER OPERATORS	AVIATION PERSONNEL	SINGLE RESOURCE OVERHEAD	STATEWIDE SUPPORT TEAM	HAND CREW PERSONNEL
ALASKA				15	1		
ALABAMA	19				2		
ARIZONA				2			
ARKANSAS				2			
CALIFORNIA				1			
CANADA (YUKON)							21
COLORADO				3			
FLORIDA	13	3	4	2	3		
GEORGIA	28			1	1	1	
IDAHO				1			
KENTUCKY				1			19
LOUISIANA	4	2					
MINNESOTA				5			

MISSISSIPPI	5	1			1		10
MONTANA				1			
NEW HAMPSHIRE				3			
NEW MEXICO	27				3		10
NORTH CAROLINA	7	7	2		7	6	
OKLAHOMA	8				1		
OREGON	6			7	1	2	
SOUTH CAROLINA				1			
TENNESSEE	11						
TEXAS				1			
UTAH				1			
VIRGINIA	32	3			1		
WISCONSIN	5	2			4		
TOTAL BY POSITION	165	37	6	47	25	9	60

Washington's 2024 fire season was active from June through the September and into October. Because of the activity and due to the unprecedented fire load in Oregon, it was a very challenging year. All Northwest CIMTs had a minimum of four incident assignments. Many CIMT members spent over 60 days in travel status, working long hours (up to 16 hours a day for the full length of the assignment) in remote locations of Washington and Oregon. Northwest Team 10, the DNR-hosted CIMT, finished the season with a response to North Carolina to help with Hurricane Helene recovery as did numerous single resources.

Aviation

Aviation operations were integral to wildfire response due to the large fire potential predicted across Washington. This necessitated the need to expand the air asset coverage area, thus reducing response times to incidents. DNR responded with aerial support more than 350 times to initial attack incidents, flying more than 3,800 hours and delivering over 00million gallons of water or retardant to wildland fires. DNR committed to heavy aircraft utilization to decrease response times and reduce the risk to communities by keeping fires small. Key actions included procurement (contracts) of three UH-60 heavy helicopters on 89-day exclusive-use contracts, two CL-415 large air tankers (scoopers) on 89-day contracts, two large Type II air tankers, several medium and light helicopters, and 6 single engine air tankers (SEAT). This was in addition to the aviation assets DNR owns.

Ultimately, the UH-60s delivered 5,400 buckets or tanks of water totaling over 4.5 million gallons. The DNR-owned helicopters were the most cost-effective resource in terms of cost per gallon, which delivered at \$1.10/gallon. The scoopers by far delivered the most water to fires (5,540,000 gallons). In addition, the DNR Aviation section supported incidents in Oregon, Idaho, and Canada which reduced overall financial commitment to contracted aircraft by over \$15.0 million dollars.

DNR ended the 2024 season with nine UH-1H helicopters, one B206L4 light helicopter, plus one helicopter leased from Chelan County Fire District 1. DNR-owned aircraft provided 1,800 aircraft days of coverage, transporting aerially delivered firefighters and more than 1,832,000 gallons of water to the incidents. Aircraft response time averaged 16 minutes, from the time of alert to the arrival on incident.

With the agency increasing aircraft usage to respond to incidents, additional challenges (drought conditions, extreme temperatures) caused DNR to contract an additional air attack aircraft to assist. This improved safety and effectiveness of aircraft operations by having aerial supervision readily available and rested. An air attack platform serves as “eyes in the sky” over any fire and is required when flying multiple aircraft or when flying a mix of aircraft type.

During the Governor’s Declaration of Emergency on August 19, DNR mobilized and employed one UH-60 Blackhawk from the Washington Army National Guard (WAARNG) to multiple incidents.

DNR contracted with private vendors for the six amphibious SEAT aircraft. These aircraft delivered 2,740 loads totaling 1.2 million gallons. Their cost per gallon was \$1.60. Several other call-when-needed (CWN) aircraft from private contractors were brought on for specific incidents or weather events, including three UH-1/B205, one Alaska Air Attack, and three B407/AS350 helicopter.

DNR Aviation assets protected more than 500 structures from wildfires this year at a value greater than \$300,000,000.

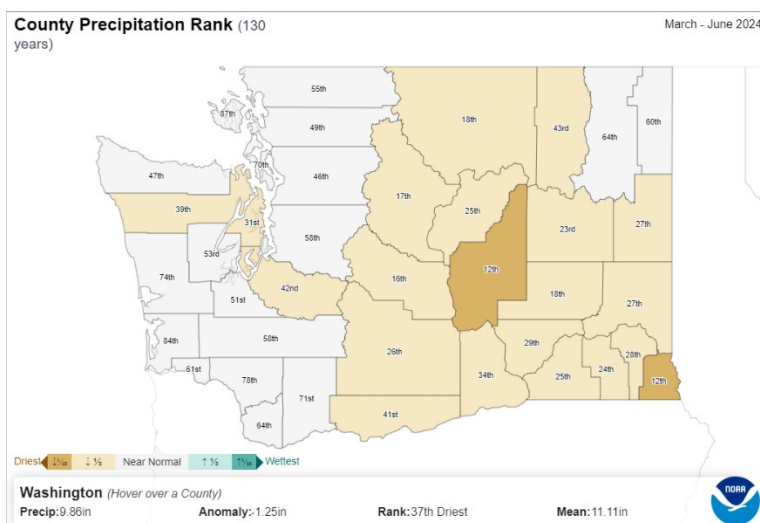
Table 3: Aviation Flight Time and Delivery by Aircraft Type

Aircraft Type	Owner	Flight Time	Water Delivered (gal)	Remarks
Light Fixed Wing (Kodiak) HB 1168	DNR	400+	NA	2 aircraft
Light Fixed Wing – Air Attack – EUC	Contractor	501	NA	3 aircraft
Single Engine Air Tankers – EUC	Contractor	470	1.2m	6 aircraft
Type II Large Air Tankers – EUC	Contractor	280	860k	2 aircraft
Type III CL-415 Scoopers – EUC	Contractor	388	5.6m	2 aircraft and 2 CWN aircraft
Type III – B206L4 – DNR – Civil	DNR	100+	0	1 aircraft. Primary use recon, detection, aerial supervision
Type II – UH-1H – FEPP helicopters	DNR	900+	1.8m	10 aircraft
Type I – UH-60s – EUC	Contractor	390	4.5m	3 aircraft
Type III – B407 – CWN	Contract	110	44K	3 aircraft – Surge
Type II – UH-1H	Contract	271	411K	3 aircraft – Surge

Fire Weather, Fuels, and Fire Danger

Fire Weather

A strong, but short-lived, El Niño episode in the tropical Pacific was the main driver of winter and springtime weather in the Northern Hemisphere during the lead-up to the 2024 fire season. As is typical with El Niño conditions, snowpack in Washington lagged well behind average through the core winter months and contributed to increasing drought conditions particularly in the high Cascades and Olympic Mountains by the start of May. Most Washington watersheds were below 70 percent of their median snow-water equivalent as of May 1, 2024, and moderate to severe drought spread from the Cascades eastward toward the Columbia Basin by the start of July.



Through May and June, however, the western half of the state saw several wetting rain events that pushed seasonal precipitation values toward normal while areas east of the Cascade Crest were continually rain-shadowed and left dry. As the typical warm and dry summertime pattern set in at the beginning of July and fire danger began to ramp up, the spring rainfall totals for most counties in eastern Washington ranked in the bottom 33 percent of the last 130 years.

Figure 3: County Precipitation Rank of the last 130 years, <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/monitoring/climate-at-a-glance/county/mapping/45/pcp/202406/4/rank>

The peak in critical fire weather days during 2024 fire season occurred between the beginning of July and the first two weeks of August, which is earlier than a typical season. The weather pattern across the western United States during this timeframe was dominated by an unusually strong sub-tropical high pressure over the Four Corners and Great Basin region, which created favorable conditions for both above average temperatures and frequent dry lightning across the Pacific Northwest. Washington experienced its second warmest July on record, continuing a trend of warming

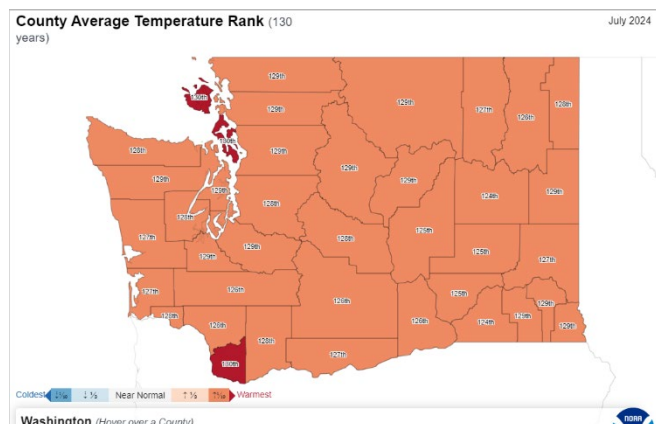


Figure 4: County Average Temperature Rank over the last 130 years, <https://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/monitoring/climate-at-a-glance/county/mapping/45/tavg/202407/1/rank>

summertime temperatures due to the influence of climate change.

The hot, dry, and lightning-filled peak of fire season in July and early August gave way as cooler air and increased moisture began working into the region by the middle of August. The record-strong subtropical high in the Great Basin lost its grip on the Pacific Northwest as stronger low-pressure systems began entering the Gulf of Alaska, ushering cool northwest flow into Washington. Fire season ramped down rather gradually through September and October as eastern Washington continued to miss out on season-ending rains, though cool conditions and the lack of east wind events mitigated any high-end fire danger through autumn.

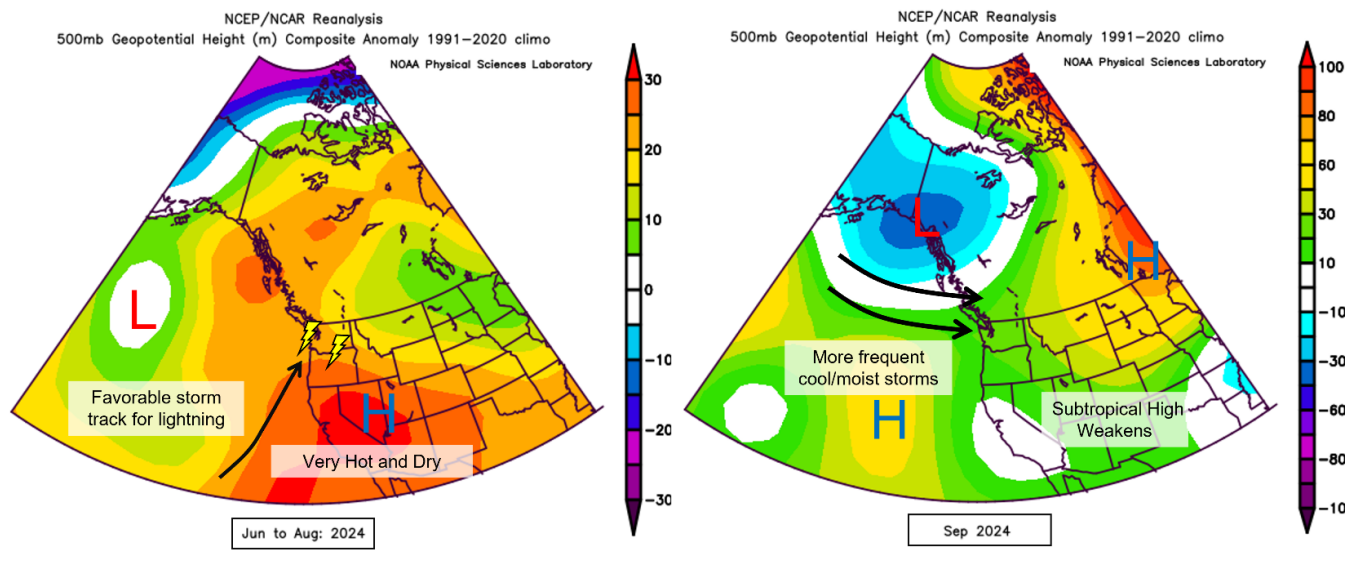


Figure 5: Mid-level atmospheric pattern analysis using data from NCEP. <https://psl.noaa.gov/cgi-bin/data/composites/printpage>.

Fuels and Fire Danger

The below-average snowpack through the winter and spring of 2024 typically would indicate an early start to fire season with increased intensity during the peak of fire activity. However, contrary to the snow conditions, soil moisture in Washington was above normal through the early spring outside of the North Cascades. Above average soil moisture keeps vegetation flush with water and slows the drying of dead fuel in contact with the soil surface. Along with abnormally high soil moistures, April and May saw cooler than average temperatures that delayed green-up by as much as two weeks, though the dry spring in eastern Washington caused concern as fire season approached. Together, these indicators pointed towards a relatively average fire season.

With major fuel indicators pulling in different directions, fuel conditions on the first of June ended up right on the average across Washington. Green-up was nearing its peak in the low elevations while the middle elevations would peak around June 15. The highest elevations continued to add moisture into July. At the same time, annual invasive grasses began to cure at the low elevations and became available

to burn. Satellite imagery and field verification showed the transition from green to purple stages in cheatgrass beginning in late May, with curing on south facing aspects of the low and middle elevations by mid-June. The freshly curing cheatgrass and residual dead grass accumulations provided just enough of an available fuel bed to allow the Pioneer Fire to establish on June 10. The remainder of June saw steadily increasing fire danger for eastern Washington with the Okanogan Valley and Lower Columbia Basin Fire Danger Rating Areas (FDRAs) moving to High fire danger on June 14, followed by the Methow, Highlands, and Lower Yakima FDRAs reaching High fire danger on June 27. Through June in western Washington, fire danger hovered around the average under seasonable conditions. By the end of June, the 1000-hour fuel moisture content was 12-13 percent in most of eastern Washington ranged and 18-21 percent in western Washington.

With critical fire weather conditions peaking earlier than usual, fire danger also ramped up quite a bit sooner than is typical, with the Fourth of July serving as a jumping-off point for the peak of the 2024 fire season. In the Highlands FDRA, for example, the ERC (Energy Release Component) jumped from the 70th percentile on July 4 to the 99th percentile on July 21, increasing fire danger from “Moderate” to “Extreme” over the course of just a few weeks. Moisture readings for the 1000-hour fuels dropped down to 8 percent in the Highlands, which is equivalent to the moisture content of kiln-dried lumber. The same meteoric rise in fire danger was occurring across the state, with all 23 FDRAs reaching above the 94th percentile for ERC by the third week of July. Live herbaceous and woody fuel moistures reached critical values in eastern Washington during this period, as well, and began contributing to the fire environment. The incredibly dry and volatile fire environment across the state prompted the issuance of a statewide burn ban on July 10, the first statewide ban enacted since the 2021 fire season.

Conditions moderated slightly at the end of July, with fire danger backing away from daily records, though all FDRAs remained between High to Extreme fire danger. The large-scale shift in the weather pattern by the middle of August allowed fuels an extended amount of time to recover, with perennial woody and herbaceous live fuels picking up significant amounts of moisture and the heavy classes of dead fuels increasing their moisture content to between 13 and 18 percent. In the Foothills FDRA, live woody fuel moisture increased from 60 percent on July 30 to 137 percent by August 30, with 1000-hour fuels increasing from 8 percent to 13 percent in the same time frame. Conditions were still dry, but no longer critically dry, and the peak of fire season was over. For the month of August, fires burned only 1/10th of the area blackened during July.

The variable weather pattern that arrived in the middle of August continued into September and October, with brief bouts of Extreme fire danger and critically dry fuels in eastern Washington followed by extended moderating events that kept most of the state at average fire danger. The drying events that did occur allowed the fine dead fuels to become available again to support large fires, but moisture gains in the live and heavy dead fuels mitigated any prolonged periods of high fire danger. This helped confine the few large fires that did occur to mostly grass dominated fuel types, such as the Jack Wells Fire on October 1.

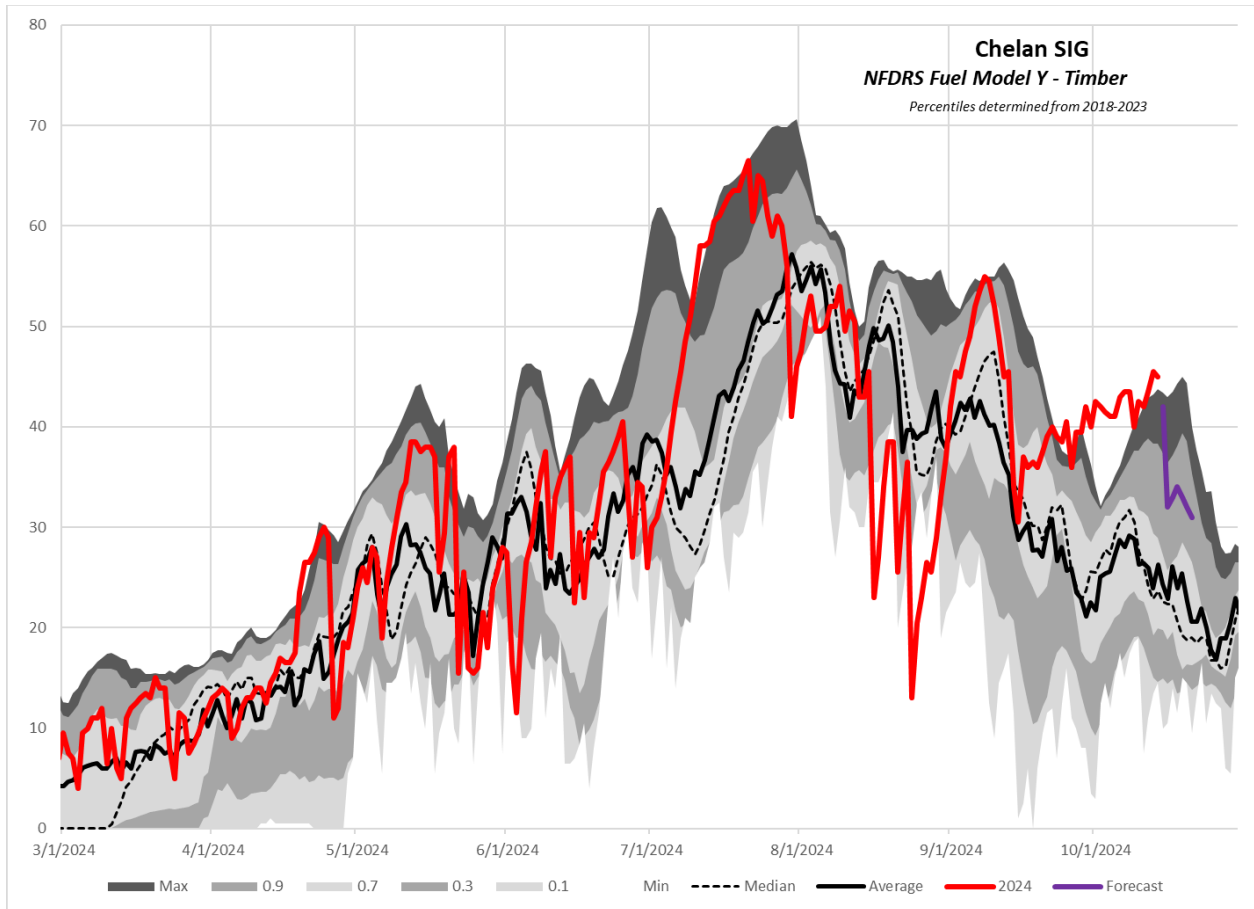


Figure 6: Season Summary ERC Chart for the Chelan FDRA. Shaded areas represent the Maximum, 90th percentile, 70th percentile, 30th percentile, and 10th percentile respectively. The red line is the observed values for the 2024 fire season. As can be seen here, July sent fuels well above average and into record territory, while August reversed that trend and sent some portions of the state into new record lows for a brief period.

Large Fire Summary

By September 30, 2024, there were 24 significant fires considered DNR jurisdiction or which saw DNR involvement because of a threat to DNR jurisdiction. Most hit the trigger for “large” fire designations, which are typically those fires that are greater than 100 acres in timber or 300 acres in grass. For a location of the fires displayed in the table below, please see the Map of 2024 Large Fires in the Appendix of this report.

Table 4: Wildfire acres by jurisdiction and forested and non-forested acres burned

Fire Name	Federal	Private	State	Tribe	Grand Total	Forested	Non-forested
2620 Road	0.2	201.4	195.1	0.0	396.7	223.3	173.4
Balsam Root	0.0	305.1	0.0	0.0	305.1	0.0	305.1
Black Canyon	0.0	1,216.6	8,061.4	0.0	9,278.0	133.9	9,144.1
Bridge Creek	0.0	0.0	0.0	3,997.7	3,997.7	946.7	3,051.0
Charm	4.1	252.3	0.0	0.0	256.4	17.8	238.7
Cougar Creek	17,319.0	877.0	5,892.0	0.0	24,089.0	15,922.0	8,167.0
Frazer Crossing	21.8	197.2	0.0	0.0	219.0	0.0	219.0
Gold Creek	187.4	44.3	46.5	0.0	278.2	65.9	212.3
Goosmus	522.0	1,212.5	0.0	0.0	1,734.6	686.3	1,048.2
Horsethief	0.0	241.5	21.0	0.0	262.5	0.0	262.5
Huckleberry Ridge	0.0	299.4	0.0	0.0	299.4	207.9	91.5
Keys Dike	0.0	9.4	97.2	0.0	106.6	0.0	106.6
Luna	0.0	149.3	0.0	0.0	149.3	0.0	149.3
Pioneer	37,838.5	891.2	0.0	0.0	38,729.8	12,445.8	26,283.9
Reinbold	0.0	385.6	0.0	0.0	385.6	3.0	382.6
Retreat	17,428.4	2,098.4	26,074.7	0.0	45,601.4	21,536.9	24,064.6
Salmon Creek	64.0	752.0	14.9	0.0	830.9	81.0	749.9
Sheep Company	0.0	0.8	329.2	0.0	330.0	0.0	330.0
South Columbia Basin	0.0	252.3	0.0	0.0	252.3	22.1	230.2
Stayman	573.1	34.8	2,509.9	0.0	3,117.8	27.4	3,090.4
Sunset Ridge	0.0	121.9	0.0	0.0	121.9	0.0	121.9
Swauk Creek	274.9	1.2	71.8	0.0	347.9	262.8	85.1
Swawilla I (Note: This fire contained over 2,000 acres of DNR protection that was not part of the breakdown of acres in the report)	0.0	0.0	0.0	53,748.3	53,748.3	15,490.3	38,258.0
Wicked Drive	0.0	707.3	12.6	0.0	719.9	33.1	686.8
Grand Total	74,233.4	10,251.7	43,326.1	57,746.0	185,558.2	68,106.1	117,452.1

The number of large fires is more than the number for last year (17 fires were noted in 2023). For the fires listed above, total acres burned across the jurisdictions is 185,558, and of that, 40 percent of the acres burned is federal, 29 percent is private and state, and 31 percent is tribal land. Expenditures that DNR incurred for wildland fire response are described in the Financial Highlights section of this report. If expenditures were incurred while assisting a federal or tribal entity that were not part of mutual assistance during initial attack, those expenditures will be reimbursed. DNR incurs cost associated with DNR protection. DNR protects state, private and other non-federal forestlands within Forest Protection Zones defined in RCW 76.04.165. Any response outside of these zones is considered an “other agency assist” fire.

Also included in Table 4 is a breakdown of forested vs. non-forested acres burned for each fire. The Retreat Fire burned the most forested acres (~21,537), and Swawilla I Fire burned the most non-forested acres (38,258). Over half (63%) of the total acres burned were non-forested (~117,452) and less than half (37%) of the total acres burned were forested (~68,106).

Fire Season Statistics for DNR Fires

Between January 1 and September 30, 2024, there were 313 DNR fires on the western side of the state and 513 on the east side. This brings the statewide total fires to 826 DNR fires. The westside experienced significantly fewer fires in 2024 (313) than it did in 2023 (538), and the eastside experienced slightly fewer fires in 2024 (513) than it did in 2023 (520). The individual fire count was below average for all DNR regions except for Olympic and Southeast.

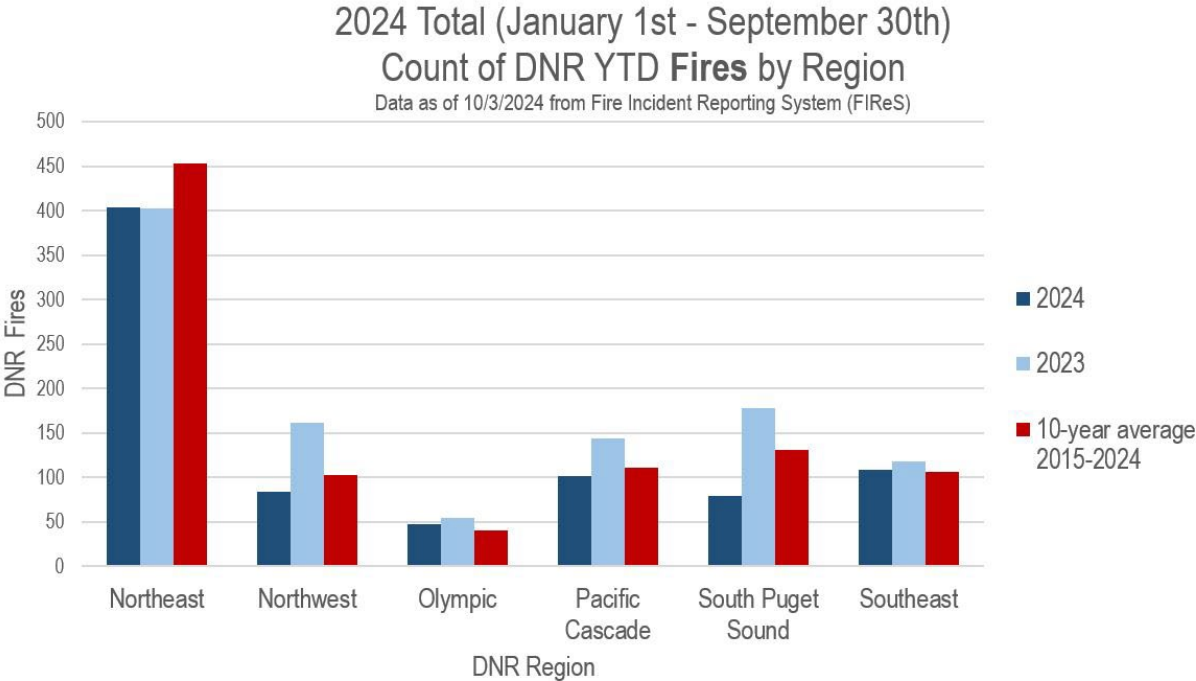


Figure 7: Count of DNR Fires by Region; YTD through Sept. 30 and gathered on Oct. 3.

While most fires were contained before they were able to expand into large, complex fires, the year-to-date number of DNR fires contained at 10 acres or less was 773 of 826 fires. This puts the percentage of DNR fires contained at 10 acres or less at 93.6 percent. This number is lower than the target of 95 percent set by the Office of Finance and Budget, but there is one more quarter remaining for the fire year (October, November, and December). It is expected that DNR will end the year much closer to the performance measure.

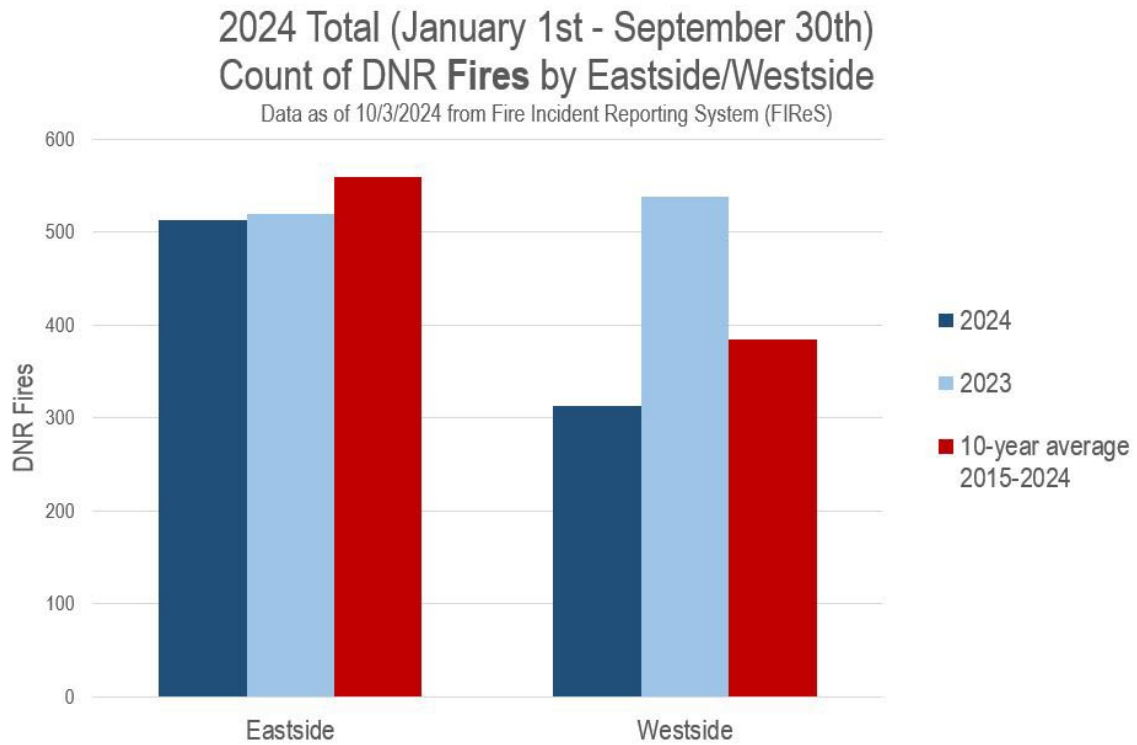


Figure 8: Count of DNR Fires comparing eastside of Washington to the westside of Washington for the period January 1 to September 30.

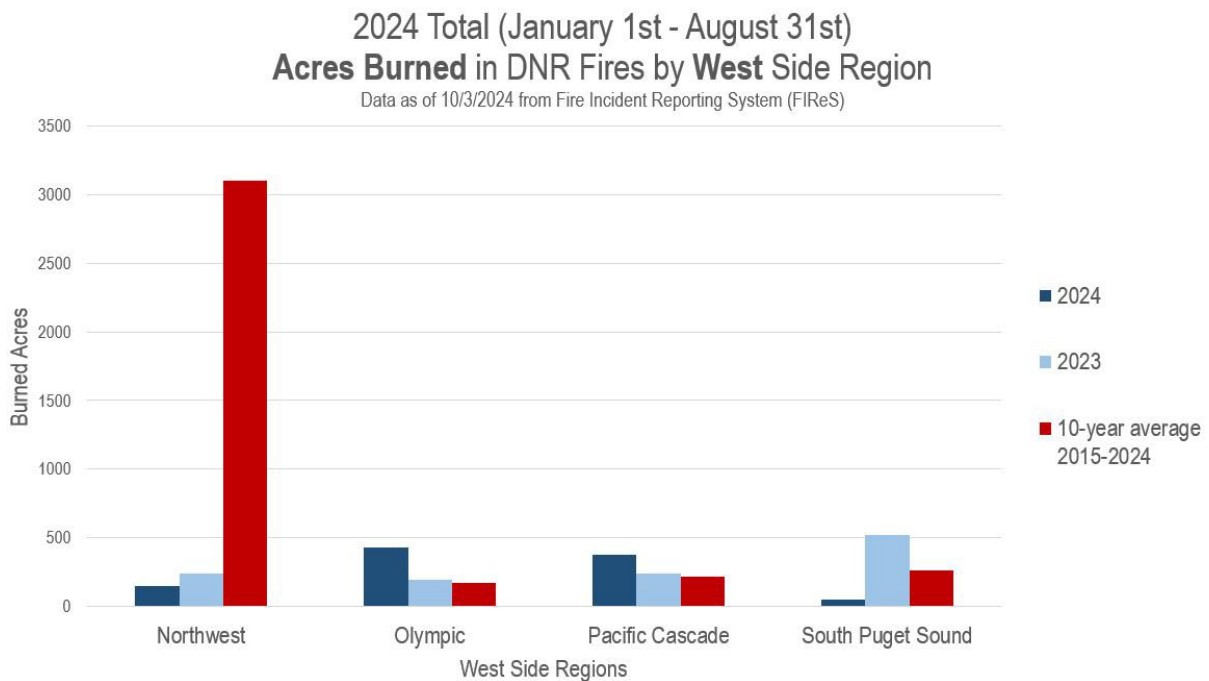


Figure 9: Acres burned for each DNR region in western Washington for the period January 1 to September 30.

2024 Total (January 1st - September 30th) Acres Burned in DNR Fires by East Side Region

Data as of 10/3/2024 from Fire Incident Reporting System (FIReS)

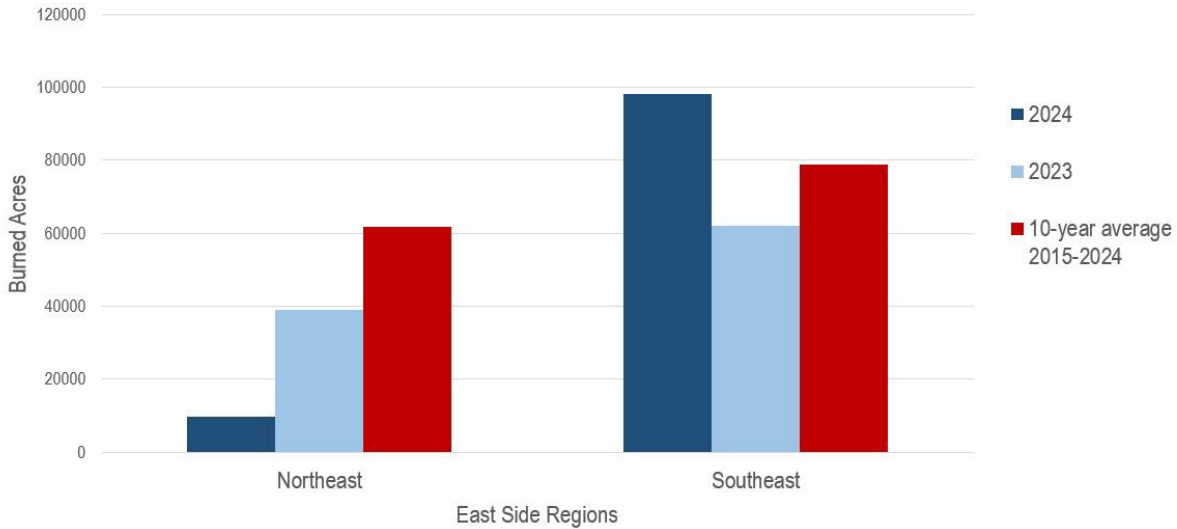


Figure 10: Acres burned in Northeast and Southeast DNR Regions for the period January 1 to September 30.

Total burned acreage on DNR jurisdictions was lower than average activity on the westside and slightly higher than average on the eastside. The westside saw 1,004 acres burned this year which makes for 84.3 percent of last year's westside burned acreage of 1,058 acres. On the eastside there were 108,027 acres burned (largely made up of incidents in Southeast Region) making up for 106.5 percent of last year's eastside burned acreage of 102,391. Acres burned in Pacific, Olympic, and Southeast Regions were above the 10-year average whereas the other three regions were under the 10-year average. Total burned acreage for the entire state on DNR jurisdictions was 109,032 acres burned across 826 fires.

The final number of DNR fires and burned acreage for the fire year will receive a supplemental statistics year-end report, which will be finalized sometime in January 2025. While the number of fires will go up slightly, it can be safely assumed that all significant large fires for the year are included in the current dataset used to generate this report.

2024 Total (January 1st - September 30th) DNR Fires Statewide by General Cause Category

Data as of 10/3/2024 from Fire Incident Reporting System (FIReS)

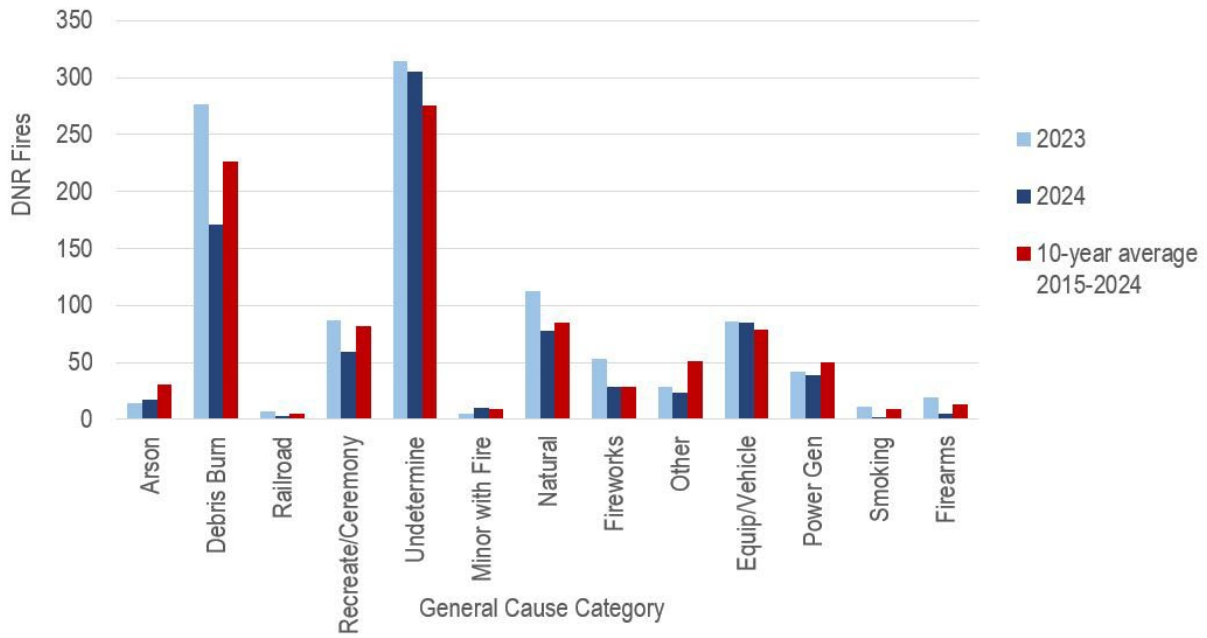
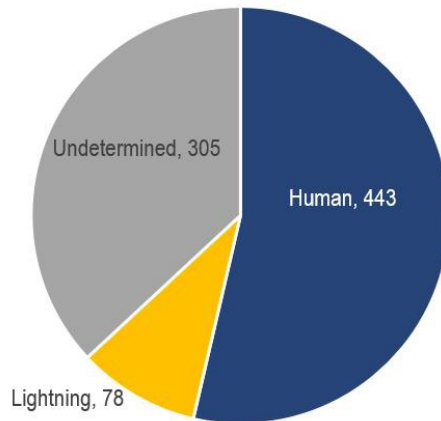


Figure 11: Statewide DNR Fires by general cause category for the period January 1 to September 30.

2024 Total (January 1 - October 30th)

DNR Fires Statewide by Cause

Data as of 10/3/2024 from Fire Incident Reporting System (FIReS)

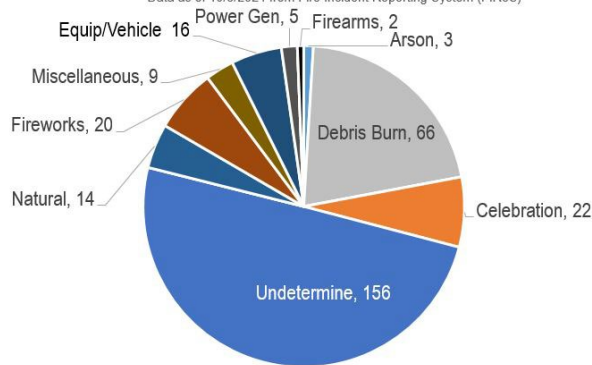


2024 Total (January 1st - September 30th)

DNR Fires on **West Side**

by General Cause Category

Data as of 10/3/2024 from Fire Incident Reporting System (FIReS)



2024 Total (January 1st - September 30th)

DNR Fires on **East Side**

by General Cause Category

Data as of 8/3/2024 from Fire Incident Reporting System (FIReS)

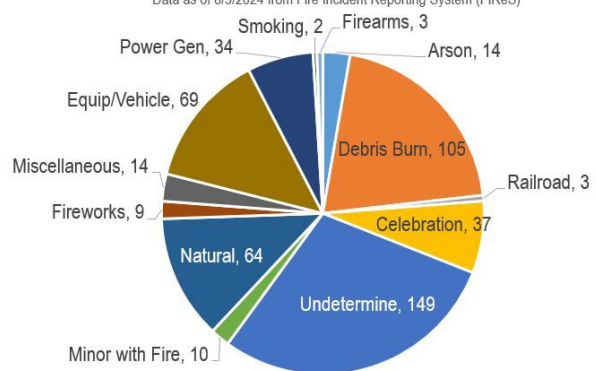


Figure 12: The three pie graphs above show the breakdown between human, lightning, undetermined and other general cause categories.

As of September 30, Debris and Open Burning once again was the most common confirmed source of human-caused fire in total and in East/West splits, with 171 starts accounting for 20.7 percent of all incidents and 38.8 percent of all confirmed human-caused incidents. The second highest source of confirmed starts was Equipment and Vehicle Use with 85 fires making up 10.3 percent of all fires and 19.2 percent of all human-caused incidents. Northeast Region had a considerable portion of both Debris and Open Burning starts (78 fires, 50.6 percent of all Debris/Burning incidents) and Vehicle and Equipment starts (60 fires, 70.6 percent of all Vehicle/Equipment incidents).

Natural/Lightning was the third most common confirmed source of wildfires statewide, with 78 starts accounting for 9.4 percent of all fires with confirmed causes. Northeast Region was the most active region for natural/lightning origin fires, with 47 fires accounting for 60.3 percent of the lightning starts for the year. Southeast Region was second for natural/lightning start fires with 17 incidents, 21.8 percent of all lightning ignitions statewide. As of September 30, a larger percentage of fires on the westside are currently undetermined for cause (156 of 313, 49.8 percent) than on the eastside (149 of 513, 29 percent).

Financial Highlights

As of September 30, 2024, DNR had 14 incidents that incurred a cost of \$1.0 million or greater based on actual expenditures and estimated expenditures:

Complex

- Pioneer – \$47.7 million
- Cougar Creek – \$13.8 million
- Retreat – \$11.1 million
- Swawilla I – \$8.2 million

Type 3

- 2620 Road – \$7.8 million
- Black Canyon – \$1.5 million
- Dearinger – \$2.6 million
- Donkey – \$1.5 million
- Gold Creek – \$2.7 million
- Goosmas – \$2.6 million
- Huckleberry Ridge – \$5.9 million
- Swauk Creek – \$2.1 million
- Wolf Fork – \$2.5 million
- Upper Ruby – \$2.0 million

Six Type 3 fires and one Type 2 fire incurred costs of under \$1.0 million for a total estimated cost of \$3.4 million. Type 4 and 5 incidents actual expenditures during the first three quarters of the calendar year was \$11.0 million.

There were also costs associated with HB 1498 (Aviation Assurance funding in response to wildland fires) in the amount of \$2.6 million. The counties with the highest utilization of this funding were Douglas, Garfield, Klickitat, and Yakima.

DNR had 15 incidents that involved cost-share with other agencies. See Table 5 for all incidents that involved cost shares and the jurisdictional agencies involved.

All direct costs associated with sending resources out of state and to Canada are reimbursable through agreements: the Northwest Compact agreement between the state and Canadian forestry/natural resource agencies and the master agreement between Washington and the federal agencies to which DNR is signatory. If a state or Canadian province is a signatory to the Northwest Compact agreement, they may order that assistance from the agency directly and DNR will invoice them directly. If DNR does not have an agreement with that state, the United States Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USDA-FS) will order the resources, DNR will invoice USDA-FS, and USDA-FS will recover the funds from the ordering state and province. Washington Fire Service resources that are sent out of state are dispatched from their agreement with DNR and are considered DNR resources for billing purposes.

In 2024, DNR had two incidents declared eligible for Fire Management Assistance Grants (FMAG). These incidents were the Retreat and Swawilla I Fires. When FMAG is declared, Washington State will recover approximately 75 percent of the eligible cost from Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) during the declaration period.

FMAG is a federally funded program administered through FEMA that provides support to state, local, and federally recognized tribal governments for the mitigation, management, and control of fires on publicly or privately owned forests or grasslands. An FMAG declaration may be requested and issued for an uncontrolled fire when the threat of a major disaster exists. The declaration process is initiated once the state submits a request for assistance to the FEMA Regional Director. FEMA will review the claim and will decide on whether the claim will be approved.

The distribution of cost for the large fires over \$1.0 million in cost can be found in Table 10 in the Appendix.

The cost distribution table includes costs and estimates for all incidents that were significant and had a cost exceeding \$1.0 million or greater. The costs are estimates as of September 30th and are based on our actual expenditures in the finance systems, and any estimated encumbrances for costs not currently reflected in the actual expenditures.

Table 5: All incidents involving cost-share agreements with other agencies. (Note: The first agency listed was the payment agency for the incident.)	
FIRE NAME	JURISDICTIONAL AGENCIES
PIONEER	USFS/WADNR/NPS
COUGAR CREEK	WADNR/BLM/USFS
RETREAT	WADNR/USFS/BLM
CHARM	WADNR/BLM
SALMON CREEK	WADNR/BLM
UPPER RUBY	USFS/WADNR
GOLD CREEK	WADNR/BLM/USFS
STAYMAN	WADNR/BLM
2620 ROAD	WADNR/USFS
BLACK CANYON	WADNR/WSP
GOOSMUS	WADNR/WSP/BLM
SWAWILLA 1	WADNR/BIA
SOUTH COLUMBIA BASIN	WADNR/WSP
UPPER CEMETERY	WADNR/WSP
SWAUK CREEK	WADNR/USFS

HB 1168 Highlights

More details related to House Bill 1168 are captured in a separate report submitted by DNR. However, this section captures a few highlights of some of the projects.

Crews and Heavy Equipment

Since the rollout of House Bill 1168's funding for enhanced fire suppression resources and equipment, DNR has been doing exceptionally well at addressing wildland fires. Enhanced response by initial attack hand crews and heavy equipment is invaluable to DNR's ability to keep fires small and minimize impacts to WA communities and forestlands. Without these new resources, it is likely Washington would have experienced considerably worse impacts from large fires in 2024, a year with considerable lightning, critical fire weather and periods of extreme fire danger.

Aviation

DNR continued to assist in staffing the Moses Lake Air Tanker Base, which is a federal tanker base. This allowed DNR to deploy the portable air tanker base (PAB) procured under HB 1168 to Moses Lake which greatly increased interagency cooperation by allowing DNR the opportunity to support federal partners. DNR has also established its Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) program and conducted over 50 UAS operations on 10 separate incidents in 2024. DNR has trained 16 personnel for UAS operations for future growth of the program. The UAS modules were used for reconnaissance, mapping, heat detection and gathering other important intelligence.



Figure 13: Photo credit to Elijah Noel. DNR Initial Attack Dozer and Exclusive Use Contracted Super Scooper Aircraft in action on the Salmon Creek Fire.

Detection

DNR has deployed 21 wildland fire detection cameras in areas where fire occurrence is highest, based on historical research. Other high-risk metrics considered included weather, fuels, topography, and location of geographic communities and other values at risk within the viewshed of the camera location. The remaining funds left in the Detection Camera allotment from HB 1168 will be utilized for adding five more cameras to the system prior to the 2025 fire season.

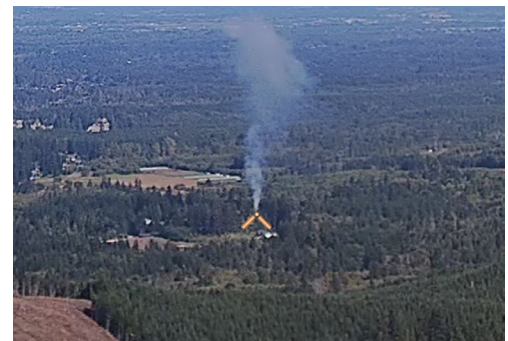


Figure 14: Pano Camera detection of the SPS Region Incident #165, provided by Pano. September 24, 2024.

DNR utilizes Pano AI 360-degree cameras and software, and alerting services as part of a detection system utilized for early fire detection. This year, several examples of early detection were documented. In the South Puget Sound Region in late September, Incident #165 (WA-SPC-000165) was first reported by a Pano alert. After viewing the Pano alert, DNR engines were sent to the smoke and arrived on scene. The smoke detected was an illegal burn pile. DNR advised the landowner to extinguish the fire. The DNR engine also helped in assisting the landowner to extinguish the fire (the owner had a tractor and water trailer). There was no 911 call for this incident and the Pano alert was the only notification.

HB 1498 Implementation

2024 was the first full year utilizing response funding under HB 1498, Aviation Assurance Funding. As of September 30, the cost of DNR aircraft use for HB 1498 response was \$4.1 million. Below is a table displaying the cost of each incident and the size and location of the incident.

Fire Name	Date	Department	County	Cost	Acres
82 Command	7/9/2024	Benton Co. Fire	Benton	\$ 24,518	0.1
Arboretum	7/10/2024	Yakima Co. Fire	Yakima	\$ 2,966	10
Beam Road	6/15/2024	Yakima Fire District 5	Yakima	\$ 428,314	8,542
Beebe Cliff	7/31/2024	Douglas Fire District 4	Douglas	\$ 126,412	138
Big Horn	7/22/2024	Klickitat Co. Fire	Klickitat	\$ 1,808,800	51,569
Bohoskey	8/19/2024	Yakima Co. Fire	Yakima	\$ 12,087	200
Brown	9/10/2024	Garfield Co. Fire District 1	Garfield	\$ 5,088	250
Canoe Ridge	7/30/2024	Benton Fire District 6	Benton	\$ 28,534	300
Columbia River	6/17/2024	Franklin Co. Fire	Franklin	\$ 11,851	1
Dam/Lower Granite	7/29/2024	Garfield Co. Fire District 1	Garfield	\$ 202,805	13,445
Diamond Back Ridge	5/17/2024	Yakima Co. Fire	Yakima	\$ 7,918	300
Fish Hook	8/2/2024	Walla Walla Co. Fire	Walla Walla	\$ 13,107	2
Goose Tail	6/26/2024	Chelan Co. Fire District 8	Chelan	\$ 8,424	10
Harlan	6/13/2024	Yakima Co. Fire	Yakima	\$ 9,940	5
Harlan Landing	5/8/2024	Yakima Co. Fire	Yakima	\$ 4,270	100
Irene Rinehart	6/12/2024	Kittitas Co. Fire	Kittitas	\$ 4,892	0.75
Joe Barker Road	7/3/2024	Walla Walla Co. Fire	Walla Walla	\$ 22,901	1
Jubilee	9/1/2024	Walla Walla Co. Fire	Walla Walla	\$ 101,286	200
Kelly Lane	9/25/2024	Yakima Co. Fire	Yakima	\$ 44,981	4,000
Knapp Coulee	6/15/2024	Chelan Co. Fire District 7	Chelan	\$ 1,870	1
Lower Granite	7/29/2024	Garfield Co. Fire District 1	Garfield	\$ 368,224	13,445
Marble	7/1/2024	Yakima Fire District 12	Yakima	\$ 44,365	228
Meals Road	8/18/2024	Benton Co. Fire	Benton	\$ 4,886	1
Neff Road	6/16/2024	Walla Walla Co. Fire	Walla Walla	\$ 16,399	250
Nisqually John	6/14/2024	Whitman Co. Fire	Whitman	\$ 405,127	1,207
Number Two	6/23/2024	Wenatchee Valley Fire District	Chelan	\$ 70,499	25
Red Wolf	7/9/2024	Whitman Co. Fire	Whitman	\$ 11,755	15
River View	6/7/2024	Yakima Co. Fire	Yakima	\$ 12,240	10
Road 11	7/4/2024	Douglas Co. Fire	Douglas	\$ 213,243	840
Rock Island Cliff	6/21/2024	Douglas Co. Fire	Douglas	\$ 5,915	15
Rocklyn Road	8/31/2024	Lincoln Co. Fire	Lincoln	\$ 27,545	5
Sqilchuck Road	10/13/2024	Wenatchee Valley Fire District	Chelan	\$ 9,505	1
Thomas Road	8/17/2024	Benton Co. Fire	Benton	\$ 40,725	10
Webb	6/4/2024	Douglas Co. Fire	Douglas	\$ 17,410	554
Willow	6/11/2024	Benton Co. Fire	Benton	\$ 14,622	0.1
TOTALS		35 Fires		\$ 4,133,422	95,681

Table 6: Aviation Assurance funding expended by fire. Data is preliminary and is subject to revision.

DNR and Fire Districts partnered well to get aviation assets engaged early in the initial attack of numerous Fire District jurisdiction incidents. Learning from 2024 is an important factor in continued success. There were several key take-aways from the 2024 fire season:

- **Training of fire district personnel in aircraft use is critical.** DNR conducted three formal training sessions prior to the season. We intend to continue this annually to further develop aviation management capacity in the fire service.
- **Communication with dispatch centers needs improvement.** There were gaps in understanding, both by Chiefs and dispatch personnel, as to how the ordering process should work. Much effort was put into clarifying processes during the season. More effort and continued communication in the off-season will ensure the ordering process goes smoothly.
- **There was confusion about what to do with costs when State Mobilization was approved during the first burn period (initial Attack phase).** This was resolved by a mutual understanding between Washington State Patrol (Washington State Fire Marshal) and DNR. It was agreed that DNR would continue to carry the cost of aviation through the first day, then change aircraft funding to State Mobilization starting on the second day. This simplifies cost tracking for both agencies.
- **DNR systems and processes need improvement to track data relative to HB 1498 responses.** Data for fire service incidents is often difficult to track and capture into DNR systems. DNR Aviation, Incident Business, Dispatch, and Fire Intelligence functions all had a role in gathering and integrating aviation use and cost data. Additional work is needed during the winter to ensure roles, responsibilities, and systems are aligned to track and report HB 1498 data.
- **Anticipated concerns about prioritizing aircraft between DNR and fire service incidents did not materialize.** DNR procured additional exclusive use contract aircraft to ensure availability to meet obligations under HB 1498. Incident Commanders of various incidents helped to inform prioritization when resource competition developed. Despite heavy demand for aviation assets, DNR was able to staff all requests under HB 1498.
- **The requirement to have a response agreement with DNR limited some districts from eligibility.** DNR is re-vamping the Forestland Response Agreement and fire service interagency agreement process this winter to allow easier inclusion of fire districts that are currently excluded from availability under the law.

Operationally, the bill functioned as intended, supporting districts with initial attack aviation support to prevent large, costly fires. With additional work on communication, coordination and data collection, the integrated wildland aviation response in Washington will reach its full capability.

HB 1578 Implementation

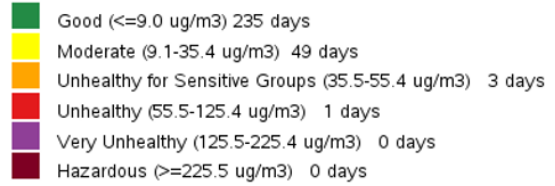
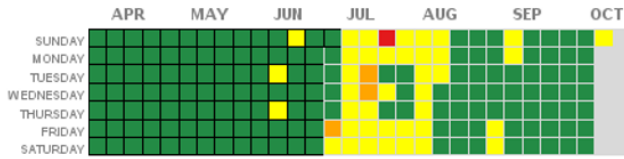
With the support of House Bill 1578, DNR added three staff members this year to work on smoke and air quality issues across the state. Already, the agency is taking an increased role in this space by strengthening interagency partnerships with Department of Health, Department of Ecology, Environmental Protection Agency, and tribal partners while sharing smoke information online, including the Washington Smoke Blog, and utilizing some of the funding for grants to promote community-wide smoke readiness. Additionally, the team purchased Met One E-Sampler air quality monitors, with plans to utilize the new equipment for wildfire smoke monitoring during the 2025 season.

2024 Washington Air Quality Report

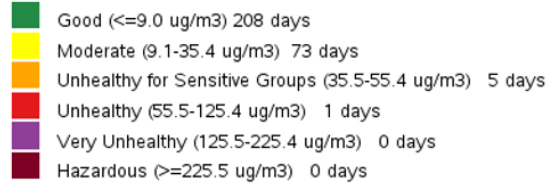
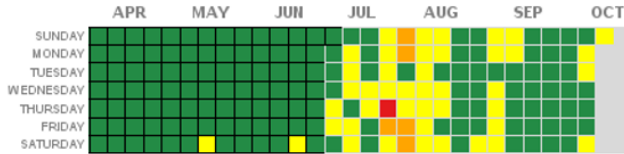
Communities in Washington generally experienced a mild smoke season, except for those near large wildfire incidents. Most notably, the Pioneer Fire in upper Lake Chelan produced smoke that prompted the deployment of Air Resource Advisors (ARAs) between June 16 and August 20. Since the Chelan area is particularly sensitive to economic impacts from smoke-related tourism revenue losses, the early mobilization of ARAs was a wise decision. The smoke forecasts produced by the ARAs helped local businesses, residents, and visitors stay informed of air quality patterns. The Retreat Fire also caused localized air quality degradation near Yakima in late July and early August. In response, an ARA was assigned to this fire for a few weeks in August.

Otherwise, much of the state did not experience any significant smoke episodes this season. The Spokane area, for instance, saw many days with Moderate air quality readings in July and early August, but zero days with average daily Air Quality Index (AQI) reaching Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups or higher. In western Washington, the most notable air quality impacts occurred on July 5 due to the PM2.5 released from fireworks on July 4, a pattern that is typical most years. There was also a brief offshore flow pattern in early September that transported a layer of smoke from Oregon fires into western Washington, but most of the thicker smoke concentrations remained at high elevations and did not significantly impact surface air quality.

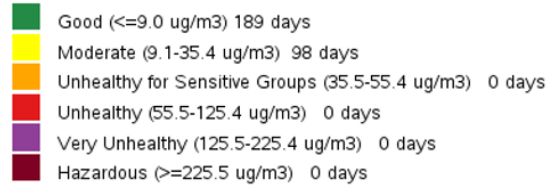
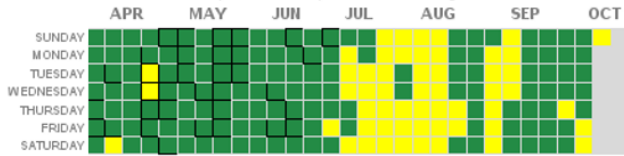
PM2.5 Daily AQI Values in 2024 Chelan County, WA



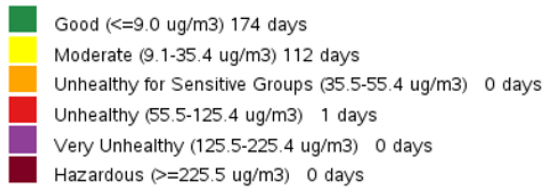
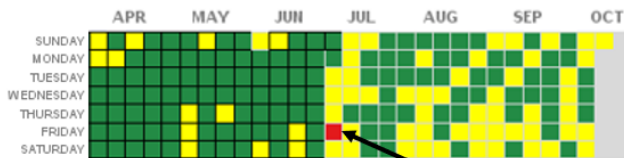
PM2.5 Daily AQI Values in 2024 Yakima, WA



PM2.5 Daily AQI Values in 2024 Spokane-Spokane Valley, WA



PM2.5 Daily AQI Values in 2024 Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue, WA



gray outline indicates AirNow data source

Unhealthy Air from 4th of July Fireworks

Source: U.S. EPA AirData <<https://www.epa.gov/air-data>>
Generated: October 14, 2024

Figure 15: PM2.5 Daily Air Quality values for Chelan County, Yakima, Spokane and Spokane Valley, and Seattle area.



Figure 16: Light smoke from Oregon moving over Washington, September 6, 2024. Most smoke remained at higher levels of the atmosphere and didn't significantly impact the surface air. Image via the Cooperative Institute for Research in the Atmosphere, Regional and Mesoscale Meteorology Branch, Colorado State University.

Smoke in Washington was limited for a variety of reasons this year. Most importantly, onshore westerly winds were a persistent feature that generally prevented significant smoke in Oregon and Idaho from reaching our communities. We also had minimal large fire activity west of the Cascades and in southern British Columbia. Lastly, a handful of the larger fires in eastern Washington burned in lighter, flashier fuels such as grass and sagebrush, which tend to produce less smoke than forest fires of a similar size and are usually more quickly controlled by firefighters.

Appendices

Definitions¹

Air Attack: The deployment of a fixed-wing or rotary aircraft on a wildland fire, to drop retardant or extinguishing agents, shuttle and deploy crews and supplies, or perform aerial reconnaissance of the overall fire situation.

Burn acreage on DNR protected lands: the total sum of acres burned by fires listed as: “DNR protection-FFPA,” “DNR protection non-FFPA under agreement,” “Threat to DNR protection FFPA,” and “Threat to DNR protection, non-FFPA under agreement” and instances where this field is null. This excludes fires labeled “DNR Assist Other Agency.”

Classified fire: an uncontrolled fire requiring suppression action by the DNR or its partnering federal and/or local fire suppression agencies to prevent the fire from spreading to or burning on any lands for which DNR has protection responsibility. This excludes “false alarms,” but includes “Unclassified” fires, a now-discontinued classification type used prior to 2019, for the 10-year average calculations.

DNR Fires: classified fires on DNR protected lands.

DNR Protection: any response in EIRS that is not considered “DNR Assist Other Agency.” This includes “DNR protection-FFPA,” “DNR protection non-FFPA under agreement,” “Threat to DNR protection FFPA,” and “Threat to DNR protection, non-FFPA under agreement” and instances where the field is null.

DNR Responses: any incident or false alarm to which DNR resources were dispatched, regardless of jurisdiction.

Eastside/Westside: refers to east or west of the Cascades based on region boundaries. DNR’s Northeast and Southeast regions comprise eastside while the remaining four regions comprise the westside.

Fire (Incident) Complexity: Complexity of incident complexity is determined by several factors like threat to life, impact to environment and property; political sensitivity, organizational complexity, jurisdictional boundaries, values at risk, and weather. Incidents are typed as Complex, Type 3, Type 4, and Type 5.

Green-up: Green-up for the 1978 version of NFDRS model is defined as the beginning of a new cycle of plant growth. Green-up usually occurs once a year, except in desert areas where rainy periods can produce a flush of new growth more than once a year. Green-up may be signaled at different dates for different fuel models. Green-up should not be started when the first flush of green occurs in the area. Instead, the vegetation that will be the fire problem (represented by the NFDRS fuel model associated

¹ Standard wildland fire terminology is governed by the National Wildfire Coordinating Group. The glossary can be found at [NWCG Glossary of Wildland Fire, PMS 205 | NWCG](#). DNR specific terminology is also listed here and has been agreed to by the Fire Intelligence Committee assembled by the Wildland Fire Management Division.

with the weather station) when it matures and cures. Green-up should start when most of this vegetation starts to grow.

Preparedness Level (PL): Increments of planning and organizational readiness dictated by burning conditions, fire activity, and resource availability. Response and support to non-fire incidents requiring a significant commitment of resources may also affect Preparedness Levels. Preparedness levels are set at the National, Regional, and State level. Preparedness levels range from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest).

Regions: There are six DNR regions: Northeast, Northwest, Olympic, Pacific Cascades, South Puget Sound, and Southeast. See Figure 17.

Type: Refers to resource capability. A Type 1 resource provides a greater overall capability due to power, size, capacity, etc., than would be found in a Type 2 resource. Resource typing provides managers with additional information in selecting the best resource for the task.



Figure 17: A map displaying the locations of the six regions of Washington DNR Wildland Fire Management

Tables and Figures

Table 7: Year-to-date DNR Fires, 2015 to 2024.

DNR fires are classified fires on or threatening DNR protected lands. In 2024, there were 826 DNR fires, which is slightly higher than the 10-year average (by five fires).

2024 Year-To-Date (January 1st - September 30th)							
DNR Fires by Region and Year							
Data as of 10/03/2024 from Fire Incidents Reporting System (FIReS)							
	Northeast	Northwest	Olympic	Pacific Cascade	South Puget Sound	Southeast	Total
2015	464	63	25	131	135	123	941
2016	363	43	17	98	124	108	753
2017	328	73	22	91	121	94	729
2018	29	18	22	19	27	31	146
2019	430	73	25	130	143	127	928
2020	485	63	18	100	146	108	920
2021	626	125	50	121	145	116	1183
2022	350	79	29	88	106	80	732
2023	402	161	55	144	178	118	1058
2024	404	84	48	102	79	109	826
Total	3881	782	311	1024	1204	1014	8216
Ten year average 2015-2024	388.1	78.2	31.1	102.4	120.4	101.4	821.6

Table 8: Year-to-date DNR Acres Burned, 2015 to 2024.

The total DNR acres burned for 2024 were 109,030.88 and is above the 10-year average of 97,961.01 acres (2015-2024).

2024 Year-To-Date (January 1st - September 30th)							
DNR Acres by Region and Year							
Data as of 10/3/2024 from Fire Incidents Reporting System (FIReS)							
	Northeast	Northwest	Olympic	Pacific Cascades	South Puget Sound	Southeast	Total
2024	9,727.42	147.56	430.92	376.66	47.78	98,300.54	109,030.88
2023	39,118.33	242.26	191.78	234.89	521.86	62,082.26	102,391.38
2022	6,276.62	14,851.96	16.72	117.10	63.82	37,033.06	58,359.28
2021	118,860.84	72.19	180.82	97.68	190.88	112,021.57	231,423.98
2020	135,380.69	198.24	23.00	268.73	474.89	84,732.45	221,078.00
2019	1,163.02	56.00	53.40	340.30	189.90	12,598.63	14,401.25
2018	161.40	28.00	15.06	10.81	16.85	462.81	694.93
2017	2,668.93	297.52	4.25	57.74	1,622.79	3,963.18	8,614.41
2016	13,244.04	416.33	9.36	50.56	78.75	950.51	14,749.55
2015	214,676.18	107.89	57.87	593.93	245.21	3,185.35	218,866.43
Total	541,277.47	16,417.95	983.18	2,148.40	3,452.73	415,330.36	979,610.09
Ten year average 2015-2024	54,127.75	1,641.80	98.32	214.84	345.27	41,533.04	97,961.01

Table 9: Structures and residences damaged or destroyed in 2024.

Residences and structures damaged or destroyed were reported by an incident management organization or incident management team (Source: ICS-209 forms).

FIRE NAME	Start Date	Start Jurisdiction	Residences Damaged	Residences Destroyed	Other Structures Damaged	Other Structures Destroyed	Total Structures Damaged or Destroyed
2620 ROAD	8/14/2024	WA-OLS	0	0	0	0	0
BALSAM ROOT	7/5/2024	WA-SES	0	0	0	0	0
BLACK CANYON	7/22/2024	WA-SES	0	0	0	0	0
BRIDGE CREEK	7/19/2024	WA-NES	0	0	0	0	0
COUGAR CREEK	7/15/2024	WA-SES	0	1	5	3	0
GOLD CREEK	6/22/2024	WA-NES	0	0	0	0	0
GOOSMUS	9/25/2024	WA-NES	0	5	0	11	16
HUCKLEBERRY RIDGE	9/4/2024	WA-PCS	0	0	0	0	0
PIONEER	6/8/2024	WA-SES	0	0	1	0	0
REINBOLD	8/17/2024	WA-NES	0	0	0	1	1
RETREAT	7/23/2024	WA-SES	0	4	7	4	15
SALMON CREEK	8/5/2024	WA-NES	0	0	1	1	2
SHEEP COMPANY	7/6/2024	WA-SES	0	0	0	0	0
SOUTH COLUMBIA BASIN	7/26/2024	WA-NES	1	3	0	7	11
STAYMAN	8/20/2024	WA-SES	0	0	0	0	0
SWAUK CREEK	9/8/2024	WA-SES	0	2	0	2	4
SWAWILLA	7/17/2024	WA-COA	0	0	0	0	0
WICKED DRIVE	8/18/2024	WA-NES	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS			1	15	14	29	59

Table 10: Estimated Cost by Incident

Data are for large and/or significant incidents over \$1.0 million with DNR involvement.

Table 10: Estimated Cost by Incident, Incidents over \$1.0 million with DNR Involvement.														
FIRE NAME	REGION	COST SHARE	FMAG	TOTAL ESTIMATED COST	EST. AMOUNT BILLABLE OR RECEIVABLE THROUGH COST SHARE	DNR SALARIES & BENEFITS	DNR EQUIP.	AIR RESOURCES	MISC. EXPENSES	DOC	CONTRACTORS	COOPERATORS	FEDERAL RESOURCES	
2620 ROAD	OLY	YES	NO	7,778,076.05	*	1,340,019.79	105,268.39	1,670,913.60	409,754.40	261,144.12	1,593,379.49	74,242.58	2,145,381.00	
BLACK CANYON	SE	YES	NO	1,475,597.02	(22,950.00)	424,627.12	40,784.30	382,846.23	237,250.30	-	280,050.96	37,988.16	74,251.00	
UPPER RUBY	NE	YES	NO	1,963,433.57	645,017.40	431,527.26	24,025.36	335,049.47	9,323.49	-	24,409.67	77,454.92	3,214,761.00	
COUGAR CREEK	SE	YES	NO	13,828,801.81	(13,621,845.96)	2,335,681.98	190,063.70	3,655,616.01	1,673,981.00	84,714.73	10,715,702.55	446,087.99	6,239,973.00	
DEARINGER	NW	NO	NO	2,591,251.44	-	246,946.69	33,274.59	282,409.31	54,087.85	238.50	1,818,572.35	153,502.15	148,497.00	
DONKEY	PC	NO	NO	1,459,957.18	-	187,798.87	15,160.14	600,427.43	97,814.78	-	301,279.93	8,021.89	3,912.00	
GOLD CREEK	NE	YES	NO	2,748,656.37	(818,505.50)	453,353.76	30,142.76	1,225,131.85	260,036.30	92.75	417,065.54	60,459.45	1,256,814.00	
GOOSMAS	NE	YES	NO	2,623,830.29	(1,280,230.50)	517,987.63	1,402.30	-	29,932.12	23,117.60	-	9,751.24	540,769.00	
HUCKLEBERRY RIDGE	PC	NO	NO	5,948,855.42	-	1,329,946.93	90,443.22	699,205.14	13,688.28	185,076.08	-	90,336.71	1,323,931.00	
PIONEER	SE	YES	NO	47,711,486.97	29,295,527.54	2,752,942.01	85,873.03	3,542,571.95	210,609.49	-	6,503,279.10	1,992,887.66	68,478,410.00	
RETREAT	SE	YES	YES	11,084,880.51	(1,461,264.47)	1,337,415.59	102,060.26	2,062,996.44	905,759.20	282,706.00	5,868,460.79	186,996.74	5,234,229.00	
SWAUK CREEK	SE	YES	NO	2,116,707.48	(2,960,654.56)	986,676.13	42,980.00	383,777.74	16,951.46	36.00	1,688,961.67	16,979.04	17,920.00	
SWAWILLA I	NE	YES	YES	8,208,820.98	2,432,924.70	668,593.21	47,107.01	4,161,007.27	119,131.11	-	217,124.87	306,932.81	15,564,043.00	
WOLF FORK	SE	NO	NO	2,455,526.88	-	481,477.13	40,784.70	495,075.19	191,302.59	-	347,788.45	49,098.82	4,500,000.00	

* Cost Share Methodolgy for 2620 road is "Each Agency pays own" therefore there is no amount that is billable or receivable

Large Fires of Concern

