

# Preserve and restore public lands in Washington



## Emergent Need

\$402,000 for post-fire habitat  
recovery in 19-21 biennium

## At-Risk Services

\$578,000 for 19-21 biennium  
\$2.6 million for 21-23 biennium,  
ongoing need



### **Persistent budget deficit and WDFW's land management**

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) actively manages about 1 million acres of public land to preserve natural and cultural heritage, provide access for hunting, fishing, and wildlife-related recreation, and to foster experiences for thousands of Washingtonians and visitors each year.

The 2019 Legislature recognized the value of WDFW's work by appropriating \$24 million towards the Department's \$30.6 million biennial deficit. However, it was a one-time appropriation and falls short \$6.6 million for the biennium's second year.

This decision package requests the balance of 2021's deficit, \$578,000, and the ongoing need of \$1.3 million per year.

Without this funding, the Department would leave severely burned lands unrestored, and give up 10% of its capacity to treat landscapes with prescribed fire—a recipe for poor future outcomes for forest health in Washington.

The Department is also requesting \$402,000 for post-fire habitat recovery. In 2019, wildfires burned more than 22,000 acres of WDFW land. Funding is needed to restore native vegetation and prevent noxious weed infestations to preserve high quality fish and wildlife habitat and outdoor recreational opportunities.

## Contact

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