

# Preserve and restore public lands in Washington



## At-Risk Services

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

## Emergent Need

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



## Persistent budget deficit hurts WDFW's land management

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) manages more than 1 million acres of public land and nearly 500 water access areas to preserve natural and cultural heritage, provide access for hunting, fishing, and wildlife-related recreation, and 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 for land management - \$578,000 - and the ongoing need of \$1.3 million per year. Without this funding, essential services that protect land and water for wildlife and people are at risk, including:

- 10% of capacity to treat landscapes with prescribed fire and ensure healthy forests
- Noxious weed treatment in coastal areas
- Recreation and working lands permits
- Wildlife area planning and community engagement
- Mapping and land data management
- Statewide and local real estate services

## Post-Fire Habitat Recovery (Emergent)

WDFW is also requesting \$402,000 for post-fire habitat recovery. In 2019, wildfires burned more than 22,000 acres of WDFW-managed land. Funding is needed to restore native vegetation and prevent noxious weed infestations. Restored forests decrease the risks from severe wildfires, preserve forest health and habitat, help expand outdoor recreational opportunities, and protect homes and local communities.

## Washingtonians Value WDFW Lands

*Based on a 2018 survey, Washingtonians believe the greatest benefit offered by WDFW-managed lands is protecting species and habitats. The public also values public access, fostering experiences, and preserving cultural and natural heritage on WDFW-managed lands, and expects those lands to contribute to their quality of life.*

## Contact

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