



## PIERCE COUNTY FIRE COMMISSIONERS' ASSOCIATION

MINUTES January 25, 2024

In Person at Graham Fire & Rescue Station 91 – 23014 70<sup>th</sup> Ave E, Graham  
and Remotely via Zoom

### CALL TO ORDER

President Kadow called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

### WELCOME and THANK YOU TO HOST

President Kadow thanked everyone for attending tonight's meeting and thanked Graham Fire & Rescue for hosting the meeting. Good to see so many people here in person. Chief Espinoza welcomed everyone. Round applause for new President Kadow. Welcomed new Members Chris McAfee, Niel Samuelson and Brian Estes and Board Chair Bob Homan and Vice Chair Russ Barstow. Acknowledge new Commissioners Scott Casebolt at WPFR. Appreciate everyone's dedicated time and experience to support the fire service. May have heard Graham's Board and CPFR's Board unanimously adopted exploring a merger of April 2025 to become active January 2026. Excited and proud of Board's deliberate and work in policy. Number one priority to educate the community. Thanked Lori for providing dinner.

President Kadow led the Flag Salute.

### GUEST SPEAKER:

**Bevin McCleod, DNR.**

Vice President Olivia Werner introduced Bevin McCleod. Director of External Affairs and Community Engagement at DNR. Moved to later in the meeting as getting set up.

### ROLL CALL – SELF-INTRODUCTIONS

Self-introductions around the room. There were 20 people in attendance according to the sign in sheet and 6 people on Zoom for a grand total of 26 people in attendance.

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA and TREASURER'S REPORT

President Kadow would like to add under Old Business – Host for September and November meetings. Commissioner Moffett would like to add review of Budget. It was moved by Commissioner Homan and seconded by Commissioner Mitchell to approve the agenda and Treasurer's Report (see copy included with the agenda) as amended. MOTION CARRIED.

### MINUTES OF November 16, 2023, MEETING

Commissioner moved and Commissioner seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Any discussion? There being none, Commissioner Mitchell moved and Commissioner Homan seconded to approve the minutes as presented. MOTION CARRIED.

### SGT. AT ARMS – NAME BADGES

Commissioner Allison stated for those needing new badges, Lori is available to take your pictures and get your information to make your badge.

Speaker Bevin thanked for the opportunity to be here tonight. Shared powerpoint presentation.

Smokey Bear License Plate SB 5910/HB2108 to support Wildland Firefighters. <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/smokey> if you are interested in a Smokey Bear license plate to show support. Registered trademark for US Forest Service.

Early education land trust – HB 2243 would create a Children’s Social Equity Trust to fund child care in the state.

Creating a Fallen Firefighter Memorial at the State Capitol – SB 5946/HB 2091. Drought resilience and water banking going through the legislative process for assets that DNR own and could generate revenue from.

Recreational Use Fees – SB 6043/HB 2165 – shift in RCW 4.24.210 to be in line with similar exemptions to allow funding for cleanup, etc. of 5k runs and other type events.

DNR/Tribal interlocal agreements – SB 6011/HB 2312 – not new for Washington state, but is new for DNR. Cross deputizes with tribal police.

Wildfire/Forest health funding (HB 1168) 2021 bill state commits \$500 million to DNR to boost wildfire response, etc. Equipment, personnel, training wildland firefighters, technology and implementing. This is asking for \$125 million they didn’t fund of the \$500 million.

Impacts of 1168 on Fire Season 2023 – preposition aerial assets around the state, hire the firefighters, all the pieces it funded were able to keep 98% of wildfires under 10 acres.

1168 Carryforward Expectations and failure to secure full investment in 1168 results. Need legislature to fund what was promised.

Firewise program is being expanded to 4 counties on the west side this spring. Will be doing community events as it is developed. Happy to share that schedule.

The Association thanked Bevin for her presentation.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

N/A

## REGULAR REPORTS:

### a) Regional Representative Report – Jon Linboe

Apologized for not being here in person. Thanked the speaker for her presentation. Reported healthcare dues are going up some due to some large claims. Trying to look at ways to get smaller districts to join. Looking at restructuring dues. Other big topic was lobby day and TIFs. Hearing on Tuesday and Wednesday for 2 different bills. If you have any questions or would like more information, please let him know.

Commissioner Sutich asked if there was any discussion on HB2044. Jon stated not at his meeting, Brandon might know more about. Commissioner Homan asked if in the future we can have discussion before next legislative session to go over things and go into legislative day a little more prepared. Jon will bring that up at the next meeting. President Kadow stated for the last couple of years South Pierce has a letter with a number of bills or issues interested in. Helps focus what want to talk about, etc.

### b) Legal - Joe and/or Eric Quinn

Not present. Past President Moffett stated Eric Quinn sent an email with his report and will have Denise forward it out to everyone. It is also copied below:

As I am coming down to the last few days of my working vacation here in Las Vegas, I regret that I will not be able to participate in the meeting tonight, in-person or virtually. Consequently, I wanted to provide you with my legal committee update via this email. The first two items may be discussed by your legislative committee, but I wanted to briefly discuss them here:

1. There is a house bill, HB 2044, that everyone seems to be in an uproar about. That bill would remove language from RCW 84.55.050, the law that permits lid lifts. The current language of said RCW says that revenue from a lid lift may not “supplant” existing funds used for the same operational purposes as those revenues sought in the lid lift. HB 2044 would erase that language. Although I do not see that this bill is necessary because a lid lift never truly “supplants” existing funds, because if it did, you would not need lid lifts, I think it would not hurt for this bill to pass.

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/704f76ef/sC6Gatz->

[\\_UefFkhtPJVUJw?u=https://lawfilesexxt.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2023-](https://lawfilesexxt.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2023-24/Pdf/Bills/House%2520Bills/2044.pdf?q=20240125153302)

[24/Pdf/Bills/House%2520Bills/2044.pdf?q=20240125153302](https://lawfilesexxt.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2023-24/Pdf/Bills/House%2520Bills/2044.pdf?q=20240125153302) I am sure the legislative committee will give the association further information about the status of HB 2044, but I wanted you to be aware of my thoughts about it.

2. There is a much more important bill, SB 6230, which would drastically change the tax increment financing (TIF) law and permit a fire district or other impacted taxing district to effectively veto the apportionment of their tax revenues to a sponsoring jurisdiction. I am not a lobbyist but it is my understanding that this bill might not get out of committee. Here is the bill:

[https://link.edgepilot.com/s/59fbde16/u47ZbDKYJUCLDQDydFzu2Q?u=https://lawfilesexxt.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2023-](https://link.edgepilot.com/s/59fbde16/u47ZbDKYJUCLDQDydFzu2Q?u=https://lawfilesexxt.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2023-24/Pdf/Bills/Senate%2520Bills/6230.pdf?q=20240114093344)

[24/Pdf/Bills/Senate%2520Bills/6230.pdf?q=20240114093344](https://link.edgepilot.com/s/59fbde16/u47ZbDKYJUCLDQDydFzu2Q?u=https://lawfilesexxt.leg.wa.gov/biennium/2023-24/Pdf/Bills/Senate%2520Bills/6230.pdf?q=20240114093344). The underlined language at page 5 is the new proposed language that would allow what I am calling a “veto.” We will see what happens with SB 6230. Let’s hope it passes.

3. Your department needs to adopt a policy on paying vendors/employees by electronic funds transfer (EFT) if you wish to pay employees/vendors by EFT. RCW 39.58.750 is what permits local governments to use EFT but the auditor is the party that sets forth guidelines for that. And the auditor has begun scrutinizing districts for not having EFT policies when they utilize EFT. I have a model policy on that.
4. There is a lot of backlash against DEI programs. This backlash is arising out of the US Supreme Court's decision in the SFFA case. I trained various persons on DEI a few months back and my guidance remains the same: Never base an employment decision based upon a person's race, sex or other protected characteristic, but you may base an employment decision based upon a person's socio-economic background. I would also highly discourage the use of racial breakout groups within any organization, because again, that makes it appear as though you are dealing with race, not with people. As I mentioned many months back, DEI is really not about race/sex, etc. It is about empathy. But right now, the way DEI is being administered/marketed tends to make it appear as an initiative for diversity no matter the cost. Although diversity is an admirable goal, it should not come at the cost of millions of taxpayer dollars in the form of settling discrimination lawsuits, which will no doubt increase after the SFFA decision I referenced above.

That is my legal committee report for this evening, and I apologize I will not be able to make it to give you my report in person or virtually.

Kind Regards,

Eric Quinn

Attorney at Law

Eric T. Quinn, P.S.

Web:

[https://link.edgepilot.com/s/65b175b7/MU3BdgfRQOKw\\_LINnekmjQ?u=http://www.firehouselawyer.com/](https://link.edgepilot.com/s/65b175b7/MU3BdgfRQOKw_LINnekmjQ?u=http://www.firehouselawyer.com/)

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**c) SouthSound 911 – Debbie Grady**

Not present.

**STANDING COMMITTEES:**

**a) Legislative - Brandon Faust**

Not present. Commissioner Homan stated Commissioner compensation is out of committee and into rules now.

**b) Bates Technical College –**

Might no longer be relevant. Put on agenda to discuss at next meeting.

**c) Fund Raising Activities - Ed Egan**

Not present. President Kadow stated normally he attends and has raffle tickets. Also have PC Fire Commissioner coins. Our speakers receive one. Commissioner Moffett made a motion to purchase another 100 coins. Commissioner Wernet seconded the motion. Commissioner Homan asked for clarification, if more than \$5.00 per coin we will go over budget. Discussion followed. Commissioner Moffett to amend his motion to purchase \$400.00 worth of coins. MOTION CARRIED. Commissioner Moffett will contact Commissioner Egan to order more coins.

**d) Annual Picnic/Potluck –DORMANT - Arlene Dannat**

**e) Annual Banquet – Mike Cathey / Olivia Werner / Kathy Kadow**

President Kadow stated not as well attended as it has been in the past.

**f) Education - Tom Sutich / Stan Moffett**

Commissioner Sutich stated the body approved several months ago to talk to Eric Quinn to give a seminar. This past year was on diversity. This year looking at relationship of Chief and Board of Commissioners. Also, hopefully enough time to do a Commissioner 101 on the role of a Commissioner. Don't have price, place or time yet. Looking at possibly a Saturday in April depending on Eric's availability. Commissioner Barstow moved and Commissioner Takahara seconded the motion for the Education Committee to move forward on this.

**g) Awards Committee – DORMANT - Arlene Dannat, Olivia Werner**

President Kadow stated she has the Years of Service pins if they could work on getting an update to present them.

**h) Membership – Arlene Dannat / Pat McElligott / Kathy Kadow**

President Kadow stated trying to get a representative or two from every agency would be nice. Commissioner McElligott had talked about attending Board meetings around the county to encourage attendance. Commissioner Dannat stated they had also talked about sending a letter out.

**i) Programs – Olivia Werner**

Reported she has a speaker lined up for February - Lindsay Wade who is a retired detective from Tacoma Police. She was on a cold case in 1987 and solved it. Insight on Fire and Police are connected and how to preserve fire scenes, etc. She's written a book. March has Enduris Insurance coming in to talk about thefts that have been taking place. How to protect ourselves and our equipment.

President Kadow looking forward to next month.

**j) Sunshine - Arlene Dannat**

Nothing at this time.

**k) NAEFO –**

President Kadow stated we don't have a representative. September, they hold a conference. May disband this unless there is someone is interested in. Put on agenda for next month on revising the agenda.

**l) Nominating –**

Will need a couple people on the nominating committee. Be thinking about if you would like to serve on it.

**m) Audit – Olivia Werner / Ed Egan**

Will work with scheduling a time to meet with Denise to perform the audit.

**n) SS911 Committee – Pat McElligott**

Not present. Commissioner Holm reported \$800,000 funds clerical errors when changing over computer systems in 2014 or something like that. Also, fund diversion ongoing process. Radios is always a big topic. Representatives from Motorola. Hoping to get a more official report this spring. Jody Ferguson, PCDEM – denied help for projects. There is a guideline on how to do that. Didn't follow the proper guideline. Dissention amongst the ranks. SS911 is not in the radio business, it is in the dispatch business. Commissioner Sutich suggested asking Chiefs to see the letter from Jody if you haven't seen it.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

September and November Meeting Locations Host. Fall back is we can use SS911. Needs to be someplace that Zoom ability. West Pierce will take November meeting and Key Peninsula will take September Meeting.

Budget review – Commissioner Moffett is willing to work with someone on that. Commissioner Werner volunteered to help with that.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**A. Vacant Director Position**

President Kadow stated that it was overlooked when she was promoted to the President position that her Director position was not filled. Past President Moffett had talked to the Executive Board and recommended appointing Arlene Dannet. Commissioner Mithcell moved and Commissioner Holm seconded to approve Arlene Dannet as appointed to Director. MOTION CARRIED.

**B. SS911 Board Member and Alternate Appointment**

Commissioner Sutich reported that Pat McElligott and himself as alternate was voted on in July as a 2-year term and is good for 2024 and 2025. Has already been done. Denise will complete the form and submit it to SS911.

### **C. Website Discussion**

President Kadow asked about the website and who manages it. Unable to find minutes, etc.

### **GOOD OF THE ORDER:**

President Kadow welcomed all of the new Commissioners.

Next meeting will be at SS911 and South Pierce will bring refreshments.

Dale Mitchell lifetime achievement award was presented at the Annual Banquet. Commissioner Mitchell is very appreciative, and it really means a lot to him. Commissioner Moffett stated Dale is the first recipient of it and it will be an annual award.

Commissioner Werner asked about the Banquet budget on 2023 report not much spent. It was due to low attendance. Suggested taking the extra money and helping to reduce the cost of attending the banquet. Any other suggestions or changes for the budget talk to Commissioners Moffett and Werner.

Commissioner Barstow congratulated Commissioner Mitchell on his award and thanked him for all of involvement and service to the community and state.

Commissioner Holm reminder 23<sup>rd</sup> of March at Tulalip and also via Zoom. For Orting, Graham and CPFR in the process of getting Graham's passenger van. Commissioner Dannat asked about the meeting's start time of 7:00 pm, is there any reason it can't be changed to earlier? Put on Agenda for next meeting to discuss moving meetings to 6:00 pm.

### **ADJOURN:**

There being no further business, Commissioner Moffett moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner O'Harra Buttz seconded the motion. MOTION CARRIED. The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.

Submitted by:

Denise Ross,  
Secretary/Treasurer

Website: <http://www.pcfirecommissioners.org/SitePages/Home.aspx>

### **2024 Meeting Schedule:**

January 25, 2024 – Graham Fire & Rescue Sta. 91 23014 70<sup>th</sup> Ave E. and Zoom

February 22, 2024 – SS911 3580 Pacific Ave, Tacoma and Zoom

March 28, 2024 – EPFR Sta 118 10105 24<sup>th</sup> St E, Edgewood and Zoom

April 25, 2024 – SS911 3580 Pacific Ave, Tacoma and Zoom

May 23, 2024 – CPFR HQ 1015 39<sup>th</sup> Ave SE, Suite 120, Puyallup and Zoom  
June 27, 2024 – SS911 3580 Pacific Ave, Tacoma and Zoom  
July 25, 2024 – 6:00 pm - BBQ / Potluck –  
August 22, 2024 – SS911 3580 Pacific Ave, Tacoma and Zoom  
September 26, 2024 – Key Peninsula  
October 24, 2024 - NO MEETING – STATE CONFERENCE  
November 21, 2024 – West Pierce Fire & Rescue  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday due to 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday being Thanksgiving)  
December 5, 2024 – NO MEETING – ANNUAL AWARDS BANQUET





WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF

# NATURAL RESOURCES

Legislative Update

# SMOKEY BEAR LICENSE PLATE

## SB 5910 / HB 2108

- Establishes a Smokey Bear License Plate
- Washington will be 1 of just 3 states (Oregon and Texas) with a Smokey Bear state license plate
- All revenue goes to wild fire prevention
- First DNR-sponsored license plate



# SMOKEY BEAR LICENSE PLATE

## YES! I Want the Smokey Bear\* License Plate!

Before the Department of Licensing (DOL) considers the plate series, it requires at least 3,500 people to express interest in the license plate. Help the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) show DOL and the State Legislature that people are interested in a Smokey Bear license plate.

Signing this sheet indicates you are interested in this plate, and may purchase one if they become available.

Proceeds from the special license plate sales will go to wildfire prevention and a program to support wildland firefighters.

*\*Smokey Bear is a partnership of the Ad Council, United States Forest Service and the National Association of State Foresters*

Email Address

First and Last name

Number of Smokey License Plates You Will Purchase

Sign

[HTTPS://WWW.DNR.WA.GOV/SMOKEYBEAR](https://www.dnr.wa.gov/smokeybear)



# EARLY EDUCATION LAND TRUST

## Creating a permanent trust to fund child care:

- **HB 2243** would create a Children's Social Equity Trust
- Conserve working forestlands at risk of conversion
- Provide greater economic development opportunities for families and reduce or end cycles of poverty in communities with economic disparity
- Sequester carbon and limit the harmful impacts of global climate change
- Establish a stable funding source for creating or expanding child care. Often, these are small businesses that are overwhelmingly owned and operated by women and people of color

# FALLEN FIREFIGHTER MEMORIAL

## SB 5946/HB 2091

Establish a fallen firefighter memorial on the capitol campus grounds to recognize the sacrifice of firefighters who have died in the line of duty giving unselfish service to their communities and the state;

The design and construction of such a memorial would follow the major works requirements administered by the department of enterprise services;

The state capitol committee, or any subcommittee thereof, would work with the Department of Natural Resources and statewide organizations representing firefighters in its role reviewing the building of the fallen firefighter memorial.

# DROUGHT RESILIENCE AND WATER BANKING

\$1.592M GF HB - S 3 FTEs needed to:

- Develop a statewide water bank
- Repair and replace inefficient equipment
- Participate in the Odessa groundwater recharge project to conserve this vital resource for the benefit of the state and people of Washington

\$1M

- Capital Funding for the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Project and a water rights portfolio audit

# RECREATIONAL USE FEES

## SB 6043/HB 2165

DNR seeks a statute change to RCW 4.24.210

- Important first step in responsibly and equitably meeting the growing demand for organized recreation in Washington
- The change would bring DNR in line with similar exemptions to other State Natural Resources Agencies
- Under the current statute the agency needs authority to develop a consistent and transparent permitting system that ensures permittees adequately mitigate for the impacts of events on DNR land. Such events include competitive running and biking races, fundraisers, and outdoor education opportunities. Changing this statute will help DNR keep up with the growing demand to recreate on DNR-managed lands.

# DNR/ TRIBAL INTERLOCAL AGREEMENTS

## SB 6011/ HB 2312

RCW 7.84.140

- Expands the Commissioner's existing delegation authority to include federally recognized Tribes:

“The commissioner of public lands is authorized to delegate enforcement authority over natural resource infractions to federally recognized Indian Tribes under the interlocal cooperation act chapter 39.34 RCW.”

RCW 43.12.065

- Adds federally recognized Tribes to the organizations with which the Commissioner may enter into collaborative law enforcement agreements:

“...the state parks and recreation commission, the department of fish and wildlife, and federally recognized Indian Tribes...”



# WILDFIRE/ FOREST HEALTH FUNDING (HB 1168)

This bipartisan legislation – developed by a wide-ranging coalition of firefighters, fire chiefs, Tribes, environmentalists, public health advocates, and forest products companies – commits \$125 million every two years over the next four biennial budgets (\$500 million in total) to boost wildfire response, accelerate forest restoration, and build community resilience.

# WILDFIRE

- Addition of 16 dozers and 4 excavators to strengthen our firefighting force as well as 2 Kodiak planes
- Ability transfer surplus engines to local FDs. We're up to 18 this year.
- 21 Pano AI cameras, 12 active right now, the rest before the next fire season.
- Conversion of some seasonal firefighters to full-time.

# FOREST RESILIENCE

- Awards to 19 organizations with forest health treatments completed on 3,151 acres
- 14,196 acres in forest health treatments
- DNR has hired a NEPA Interdisciplinary Team (5.0 FTE) to support increasing the pace and scale of planning on federal lands to conduct surveys and administer contracted services with 4 completed contracts to date
  - 32,789 acres of completed forest health treatments
  - 23,167 acres of planned forest health treatments
  - 32 Aquatic Organism Passages Installed
  - 223 miles of road maintained or restored

# IMPACTS OF 1168 ON FIRE SEASON 2023

Throughout Washington all summer, our increased and improved fleet of firefighting aircraft helped keep small fires from getting out of hand. This includes fires on the Olympic Peninsula, in the Columbia River Gorge, and all across Eastern Washington. 95 percent of these fires were kept under 10 acres.

- Our air fleet has grown from 8 Vietnam helicopters to 40 aircraft that we have added either through exclusive-use contracts in Washington State or through the purchase of new planes. This includes 2 Kodiak multi-mission planes.
- Looking at all-agency, statewide numbers, Washington saw more than 1,880 ignitions – the second-most in state history. However, the 165,365 acres burned statewide falls well below the 10-year average of 472,8812 acres.

# 1168 CARRYFORWARD EXPECTATIONS

\$94.8 MILLION CARRYFORWARD AND \$25.2 MILLION TO PROGRAMS THAT CAN PROVIDE PASS-THRU TO PARTNERS—DNR'S CARRYFORWARD LEVEL SUSTAINS CRITICAL POSITIONS ESTABLISHED IN THE 2021/23 BIENNIUM AS WELL AS DELIVERS ON KEY OUTCOMES, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO:

- Treating an additional 16,600 acres of forestland
- Removing over 20 fish passage barriers
- Facilitating increased shovel-ready planned projects across all-lands, including through state supported planning on federal lands
- Providing coordination and technical assistance in postfire recovery for communities and forestlands
- Maintaining the additional permanent and seasonal firefighter positions established in 2021/23
- Expand implementation of Wildfire Ready Neighbors (WRN) programming – providing access to experts and resources to help residents reduce wildfire risk.

# 1168 CARRYFORWARD OUTCOMES CONT.

- Securing additional aircraft for fire response
- Purchasing night vision equipment for helicopters
- Hiring more heavy equipment operators
- Expanding our digital wildfire detection system
- Maintaining environmental equity planning capacity for forest restoration
- Delivering critical forest health and prescribed fire treatments on DNR trust lands

# FAILURE TO SECURE FULL INVESTMENT IN 1168 WILL RESULT IN:

- REDUCED FUNDING FOR FIRE DISTRICT AND FOREST HEALTH PASS THROUGH PROGRAMS
- Loss of grants to Fire Districts
- Loss of grants for Firewise and expansion of Wildfire Ready Neighbors
- Reduction in over 3,000 acres in forest health treatments
- Inability to leverage federal dollars to increase scale of forest health treatments
- Not meeting intent and goals of HB 1168

# OFM SUBMISSIONS

## Operating

- 1168 Wildfire & Forest Health Funding (\$24.093M GF-S)
- Drought Resilience-Water Leasing (\$1.592M GF-S)
- Housing Infrastructure (\$650.5k)
- Youth Education and Outreach Program (\$1.65M GF-S)
- Target Shooting (\$1.23M GF-S)
- DNR Conservation Corps (\$1.817M GF-S)
- European Green Crab (\$857k GF-S)
- Post-Fire Debris Flow Program (\$965k GF-S)
- LiDAR (\$781k GF-S)
- Derelict Structures Account Spending Authority
- FP Online (\$5.39M GF-S)
- Fire Suppression Funding Adjustment (TBD)

## Capital

- Port Angeles Fire and Seasonal Employee Housing (\$3.82M)
- Drought Resilience Planning (\$1.0M)
- Target Shooting (\$1.8M)
- Camp Colman (\$6M)
- Land Bank Spending Authority
- Minor Works Preservation (\$898.8k)

# QUESTIONS

BEVIN.MCLEOD@DNR.WA.GOV



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF  
**NATURAL RESOURCES**





HILARY S. FRANZ  
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

SB 6011 | HB 2312

#### RCW 7.84.140

Expands the Commissioner's existing delegation authority to include federally recognized Tribes:

*"The commissioner of public lands is authorized to delegate enforcement authority over natural resource infractions to federally recognized Indian Tribes under the interlocal cooperation act chapter 39.34 RCW."*

#### RCW 43.12.065

Adds federally recognized Tribes to the organizations with which the Commissioner may enter into collaborative law enforcement agreements:

*"... the state parks and recreation commission, the department of fish and wildlife, and federally recognized Indian Tribes ..."*

#### CONTACT

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# Tribal Interlocal Agreements

**Authorizes the Commissioner of Public Lands to enter into collaborative law enforcement agreements with federally recognized Tribes.**



DNR's Law Enforcement Program addresses the public safety and enforcement challenges of managing 5.6 million acres of public lands that have seen at least twenty percent increase in use since 2019. This bill authorizes the Commissioner of Public Lands to enter into Interlocal Agreements with federally recognized Tribes. This would authorize Tribal police officers to enforce natural resource civil infractions on DNR-managed land.

This legislation embraces the purpose of the Interlocal Cooperation Act for local governments to collaboratively use their authorities to efficiently serve the people of Washington. **There are no expected agency costs associated with this bill.**

This bill does not require the Commissioner of Public Lands or any federally recognized Tribe to enter into an agreement. Instead, the Commissioner and federally recognized Tribes are allowed to pursue collaborative law enforcement opportunities. The scope of such agreements is limited to DNR civil infractions. DNR's law enforcement officers do not enforce the Forest Practices Act and Rules, and neither would Tribal officers under an agreement with DNR.

This legislative request flows from the Interlocal Cooperation Act (Chapter 39.34 RCW) that includes federally recognized Tribes under the definition of public agencies.

This bill should not impact other state agencies' responsibilities or law enforcement operations. The bill does not seek reciprocal authority to carry out law enforcement on Tribal lands. In addition, it does not seek to replace DNR's need for additional law enforcement officers to address the forty percent increase in calls for service that has been received since 2017.





HILARY S. FRANZ  
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

SB 5910 | HB 2108

- Establishes a Smokey Bear License Plate
- Washington will be 1 of just 3 states (Oregon and Texas) with a Smokey Bear state license plate
- All revenue goes to wildfire prevention
- First DNR-sponsored license plate

#### CONTACT

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# Smokey Bear License Plate\*



## Why a Smokey Bear License Plate?

Since 1944, Smokey Bear has been the face of wildfire prevention around the world. Putting his image on vehicles across Washington will increase wildfire awareness by reminding everyone in the state that only they can prevent wildfires.

A Smokey Bear license plate will let people show their support for firefighters while supporting DNR's efforts to reduce the number of wildfires started by humans every year. The presence of Smokey Bear in the license plate will also help raise public awareness of wildfire prevention, ensuring the safety of our neighbors. Learn more about Smokey Bear at [smokeybear.com](https://smokeybear.com).

## When Will They be Available?

Under this bill, the public could start purchasing license plates in October 2024 for any vehicle required to have a license plate.

## What Will They Cost?

This specialty license plate will cost \$40 for the initial plate and \$30 for renewal of a plate, and these costs are in addition to any vehicle registration fees and costs required by law. This will be DNR's first license plate and the state's only license plate for wildfire prevention.

DNR is the state's primary wildfire fighting force and responds every year to fires that threaten communities, natural lands and homes.

To sign the petition showing support for DNR's Smokey Bear license plate, please visit: [I want a Smokey Bear License Plate](#).

\*This design is not final and could change, and it is subject to federal approval.



HILARY S. FRANZ  
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

**SB 5967 | HB 2003**

Leasehold Excise Tax Exemption that will encourage affordable housing developers to build on DNR residential properties.

### **\$2.25M Capital**

- Infrastructure Fund that will allow DNR to make targeted investments on residential properties to convert them into developer-ready lots.
- Land Feasibility Assessment that will allow DNR to create a housing portfolio of build-ready sites.

# Housing on DNR Lands

**DNR owns thousands of acres of residential trust properties across the state that could be used for housing development.**

DNR can begin to advance housing projects on its lands to address the lack of available and affordable housing across the state if it can receive an additional tool and investment. DNR has a diverse portfolio of properties it can leverage to help address the State's housing needs.



The price and availability of buildable land is a key aspect of the housing crisis across the state. By leasing DNR's residentially zoned land for housing, DNR can help

address these issues by utilizing DNR properties for housing. This can provide more affordable home choices near schools, jobs, and transit, and more options for first-time homebuyers. It also reduces the risk of conversion of our forests and farmlands, and will provide more trust revenue for our beneficiaries, including schools, libraries, teachers, and public safety,

### **Legislation and Investments to Accelerate Housing Built on DNR Residential Properties.**

DNR's legislative and budget requests will address the lack of housing. DNR's two proposals are a relatively low investment considering the \$1 billion investment in housing already made by the state.

#### **Leasehold Excise Tax Exemption (Agency Request Legislation)**

Agency request legislation (SB 5967/HB 2003) will amend RCW 82.29A, the Leasehold Excise Tax (LET), to create an exemption for leases on public land when used for the placement of affordable housing. The LET fee is 12.84% of the lease rate. This exemption is intended to incentivize the placement of affordable housing on leased DNR land, while generating new lease revenue for Trust beneficiaries. The bill includes a 12-year LET exemption for renting or selling at least 20% of units as affordable, and a 20-year LET exemption for renting or selling at least 25% of units as affordable.

The goal is to reduce the burden on low-to-moderate income households through a reduction in the ground lease rate; otherwise, the 12.84% fee would be passed on to the households in increased rent or mortgage fees. Local jurisdictions and beneficiaries would still receive a portion of the lease income as DNR Trust Beneficiaries, in addition to the economic benefits of new housing development and affordable housing in their own local communities.



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COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

### A Public Lands Success Story

DNR already has successful models for residential land transfers to local jurisdictions, such as the 27-acres on Ridgetop to Kitsap County.

The County will use this property to develop workforce housing that minimizes urban-suburban sprawl, while protecting the creek and forested trail access.



While this is a good example of putting public lands to use for housing, it is currently inaccessible to private and nonprofit partners.

DNR proposes expanding this approach for an innovative solution to putting more public lands to use to address the growing housing crises.

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### Infrastructure Fund and Land Feasibility Assessment (\$2.25M Cap)

DNR received funding in the Governor's budget that will allow DNR to start improving infrastructure on viable residential sites. This includes connecting urban lots to drinking water and sewer in areas that greatly need new low and middle-income housing. By using State funds instead of DNR Trust accounts to pay for this infrastructure, DNR will be able to reduce the cost of the land for the housing provider, by not passing along any improvement costs in the lease rate and appraised value. This innovation addresses the affordable housing crisis by making these public lands more accessible to affordable housing developers, while also maintaining the agency's fiduciary responsibility to the trust beneficiaries.

The Governor's budget also funds a land feasibility assessment and pre-design to create a portfolio of build-ready sites for DNR residential properties. DNR will hire a contractor to conduct a full assessment/feasibility study on DNR residentially zoned lands to determine the number of lots and acres available; what the current zoning and allowed densities are, and how many units could be built; what development barriers and costs exist; and the what the current appraised value is. This type of feasibility work will significantly expedite housing development and help DNR better leverage our residential properties to build housing on them.





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**SB 6062 | HB 2299**

### **\$1.592M GF-S**

3 FTEs needed to develop a statewide water bank, repair and replace inefficient equipment, and participate in the Odessa groundwater recharge project will conserve this vital resource for the benefit of the state and people of Washington.

### **\$1M Capital**

Funding for the Odessa Ground Water Replacement Project and a water rights portfolio audit.

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# Managing Water for Drought Resilience

## **DROUGHT MITIGATION STUDY FUNDED BY THE LEGISLATURE HIGHLIGHTS THE NEED FOR PUBLIC LANDS TO BE MORE DROUGHT RESILIENT**

DNR must manage our public lands to be more drought resilient, including the ability to lease water assets, to ensure our beneficiaries and the surrounding communities receive the full value and benefit of DNR-managed lands and property.

DNR currently manages over 3,000 water rights that deliver at least \$17 million annually in revenue to DNR beneficiaries and programs. The estimated value of all DNR water rights is over \$1 billion.

DNR received [funding in 2022 from the Legislature for a drought study](#). A 2023 drought mitigation report identified several areas to prioritize for our public lands to be more drought resilient, including work to establish water banks, funding critical water infrastructure improvements and water conservation opportunities.

## **DROUGHT RESILIENCE INVESTMENTS AND WATER LEASING AUTHORITY**

### **Authority to Lease Non-Land Assets, including Water**

DNR's agency request legislation authorizes the agency to lease non-land agency assets, including water. This will also allow DNR to lease water to other entities and can provide drought relief in small, rural communities heavily reliant on agriculture while generating non-tax revenue for beneficiaries.

### **Critical Water Infrastructure Improvements**

\$550,000/biennium will fund necessary repairs to DNR's water aging infrastructure for more effective and efficient water systems on DNR lands.

### **Development of a DNR Water Bank**

Allows DNR to add capacity to manage the agency's water rights and water assets by working with Ecology and other partners to use Ecology's water banking program. This will help protect DNR's water rights from relinquishment, and allow us to move water within approved locations, safely and more efficiently, including during periods of drought.

### **Odessa Groundwater Recharge Project**

\$500,000 in capital funding to participate in the Odessa Groundwater Recharge project. This funding will allow DNR to construct the on-farm infrastructure and pipelines required to access the main lateral for pipeline EL 84.7

### **Establishing a Water Usage Monitoring and Compliance Program**

Monitoring water usage, conducting inspections, managing large-scale projects related to water management, and identifying more efficient use of water for future development, protection and drought mitigation. Review of water usage and lease compliance by 2029 will allow DNR to protect the agency's water rights and ensure we are adhering to legal water use requirements.





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SB 6043 | HB 2165

DNR seeks a statute change to [RCW 4.24.210](#) as an important first step in responsibly and equitably meeting the growing demand for organized recreation in Washington.

The change would bring DNR in line with similar exemptions to other State Natural Resources Agencies.

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# Recreational Use Fees

## A small fix to state statute could have a big impact on DNR's ability to manage recreation events on DNR-managed lands

DNR receives more than 100 organized recreation event permit applications annually for events on DNR-managed land. Events include competitive running and biking races, fundraisers, and outdoor education opportunities, and more. Currently, the agency needs authority to develop a consistent and transparent permitting system that ensures permittees adequately mitigate for the impacts of these events. More people are engaged in recreation activities on state lands and this bill helps DNR keep up with the growing demand to recreate on DNR-managed lands.



**Increase Consistency:** Permit denials have far-reaching effects for our partners and nearby communities. The current process is inconsistent due to the lack of investments in DNR programs and projects. This results in permit denials and missed opportunities for rural economic development in gateway communities, and, makes it difficult for partner organizations to plan for events across the state. This statutory change provides some parity with authorities given to other natural resources agencies and will allow DNR to permit and manage events consistently across the state while protecting our natural resources.

**Improve Transparency:** DNR's permitting structure can be difficult to navigate and cannot provide revenue to help cover the costs that would help build efficiencies and transparency to the process. This bill allows DNR to work with Tribes and stakeholders to develop a permit application process and fee structure that is acceptable and more transparent, without compromising our management of state lands or have the agency lose recreational immunity. This also allows DNR to recover costs of managing organized recreational events, including setting clear expectations up front for permittees, while making the permit process predictable and equitable for our current and future partners.

**Reduce Impacts:** Setting permit fees for recreational events is needed to manage high use recreation sites that require more management by staff—time and resources that are not offset by permit fees. Authorizing DNR to develop a fee structure under the recreational immunity statute ([RCW 4.24.210](#)) is critical to the agency's ability to better manage the growing demand for organized recreation. Providing DNR the legal standing to develop a fee structure would help us recoup management costs and improve outdoor experiences for all Washingtonians.





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HB2243

*Since 2010,  
Washington lost  
2,000 family child  
care providers  
and 300 child  
care centers*

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# Early Education Land Trust

## CREATING A PERMANENT TRUST TO FUND CHILDCARE

Finding childcare in Washington can be difficult for working parents with young children. Parents are often forced to reduce their hours, decline promotions, or leave the workforce entirely due to a lack of affordable, reliable childcare. Additionally, the lack of access to these services continues to disproportionately impact working-age mothers and contributes to the gender pay gap in Washington State.

### A New Trust for Old Challenges

House Bill 2243 would create a **Children's Social Equity Trust**. This trust would be managed much like the trusts that were created at Statehood which fund schools, libraries, and other community services. The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) would acquire and manage land with Climate Commitment Act funding, and sustainably manage that land for uses such as commercial forestry, renewable energy projects, and carbon sequestration credits for reforestation provide permanent funding for childcare Washington State.

Since Washington's founding, our working forests and farmlands have produced critical funding for educating our children. The more than three million acres of trust lands managed by the state generate more than \$200 million per year, supporting our K-12 schools and other public services.

**An accompanying \$100 million from the Natural Climate Solutions Account**, part of the Climate Commitment Act, would allow DNR to purchase new lands for the trust. DNR's Children's Social Equity Land Trust would creatively meet multiple statewide goals:

- Conserve working forestlands at risk of conversion
- Provide greater economic development opportunities for families and reduce or end cycles of poverty in communities with economic disparity
- Sequester carbon and limit the harmful impacts of global climate change
- Establish a stable funding source for creating or expanding child care. Often, these are small businesses that are overwhelmingly owned and operated by women and people of color

The new trust would direct revenue to the State Treasury for the Department of Children, Youth, and Families, which oversees the Childcare Desert Grant Program (RCW 43.216.602). This program has yet to be funded and expires in 2026. These grants may be for one-time costs associated with opening childcare sites in communities considered a childcare desert.

High-quality, accessible childcare reduces the opportunity gap for low-income children and children of color. Once established, the trust would ensure a consistent and reliable revenue source, in perpetuity, to assist with the start-up costs of childcare where there is the most significant community need. This could be transformative for families, enabling parents to stay or re-enter the workforce. Children would benefit from early education and social and emotional development, setting them up for success in their K-12 education.

This landmark trust is a dual investment in the next generation of Washingtonians. Ensuring they have the foundation for their K-12 education and mitigating the potential impacts of climate change through climate smart forest management and by making Washington State a national leader in sustainable, innovative approaches to limiting greenhouse gases.



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**HB2243**

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## **What Are ChildCare Deserts?**

Child care deserts are often found in communities that struggle with health and economic disparities. Lack of access to affordable childcare perpetuates cycles of poverty and inequities.

In 2019, the Washington State Childcare Collaborative Task Force found in their report that 49% of parents in the state found it complicated or very difficult to find, afford, and keep care for their children. Lack of childcare was projected to cost the state \$2.1 billion due to employee turnover and missed work and \$6.5 billion in direct and opportunity costs.

Even more troubling is the decrease in childcare providers and facilities. Between 2010 and 2023, the state saw a reduction of 2,000 family childcare providers and 300 centers, contributing to an increase in these deserts statewide. The new trust intends to reverse this trend.

## **Impact for the Environment**

In 2020, the state adopted a limit on greenhouse gases (GHGs) to align with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) recommendations for limiting likely global temperature rise to no more than 1.5 degrees Celsius. With the goal of net-zero emissions by 2050, the state must cut emissions by roughly 50% to the levels of 2018 and 2019 by the end of the decade. This will require ambition reduction in emissions and an acceleration of carbon sequestration.

Last year, global leaders at COP 28, including the United States Special Presidential Climate Envoy, announced their support for a substantial increase in the use of timber for construction as a vital decarbonization strategy. Their statement reads, "Recognizing that wood from sustainably managed forests provides climate solutions within the construction sector, we commit to, by 2030, advancing policies and approaches that support low carbon construction and increase the use of wood from sustainably managed forests in the built environment. Such policies and approaches will result in reduced GHG emissions and an increase in stored carbon."