

Community Fire Resilience Workgroup Summary and Recommendations:
A Five-Year Review of the Washington State Wildland
Fire Protection 10-Year Strategic Plan
v 1.2 11-20-24

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Glossary of acronyms.....	2
Purpose.....	4
Background	4
Historical Context and Recent Developments	5
Legislative Support for Forest Health and Wildfire Risk Reduction.....	5
Community Fire Resilience: A Growing Focus.....	5
Washington Wildland Fire Protection 10-Year Strategic Plan Review and Assessment. 7	
Workgroup Formation and Composition.....	7
Focus and Limitations.....	7
Process and Outreach.....	8
Methodology.....	8
Recent Progress and Summary of Accomplishments.....	8
Building on a Strong Foundation.....	11
Ongoing Challenges and Recommendations.....	12
Appendix A. Community Fire Resilience workgroup review focus.....	27
Appendix B. Washington State Legislative Wildfire Response, Forest Health, and Community Resilience Statutes (2018-2024)	28
Appendix C. Community Fire Resilience Practices Summary.....	38
Appendix D. Community Fire Resilience Possible Metrics (rough draft)	44



Glossary of acronyms

ASIP - Assessing Structure Ignition Potential

BAER - Burned Area Emergency Response

CFR - Community (Wild) Fire Resilience

COAD - Community Organizations Active in Disaster

CWDG - Community Wildfire Defense Grant

CWPP - Community Wildfire Protection Plan

DNR - Washington Department of Natural Resources

DOH - Department of Health

EMD - Washington Military Department, Emergency Management Division

FAC - Fire Adapted Communities

FACNet - Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network

FDRA - Fire Danger Rating Area

GHG - greenhouse gas

GMA - Growth Management Act

HEAL Act - Healthy Environment for All Act

IBHS - Insurance Institute for Business and Home Safety

IRA - Inflation Reduction Act

LEP - Limited English Proficiency

MOU - Memorandum of Understanding

NFPA - National Fire Protection Association

PA - Public Assistance

POD - Potential Operational Delineation

QRA - Quantitative Risk Assessment

RCW - Revised Code of Washington

RFPAs - Rangeland Fire Protection Associations

SCC - Washington State Conservation Commission

TREX - Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges

USDA - U.S. Department of Agriculture

USFS - U.S. Forest Service

VOAD - Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster

WAC - Washington Administrative Code

WAFAC - Washington Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network

WFAC - Washington Wildland Fire Advisory Committee

WRCD - Washington Resource Conservation and Development Council

WUI - Wildland Urban Interface

WUIC - Wildland Urban Interface Code

Purpose

The purpose of this document is twofold:

1. To provide input to the Washington Wildland Fire Advisory Committee (WFAC) and the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in their 2024 addendum to the [Washington State Wildland Fire Protection 10-Year Strategic Plan](#) (Wildland Fire Strategic Plan) and in potential agency-directed policy initiatives.
2. To serve as a reference for statewide community fire resilience efforts in Washington to inform coordination and prioritization over the next 2-5 years.

Background

In 2021, the Washington legislature took a significant step toward addressing wildfire challenges with the passage of a landmark law, [SSHB 1168.SL](#), “[Relating to long-term forest health and reduction of wildfire dangers](#)”. This legislation created the Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration, and Community Resilience Account in the state treasury. The law outlined a plan to appropriate \$125 million each biennium through 2029, supporting investments in three key areas:

1. Fire Response preparedness
2. Forest Restoration (minimum 25% of funds)
3. Community Resilience (minimum 15% of funds)

These investments are aligned with the [20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan](#) (Forest Health Strategic Plan), the [Wildland Fire Strategic Plan](#), and [Washington State Forest Action Plan](#) (2020). The account’s investment categories mirror the three core focal areas of the [National Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy](#) (2014) and its 2023 Addendum Update, which are represented in the Wildland Fire Strategic Plan goals:

Goal 1. Washington’s preparedness, response, and recovery systems are fully capable, integrated, and sustainable. *

Goal 2. Landscapes are resilient. In the face of wildland fire, they resist damage and recover quickly.

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

Goal 4. Response (to fire) is safe and effective.

These goals represent pillars for professionals and community members to address growing fire issues across various roles and responsibilities.

*While not explicitly a “Goal” in the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, there is strong alignment in assumptions in how this Goal will be implemented per page 6 of the National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy [Addendum Update 2023](#).

Historical Context and Recent Developments

Since the early 1900's, investments in wildfire response at the federal, state, and local scales have created one of the world's most effective fire management and suppression systems. Over the past five years, significant advancements and investments have been made in aviation, ground equipment, number of firefighting crews, and pre-positioning strategies. Despite increasingly challenging fire weather conditions, longer fire seasons, changing fuel conditions, and increasing ignitions in a growing and complex rural-urban interface, suppression effectiveness has improved. However, the increasing number of rural and urban fires resulting in loss of structures and life underscores the ongoing challenges.

Legislative Support for Forest Health and Wildfire Risk Reduction

In 2017, the Washington legislature passed [SSSB 5546.SL](#), "[Concerning proactively addressing wildfire risk by creating a forest health treatment assessment](#)". This legislation supported the Forest Health Strategic Plan by directing the development of a robust treatment and monitoring framework to be implemented by a new DNR Forest Resilience Division. Goal 2 of the Wildland Fire Strategic Plan overlaps with the Forest Health Strategic Plan and extends its reach to non-forested landscapes and western Washington. Further legislative action came in 2019, with [SSHB 1784.SL](#), which directs the DNR to prioritize forest health treatments that serve the dual benefits of maximizing forest health while also providing geographic planning tools for wildfire response.

Combined with increased federal investments through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (2021), these initiatives have led to increased vegetation and fuels management across various land ownerships. Furthermore, vegetation treatments on private, state, and federal lands are increasingly strategically placed to support all goals of the Wildland Fire Strategic Plan.

Community Fire Resilience: A Growing Focus

Of the three core focal areas of the [National Cohesive Wildland Fire Strategy](#), fire adapted communities is relatively new compared to fire response and landscape resilience. This is unsurprising, given the success of fire response in excluding fire from the early 1900's through the end of the century. As a result, current infrastructure, laws, economic and social norms, systems, and practices for living in a fire environment were largely created in the absence of fire. While there has been progress, there continues to be increasing intensity and extent of destructive fire in rural and urban communities across Washington and the west.

Each community has different assets, context, and conditions such that there is no "one size fits all" approach or roadmap that will achieve community fire resilience. However, for nearly two decades communities across the nation have been developing atlases of

experience and sharing in venues such as the Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network ([FACNet](https://fireadapted.org/)).

FACNet, through engagement with members over years, developed a graphic (Figure 1) to help explain a fire adapted communities (FAC) framework for community fire resilience. The graphic describes a set of FAC focal components or practices that make up community wildfire adaptation and provides examples of specific programs and activities that communities can undertake to reduce their wildfire risk. It is NOT comprehensive and does not include all of the potential actions or programs. FAC focal components, specific activities, and programs will constantly evolve as communities creatively work toward greater community fire resilience (<https://fireadapted.org/how-to-use-this-site/>). Furthermore, along with numerous and diverse FAC focal components, there is a diverse set of community member roles that contribute to community fire resilience before, during, and after fires (<https://fireadapted.org/who/>).

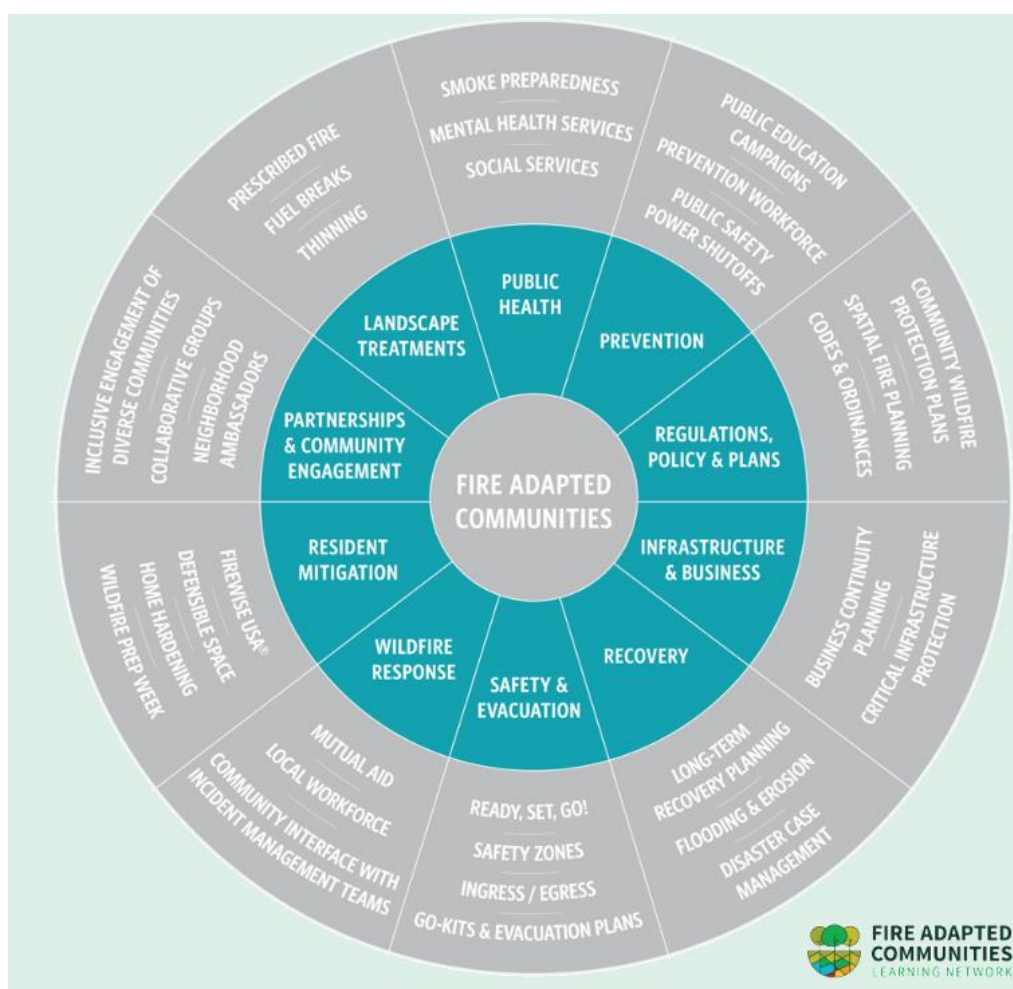


Figure 1. This graphic was designed to help explain the FAC framework for community fire resilience. The graphic describes a set of FAC focal components (inner circle) that commonly make up community wildfire adaptation, and gives examples of specific programs and activities (outer circle) that communities can undertake to reduce their wildfire risk. (<https://fireadapted.org/what/>). While all three pillars of the National Wildland Fire Cohesive Strategy are represented, community fire resilience typically has more of an emphasis on rural-urban fire interface rather than wildlands.

The FAC graphic illustrates numerous possible components (inner circle) of investment in rural-urban communities for pursuing community fire resilience, most of which are represented by Wildland Fire Strategic Plan goals 1-4 summarized above. Community fire resilience specifically focuses on a community's capacity and ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover quickly from wildfires. In a fire adapted community, WILDFIRE RESPONSE and LANDSCAPE TREATMENTS are important components; however, it is important to differentiate and identify numerous community resilience components, practices, and associated programs, activities and roles.

Since the creation of the Washington State Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration, and Community Resilience Account in 2021, as well as more recent increases in federal investments via the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, there has been greater opportunity to focus on specific components of community resilience in addition to wildfire response and landscape treatments.

Washington Wildland Fire Protection 10-Year Strategic Plan Review and Assessment

In September 2023, the State Forester tasked ([Tasking Memo](#)) WFAC, in collaboration with DNR staff, to complete a five-year review of the Wildland Fire Strategic Plan. To support this process, the Washington Resource Conservation and Development Council (WRCD) formed a workgroup focusing on fire adapted communities and community fire resilience goals and strategies outlined in the Wildland Fire Strategic Plan.

Workgroup Formation and Composition

- WRCD solicited participation and representation from organizational partners and the Washington Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network (WAFAC).
- A brief survey was sent to representatives across the state working on community fire resilience initiatives to outline the workgroup's focus.
- Nine individuals participated, representing:
 - DNR Community Resilience Program
 - Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
 - Conservation districts
 - Fire District Preparedness Coordinator (west side)
 - WRCD staff, including WAFAC staff and Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) staff
 - WFAC Committee Representatives: Annie Schmidt, Fire Adapted Communities Representative and Carlene Anders, Community Resilience Representative.

Focus and Limitations

- The workgroup aimed to follow the Tasking Memo's specific requests, focusing on community fire resilience goals and strategies in the Wildland Fire Strategic Plan ([Appendix A](#)).
- Time constraints prevented the review of all community fire resilience strategies in the Plan.
- The workgroup primarily focused on Goal 3, Strategy 6, including sub-strategies and sub-objectives.
- Additional input was gathered on sub-strategies 6.2 (limited English proficiency) and 6.5 (smoke preparedness) through targeted outreach with local, state, and federal partners.

Process and Outreach

- The workgroup met virtually on five occasions.
- Washington Conservation Action provided logistical support and coordination.
- Additional outreach and meetings were held to obtain feedback on specific sub-strategies:
 - Sub-strategy 6.2: Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Communities
 - Sub-strategy 6.5: Smoke Preparedness
- Outreach was initiated with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Regional Fire Prevention Coordinating Group for input on Strategy 7 (Reduce human-related wildland fire), but time constraints limited feedback.
- DNR Forest Resilience Division and Post Fire Recovery Program participated in WFAC meetings and provided input through the WFAC review process

Methodology

- Each meeting agenda included review of specific community fire resilience goals and strategies.
- A matrix containing strategies and discussion prompts was created and shared to guide and document the process.
- Detailed notes were taken and transcribed into a matrix.
- Some individual workgroup members added data directly to the matrix.
- The matrix was used to summarize the accomplishments and recommendations in this summary.

The structured approach allowed the workgroup to provide focused input on key aspects of community fire resilience within the constraints of the review timeline. The process highlighted both progress made in recent years and the ongoing challenges in making progress on the Wildland Fire Strategic Plan goals across Washington state.

Recent Progress and Summary of Accomplishments

Over the past five years, various agencies, local municipalities, nonprofit and community organizations, and local, state, and federal agencies have collaborated to advance the Wildland Fire Strategic Plan's community fire resilience goals. Recent progress includes:

1. Increased engagement and visibility in issues of equity and resilience.
2. Greater participation from residents, local municipal agencies, and community organizations in fire preparedness and post-fire recovery.
3. Investments in the development, revision, and implementation of Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) by federal, state, and local entities. This includes significant investments like the Community Wildfire Defense Grant (CWDG) and funding support to conservation districts from the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC).
4. Significant increases in federal and state investments allocated towards wildfire response, forest restoration, and community resilience (in that order).

The following is a partial summary of accomplishments including elements that are supporting local, community-led efforts. It does not come close to representing the progress and accomplishments occurring throughout the state at the county, municipal and neighborhood levels.

Research and Assessment

- Social research, including surveys on wildfire preparedness ([University of Idaho](#)) and perceptions of wildfire risk ([Wildfire Research Center](#)).
- Development of a consensus-driven, evidence-based approach to integrate human health implications from wild and managed forest fires into spatial and temporal planning for forest management ([Science for Nature and People Partnership](#)).
- Understanding impacts of smoke on agricultural workers and youth ([University of Washington and The Community for Advancement of Family Education](#)).

Training and Education

- WRCD implemented trainings, including :
 - Social marketing (Tools for Engaging Landowners Effectively)
 - Using social media effectively for engaging landowners
 - Community engagement in shrub-steppe ecotype
- WAFAC hosted 81 virtual and in-person trainings on wildfire planning, preparedness, indigenous partnerships, recovery, prescribed fire, and more.
- DNR and SCC hosted multiple National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Assessing Structure Ignition Potential (ASIP) Trainings for DNR, conservation districts and other local organizations (e.g., local fire districts).

- Follow-up in-person ASIP practice training sessions were also held by the DNR Community Resilience team.
- Virtual trainings were held for locally based Firewise USA® Program Regional Coordinators.
- DNR and FACNet hosted multiple CWDG webinars to assist and encourage potential applicants.
- Improved interagency collaboration and continued implementation of Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TRES) and Learn and Burns.
- Initiated support for and development of [Washington Prescribed Burn Associations](#).

Community Engagement and Partnerships

- 131 communities are participating in community resilience through Wildfire Ready Neighbors.
- WAFAC tripled in size.
- Launch of several community engagement initiatives:
 - [Wildfire Ready Neighbors](#) - DNR program now in 11 counties
 - [Fire Adapted Methow](#) - local community organization
 - [Chumstick Wildfire Stewardship Coalition](#) - local community organization
 - [Kittitas Fire Adapted Community Coalition](#) - local community organization
 - New active Washington Firewise USA® communities.
- Expanded partnerships with LEP communities where Latin American organizations ([Latino Community Fund](#), [CAFE](#), and [Nuestra Casa](#)) are leading local outreach and engagement efforts from resident mitigation to smoke ready communities, leadership training, and the co-development of outreach tools in English and Spanish.

Resource Development and Translation

- The [Wildfire Ready Neighbors](#) website and wildfire ready plans for eastern and western Washington were developed in Spanish and English.
- DNR developed a CWPP guidance document.
- WAFAC developed [resources and toolkits](#) to support community resilience practitioners in implementing community fire adaptation practices. Topics included, but were not limited to: post-fire recovery, planning, insurance, wildfire mitigation, smoke-ready communities, evacuation, etc.
- WAFAC translated written fire adaptation resources and toolkits into Spanish, and provided Spanish and ASL language interpretation services for virtual learning opportunities.
- Resources for prescribed fire outreach, education, and social marketing were developed (e.g., [putfiretowork.org](#)).

- Post-fire recovery resources and toolkits were developed, including a resident recovery guide to plan for and support individual and community recovery efforts.

Investments and Financial Assistance Programs

- [SSHB 1168.SL](#) created the Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration, and Community Resilience Account, and [SSHB 1578.SL](#) supported increased DNR staffing, SCC and pass-through funding. DNR maintains an internal 1168 dashboard that includes Community Resilience deliverables.
- SCC allocated \$15 million to conservation districts for forest health and community fire resilience work with private landowners as well as for support of CWPP work.
- 22 entities in Washington were awarded CWDG funding to support CWPP development, updates and implementation.
- DNR expanded the Firewise USA® microgrant program to support neighborhood-level action statewide.
- North Central Washington local health jurisdictions increased staff capacity to promote smoke-readiness and distribute over 600 portable air cleaners with the support of DNR's Community Resilience Program.
- Financial assistance for landowners (cost-share programs, home hardening vouchers) was increased.
- Investments were made in community prescribed fire support, such as Prescribed Burn Associations (wapba.org).

Program Development

- [Forest Resilience Division at DNR](#) established (2019).
- [Community Fire Resilience and Preparedness Program](#) established within the Wildland Fire Management Division of DNR, adding Community Resilience staff in different geographic regions (2021).
- [Wildfire Ready Neighbors Program](#) developed at DNR (2021).
- [Post-Fire Recovery Program](#) at DNR established (2021).
- [Equitable Mitigation Program](#) developed by Fire Adapted Methow Valley (2020).
- [Certified Burner Program](#) supporting both professional and community practitioners developed and implemented by DNR (Authorized in 2018 by legislature and established in 2022).
- [Community-led prescribed fire program](#) established at WRCD (2022).

Legislative Process

- Since the 2018 state legislative session, twenty-seven relevant laws have been passed to support and improve community fire resilience, fire response, preparedness, and forest restoration and health outcomes across a number of practices. ([Appendix B](#). 2018 - 2024 summary of laws).

- [SSHB 1168.SL](#), the Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration, and Community Resilience Act, was passed, creating the Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration, and Community Resilience Account to support implementation of [20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan](#), the [Wildland Fire Strategic Plan](#), and [Washington State Forest Action Plan](#).
- [SSHB 1578.SL](#), the Cascading Impacts of Wildfire Act, was passed to improve community preparedness, response, recovery, and resilience to wildfire health and safety impacts in areas of increasing population density. This included the expansion of Wildfire Ready Neighbors in western Washington and added direction and resources to post-fire recovery and smoke planning and preparedness.

The collaborative efforts of diverse stakeholders across Washington have contributed to a more comprehensive and inclusive approach to wildfire preparedness, response, and recovery in the state. The workgroup’s review process revealed advances in specific areas of community fire resilience, but significant work remains.

Building on a Strong Foundation

The wildfire crisis is solvable and preventable, unlike many other natural disturbances and disasters. The accomplishments of the past five years have established a robust foundation for continued progress in community fire resilience across Washington State. These initiatives have not only improved immediate preparedness and response capabilities but have also laid the groundwork for sustained, long-term efforts. The expanded partnerships, new programs, and legislative support provide a springboard for future investments and innovations.

As we move forward, it's crucial to maintain and build upon these successes, leveraging the knowledge gained, relationships forged, and systems established. The collaborative approach that has proven to be effective will continue to be essential as we face evolving wildfire challenges. By continuing to invest in these areas and adapting our strategies based on lessons learned, we can further strengthen community resilience and improve our collective ability to live safely with wildfire. The work completed thus far serves as both a testament to what can be achieved through coordinated efforts and a catalyst for even greater advancements in the years to come.

Ongoing Challenges and Recommendations

There are several observed trends and predicted changes that indicate the need for greater investment in community resilience mitigations, in addition to fire response and landscape resilience: **1.** Observed and modeled climate trends indicate increased fire frequency, intensity, and severity in the rural and urban communities across Washington¹, increasing the likelihood of loss of infrastructure and lives (Figure 2). **2.** While fire

¹ [Peterson et al. 2012](#), [Abatzoglou and Williams 2016](#), [Halofsky et al. 2020](#), [Parks et al. 2023](#).

suppression is effective in keeping the vast majority of fire ignitions from growing large, it is a small number of fire ignitions where fire suppression is not successful that account for over 90 percent of total acres burned². While investments in fuel treatments, fire response and fire prevention can make a difference, the trend that a small number of fires will be accountable for the majority of acres burned is very likely. **3.** Wind driven fires are very difficult to suppress and result in the type of fire behavior where the greatest number of structures are destroyed.³ There is a need to rapidly expand and implement effective rural and urban fire preparedness mitigation systems and measures. Without investment and development of more effective specific risk mitigation systems we will see increased direct impacts to communities and an expanding insurance crisis.

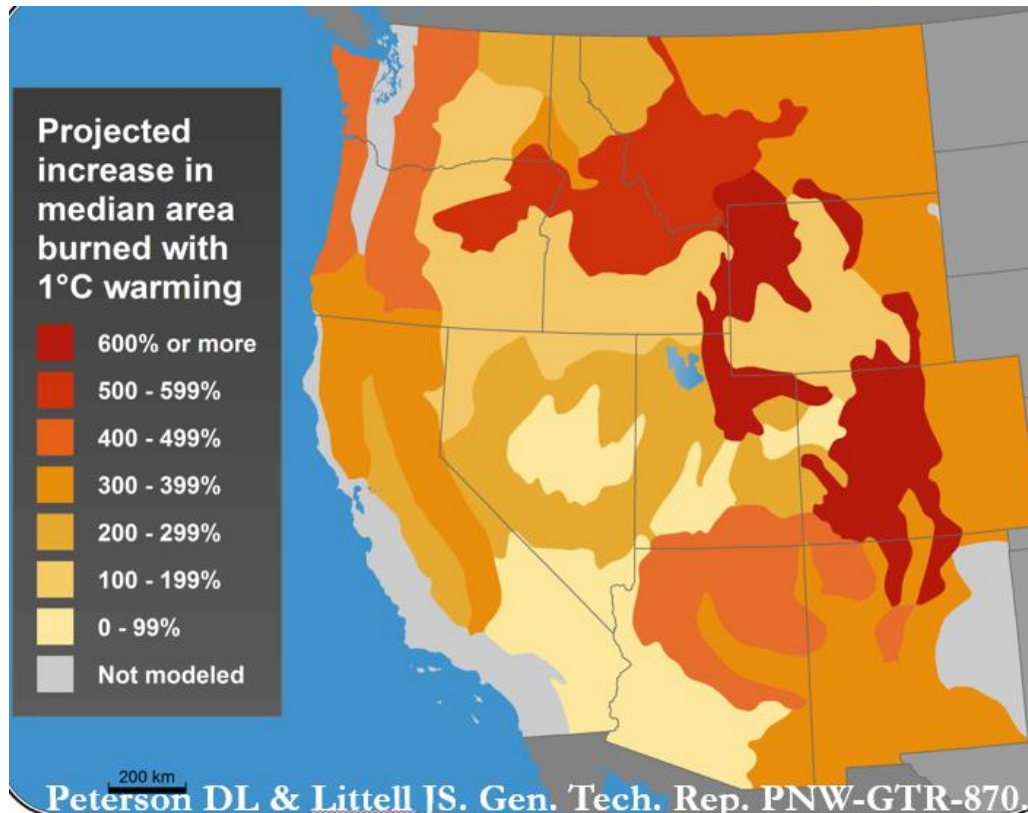


Figure 2. Observation and models indicate with future warming that area burned will increase.

While the last five years have built a strong foundation, challenges remain for effectively implementing the Wildland Fire Strategic Plan's community fire resilience goals and strategies. Table 2 summarizes gaps as well as recommendations for policy or directional changes that would improve community fire resilience outcomes in implementing the Wildland Fire Strategic Plan over the next five years. Recommendations were developed

² Calkin, D. E., Gebert, K. M., Jones, J. G., & Neilson, R. P. (2005). *Forest service large fire area burned and suppression expenditure trends, 1970-2002*. Journal of Forestry, 103(4), 179-183. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jof/103.4.179>

Nagy, R. C., Fusco, E. J., Bradley, B. A., Abatzoglou, J. T., Balch, J. K., & Hanan, N. P. (2018). *Humans ignited ~4x as many large wildfires as lightning across U.S. ecoregions*. Fire, 1(1), 4. <https://doi.org/10.3390/fire1010004>

³ Balch, J. K., Iglesias, V., Mahood, A. L., Cook, M. C., Amaral, C., DeCastro, A., Leyk, S., McIntosh, T. L., Nagy, R. C., St. Denis, L., Tuff, T., Verleye, E., Williams, A. P., & Kolden, C. A. (2024). *The fastest-growing and most destructive fires in the US (2001 to 2020)*. Science, 386(6720), 425-431. <https://doi.org/10.1126/science.adk5737> (Science Daily summary)

from workgroup discussions. “Overarching” categories are not specific to a specific goal or strategy, while others are labeled with specific strategies and sub-strategies.

Overall, the recommendations and gaps highlight the need for more inclusive, sustainable, and well-coordinated approaches to community fire resilience. They emphasize the importance of community engagement, better resource allocation, improved data collection and use, and enhanced planning and enforcement mechanisms.

Table 2. Community fire resilience workgroup summary of identified challenges, gaps, and recommendations.

Topic, Goal, Sub Strategy	Challenges and Identified Gaps	Recommendations
(1) Overarching: Related to Goal 1, S1. and Strategic Plan Appendix D. Implementati on Strategy	A. Clarity is needed on what parts of Wildland Fire Strategic Plan are being implemented, which are prioritized or delayed, and which are being dropped or revised at halfway mark. B. It is unclear how support for specific strategies is prioritized, who is leading and facilitating the processes for planning and implementation, securing resources to support coordination and implementation, and how roles and responsibilities are defined between state agencies, community-based organizations, Tribes, and other stakeholders.	Identify and Communicate Clear Roles, Responsibility and Accountability: Core state agencies have clear areas of responsibility and leadership alongside important regional roles in coordination and enabling local action to increase capacity and impact. Greater clarity, coordination, accountability, monitoring, and tracking, as required in HB 1168 Sec. 3. C., will improve the likelihood of achieving goals. 1. Explicitly define roles, responsibilities, and individual staff leads for each Wildland Fire Strategic Plan Goal, Strategy, & Objective. This should occur within DNR (Division, Programs, Regions), with other state agencies, Tribes, and local governments, and with NGOs and other community partners. a. Define lead entities for each goal or strategy where leads are not identified in the Plan. b. Identify goals and strategies that are no longer relevant or complete. c. Lead entities identify lead positions for prioritized goals and strategies to facilitate coordination, communication, and accountability. Share with

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		lead entities and Wildfire Fire Advisory Committee members. d. Identify and prioritize goals and strategies to be funded. e. Develop a publicly available “dashboard” to track progress on plan goals and sub-strategies and priorities with funding and staff to support the work. f. Based on changes, update Strategic Plan Appendix D., Implementation Strategy.
(2) Overarching: community fire resilience monitoring and effectiveness framework	A. The recommended measures outlined in the Wildland Fire Strategic Plan to report and track progress are limited, not always indicative of outcomes or impacts, and do not account for efficacy of project planning or implementation. There is a need for a community fire resilience monitoring and effectiveness framework. B. There is not an integrated process between agencies, community-based organizations, and stakeholders to monitor and track progress on goals	Develop Community Fire Resilience Monitoring and Effectiveness Framework: Stakeholder workgroup formed to develop and track community fire resilience monitoring and effectiveness framework. a. As developed for the Forest Strategic Plan, support development of a community fire resilience monitoring and effectiveness workgroup. b. Differentiate community fire resilience categories of work from wildfire response and landscape resilience for contributions toward plan and funding.

Table 2. Community fire resilience workgroup summary of identified challenges, gaps, and recommendations.

Topic, Goal, Sub Strategy	Challenges and Identified Gaps	Recommendations
	outlined in the Wildland Fire Strategic Plan at state and local levels. C. The strategies of the Wildland Fire Strategic Plan Goal 3 are limited in scope and do not represent a full set of options currently being used for increasing fire adapted communities and community fire resilience (see Appendix B, Community Fire Resilience Practices Summary). There is not a summary of community fire adaptation components or activities and programs being used or to consider for local communities in planning and taking action. Future learning and adaptation will mean that new approaches and practices will be developed; however, sharing of existing learning and practices is key to advancement.	c. Leads for each goal/strategy works with stakeholders to define measures or key indicators and outcomes, and develop a process for monitoring and tracking progress on goals/strategies and efficacy of project planning and implementation. d. Expand incentive programs that support the implementation and monitoring of prioritized actions in Community Wildfire Protection Plans.
(3) G1: S2.1-3 Use Risk Assessment to Inform Mitigation and	A. Need additional focus on rural-urban fire interface to better identify and predict fire pathway interruptions (mitigation actions) in built and fuels	Improve Community Fire Risk Assessment Systems to Prioritize Investments in Breaking Fire Transmission and Effective Mitigation Investments: There is stronger evidence based fire risk assessments that support mitigation and protection planning, prioritization,

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and Protection Planning and Establish Priorities	environments as ways of building fire resistance into the system. B. There is confusion in a variety of resident mitigation programs, processes and details on what supports measurable risk reduction.	adaptation in rural and urban communities resulting in more effective fire response, fewer structure losses, and impacts on critical infrastructure. i.e. greater community resilience. a. As part of HB 6120, implement risk analysis at county and municipality levels to refine analysis that more effectively supports prioritization of hazard mitigation practices and evacuation planning. b. Develop strong agreement on resident mitigation practices between fire services, State Fire Marshal, Office of the Insurance Commissioner, DNR and SCC. c. Review current resident mitigation programs and practices to determine how they could be modified or coordinated to deliver intended outcomes. (Wildfire Ready Neighbors, Firewise USA®, and IBHS Fire Prepared Home). Each contributes in different ways they need to be assessed to determine how they could better work together from a community perspective as well as to advance evidence-based risk mitigation.

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Topic, Goal, Sub Strategy	Challenges and Identified Gaps	Recommendations
(4) Goal 3	A. Goal 3 needs rewording to reflect a continuous process rather than an endpoint. Suggested change: "Communities have resources or are supported to prepare and adapt to current and future fire regimes."	Adaptive Community Empowerment. Implement policies that support continuous community adaptation to wildland fire risks, emphasizing ongoing preparation and resource provision before and after the fire rather than static end goals.
(5) S1.1, S1.3 & S6.1 Communication and Coordination:	A. Improve state and regional inter-agency communication to ensure consistent information sharing. B. Identify roles to operationalize and coordinate within and between "Community Fire Resilience" components. C. Understanding different mechanisms and approaches to support communication and coordination at the county to neighborhood level across the state. This should include LEP identified organizations working with practitioners in different roles.	Enhanced Interagency Coordination. Improve communication and collaboration between agencies, including standardized information-sharing protocols and clearly defined roles in community resilience management practices.

Table 2. Community fire resilience workgroup summary of identified challenges, gaps, and recommendations.

Topic, Goal, Sub Strategy	Challenges and Identified Gaps	Recommendations
(6) S6.1 Engagement Strategies	A. Emphasize relationship-building in engagement approaches to enable true two way learning and understanding. Research shows relationship-building is the number one investment when it comes to predicting how resilient a community is in disasters. B. Broaden strategy language beyond "social marketing" to focus on community-based programming. C. Identification of cultural competency training in working with Tribes is absent.	Inclusive Engagement Strategies. Support and prioritize diverse, culturally competent, and community-led engagement approaches, including funding for local participation and sustainable program development. a. Provide funding for local organizations to attend training sessions. b. Develop sustainable programs within organizations to ensure continuity of services. c. Create a new strategy for engagement and partnership with Tribes as part of Goal 3, including cultural competency training.

(7) 6.2 Enhance Engagement with LEP Communities	A. Translation and interpretation services have improved but still have large gaps.	Invest in Engagement. Emphasize listening and developing understanding, trust, and partnerships with LEP communities. a. Increase investments in translation and interpretation services, including processes for improving the quality of translation. b. Address issues with inaccurate and unclear emergency alerts in multiple languages. c. Engage Latin American partners in supporting or leading engagement and communication strategies at the county to local level. d. Identify resources to jointly develop “media plans” or “engagement plans” to promote work that hits milestones or deliverables, ideally being used by multiple partner organizations at the county or regional scale. e. Identify how WRCD, DNR, and other partners can support awareness of wildfire awareness contributions by Latin American organizations. Such support would accelerate Latin American organizations’ contributions in this space by building awareness, credibility, and building trust between organizations and community members. Products need to be language accessible. f. Schedule annual listening sessions to collect feedback from communities. g. Leadership through the “train the trainer” model/program to expand cohorts and develop local sparkplugs has been very successful, and with more resources could be expanded across
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		other regions in need across Washington. Explore how the “train the trainer” model might be better promoted and communicated to other organizations. h. Explore “Community Ambassador” program and Latin American-led programs. i. Engage with new potential partners through venues like the state Environmental Justice Council. j. Have partner “check-ins” on a more regular basis.
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Table 2. Community fire resilience workgroup summary of identified challenges, gaps, and recommendations.

Topic, Goal, Sub Strategy	Challenges and Identified Gaps	Recommendations
(8) 6.3 Increase capacity, coordination, and networking of community assistance programs. Resource Allocation	A. Gaps in understanding of existing and needed capacity, coordination, and networking of community assistance programs, especially at the county and sub-county scale across the state. B. Updating workforce in DNR programs, but not always clear about regional level roles and responsibilities and workforce availability for community fire resilience strategy implementation. C. Variation in implementation by DNR region. D. Limited resources for home hardening. E. Information is available to landowners but not necessarily implementation resources. F. Need to address equity impacts of overall resource allocation including cost-shares and grant programs.	Equitable Resource Allocation. Ensure fair distribution of wildfire preparedness resources, addressing gaps in home hardening support, risk assessment understanding, and implementation assistance across different regions and communities. Sustainable Funding Mechanisms. Ensure long-term, stable funding for wildfire resilience programs that isn't tied to narrowly defined deliverables and can be adapted based on local need, including community engagement, home hardening, and post-fire recovery efforts.
(9) 6.4 Land Use Planning and Building Standards	A. Given challenges Oregon has had in statewide hazard and local risk mapping, the successful adoption of statewide rural and urban communities	Comprehensive Land Use and Building Standards. Develop statewide policies for wildland-urban interface (WUI) building codes and land use planning, including funding mechanisms for consistent enforcement and

Table 2. Community fire resilience workgroup summary of identified challenges, gaps, and recommendations.

Topic, Goal, Sub Strategy	Challenges and Identified Gaps	Recommendations
	fire codes at the municipality level, and Washington Legislature’s directive HB 6120, develop lessons learned approaches for engaging Washington communities in adoption of codes. B. Gaps in project-level planning, permitting, and enforcement. Not always clear who is responsible for enforcement and when it is, there are capacity gaps. C. Information gap for the public and sometimes practitioners understanding what "high fire risk" means on “high risk” maps. D. Incongruencies between planning directives to work out such as conflicts between defensible space and critical area designations.	public education on risk levels. Ensure permitting reflects updates to standards. a. Support local coordinating groups in developing a process for engaging municipalities in roll out of HB 6120 hazard map and development of local risk maps that will designate where new building codes will be required. b. Fire risk is challenging to communicate for a variety of reasons, including the relationship of fire to a number of community values that require different fire mitigation strategies to reduce identified risk. Developing a thoughtful communication approach will be crucial to successful implementation of HB 6120 and would also support CWPP development and implementation efforts across the state. c. Support training for local land use planners for incorporating wildfire into land use planning. Furthermore, improve methods and approaches for planners to support integration of different planning directives, such as comprehensive planning (including climate resilience per HB 1181), and hazard mitigation planning. d. Resident and Community Mitigation: See recommendation 3.c.

Table 2. Community fire resilience workgroup summary of identified challenges, gaps, and recommendations.

Topic, Goal, Sub Strategy	Challenges and Identified Gaps	Recommendations
		e. Opportunity with insurance issues and HB 6120 mandate to take significant steps toward clarifying.
(10) 7.1 Data Collection and Prevention	A. Lack of direction on addressing specific human caused ignitions and development of strategies to reduce different types of human-caused ignitions. B. DNR methods of collecting cause/origin reports are standardized, but require consistency of available qualified staff across Regions. This leads to long delays on final confirmed causes and inability to respond to the incident in a timely manner. That in turn leads to potential for fire origin area disruption. C. Not clear how state, regional, and local entities are coordinating efforts to reduce human caused ignitions.	Data-Driven Prevention Strategies. Use fire causes and risk transmission to guide coordinated and targeted prevention efforts at appropriate scale, public education campaigns, enforcement, and engagement in local workgroups for problem solving. a. Support funding for increased staff capacity for prevention-focused positions at Regional level. b. Creating a pool of Fire Investigators at the Local or County Law Enforcement agencies to help create capacity and provide more capacity for investigation and enforcement. If Local and County Law Enforcement, or even Emergency Managers, were able to assist, statewide capacity and common messaging would be improved/created. c. Create greater consistency, direction, investment, and accountability at a Regional level and local high risk areas to provide analysis, strategy development and direction to reduce specific ignition causes.

Table 2. Community fire resilience workgroup summary of identified challenges, gaps, and recommendations.

Topic, Goal, Sub Strategy	Challenges and Identified Gaps	Recommendations
		d. Identify which type of ignition sources enforcement would be a useful strategy and determine how to reinitiate. e. Support enforcing Washington Administrative Codes (WACs) and Revised Codes of Washington (RCWs) from Law Enforcement. f. Communicate how state, regional, and local entities are coordinating efforts to reduce human-caused ignitions. g. Review interagency Alaska ignition database as a tool to support. h. Fuels and Fire Restriction Database, not ignition. Daily updates of Fire Rating Danger Areas (FDRAs) and enforcement are based on real time fuels monitoring databases. Would help to alleviate contention and discrepancies among all agencies tasked with setting Burn Bans. i. Consider daily prevention patrols, fines depending on severity and number of occurrences, designate the capability to cite individuals found not in compliance.
(11) 8. Post-Fire Recovery	A. Need for established funding mechanisms and funds for timely (obligated in less than 2 months)	Robust Post-Fire Recovery Support. Establish dedicated funding mechanisms and cross-jurisdictional teams, and develop procurement practices that allow for funds to

Table 2. Community fire resilience workgroup summary of identified challenges, gaps, and recommendations.

Topic, Goal, Sub Strategy	Challenges and Identified Gaps	Recommendations
	mitigation of post-fire risks at the local level. B. Establish clear post-fire recovery roles for relevant state agencies and how they interact with local entities and federal agencies. C. DNR Post-Fire Recovery Program and Okanagan Long Term Recovery Group had more specific feedback and recommendations for challenges and recommendations as part of WFAC input process.	be obligated within 2 months of a wildfire and effective post-fire recovery and risk mitigation. a. Fully fund pilot of a state-led burned area assessment, stabilization, and recovery coordination team. b. Fully fund the Post-Wildfire Debris Flow Program. c. Work with the Emergency Management Division to better understand state public assistance and individual assistance needs from lessons learned after the Oregon and Gray Fire disasters in Spokane County. d. Create an interagency memo that outlines each agencies' roles and responsibilities in post-fire recovery and outlines expectations of cooperation.
(12) 6.5 Smoke Impact Mitigation (Some identified Challenges)	A. Need for better preparation of communities for smoke incursions and their health impacts. B. Local public health and community-based organizations conducting wildfire and smoke preparedness work need ongoing training and sustainable funding to staff and carry out these programs.	Proactive Smoke Impact Management. Explore opportunities for comprehensive smoke impact mitigation, including community preparation, health impact management, and establishment of smoke respite areas in high-risk communities. a. Prioritize mitigations in locations potentially impacted by smoke from prescribed fire which is

Table 2. Community fire resilience workgroup summary of identified challenges, gaps, and recommendations.

Topic, Goal, Sub Strategy	Challenges and Identified Gaps	Recommendations
and Gaps need to be translated into the adjacent Recommendation Section).	One-year funding cycles are insufficient to ensure program effectiveness and durability. C. Health and social service providers are still predominantly unaware and untrained to identify and recommend protections to patients and clients in known smoke-vulnerable populations such as children, elders, and pregnant women, despite the existence of online training modules. D. Many schools are beginning to install purple air outdoor sensors but lack training to access and interpret this data adequately. If a conversion factor is not applied, these sensors can significantly overestimate smoke pollution (up to 2-3 fold), yet most school staff responsible for looking at purple air numbers are unaware of either the conversion factor or the time-series averaging. E. Many schools are still not monitoring or attempting to clean indoor air during wildfire smoke. Indoor air quality monitoring and comprehensive smoke	typically those also experiencing the highest exposures to wildfire smoke as well. b. Identify smoke respite areas in high-risk communities. c. Local public health and public health emergency preparedness could provide essential outreach and interventions (such as portable air cleaners) but need more education about sources of smoke pollution (including wildfire and prescribed fire). However, they need ongoing training and sustainable funding for staff to carry out these programs. There is a need for funding cycles that are longer than one year to ensure program effectiveness and durability. d. Succinct, locally relevant training that addresses community air quality issues and highlights local resources and interventions is needed. e. Training to help school staff better understand their low-cost purple air outdoor sensors is critical to the appropriate use and health-protective actions made on the basis of this data. f. Bigger, higher visibility smoke-readiness communication campaigns such as coordination of billboard messaging and radio across the state (or regions) are needed to clarify who is smoke-

Table 2. Community fire resilience workgroup summary of identified challenges, gaps, and recommendations.

Topic, Goal, Sub Strategy	Challenges and Identified Gaps	Recommendations
	safety plans that address practical strategies to create safe and healthy learning spaces and promote sensible activity guidelines and behavioral adjustments (such as moving athletic practice indoors to a clean air space) to keep kids safe are needed. Schools need support to create these.	vulnerable, how to find air quality information, and the importance of cleaning indoor air. Promoting simple ideas such as using air quality information and forecasts to plan your day – just as you might use weather information – will be accessible and impactful ideas. g. Expanding portable air cleaner distribution programs. All homes in fire adapted communities should possess the ability to clean their indoor air. Promote portable air cleaners as standard home safety equipment – just like smoke detectors. Make these readily available to all of Washington State’s low-income population. Similarly, use cross-agency cooperation and support to get Medicaid reimbursement for portable air cleaners (just as in California). h. Meaningful investment in the built environment, especially focusing on weatherization of low-income homes to prevent smoke infiltration and increase efficiency of indoor air cleaning. Despite funding availability through the Inflation Reduction Act, these programs cannot be implemented without workforce development and/or additional incentivization for contractors to work in low-income housing. Reference Rural

Table 2. Community fire resilience workgroup summary of identified challenges, gaps, and recommendations.

Topic, Goal, Sub Strategy	Challenges and Identified Gaps	Recommendations
		People's Platform Healthy Homes Needs Assessment, IRA implementation in North Central Washington.

Appendix A. Community Fire Resilience workgroup review focus

Table 1. While Goal 3 includes three strategies, the Community Fire Resilience workgroup focused its limited time on Strategy 6 and corresponding 5 sub-actions.	
Goal 3, Communities are prepared and adapted for current and future wildland fire regimes.	
S.6 Establish and sustain fire-adapted communities.	
6.1	Develop and implement engagement strategies, such as community-based social marketing, that foster behavior change.
6.2	Enhance engagement with limited English proficiency communities.
6.3	Increase capacity, coordination, and networking of community assistance programs.
6.4	Facilitate adoption of land use plans, regulations, and codes that reduce wildland fire risk in the WUI.
6.5	Mitigate incursions of wildland fire smoke into community airsheds.
S.7 Reduce human-related wildland fire.	
S.8 Meet post-fire recovery needs, building on current capacity and capabilities.	

Appendix B. Washington State Legislative Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration - Health, and Community Resilience Statutes (2018-2024)⁴

2024⁵ Legislative Session

Community, Regional and State Planning

[ESSB 6120.SL](#) — [Relating to the Wildland Urban Interface Code \(WUIC\)](#). (PASSED (96-0; 48-0). The Legislature passed a law in 2018 ([ESSB 6109.SL](#)) requiring certain portions of the International Wildland Urban Interface Code pertaining to building as well as creation of fire risk maps across Washington where specific building Codes would be required to mitigate future fire impacts to structures. This bill amends 6109 with intent of resolving some of the conflict and issues encountered in implementing 6109 such as requirements concerning defensible space and home hardening, and accuracy of very high and high fire risk designations at local level. See Washington State Fire Marshal's Office interim guidance ([link](#)) and history ([link](#)). Summary of ESSB 6120.SL amendments include:

- Stipulating that only portions of the International Wildland Urban Interface Code (WUIC) described in statute can be adopted by the State Building Code Council.
- Requires Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) to develop and maintain a statewide wildfire hazard map and a base-level wildfire risk map for each county of the state based on criteria developed in coordination with the State Fire Marshal's office. The risk map will designate vulnerable resources or assets based on their exposure and susceptibility to a wildfire hazard. The criteria and analysis utilized in assessing wildfire hazard and risk will be made publicly available.
- WDNR will develop a method that local governments may update the wildfire hazard map and wildfire risk map based on local assessments and be approved by the jurisdiction's fire marshal.
- Permits cities, counties and towns to complete their own or modify WDNR maps of areas at greatest risk from wildfire for use in applying the International WUIC requirements; however, WDNR criteria must be used in developing maps.
- All counties, cities, and towns issuing commercial and residential building permits for parcels in areas identified as high hazard and very high hazard maps as directed in statute will require WUIC fire mitigation building standards as directed in statute.

⁴ Please provide feedback and corrections to Reese Lolley Washington Resource Conservation and Development Council. reese@washingtonrcd.org

⁵ Odd numbered calendar years are 160 day sessions in which a two year budget is decided on. In the even-numbered years the session is 60 days.

[ESSB 6291.SL — Relating to streamlining the state building code council operating procedures by establishing criteria for statewide amendments to the state building code.](#)

State Building Code Council—various provisions (PASSED (95-0; 47-2).

- Establishes a timeline for adoption, amendment, and repeal of statewide building codes.
- Details criteria for consideration of amendments outside the three-year adoption cycle.
- Outlines protocol for filling vacant council positions.
- Sets forth criteria and duties for technical advisory groups.

Recovery/Post Fire Response

[SHB 2020.SL — Relating to creating a state administered public infrastructure assistance program within the emergency management division.](#) (PASSED (96-0; 48-0). State public infrastructure assistance program—disasters.

Authorizes the Military Department to establish and administer a state Public Assistance (PA) program for emergency assistance to county governments and federally recognized tribes that experience public infrastructure damage due to a natural, technological, or human-caused disaster. "Public infrastructure assistance" is defined to mean supplementary state assistance provided to county governments and federally recognized tribal governments when authorized under an emergency proclamation of the Governor for the cost of disaster-related public property debris removal, emergency protective measures to protect life and property, and permanent repair work to damaged or destroyed public infrastructure. The program is to be designed to be supplementary and cover the gap between what local governments can afford and the threshold for receiving federal funds.

[ESSHB 1899.SL — Relating to facilitating reconstruction of communities damaged or destroyed by wildfires.](#) (PASSED (96-0; 45-1). 2023 wildfires—disaster relief payment program.

The Department of Commerce will establish and administer a disaster relief payment program to provide assistance to qualifying property owners and local governments that had buildings damaged or destroyed by wildfires between August 1 and October 1, 2023, in Spokane County. Additional criteria include:

- The area in which the damaged or destroyed building must have been under a declared state of emergency by the Governor or a local government due to wildfires.
- Only residential, multifamily, commercial, or a building owned and used by a local government are eligible.
- Same type of building that was damaged or destroyed is being repaired or reconstructed.
- New or repaired buildings will comply with all Code and Energy Code requirements in effect at the time of the permit application for the construction or repair.

- Directed and engaged entities include the Department of Commerce, Washington Military Department - Emergency Management Division, Tribal and local government emergency management authorities.

A disaster relief payment from the Department may only be used to comply with any increase in Energy Code standards since the time that the building was originally constructed, to provide or increase electric vehicle charging capacity, or to install solar panels on a building that did not, prior to being damaged or destroyed, use solar panels. Buildings owned or rented by households with an adjusted income that is at or below 120 percent of the median household income in the county must be prioritized. After that, disaster relief payment must be awarded based on the environmental benefits that will be realized from the increased energy efficiency, electric vehicle charging capacity, or solar panel use by the building for which the disaster relief payment is awarded.

[SHB 2020.SL — Relating to creating a state administered public infrastructure assistance program within the emergency management division.](#) (PASSED (96-0; 48-0). State public infrastructure assistance program—disasters.

Authorizes the Military Department to establish and administer a state Public Assistance (PA) program for emergency assistance to county governments and federally recognized tribes that experience public infrastructure damage due to a natural, technological, or human-caused disaster. "Public infrastructure assistance" is defined to mean supplementary state assistance provided to county governments and federally recognized tribal governments when authorized under an emergency proclamation of the Governor for the cost of disaster-related public property debris removal, emergency protective measures to protect life and property, and permanent repair work to damaged or destroyed public infrastructure. The program is to be designed to be supplementary and cover the gap between what local governments can afford and the threshold for receiving federal funds.

[SHB 1012SL — Addressing the response to extreme weather events.](#) (PASSED (70-25; 31-18). [\(bill report\)](#))

The Emergency Management Act establishes a comprehensive program of emergency management in the state, which is administered by the Military Department under the direction of the state's Adjutant General. Required to develop and implement an Extreme Weather Response Grant Program for the purpose of assisting political subdivisions and federally recognized tribes with the costs of responding to community needs during periods of extremely hot or cold weather, or in situations of severe poor air quality from wildfire smoke.

[HB 2446 — Investing in reforestation efforts following landscape-scale forest disturbances.](#) (NO PASS) However, was funded (operatings) with Climate Commitment Act funding.

Resident and Community Mitigation & Infrastructure

[HB 2330 / SB 6193 — Relating to wildfire risk. Addressing wildfire protection and mitigation. \(Wildland Fire Insurance\)](#) (NO PASS)

[SB 5039 — Relating to mitigating the risk of wildfires through electric utility planning and identification of best management practices appropriate to each electric utility's circumstances.](#) (NO PASS)

Fire Response

[HB 2117 — aerial firefighting resources. Authorizing authorities to address aerial firefighting aspects as part of permitting processes for communities at risk of wildfires.](#) (NO PASS)

[HB 1971/ SB 6193 regarding rangeland fire protection](#) (NO PASS)

Landscape Resilience and Fuel Treatments

[SSB 6121SL — Relating to biochar production from agricultural and forestry biomass.](#) (PASSED (96-0; 49-0).

The use of portable flame cap kilns is added to the list of priorities under which DNR must encourage landowners to develop and use in logging and alternative silviculture practices to reduce the need for burning.

[HB 2446 — Investing in reforestation efforts following landscape-scale forest disturbances.](#) (NO PASS) However, was funded with Climate Commitment Act funding.

Capacity, Funding

[SHB 1870SL — Promoting economic development by increasing opportunities for local communities to secure federal funding](#) (PASSED (93-0; 49-0)

[SHB 2020.SL — Relating to creating a state administered public infrastructure assistance program within the emergency management division.](#) (PASSED (97-0; 46-0). State public infrastructure assistance program—disasters.

Authorizes the Military Department to establish and administer a state Public Assistance (PA) program for emergency assistance to county governments and federally recognized tribes that experience public infrastructure damage due to a natural, technological, or human-caused disaster. "Public infrastructure assistance" is defined to mean supplementary state assistance provided to county governments and federally recognized tribal governments when authorized under an emergency proclamation of the Governor for the cost of disaster-related public property debris removal, emergency protective measures to protect life and property, and permanent repair work to damaged or destroyed public infrastructure. The program is to be designed to be supplementary and

cover the gap between what local governments can afford and the threshold for receiving federal funds.

2023 Legislative Session

Resident and Community Mitigation & Infrastructure

[SSHB 1578.SL](#) — [Relating to improving community preparedness, response, recovery, and resilience to wildfire health and safety impacts in areas of increasing population density.](#)

(PASSED (96-0; 49-0). Cascading impacts of wildfire.

The WDNR is required to complete decadal assessments of areas at significant risk of wildfire including analysis of the predicted climate influence, cooperate with and provide support to various local entities to develop public safety evacuation strategies for incorporation into local emergency response plans, to take certain actions to expand its community resilience programming and associated supporting programs within the WUI in areas of Western Washington, expand participation and coordination concerning wildfire smoke exposure and air quality, establish a structure for a state-sponsored burned area emergency stabilization and response team and implement a Post-Wildfire Debris Flow Program. While WDNR is lead, State Patrol, Emergency Management, Dept. of Health, Dept. of Ecology, and Conservation Commission are engaged in various elements. Fiscal note estimated budget ~ \$13 million, legislature funded ~ \$5 million. Funding is identified for development of Firewise and smoke ready grants. See [Fire Adapted Community practices, identified coordinating agencies and stakeholder](#) summary document.

[SSHB 1032.SL](#) — [Relating to mitigating the risk of wildfires through electric utility planning and identification of best management practices appropriate to each electric utility's circumstances.](#)

(PASSED (96-0; 48-0). Benefits of identifying wildland fire sources are highlighted in this Act aimed at the interest of citizens. The Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) is taking lead with the Department of Commerce, Utilities and Transportation Commission, and Washington State Patrol engaged. The WDNR must contract with an independent consultant to recommend a list of elements and format for electric utility wildfire mitigation plans and make them public by April 1, 2024. See [Utility Wildland Fire Prevention Advisory Committee](#). Related bills, in 2021 [SB 5803](#) and 2019 [SSB 5305.SL](#)

[ESSHB 1181.SL](#) — [Relating to improving the state's climate response through updates to the state's planning framework.](#)

(PASSED (55-41; 29-20). Similar legislation, HB 1099 was introduced in the 2021-2022 session. This law aims to improve the state's response to climate change by updating the state's planning framework, specifically the Growth Management Act (GMA). Provides several requirements and recommendations for better preparing for land use planning in the context of wildfires, including:

- Land Use Planning Tools: The bill directs the use of land use planning tools to reduce and mitigate the risk to lives and property posed by wildfires. Which may include measures such as reducing residential development pressure in the

wildland-urban interface area, adopting the Wildland Urban Interface (building) Code, developing building and maintenance standards consistent with the Firewise USA Program or Insurance Institute for Business & Home Safety Wildfire Prepared Home, and separating human development from wildfire-prone landscapes.

- Comprehensive Plan Elements: The land use element of comprehensive plans should address the risk of wildfires by incorporating strategies to reduce the impact on lives and property. This can be achieved by considering the location and design of development, implementing fire-resistant building practices, and protecting existing residential development.
- Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan: The document suggests that a natural hazard mitigation plan, or a similar plan that complies with the requirements of the Growth Management Act (GMA), can be adopted to address the risks posed by wildfires. This plan should prioritize actions that benefit overburdened communities and enhance resilience to climate change.
- Climate Change and Resiliency Element: Comprehensive plans should include a climate change and resiliency element that addresses the impacts of climate change, including wildfires. This element should identify and address natural hazards created or aggravated by climate change and promote community resilience to climate impacts.

While the law provides guidelines and recommendations, the specific implementation and details of land use planning in the context of wildfires may vary depending on the jurisdiction and local conditions. To learn more about wildfire components see [Resource Guide](#).

Community, Regional and State Planning and Recovery/Post Fire Response

[SSHB 1728.SL](#) — [Relating to creating a statewide resiliency program](#). (PASSED (68-28; 29-20). The Military Department, Emergency Management Division (EMD), administers the state's comprehensive all-hazard emergency management program to coordinate state and local resources to respond to both natural and human caused hazards. The legislature finds with increasing impacts of natural disasters that the Military Department must develop and administer a statewide disaster resilience program and plan including coordinated resilience strategies by July 1, 2025. The plan should include methods for ensuring ongoing coordination of state and local disaster resilience and response activities and law outlines specific elements for focus and inclusion.

2022 Legislative Session

[SSB 5961.SL](#) — [Incentivizing the use of biochar in government contracts](#). (PASSED (96-1; 49-0)

[ESHB 1629.SL](#) — [Concerning a comprehensive study of aerial imaging technology uses for state agencies, special purpose districts, and local and tribal governments](#). (PASSED (72-

26; 40-8). The results of the study must be reported by the Department of Commerce to the Legislature by June 1, 2023.

[HB 1934.SL](#) — [Allowing tribal governments to participate in exchange agreements without certain restrictions](#). (PASSED (90-6; 48-0). The Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) may enter into exchange agreements to convey properties under its jurisdiction that serve as environmental mitigation sites as full or partial consideration for the grantee assuming all future maintenance and operation obligations and costs required to permanently maintain and operate the environmental mitigation site. The WSDOT may enter into these exchange agreements with local, state, and federal agencies; tribal governments; and private, nonprofit nature conservancy corporations.

HB 1891 – Rangeland Fire Protection. NO PASS

SB 5803 – Utility Liability for Wildfires NO PASS

2021 Legislative Session

[ESSB 5141.SL](#) — [Relating to reducing environmental and health disparities and improving the health of all Washington State residents by implementing the recommendations of the environmental justice task force](#). (PASSED (27-22; 56-41). Also known as the Healthy Environment for All (HEAL) ACT, establishes the [Environmental Justice Council](#) and directs covered agencies (the Washington State Department of Health (DOH), the state departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Ecology, Natural Resources, and Transportation and Puget Sound Partnership) to consider guidelines developed by the council in developing required: environmental justice strategic and implementation plans; community engagement plans; the agency's environmental justice assessment process; and incorporating environmental justice principles into budget development, expenditure, and benefit decisions all to be completed by July 2023. Covered agencies must develop a consultation framework in coordination with tribal governments and DOH must continue to develop and maintain the Environmental Health Disparities Map.

[SSHB 1168.SL](#) — [Relating to long-term forest health and reduction of wildfire dangers](#). (PASSED (97-0; 49-0). Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration, and Community Resilience Account is created in the state treasury. While the legislature fell short of identifying an independent revenue source, law sets forth intention of appropriating \$125 million per biennium for four biennium (2030), with 25% minimum for Forest Restoration and 15% minimum for Community Resilience and up to 60% Fire Response preparedness. (See 2019 HB 2413 and [SB 5996](#) precursor legislation which included an insurance surcharge to fund programs). Legislative intent to “fully fund the wildland fire protection 10-year strategic plan”. Expenditures from the account may be made to state agencies, federally recognized tribes, local governments, fire and conservation districts, nonprofit organizations, forest collaboratives, and small forestland owners, consistent with the [Wildland Fire Protection Strategic 10 Year Plan](#), the [20 - Year Forest Health Strategic Plan](#),

the and the [Washington State Forest Action Plan](#). Additional elements relate to a workforce development program for forest health and the establishment of an integrated small forest landowner forest health program at Department of Natural Resources and development of a wildland fire aviation support plan.

[SHB 1423.SL](#) — [Relates to smoke management civil enforcement](#). (PASSED (95-2; 44-5).

This act amends RCW's Civil penalties—Excusable excess emissions and Burning permits—Civil penalty. Required by Environmental Protection Agency PA for update of the Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) Smoke Management Plan as relates to the Washington Clean Air Act. Civil penalties are not to exceed more than \$10,000 per day for each violation as related to burning permit statute. WDNR will adopt a rule with public review that establishes a framework for resolving conflicts that may arise under this section.

[ESSB 5126.SL](#) — [Climate Commitment Act](#) (PASSED (27-22; 54-43). Establishes a firm and declining cap on Washington's climate pollution, covers 75% of Washington's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and creates the regulatory pathway to achieve the state's goal of net zero emissions by 2050. Requires a cap and invest program for GHG emissions to be implemented by Ecology. Ensures reduction of health-harming emissions in overburdened communities by investing in an up-front deployment of an air pollution monitoring system, require Ecology to biannually assess if criteria pollutant goals are being met, grants Ecology regulatory authority to reduce emissions of criteria pollutants in overburdened communities and reduce or revise cap and invest program elements.

35% of all investments provide direct & meaningful benefits to vulnerable populations, with a goal of reaching 40%. 10% of funds must be invested on tribal lands or tribally-supported projects. Through 2037 approximately \$5 billion in program revenue is reserved for emission-reducing transportation. \$20 million per biennium for an Air Quality and Health Disparities Account. Remaining revenue split between an account that supports emission reduction projects, worker support, clean energy projects, and the Working Families Tax Credit, and a natural climate solutions account that can invest in forest health and wildfire, fish passage barriers, floodplains and flood risk, blue carbon and carbon sequestration, and more. In order to fully implement the emissions cap obligation, the legislature must increase the state gas tax by at least \$.05.

[ESSB 5842SL](#). — [Concerning state laws that address climate change](#). (PASSED (36-13; 81-15).

Several accounts were created under the program, including the Climate Investment Account, providing funding for projects that support the transition to clean energy, build ecosystem resilience, and support carbon sequestration. After administrative costs to implement the Program are covered, 75 percent of the Account will be distributed to the Climate Commitment Account, and 25 percent to the Natural Climate Solutions Account.

[ESSB 1216SL](#) — [Enhanced Urban Forestry](#) (PASSED (61-37; 45-3). DNR to update its Evergreen Community urban forestry program to focus better on salmon recovery, stormwater, with 50% of resources directed to overburdened communities. Ongoing funding (Operating-DNR): \$2.7M

[SB 5803](#) — [Relates to the assumption of liability towards wildfires caused by electric utility equipment](#). (PASSED SENATE, NOT HOUSE) Department of Natural Resources is directed to contract with a specialist to advise and format a list of components to be included in an Electric Utility Wildfire Mitigation Plan. With the possibility of unexpected fires from equipment, consumer-owned utilities are advised to revise their plans every two years. Transportation commission is also required to plan and upload mitigation strategies. Current cost and benefit plans and legislation compilations are to be submitted by the [Utility Wildland Fire Prevention Advisory Committee](#).

2020 Legislative Session

[HB 1198](#)—[Concerning rangeland fire protections associations](#) (NO PASS)

[SB 5873](#)—[Concerning community forest](#) (NO PASS)

2019 Legislative Session

[SSB 5106.SL](#) — [Relating to the creation of a work group to study and make recommendations on natural disaster mitigation and resiliency activities](#) (PASSED (48-0; 95-0). The most important aspect of the work group is to review activities by public and private entities, the federal government, and other states surrounding disaster resilience and mitigation. The natural disasters that Washington are subject to and this bill applies to are flooding, earthquakes, landslides, and wildfires. Reviewing the decisions and funding made by local and nationwide entities will help the work group to make formal recommendations to the Legislature and Office of the Insurance Commissioner by December 2020. [Resiliency Work Group Final Report](#).

[SSHB 1784.SL](#) — [Relating to prioritization of forest health treatments that support wildfire response as well as urban growth outdoor burning permits](#). (PASSED (48-0; 94-0). The Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) is directed to prioritize, to the maximum extent practicable, forest health treatments that are strategically planned to serve the dual benefits of forest health maximization while providing geographically planned tools for wildfire response. RCW is amended to allow outdoor burning that reduces the risk of wildfire, or that is normal, necessary, and customary to ongoing silvicultural activities consistent with authorized silvicultural burning, is allowed within urban growth areas, subject to certain conditions.

[SSB 5305.SL — Relating to electric utility wildland fire prevention.](#) (PASSED (49-0; 96-0).

The Commissioner of Public Lands must establish a utility wildland fire prevention task force comprised of people with expertise in wildland fire risk reduction and prevention. The task force must advise WDNR on the development of a model agreement for managing danger trees and other vegetation that pose a risk of wildland fire and associated utility liability; develop communication protocols and educational exchanges between WDNR and electric utilities; protocols and thresholds when WDNR's investigation involves electric utility infrastructure or potential electric utility liability and rosters of certified wildland fire investigators. [Utility Wildland Fire Prevention Advisory Committee.](#)

[SSB 5010.SL — Relating to protected lands not being assessed local fire district levels.](#) (PASSED (46-3; 97-0) Twenty-thousand parcels were found to not be paying towards the forest fire protection assessment or a local fire levy but are likely still protected by the department of natural resources (WDNR) of the local fire district. Establishes a process for local fire districts to annex areas that receive protection, but do not pay a local fire district levy. Annexations must be initiated by January 1, 2021. Prior to annexing a parcel, the fire district must coordinate with county assessors, notify the owner of record, and hold a public hearing. Following the hearing, fire districts must pass a resolution for annexation to be approved by the county legislative authority. Owners of record may appeal resolutions for annexation to the county legislative authority. l

[ESSB 5279 — Relating to regulating outdoor burning protection of life or public property and for public health, safety, and welfare.](#) (PASSED Senate, No floor vote House.

Integrated into HB 1784. Outdoor burning protection is the most practical way to approach wildfire prevention. The Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) is to develop policies surrounding health, safety, and welfare. Modifies the scope of purposes for which the WDNR may issue a burning permit in urban growth areas. It also modifies the scope of the WDNR's Smoke Management Plan to include various topics related to enhancing resilience to wildfire. The Department of Ecology and WDNR are the main agencies funded under estimated operating expenditures.

[HB 2413 — Relating to dedicated fire funding for wildfire prevention and preparedness activities.](#) (NO PASS, First reading, referred to Appropriations). See Senate companion bill 5996. Creates a \$5 surcharge on property and casualty insurance policies to raise roughly \$100-\$126M per biennium. Fund Wildfire prevention and preparedness activities that are consistent with Washington Dept. of Natural Resources 20 Year Forest Health Strategic Plan, 10 Year WA Wildfire Protection Plan and State Action Plan. Would fund wildfire prevention and preparedness activities such as community preparedness. forest health treatments including prescribed fire and would fund suppression equipment, but not actions.

[SB 5996 — Relating to funding fire prevention and suppression activities.](#) NO VOTE (Returned to Rules). Amending RCW 48.14.040; adding additional RCW section declaring an

emergency. Risk of catastrophic wildfire has significantly increased in recent years and a forest health crisis exists in the state of Washington. Creates a surcharge on property and casualty insurance premiums of 0.52 percent. Allocates the revenue raised to the new Wildfire Prevention and Suppression Account. Suppression and prevention activities to be funded are listed in prioritized order.

[HB 1188](#) — [Relating to rangeland fire protection associations](#). (NO PASS) No action was taken in the House Committee on Appropriations. Authorizes creation and establishes criteria for the formation, operation, and membership of Rangeland Fire Protection Associations (RFPAs). The Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) must provide information needed for the associations with detection, prevention, and suppression activities at the forefront and to extent practicable provide support in procuring funding, equipment, and training. Authorizes WDNR to develop recommendations concerning the formation, management, operation, and training for RFPAs. Would require the Department of Labor and Industries to adopt an exterior firefighting training and certification standard.

2018 Legislative Session

[HB 2733.SL](#) — [Prescribed Burn Manager Certification Program](#) (PASSED (49-0; 97-0)). Requires the Department of Natural Resources to: (1) Create a prescribed burn manager certification program for those who practice prescribed burning in the state and may develop an equivalency test for experienced prescribed burn managers. (2) Certification increases liability projection of certificate holders from simple negligence to gross negligence and may be issued burn permits with modified requirements.

[ESSB 6109.SL](#) — [Concerning the International Wildland Urban Interface Code](#) (PASSED (34-12; 50-47)). Washington Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) is directed to map wildland urban interface (WUI) statewide that is to be used to determine where structure mitigation measures will be adopted. Portions of the 2018 International Wildland Urban Interface Code (WUIC) are added to the State Building Code that include:

- 504.2—class A roof covering, except that roofs on additions or an existing structure that has more than 50 percent replaced must meet requirements for new construction;
- 504.5—exterior walls; 504.7—appendages and projections, except that unenclosed accessory structures on the first floor must be built with building materials at least two inches nominal depth and the area below the structure to be screened with wire mesh screening;
- and 403.2—driveways, except that turnarounds are required for driveways in excess of 300 feet in length and turnouts are also required for driveways in excess of 500 feet in length and less than 20 feet in width. The county, city, or town will define the requirements for a turnout or turnaround. All cities, counties, and towns may adopt International WUI code, or any portion thereof. WDNR must establish a

technical assistance and grant program for municipalities to establish the International WUI Code.

[SHB 2561.SL](#) — [Wildland Fire Advisory Committee - Temporary Duties](#) (PASSED (48-0; 98-0). Advisory committee with WDNR must 1) quantify the areas in the state that are not contained within an established fire district nor subject to a planned fire response 2) examine the value of community programs that educate homeowners and engage in preventive projects within wild fire risk communities, such as firewise, and 3) develop plans to help protect non English speaking residents during wildfire emergencies. Develop interim recommendations to the legislature by Dec. 2018 and final by 2019.

[ESB 6211.SL](#) — [Relating to the Washington natural resources and the fish and wildlife federal lands revolving accounts.](#) (PASSED (49-0; 98-0). Supports Department of Natural Resources' (WDNR) 20-year forest health plan by creating separate WDNR and Washington Fish and Wildlife non-appropriated, interest retaining, revolving accounts for revenue generated under the state's Good Neighbor Agreement to expedite forest health and watershed improvements across federal lands. Under the agreements, USDA Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management may enter into cooperative agreements with states to perform forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration services on federal lands. Agreements must be developed under a collaborative process between the state and federal agencies. Federal agencies must complete federal environmental review even where the state is to conduct project implementation.

[SSB 6036](#) — [Concerning the creation of a work group to study and make recommendations on natural disaster mitigation and resiliency activities:](#) NO PASS This bill by request of the Insurance Commissioner would have created a work group to make recommendations regarding resiliency to disasters. See [SSB 5106.SL](#) passed in 2019.

Appendix C. Community Fire Resilience Practices Summary

Examples of Fire Adapted Communities core components or practices, programs and activities with crosswalk to Wildland Fire Strategic Plan

Core Components or Practices of COMMUNITY FIRE RESILIENCE focused in rural-urban fire interface	Community fire resilience specifically focuses on a community's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from wildfires. In a fire adapted community, WILDFIRE RESPONSE and LANDSCAPE RESTORATION are important practices; however, COMMUNITY RESILIENCE practices and roles are also critical and numerous. While likely never complete and evolving to meet needs of each community, the following includes examples from FACNet and from WAFAC. Practices are areas of focus, expertise, and interest that achieve a more specific measurable sub-community resiliency objective that contributes toward the outcome of a community becoming wildfire resilient. Operational scale typically is at a county to neighborhood scale with some areas needing support from regional or statewide entities.
COMMUNITY FIRE RESILIENCE Examples of programs and activities BY Practice categories	Sub-categories are some approaches or programs within a practice, but not exhaustive. Each may involve different agencies, local government, or community members and may be resourced differently. Does not include ALL practices that a community might engage, and all practices may not be active at the same time or prioritized.
	Wildland Fire Strategic Plan Goal, Strategy, Sub-strategy, or Objective crosswalk (incomplete)
Partnerships, Community Coordination, Cooperation & Engagement	G1:S1: PROVIDE LEADERSHIP AND COORDINATION TO GUIDE IMPLEMENTATION AND FACILITATE AGENCY ALIGNMENT. S1.1 Convene a leadership forum to facilitate the development and alignment of agency efforts to achieve Plan goals. G1: S1.3 Establish regional and local coordinating capacity. G3.S6.3 Increase capacity, coordination, and

	networking of community assistance programs. G3.S6.1 Develop and implement engagement strategies,
Inclusive Engagement of Diverse Communities	G3: S6.2 Enhance engagement with limited English proficiency communities.
Collaborative & Coalition Groups	
Solicit public support for smoke from prescribed or managed fires	
Community meetings and events	
Cultivate partnerships with developers, realtors, insurers, volunteers, etc.	
Neighborhood Ambassador Program/cultivate “sparkplugs”; Map Your Neighborhood program	
Fire Ready Neighbors	
Individual/Family Preparedness Programs (could include for youth, family, vulnerable populations, LEP, etc.)	
Community, Regional and State Planning	G.2: S5.5 Develop and implement wildland fire mitigation, adaptation, and response policies and plans for at- risk landscapes and communities in western Washington.
Spatial Fire Planning, POD's, other	G1: S2.1-3 USE RISK ASSESSMENT TO INFORM MITIGATION AND PROTECTION PLANNING AND TO ESTABLISH PRIORITIES
Community Wildfire Protection Plans	
Land Use Planning	G3: S6.4 Facilitate adoption of land use plans, regulations, and codes that reduce wildland fire risk in the WUI.
Local Hazard Mitigation Plans	
Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plans	
Business	
Business Continuity Planning	

Insurance	
Critical Infrastructure Identification & Protection	
Safety & Evacuation	G.4: S10.1 Conduct cross-boundary “pre-fire response” analysis and planning, including evacuation planning.
Ingress/Egress	
Safety Zones	
Ready, Set, Go!	
Improve neighborhood and community ingress/egress	
Go kits & evacuation plans	
Public Health	
Air quality and smoke preparedness, including education and outreach	
Air quality and smoke monitoring, policy, and plans	
Mental health services	
Social services	
Resident Mitigation, Fire Resistant Infrastructure	
Home Hardening	
Home ignition zone/defensible space assessments	
IBHS-Wildfire Prepared Home	
Firewise communities U.S.A.	
Local workforce capacity program for mitigation work (includes training)	
Critical Infrastructure Identification & Protection	
Prevention: Unwanted Fire Ignitions	G3: S7.1-3 REDUCE HUMAN-RELATED WILDLAND FIRE
Public Education Campaigns	

Prevention Workforce	
Enforcement	
Data analysis - prevention strategy development & planning	
Public Safety Power Shutoffs	
Community Health and Well-being	
Smoke Preparedness	G3: 6.5 Mitigate incursions of wildland fire smoke into community airsheds.
Mental Health Services	
Social Services	
Preplanning for Post Fire	G3: S.8 MEET POST-FIRE RECOVERY NEEDS, BUILDING ON CURRENT CAPACITY AND CAPABILITIES
Business continuity planning/plans	
Long-term planning and organizations	
Volunteer organizations (VOADs) and Community organizations (COADs)	
Comprehensive emergency management plans	
Flooding & erosion (ID hazard zones +)	
Collaborative spatial fire planning	
Disaster Case Management	
Public Assistance	
Post Fire (actions after the fire)	
Community recovery (rebuild homes, fences, manage donations, temporary housing)	
Landscape recovery (e.g., reseedling, watershed restoration)	
Post-fire flooding and erosion	
Social and mental health services	

Disaster case management	
Emergency management (e.g. wildlife assistance, livestock removal, debris removal, family reunification)	
Risk Assessment (e.g. burn area evaluation and mapping)	
Life Safety (e.g. hazard tree removal, slope stabilization)	
Agriculture (e.g. fence replacement, grazing arrangements)	
Infrastructure (e.g. utility repair, road repair, water system repair)	
Hazardous material removal	
Resource Management and Allocation	G1: S4.1-3: ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE FUNDING (CFR Practices & Systems). G1.S3.2 3.2 Increase capacity of the state's wildland fire prevention, preparedness, and recovery workforce.
Grants	
Cost share	
County, Municipal	G1: S4.2 Identify and evaluate alternative sustainable funding mechanisms for resilience and wildland fire suppression.
Impact Investments	
Policy and Regulations	
Codes & Ordinances	G3: S6.4 Facilitate adoption of land use plans, regulations, and codes that reduce wildland fire risk in the WUI.
Wildfire Legislation Tracking & Implementation	
Advocacy	
Wildfire Response	
Mutual aid agreements	
Local Workforce	
Enable community input into agency fire management planning	

and decisions	
Risk mapping	
Potential Operating Delinations (POD's) development & planning	
Improve local wildland fire response capacity (e.g., fire department training, equipment)	
Community interface with incident management teams	
Emergency alerts and notifications	
Neighborhood and community signage	
Vegetation Management, Landscape Treatments	G2: S5.1 Increase investment in fuels and vegetation management.
Fuel Break & "Container" Network, PODs	G.4: S10.1 Conduct cross-boundary "pre-fire response" analysis and planning, including evacuation planning.
Mechanical fuel treatments (thinning, harvest, vegetation removal)	
Prescribed Fire	G2: S5.2 Address and resolve barriers to managed natural and prescribed fire.
Plans and Agreements: Agreements for cross-boundary fuels treatment	
Conservation easements (prevents development)	
Treatment mapping	
Roadside Fuel Breaks	
Monitoring	
Biomass Utilization and Disposal	
Bioenergy	
Biochar	
Improve economics of tree removal	

Slash disposal (pick-up, drop-off, or chipping)	
Research	

Appendix D. Community Fire Resilience Possible Metrics (rough draft)

Based on the strategies and sub-strategies provided in the Wildland Fire Strategic Plan and Community Fire Resilience (CFR) Practices (Appendix C.) the following is an initial draft of possible metrics to be considered for tracking local CFR objectives over the next five years. This is a starting point from which a working group should be formed to fully consider and develop CFR metrics.

1.a. Partnerships, Community Coordination, Cooperation & Engagement

Statewide:

- Number of engaged participants in the Washington Fire Adapted Learning Network.
- Number of professionals trained in community-based social marketing techniques.

County:

- Existence of an organized, documented, open, accountable, and recognized approach to plan, coordinate, implement and monitor results across different organizations and participants engaged in locally identified CFR Practices.
- Number and type of agencies / organizations engaged in coordinating planning or implementation of CFR Practices.
- Number of active firewise communities along with measurable neighborhood resident mitigation indicators.
- Number of Community Ambassadors.
- Number of MOU's, agreements, etc.
- Number of organizations participating that represent identified underserved communities.

1.b. Community Engagement:

State, Region:

- Number of communities (identified by county, municipality, neighborhood) participating in taking action in their place.
- Inclusive engagement of diverse communities assessed and occurring.
- Evaluation of underserved communities and engagement plans, actions.
- Number of cultural competency trainings provided to first responders and community organizations.
- Number of partnerships established with LEP leaders and organizations.
- Quantity and quality of translated materials and interpretation services provided statewide or regionally by Agencies engaged in the Wildland Fire Strategic Plan

County:

- Number of interactive engagement events held annually
- Participation rates in community wildfire preparedness activities

- Number of new engagement strategies developed and implemented
- Percentage of rural-urban residents surveyed about wildfire motivations and barriers and how the results are used to modify engagement strategies.
- Inclusive engagement of diverse communities assessed and occurring.
- Evaluation of underserved communities, e.g. engagement plans, actions.
- Engagement with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Communities.
- Number of partnerships established with LEP leaders and organization.
- Quantity and quality of translated materials and interpretation services provided

1.c. Community Assistance Programs:

- Amount of resources allocated for landowner assistance and community engagement programs
- Number of redesigned cost-share programs implemented
- Participation rates in Firewise USA program
- Number of communities added to the Washington State Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network

2. Community, Regional and State Planning (including Land Use)

State, Region:

- 10 -Year Strategy is being coordinated with EMD Resilience Plan and planning.
- Growth Management Act Comprehensive Planning incorporates Wildland Fire planning and CFR.
- Wildland Fire Planning includes interaction between fire and critical areas and how they play into each other.
- Climate Resilience planning is incorporating 10-Year Strategy and CFR practices.
- Per HB 6109, local jurisdictions are collaborated with in identifying “high risk” designations that will determine locally where minimum wildfire building code standards will be required.
- Number of counties and municipalities that have adopted WUI building standards.
- Number of land-use planners trained in rural-urban wildfire mitigation specific planning.
- Spatial fire planning:
 - Regional QRA data are made available.
 - DNR statewide hazard and risk mapping mandated by HB 6109 completed with an engagement and outreach process at the county and municipal level successfully implemented.

County:

- CWPP is current and actively being implemented across a variety of CFR Practices.
- If developed, Local Hazard Mitigation Plan incorporates wildfire, CWPP, and critical areas (as defined in the local critical area ordinance).
- Is aware of or has incorporated wildland fire planning into Comprehensive Plan update per [ESSHB 1181.SL](#). see [Resource Guide](#).

- Per HB 6109, local jurisdictions have identified “high risk” designations that will determine where minimum wildfire building code standards will be required.
- Have adopted WUI building standards that indicate meeting state standards or greater.
- Spatial fire planning including
 - DNR statewide hazard and risk mapping mandated by HB 6109 is made available and is reviewed with local/county wildfire planning committees.
 - DNR/USFS Potential Operating Delineations developed as a result of HB 1784 are made available to local planning processes for coordination of local response entities but also for fuel treatment, evacuation, ingress/egress and safety zone plan development.

3. Infrastructure & Business (endnote- strength of these elements are #1 element of resilience/recovery. Resistance or time to return of essential services)

State, Region:

- Department of Commerce and other organizations support Business Continuity Wildfire Planning
- Electric utilities have mitigation plans that meet recognized state developed standards. (see DNR committee and legislative mandated plan).
- Transportation system.
- Issues of wildfire insurance coverage are being considered by appropriate statewide agencies and stakeholders to ensure there is fair and adequate insurance coverage available statewide.

County:

- Has incorporated Business Continuity Wildfire planning into CWPP and/or Hazard Mitigation plan.
- CWPP and/or Hazard Mitigation plan identifies core infrastructure, threats, and mitigations.

4. Safety & Evacuation

5. Fire-Resistant Infrastructure and Building Standards

State, Region:

- Number of power companies adopting best practices for wildfire ignition risk reduction.

County:

- Level of consistency in wildfire regulations across counties.
- Increase in enforcement capacity in high-risk areas.

6. Community Health and Well-being

a. Smoke Preparedness:

State, Region:

- Number of CWPP's, hazard mitigation plans, or municipalities with smoke preparedness plans
- Reach and effectiveness of smoke communications campaigns

County

- Number of identified smoke respite areas in high-risk communities.
- smoke preparedness plan

7. Unwanted Fire Ignition Prevention

a. Human-Related Wildfire Reduction:

- Percentage decrease in human-caused wildfires
- Level of standardization in fire-cause data reporting across agencies
- Number of targeted education programs implemented based on fire risk data

b. Prevention Planning:

- Number of interagency prevention team members trained
- Adoption rate of prevention planning tools across agencies

c. Regulation and Enforcement:

8. Post Fire Recovery and Adaptation:

State, Region:

- Number of policies revised to facilitate cross-jurisdictional BAER work
- Development of BAER Team(s) that have ability to work across federal, state, tribal lands.
- Amount of funding secured for post-fire risk mitigation.
- Response time for post-fire risk assessments
- Establishment of a post-fire recovery taskforce
- Number of communities receiving post-fire recovery training
- Public assistance

County

- Long-Term Recovery Plan
- Disaster case management