2025 WRCD ANNUAL REPORT

WASHINGTON RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT

Building local capacity for a resilient future



Dear Friends, Partners, and Funders,

I am deeply proud of what Washington Resource Conservation and Development has accomplished with your support in 2025. Despite the challenges of a year filled with uncertainty for us and many of our partners, WRCD continued to build local capacity across the state through collaborative and multidisciplinary projects. Our successes are made possible through the dedication of local partners, landowners, volunteers, and funders, and I want to take a moment to acknowledge the impact we have collectively achieved.

In 2025, WRCD restored salmonid passage and strengthened local communities' capacity to adapt to wildfire. The Yakima Tributary Access and Habitat Program implemented six fish passage and habitat restoration projects in Yakima River tributaries; the Washington Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network (WAFAC) grew by 10% and provided learning opportunities to hundreds of participants; the Natural Hazards Program continued technical support for new and revised Community Wildfire Protection Plans; the Prescribed Fire Program championed this vital land management tool through trainings and technical assistance. This year was also a time for launching new initiatives: Washington Community Wildfire Ambassadors (CWA), a local leadership initiative, and After the Fire Washington, a centralized hub for wildfire recovery resources. WRCD also joined Washington Community Wildfire Solutions (CWS) to fill a longstanding gap in coordinated advocacy for community wildfire resilience. With a small but mighty staff, WRCD provides decades of expertise and experience connecting grassroots needs and practitioner insights to build resilient futures, rooted in communities.

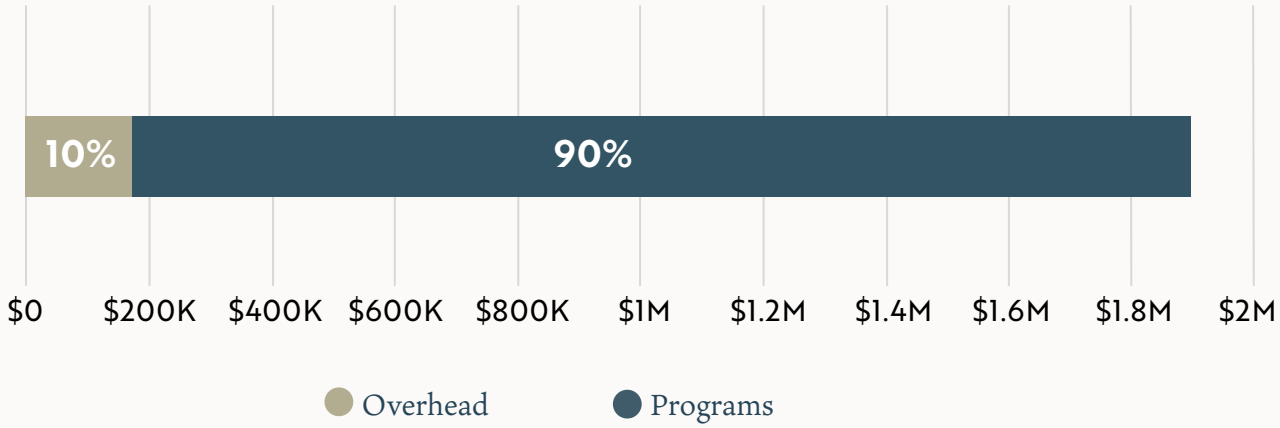
As disruptions to ecological, economic, and social conditions become more of the rule than the exception, place-based and community-centered frameworks for adapting together are vital. Together, we are protecting riverine habitats, addressing wildfire risks, and strengthening the capacity of communities to adapt and prosper. The progress we made in 2025 is a foundation for even greater impact in the years ahead. Thank you for your continued partnership, commitment, and enthusiasm for our shared mission. Your support is crucial in helping WRCD and our partners make a lasting difference, and we hope you stay engaged, participate in upcoming events, and continue sharing this journey with us.

Sincerely,

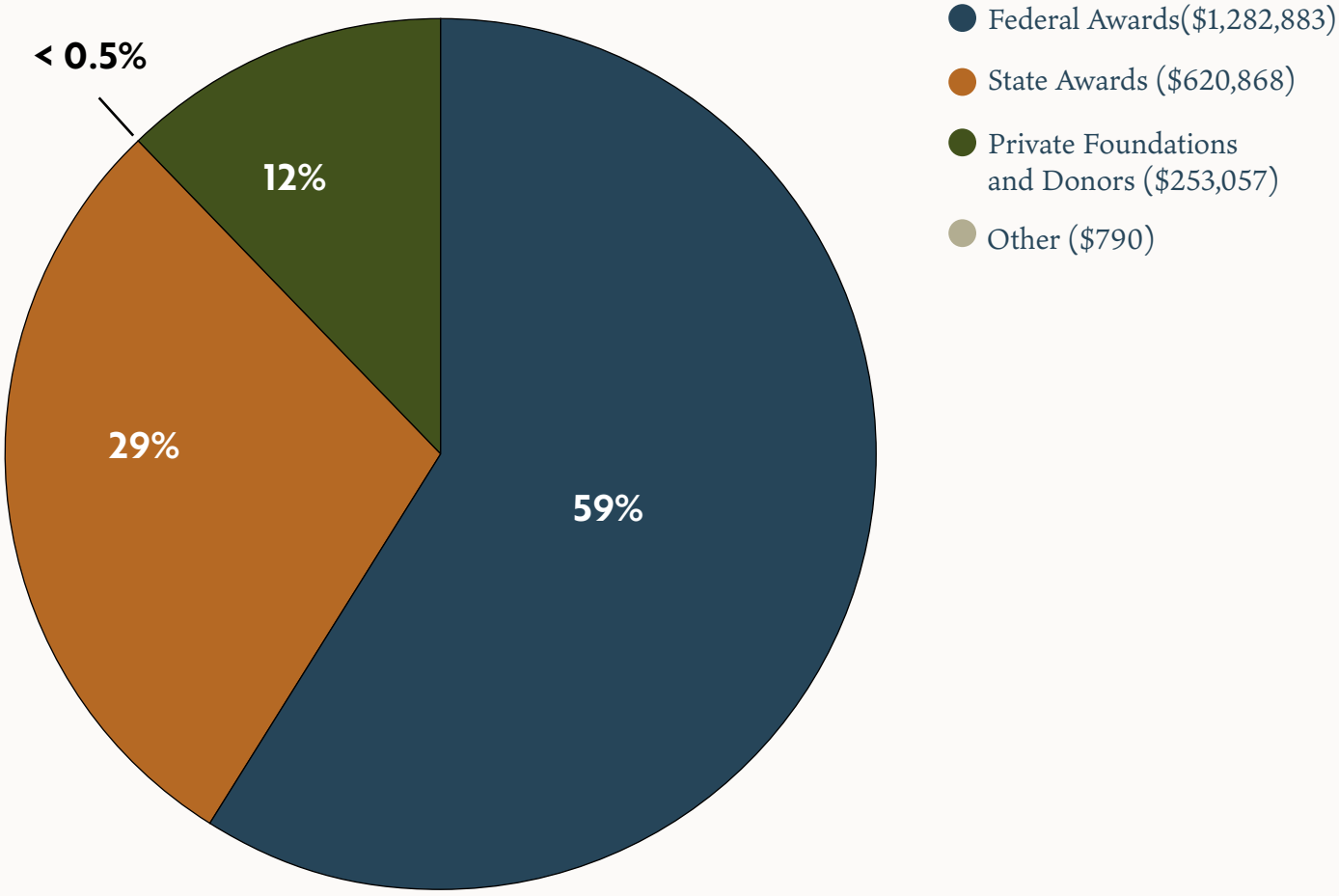


Dr. Melissa Mark
Executive Director

TOTAL EXPENSES: $1,889,031



TOTAL REVENUE: $2,157,598



Yakima Tributary Access & Habitat Program

In FY 2025, YTAHP **completed two fish passage and habitat restoration projects** in Yakima River tributaries - Coleman Creek in Kittitas County and Wenas Creek in Yakima County. The program also made significant progress on several other ongoing projects.

Leveraged

$2.2 MILLION

in funding from other sources for project implementation

Expended

$795K

toward fish access and habitat restoration

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT: COLEMAN CREEK

- Removed unscreened concrete diversion
- Constructed new diversion with fishscreen and fish-way
- Installed siphon to route irrigation canal under the creek to allow for streambed restoration
- Riparian planting



Before (top) and after (bottom). Photos: Kittitas County Conservation District

OUTCOMES:

Restored fish passage to

1.4 MILES

of Yakima River tributary habitat used by salmonids for spawning and rearing

Screened

27.5 CUBIC FT PER SECOND

of water to prevent fish entrapment

Ongoing riparian vegetation and site stewardship on

6 PROJECTS

Ongoing project development, permits, design, and funding progress made on

6 ADDITIONAL PROJECTS

WRCD's wildfire work spans several programs and projects. Together, these efforts aim to improve fire outcomes by strengthening local capacity, reducing risk to values by understanding and implementing specific mitigations, and advancing landscape and community readiness.

Post-Fire Preparedness and Recovery

In 2025, WRCD officially launched After the Fire Washington (afterthefirewa.org), a centralized hub of information for both wildfire survivors and those assisting with recovery.

Community Wildfire Ambassador

WRCD and WAFAC ushered in the new Community Wildfire Ambassador (CWA) approach in Washington in 2025. CWA aims to build community and equip neighborhood volunteers with the training, tools, and support needed to strengthen wildfire resilience in their place. Accomplishments included,

- Launch of a website: wildfireambassador.org
- 34 attendees at Coordinator trainings
- 29 participants on CWA support calls
- Finalization of program materials

Policy

➔ **WRCD helped found Washington Community Wildfire Solutions (CWS) to address a longstanding gap in coordinated advocacy for community wildfire resilience.** WRCD serves on the CWS Steering Committee, helping connect community and practitioner experience with statewide policy and funding efforts. CWS seeks to advance evidence-based policies, sustained investment, and cross-sector collaboration that help Washington communities reduce wildfire risk and strengthen preparedness and resilience.

➔ **WRCD delivered recommendations and presented to Washington's HB 1539 Wildfire Mitigation and Resiliency Standards Work Group**, highlighting community-level wildfire mitigation needs and opportunities and community wildfire resilience practitioner perspectives. The recommendations delivered call for sustained local capacity, stronger coordination of mitigation programs and standards, continued investment in CWPPs and local wildfire coordinating groups, financial incentives for residents, and expanded neighborhood-level engagement.

COMMUNITY WILDFIRE PROTECTION PLANNING

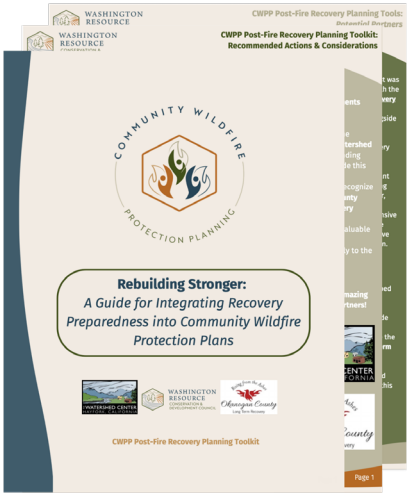
In 2025, WRCD continued to support communities across Washington in developing and implementing collaborative, locally driven wildfire resilience strategies. We focused on providing technical assistance for county CWPP updates, strengthening connections between CWPPs and other local planning efforts, expanding educational opportunities through webinars and planning resources, and developing tools to improve the consistency and effectiveness of CWPPs statewide. A highlight of the year was seeing multiple county planning efforts reach completion while continuing to build new resources that will support communities well into the future.

HIGHLIGHTS:

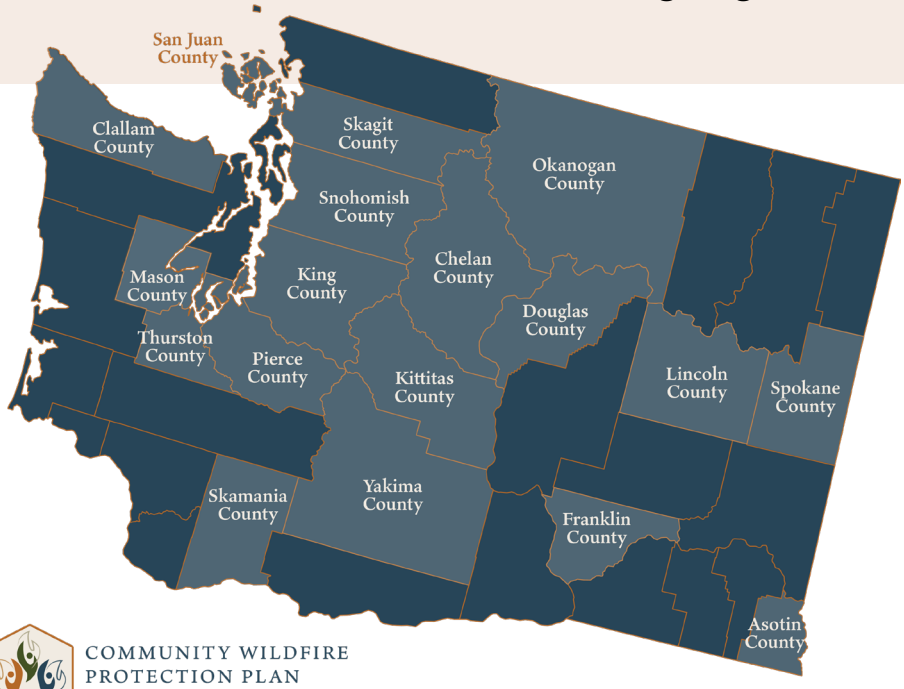
- Assisted with 15 county Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) processes, with **8 plans finalized and signed by the State Forester during 2025**.
- Supported **3 County Hazard Mitigation Plans (HMPs), all approved by FEMA**

NEW RESOURCES:

- Hosted **2 CWPP Learning Series webinars**
- Developed a **Post-Fire Recovery Planning Toolkit**
- Created several **new planning resources** to improve consistency and streamline CWPP development, including:
    - A CWPP Action Plan Template
    - A National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Crosswalk
    - A Recommended Maps and Partner Checklist for CWPPs
- Initiated the drafting and development of **WRCD's Multi-Hazard Pre-Planning Program Strategy**



Discover the CWPP Recovery Toolkit and more on our website.



WASHINGTON STATE FIRE ADAPTED COMMUNITIES LEARNING NETWORK

Washington State Fire Adapted Communities Learning Network (WAFAC) grew to **114 members from 55 organizations** in 2025. This year, practitioners and community members alike pushed forward — conducting defensible space assessments, clearing ladder fuels, updating emergency evacuation plans, and deepening partnerships between neighbors, local fire departments, and land managers.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR WORK
WAFAC 2025 ANNUAL REPORT





HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2025

WAFAC co-hosted the Washington FAC Workshop with the *Latino Community Fund of Washington*. Our theme was Juntos Mas Fuertes (Stronger Together), and together, we welcomed existing WAFAC members as well as a handful of people new to Fire Adapted Communities work. Despite limitations in travel budgets for state and federal members, **59 people** from **29 organizations** attended the workshop in Yakima.

- Our Bite Size Learning Series brought **lunchtime learning sessions** to members, covering a wide breadth of topics, including Biochar, Community Events, Post-Fire Recovery, and Creative Capacity Building.
- We partnered with *The Whitener Group* to deliver a **Tribal Engagement Training**, during which participants learned about Tribal soverieignty, governance and history in Washington State as well as best practices for working with Tribes on natural resource issues.
- Added **new Toolkits** to the website, including: Community Engagement and Events, Reforestation, and Engaging with Tribes.

Community Prescribed Fire

In 2025, WRCD continued to support communities to utilizing prescribed fire through trainings, technical assistance, mentorship, and resources, as well as addressing barriers to prescribed fire implementation through partnership, policy, advocacy, and coalition building. 2025 accomplishments include:

- Hosting **monthly meetings for 24 Washington PBA leaders** to network, connect, and support development and growth of their local prescribed fire organizations
- Initiating **the PNW PBA Alliance** with Oregon State University Extension and kicked off a **regular webinar series attended by 50 participants**.
- Supporting the **development of the Prescribed Fire Claims Fund Pilot Program** (HB 1563), a program that establishes a $2M account to provide support and protection for prescribed fire implementation, encourage the use of the tool, and demonstrate safe, low-risk prescribed burning.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT:

PNW Prescribed Burn Association Learning Exchange

WRCD, along with Oregon State University Extension and Mt. Adams Resource Stewards, hosted a Learning Exchange for PBAs in Glenwood, WA. The three-day event brought together 27 PBA leaders and those interested in developing their own PBAs from Washington, Oregon, and Colorado. Participants discussed topics such as membership recruitment, procuring and managing equipment, developing partnership, the process of planning and implementing a burn, and more.



Cascadia PBA's Coulter Rx in October, 2025.
Photo: WRCD



Attendees at the PNW PBA Learning Exchange gather in the Mt. Adams Community Forest.
Photo: WRCD



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