



**HILARY S. FRANZ**  
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

**DNR's mission is to manage, sustain, and protect the health and productivity of Washington's lands and waters to meet the needs of present and future generations**

#### **CONTACT**

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# Department of Natural Resources 2023 Decision Package Summary

## **GOOD GOVERNANCE AND STEWARDSHIP**

- 1. Trust Land Transfer Revitalization - SB 5372/HB 1460 (GF-S \$568k / Cap \$25.1M)**  
Funding and legislation to transform the Trust Land Transfer (TLT) program based on a report and recommendations by a DNR and external stakeholder TLT work group. Funding and program changes will reduce barriers to DNR's land transaction process, fund the conservation of TLT parcels, and grow the trust land portfolio so that we can best benefit the environment and the state's trust assets. The capital request contains ten (10) ranked properties covering 7,065 acres of land across the state.
- 2. Derelict Aquatic Structures Removal - SB 5433/HB 1378 (GF-S \$1.14M / Cap \$20M)**  
Funding and legislation to remove and restore derelict aquatic structures to protect our waterways and improve fish habitat. Program will work with Tribes, local governments, and nonprofits to address and remove derelict structures from state and privately-owned aquatic lands. Leverages funding to utilize the Puget Sound Nearshore Credits Program to offset impacts to critical nearshore habitats. Establishes a "nearshore bond" pilot or similar mechanism to bring private capital for removal or improvements to nearshore structures.
- 3. Carbon Offset and Ecosystem Services Management - SB 5688/HB 1789**  
Bill authorizing DNR to sell carbon credits and other ecosystem services. This authority will enable DNR to access private sector revenue streams to fund critical natural resource investments and increase revenues for beneficiaries and the state. This bill is a logical next step in realizing the full potential of the Climate Commitment Act and will help diversify DNR's trust asset portfolio while sequestering carbon and growing future timber assets.
- 4. Protect Public Lands and Tribal Rights (GF-S \$7.8M)**  
Funding to hire ten (10) law enforcement officers to allow DNR to better protect our public lands and cultural resources. DNR has twelve officers covering 5.6 million acres of DNR-managed lands - equivalent of two agency officers covering an area the size of Rhode Island. Also, provides additional resources to help the agency develop a sustainable recreation plan, establishes a first foods pilot program with Tribes, and provides on-going data collection tools that are used to assess impacts of visitation to our public lands.
- 5. Community Forest Management - Teanaway and Klickitat (GF-S \$2.84M)** Funding to meet the maintenance and operation needs for these important community treasures. DNR can fully implement the management plans for both community forests ensuring healthy forests that reduce fire threats and provide critical forest and aquatic habitats for local fish, including salmon. Funding also allows for sustainable recreation and economic opportunities for the local communities.
- 6. Geoduck Task Force - SB 5410/HB 1297 (GF-S \$791k)**  
Bill to create a Geoduck Task Force consisting primarily of state agencies and Tribes to will address issues specific to geoduck co-management between the state and Tribal governments, including enhancement and harvest expansion opportunities, improvements to conditions for future generations and ensure the state is upholding Tribal Treaty Rights to geoduck harvesting.



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## CLIMATE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

### **1. Urban Forestry (GF-S \$8M)**

Funding for additional community grants that provide necessary assistance for increasing our statewide urban tree canopy. We will also develop a statewide Tree Equity Map, update work on model tree ordinances, conduct a tree canopy analysis, and utilize youth corps conservation crews to plant trees in communities where they will provide the greatest benefit.

### **2. DNR Webster Nursery Expansion (Cap \$7.4M)**

Funding to construct a new seed plant, and to plan and design new greenhouses and outdoor grow pads to construct in the 25-27 biennium. Investments will expand seed collection capacity by 50%, and increase seedling production by 50%, to meet reforestation demands. We must grow more trees if we are to plant more trees.

### **3. Cascading Impacts of Wildfire - SB 5611/HB 1578 (GF-S \$12.8M)**

Funding and legislation to expand DNR's Wildfire Ready Neighbors Program to Western Washington, integrate additional smoke readiness and wildfire readiness resources into this program. Also, creates an agency model for state-level burned area emergency response and stabilization teams to support the implementation of hazard mitigation and post-fire treatments for public safety and resource protection; launches a post-wildfire debris flow program; and develops public safety evacuation strategies.

### **4. Watershed Resilience Action Plan (WRAP) (GF-S \$2.86M)**

Funding needed to meet Snohomish watershed WRAP deliverables, including kelp and eelgrass stewardship; a large woody debris program; aquatic restoration grants; culvert removal; and begin planning for pilot projects in three additional target watersheds for systems-level efforts to benefit salmon recovery.

### **5. Natural Area Preserve Act turns 50! (GF-S \$3.35M)**

Celebration of the Natural Areas Preserve Act (NAPA) turning 50 by funding identification, protection, and management of important natural area ecosystems for the next fifty years. DNR will create a statewide map of Essential Conservation Areas (ECAs). We will also determine suitability for conservation acquisition; map areas of high forest conversion risk throughout Washington; increase Natural Areas Program land management capacity; and improve forest health within natural areas.

### **6. Reforestation Mapping and Planning (GF-S \$2M)**

Funding supports work in partnership with USFS to restore 25 USFS seed orchard sites that are needed to improve state seed supply; a reforestation needs assessment, including spatial analysis to map opportunity areas across the state; and a reforestation pipeline assessment to identify opportunities and barriers to meeting reforestation strategy goals, including workforce development needs.

### **7. Avoided Conversion Rapid Response Fund (Cap \$12M)**

Funding to establish a Rapid Response Fund that would be used to acquire key working forest lands at risk of permanent conversion, and to keep those areas in working forest status—rather than being lost permanently.

### **8. Net Zero Facilities and Fleet (GF-S \$10M)**

Funding to ensure the agency can meet CCA its emission-reduction goals by 2030. This adds much-needed capacity and expertise to expand the agency's fleet charging infrastructure; procure and deploy EV trucks for a suitability determination; and conduct energy efficiency assessments for agency buildings and commercial properties.



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## ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

### **1. HEAL Act and Environmental Justice Investments (GF-S \$3M)**

Funding to create the Office of Equity and Environmental Justice within the agency in order to centralize the agency's environmental justice (EJ) vision, and create capacity across all divisions while becoming the public facing program for DNR's EJ and Equity work. Establishes necessary staffing that will allow the agency to meet legislative and public HEAL Act expectations and improve the workforce's ability to conduct Environmental Justice activities.

### **2. Growing Roots for Next 7 Generations (GF-S \$2.4M)**

Funding to expand the agency's Tribal Affairs Department to address growing government-to-government needs for all Tribes in the state across all agency programs, including requirements under the recently passed HEAL and Climate Commitment Acts. Tribal Affairs expansion will allow us to better serve our Tribal partners and tribal communities across the state.

## WORKFORCE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

### **1. Workforce Housing Opportunities on DNR Lands (GF-S \$2.7M)**

Funding for a workforce housing analysis that will assess opportunities for development of workforce housing on administrative lands for DNR employees, and on state trust commercial and transitional lands that are already identified for high/medium density housing. Agency will bring on additional expertise to better address workforce housing needs in our FY 25 facilities plan and assist communities by identifying housing opportunities on agency commercial properties located throughout the state.

### **2. Natural Resources Workforce Development (GF-S \$6.26M)**

Funding for the agency's workforce "Root to Canopy Framework" that implements targeted investments in critical Natural Resources and Forest Health education and training-to-career workforce pathways as identified in HB 1168. DNR will provide targeted funding and assistance for forestry-centered educational and training programs across the state with emphasis on family-wage, high-demand career opportunities throughout Washington as called for in HB 1168. Also, allows the agency to conduct a workforce employer and needs assessment; and deliver a Natural Resources workforce public awareness campaign with matching private funding so we can better promote the Natural Resources educational and workforce opportunities across the state.

### **3. DNR Conservation Corps Crews (GF-S \$10M)**

Funding for 5,000 crew days of on-the-ground work for restoration, conservation, trails that are critical to the statewide recreation and conservation efforts, including the Puget Sound Action Agenda.