



HILARY S. FRANZ  
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

# 2022 DNR Legislative Priorities: LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging)

**Investment in LiDAR will establish a better and more equitable data collection cycle used for natural resources, land, and hazard management.**

LiDAR is a tool used to obtain accurate, three-dimensional information as a foundational tool used to map for natural resources, land and hazard management. The state is behind in collecting necessary LiDAR data to support our statewide efforts related to Puget Sound Action Agenda Implementation, salmon habitat, geologic hazards, aggregate, forest health, adaptive management, and riparian pathway mapping projects.

To meet our needs, DNR is requesting an ongoing funding increase to collect and refresh statewide LiDAR on a ten-year cycle. Currently, the state is on a forty-year cycle is not effective in today's fight against climate change.

Better and more equitable access to this data provides support to economic and environmental justice decision-making by creating a cost-effective, consistent, and predictable baseline for those reliant upon LiDAR across the state, providing planning efficiencies while reducing redundant, individual, and costly efforts.

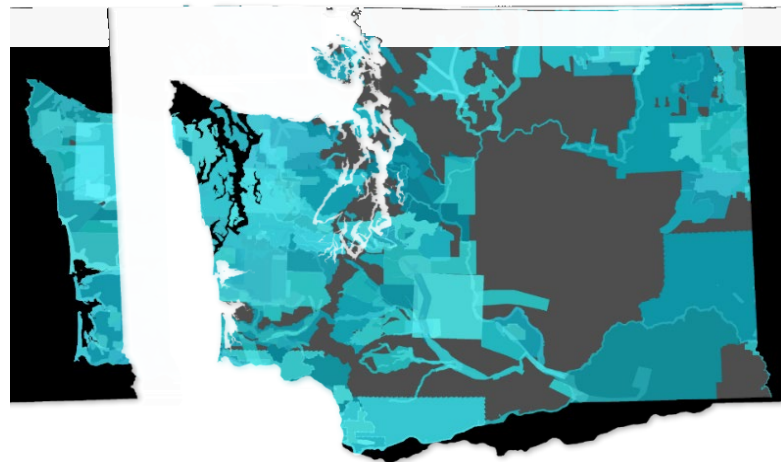
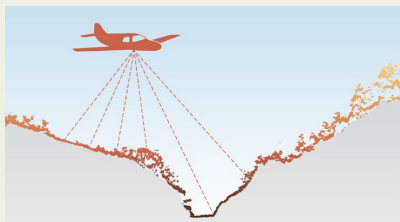
**Under current state funding levels, only wealthy jurisdictions regularly collect LiDAR data creating an inequitable patchwork data set where poorer jurisdictions are unable to utilize this critical mapping tool..**

**\$3.48M GF-S**

**\$7.75M/Biennium**

## WHAT IS LIDAR?

Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) is a technique to measure the distance from a sensor to an object, which is similar to radar. When mounted on a light aircraft, LiDAR can very accurately measure the elevation of the earth, even in areas covered by vegetation.



Current LiDAR collection in Washington State, with colors showing the patchwork of individual projects completed from 2000–2021. This progress relies upon limited state funding, opportunistic partnerships, grants, and the incorporation of legacy data from external groups

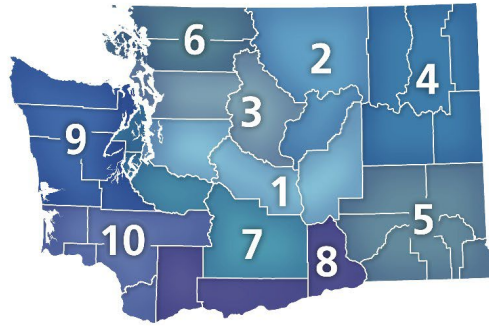
## CONTACT

**Brian Considine**  
Legislative Director  
Brian.considine@dnr.wa.gov  
Cell: 360-764-0013

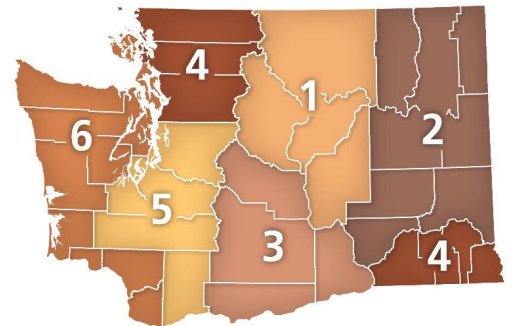
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Ten-year refresh cycle strategy for lidar collection achieved by operational request



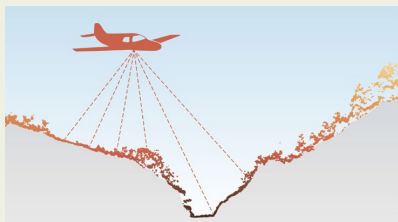
Six-year refresh cycle strategy for lidar collection achieved by operating request funding increase and maximizing external partnership contributions.

**\$3.48M GF-S**

**\$7.75M/Biennium**

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DNR’s LiDAR request establishes a baseline ten-year refresh cycle with an investment of \$3,481,300 in FY23 and \$7,755,600 per biennium (GF-S) that will fully cover DNR’s LiDAR collection costs.

Once this investment is made, then DNR will be able to set up a consistent, equitable ten-year LiDAR collection cycle and begin distributing critical LiDAR data on a yearly basis. DNR will also look to lower the refresh rate to six years through local, state, and federal public and private partners, saving the state \$4,519,400.

Therefore, the result of this new refresh cycle will allow us to reduce costs through more efficient planning; make better decisions with current data through faster collection cycles; and equitably collect data for all communities to use regardless of economic status.