



Forest Health & Community Wildfire Resiliency Program

Services Offered



Wildfire risk assessments and mitigation plans



Forest stewardship planning and forest health treatments



Fuels reduction projects, chipping, and biochar programs



Educational workshops and events



Cost-share incentives for forest health treatment and home hardening



Neighborhood scale wildfire planning assistance



County-level wildfire assessment and action planning



Coordination of wildfire adaptation efforts among local partners

Program Overview

Conservation districts are essential service providers in statewide efforts to address forest health and wildfire resilience. Their locally tailored and incentive-based programs offer significant and continuous services to Washington residents year-round.

This work is funded through Washington State Conservation Commission's Forest Health & Community Wildfire Resiliency Program and supports the state's 10-Year Wildland Fire Strategic Plan and 20-Year Forest Health Plan.

Conservation districts' efforts are crucial to increasing the pace, scale, and effectiveness of forest health improvements and community wildfire resilience work statewide.



Underwood CD's wildfire expert discusses risk reduction measures with homeowners in the White Salmon area.

Why this program matters:

- Catastrophic wildfires are an increasing threat across Washington. This leads to the loss of lives, homes, working lands, and habitat.
- Public health risks from smoke impact all Washington residents, but particularly our most vulnerable populations.
- Nearly half of Washington's forests are privately owned. They need dedicated resources to reduce wildfire risks for everyone.
- As wildfires expand beyond rural areas to more urban communities, targeted local solutions are essential. This program emphasizes locally driven and non-regulatory solutions that are tailored to meet diverse needs throughout the state.



Program Impacts

In the 2023-25 biennium, \$15 million was distributed across the state to 31 conservation districts (CDs), accomplishing:

Over 100 new partnerships were formed across the state. CDs leveraged this funding to bring in an additional \$10M to expand opportunities.

CDs provided \$1.6 million in cost-share to private landowners to improve the health and resilience of their forests.

CDs provided over 2,400 wildfire risk assessments and mitigation plans to enhance public safety and home protection.

CDs worked with 270 neighborhoods on wildfire preparedness, empowering residents to protect their homes and neighbors to work together.

28,000 residents were reached through public education and outreach efforts.

27 Community Wildfire Protection Plans were developed or updated with the help of CDs.



Cascadia Conservation District partnered with Lake Wenatchee Fire Dept. to provide chipping services to residents reducing flammable fuels. - Kris King, Lake Wenatchee Fire & Rescue

The Request

Funding for 2023-25: **\$15 million**

Funding for 2025-27: **\$2.5 million**

Request for the supplement budget: **\$2.5 million**

The State Conservation Commission requested \$2.5 million in the supplemental budget to maintain conservation district programs so they can continue serving a growing need in local communities.



A homeowner loads flammable pine needles into a dumpster after raking them away from her home. - Eli Loftis, Okanogan Conservation District.

"Beyond receiving support for Firewise, as a neighborhood, we have simply become more responsible in doing our part. We don't have a sense of entitlement that we can just expect First Responders to come save us if we are oblivious." —**Teri Jo Summer, Whidbey Island resident**

"I've been chipping away at it by myself, tree by tree, year by year...I mean, in four days, they did as much as I could do in a couple years working by myself, and it's just such a morale booster. I do work on my place all the time, but to get that jump start now, I'm really excited to do more on my own."
—**Jackie Haskins, Chelan County landowner**