

# MANAGE & PROTECT

PRIVATE LANDOWNER ACTIONS REDUCE CATASTROPHIC WILDFIRES



## Private forest landowners in Washington State share the burden of preparing for and fighting wildfires.

### Paying for Preparedness: Forest Fire Protection Assessment

About \$10.5 million is raised through the FFPA on public and private lands.

The Forest Fire Protection Assessment (FFPA) is the landowner's share of the preparedness costs for fighting wildland fires. These costs are necessary investments to be prepared to fight future fires, such as purchasing fire engines, training crews, staging caches, etc., as opposed to the costs of fighting active fires (suppression).

Protection costs are shared between landowners and the state

Protection costs are statutorily required to be equitably shared between state contributions and landowners. The landowner's share has been much larger than the state's share in recent years.

The Legislature sets the FFPA role

The FFPA is an assessment on forest landowners collected by the county treasurers through property tax statements. Nearly 472,000 private parcels (almost 9.5 million acres) are assessed the FFPA. Another three million acres owned by the state or other public entities also pay the FFPA but are direct billed by DNR.

### Paying for Suppression: Landowner Contingency Fund

About \$4.2 million per year flow into the LOCF at the current rates.

The Landowner Contingency Fund (LOCF) pays for fire suppression costs on forest lands where the fire was started through normal landowner operations. If the origin of the fire was other than normal landowner operations, the suppression costs are to be recovered by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and deposited back into the LOCF.

The DNR sets the assessment rate in order to maintain a statutorily required minimum LOCF balance of \$3 million.

*Before thinning: landscape loaded with fuel, high risk of catastrophic wildfire*



*After thinning: fuel loads drastically depleted*



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