Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) protects our state’s heritage of natural resources by sustainably managing millions of acres of state trust lands and submerged lands and beaches.

Since 1970, state trust forest, range, commercial, agricultural, and aquatic lands have generated more than $8 billion for public schools, state institutions, county services, and stewardship restoration of aquatic lands. These lands also provide our state with fish and wildlife habitat, clean and abundant water, and public access to outdoor recreation.

DNR also:

- Manages state-owned aquatic lands.
- Manages a Natural Areas Program that protects native ecosystems.
- Fights wildfires.
- Administers state forest practices rules.
- Helps communities access fire prevention and urban forestry resources.
- Regulates reclamation of surface mines.

Located in the San Juan archipelago, nearly all of Cypress Island is a DNR-managed Natural Resources Conservation Area encompassed by an Aquatic Reserve.

Learn more at dnr.wa.gov
Our decisions and hard work on the ground leave a legacy of healthy forests, clean water, thriving ecosystems, and a vibrant natural resource-based economy.”

Managing Washington’s Trust Lands
DNR manages 3 million acres of trust lands to provide a stream of non-tax revenue for statewide construction of public schools, universities, prisons and other state institutions, and fund services in many counties.

Revenue is produced on state trust lands from sustainable management and harvesting of timber and forest products and leasing agricultural land, communication sites, mineral leases, and other activities.

Trust lands are vital habitat for many native plant and animal species. They also protect clean and abundant water, while offering public recreation opportunities statewide.

Managing Aquatic Lands
DNR is steward of more than 2.6 million acres of aquatic lands—beaches and lands under Puget Sound, the coast, and navigable lakes and rivers. DNR manages these submerged lands to protect fish and other wildlife while also providing commerce, navigation, and public access. Revenue is generated by selling geoducks and leasing aquatic lands for marinas, and other uses. In addition to protecting and restoring aquatic resources, aquatic revenues help pay for local projects that create public access to aquatic lands.

Conserving Washington’s Natural Heritage
DNR manages Natural Resources Conservation Areas (NRCA) and Natural Area Preserves (NAP) that represent the finest remaining examples of native ecosystems in state ownership—many of them unique in the region. In addition to providing educational and research opportunities, some of these lands are open to hikers.

Fighting and Preventing Wildfires
DNR is the state’s largest on-call fire department, with 1,200 temporary and permanent employees who fight wildfires on about 12.7 million acres of private and state-owned forestlands. DNR works with other state, federal and local agencies to respond to wildfires, and offers local fire districts support with fire protection and safety equipment requirements. Crowded, unhealthy forests increase the risk of catastrophic wildfires. DNR monitors forest health across the state and helps teach landowners and communities how to improve forest health and reduce wildfire risks.

Providing Public Access for Recreation
DNR-managed state lands provide public access for many recreation opportunities—in rustic campgrounds and picnic areas, interpretive sites and more than a thousand miles of trails. These are destinations for bicycling, hiking, motorized off-road vehicle riding, horseback riding, fishing, bird watching and more.

Most of these opportunities are on forested trust lands, which are working forests and habitat that visitors help protect through responsible use of these lands.

Providing Geological Services
DNR’s information about the state’s geology is used by industry, researchers, and rockhounds. DNR geologists compile and publish geologic maps, which are basic tools used by geologists, civil engineers, and planners. Planners also use DNR’s geological data and interpretations to make emergency management plans for earthquakes, volcanic eruptions and other events.

DNR also regulates surface mine and metal mine reclamation, oil and gas drilling, gas storage, geothermal drilling, and underground fluids injection.