2022 DNR Legislative Priorities: Community and Economic Development

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources generates more than $220 million in nontax revenue for school construction and other public services annually. That economic activity sustains thousands of direct and indirect jobs throughout the state, especially in rural areas. These budget requests promote safe, sustainable recreation in Washington’s rural communities, and will grow DNR’s ability to generate nontax revenue while putting people back to work.

Budget Asks

Recreation Enforcement and Maintenance (GF-S $3.2M)
Investment in keeping our public lands safe and clean by funding essential enforcement, education, and maintenance positions necessary to protect our public lands and the public that uses them. Funding ensures DNR can address concerns from our Tribal partners to invest in measures that prevent further abuse and misuse of public lands and cultural resources to ensure the state continues to be good stewards of our public lands.

Puget SoundCorps (Cap $4.8M)
Investment in DNR’s Puget SoundCorps that provides young adults, including young people of color, and veterans workforce development opportunities through an immersive job experience that restores and protects our public lands. Allows DNR to retain and/or rehire seven Corps crews and add 10 new crews focused on forest health, wildfire response, salmon recovery, and habitat restoration.

Bridge Replacements (Cap $2.2M)
Funding to replace four structurally deficient bridges to support the agency’s timber harvest and revenues, wildfire suppression activities, and allow for recreational access.

Silviculture (Cap $3.9M)
Investment in critical silviculture work that will create jobs and resilient forest conditions and maximize the revenue-generating capacity of forest stands to the benefit of trust beneficiaries, including local schools and community services. Work will include treatments for healthy forests, tree planting, and noxious weed and vegetation management, Creates jobs for eighty-six contract labor workers and eight non-permanent DNR staff positions, while generating an estimated $55 million in additional revenue for trust beneficiaries.

Encumbered Lands (Cap $28.3M)
Provides a long-term solution to the State Forestland Replacement Program. Investment in forest land assets where timber revenue opportunities are constrained under the Endangered Species Act. DNR will utilize a trust land exchange and
reinvestment strategy to address disproportionate economic impacts from state forest lands in three Southwest Washington counties.

These investments will provide jobs and improve public safety while growing DNR’s ability to generate nontax revenue that supports school construction and critical services across Washington.

CONTACT

Brian Considine
Legislative Director

Cell: 360-764-0013
brian.considine@dnr.wa.gov
www.dnr.wa.gov