



**HILARY S. FRANZ**  
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

# 2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP



**A HUGE THANK YOU TO THE DNR STAFF AND AGENCY PARTNERS THAT WORKED TO MAKE THE 2022 SESSION A SUCCESS.**

## SUCCESSFUL BILLS

### **HB 1700 | Dedicated Funding for the Derelict Vessel Removal Program (DVRP)**

As a result of this legislation, the Derelict Vessel Removal account will receive a dedicated **25 percent** of the Watercraft Excise Tax. This sustainable funding will increase and stabilize program delivery to help remove derelict vessels from the state's waterways. There is \$4,284,000 of funding in the Operating Budget for DVRP.

### **2SSB 5619 | Conserving and restoring kelp forests and eelgrass meadows in Washington State**

This bill will create a kelp forest and eelgrass meadow health and conservation plan, which will build on our existing efforts. The DNR must work with partners to establish a plan that endeavors to conserve and restore at least **10,000 acres** of native kelp forests and eelgrass meadows by 2040. There is \$1,149,000 of funding in the Operating Budget for kelp and eelgrass conservation.

### **HB 1430 | Concerning the duration of state upland leases for lands managed by the Department of Natural Resources**

This bill originated during the 2021 legislative session and was driven forward by the legislative affairs team this session. The intent of the bill is to extend the maximum length of a lease of DNR managed land for commercial, industrial, business, or recreational purposes from 55 years to 99 years, to improve DNR's competition in the market and project financing options.

## HIGHLIGHTS



**60 Day Supplemental Session**



**3 Agency Request Bills Passed**



**Over 28M Additional Dollars for DNR Programs**



**640 Bill Analyses Completed**



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## TOP LINE BUDGET ITEM

### Fire Suppression Administrative Investment

Removes language from the 2021-Operating Budget that prevents the department's indirect and administrative expenses from being charged for emergency fire suppression. The legislature stated their intent to phase in funding over three years.

## OTHER BUDGET VICTORIES

### LiDAR

**Investment of \$3.4 million General Fund – State (GF-S)** in the LiDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) program ensures DNR can collect critical information for better and more equitable land and hazard management. DNR uses LiDAR to assess and monitor riparian pathways, forest health projects, fish habitat, and flood and geological hazards leading to communities that are more resilient across our state.

### Drought Resilient Washington

**Investment of \$450,000 (GF-S)** to evaluate the effect of drought on state trust lands through a targeted analysis that would build on existing DNR practices. The plan will evaluate opportunities for improved water rights, storage, and conservation to further watershed health and drought mitigation.

### Puget SoundCorps

**Investment of \$2 million (GF-S)** in a program 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 focused on projects including salmon recovery, habitat restoration, and more.

## NEXT STEPS

The following bills and budget requests submitted on the agency's behalf this year were not successful and must be further developed in the coming year:

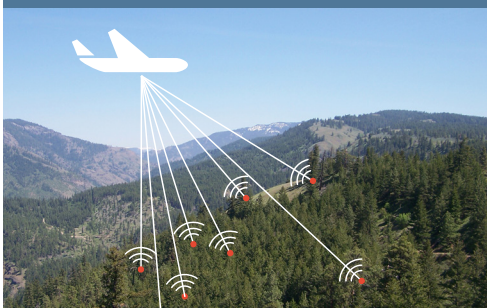
- **HB 1895/SB 5633** Keep Washington Evergreen.
- **SB 5201** Concerning Department of Natural Resources timber and land sales.
- **Recreation Enforcement** investment of \$3.2 million (GF-S) to keep our public lands safe and clean by funding essential enforcement.

The Legislative Affairs team is putting together tour opportunities for legislators and staff, and working closely with Budget and Program staff on next year's objectives.

KARA KARBOSKI



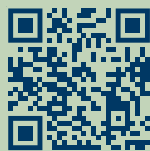
DNR PHOTO FILES



MATT PALMER / UNSPLASH



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