



# Strengthening Washington's Wildfire Fighting Force

## 2017-19 Budget Request



### \$13 MILLION PACKAGE ADDRESSES GROWING WILDFIRE CHALLENGES



Washington's wildfire seasons continue to intensify. Even this year's "quiet" season burned 305,153 acres, making it one of the worst years on record.

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources is responsible for protecting lives, property and natural resources from wildfire across 13 million acres. This includes protection of state trust lands badly needed to produce revenue for Washington's K-12 education system.

The escalating scale of wildfires over the past several years has taxed the agency's wildfire fighting staff and equipment. This request replaces aging equipment for DNR and local fire districts, trains additional firefighters and pilots, and modernizes weather prediction and fiscal analysis.

When paired with DNR's \$25 million proposal to make Washington's forests healthier, this request is our best chance to ensure our communities and landscapes are protected from wildfire.



### FUNDING PACKAGE

#### TRAINING

### \$2,500,000

- Train together more volunteer, National Guard and state and federal firefighters

#### STRONGER PARTNERS

### \$3,433,000

- Increase rural fire district assistance grants to meet demand

#### ACCOUNTABILITY

### \$641,000

- Improve data collection and analysis of wildfire costs
- Commission independent review of fire response effectiveness in Washington

#### AVIATION

### \$762,000

- Increase pilot training and upgrade equipment
- Make sure all agencies have access to firefighting aircraft

#### INFORMATION

### \$1,093,000

- Equip fire engines with GPS locators
- Acquire and maintain additional weather stations
- Improve remote IT equipment and connectivity

#### FIREFIGHTERS

### \$5,223,000

- Build and staff 10 new engines
- Add 42 new firefighters