Resilience Principles

Principles that are critical to successfully approaching climate change and carbon policy:

1. **Tackle the root cause - carbon pollution - and invest in reduction efforts**
   - Establish greenhouse gas reduction (GHG) policies, such as pricing or capping carbon, that effectively reduce pollution;
   - Focus investments on activities with a strong nexus to reducing carbon pollution; and
   - Minimize unintended effects of carbon policies on Washington residents and energy and trade-intensive businesses such as the pulp and paper, agriculture, and natural resource industries.

2. **Strengthen the health and resilience of our lands, waters, and communities**
   - Address impacts we are already seeing from climate change and that will only increase in the future, including wildfire, forest health issues, ocean acidification, sea level rise, flooding, landslides, drought, heatwaves, and extreme weather;
   - Implement long-term strategies to support the health and viability of rural, natural resource-dependent communities, including investments to improve wildfire suppression and forest health, support water storage and reduce drought, and expand renewable energy systems; and
   - Increase the viability and resiliency of agricultural lands to ensure our state’s agricultural economy, our capacity to produce food for future populations, and the long-term health of our soil.

3. **Accelerate carbon sequestration**
   - Tap into the potential of Washington’s forests, farms, ranchland, coastlines, wetlands, riparian corridors, and soils to sequester and store carbon; and
   - Invest in statewide carbon sequestration programs that incentivize keeping working farms and forests working and maximizing carbon stored in trees and soils.

4. **Invest in and incentivize solutions with multiple benefits**
   - Incentivize and invest in the management of working forests in ways that increase carbon storage, grow forest management jobs, increase soil moisture storage, increase timber value, sustain timber production, improve summer stream flows, and increase resilience to disturbance;
   - Incentivize and invest in alternative cropping systems and range management to increase soil carbon storage, increase soil moisture storage and increase resilience to drought;
   - Incentivize and invest in marine restoration efforts to address local effects of ocean acidification, increase aquatic carbon storage, and improve shellfish production and salmon habitat;
   - Invest in riverine, floodplain, and wetland restoration to strengthen resilience to floods, improve salmon habitat, increase public safety, increase water filtration and retention, and protect infrastructure; and
   - Invest in tree planning, planting, and management in cities and towns to improve air quality, increase carbon storage, improve water quality during high-rain stormwater events, improve quality of life, and decrease long-term healthcare costs.