



**DEPARTMENT OF  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

**OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER  
OF PUBLIC LANDS**

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Protecting the health and safety of the communities we serve is paramount. One pronounced threat we all face is the increasing danger of wildfire. We must do all we can to ensure that, in the event of a wildfire, our communities are prepared and secured.

That is why I am reaching out to let you know about the fast-approaching application deadline for the U.S. Forest Service's [Community Wildfire Defense Grant](#) program on October 5, 2022. The agency I lead, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), is charged with administering the program in our state, and I want to ensure that you and your staff have access to any support you need with the application process.

The Community Wildfire Defense Grants program, part of the 2021 bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, is intended to help at-risk communities plan and defend themselves against wildfire. These grants are an exceptional opportunity to fund the implementation or development of Community Wildfire Preparedness Plans and other wildfire hazard mitigation efforts.

With partners like you, DNR has made significant strides in protecting communities and reducing wildfire through the [Wildfire Ready Neighbors](#) program. Wildfire Ready Neighbors –part of House Bill 1168's comprehensive strategy to fight wildfire, save our forests, and prepare communities – connects residents with experts and resources that allow them to proactively make homes and surrounding property more resilient to wildfire. The program, which started as a pilot in 2021, has expanded to six eastern Washington counties. To date, nearly 4,000 residents have participated in the program and we plan to expand even further across the state.

The Community Wildfire Defense Grant program is another impactful tool that we can use – together – to build community resilience against wildfire. If you are interested in applying, my team is standing by. An overview of the program is also attached.

DNR's Community Resilience team, led by Assistant Division Manager Guy Gifford, is ready to assist you with the application. Guy and his team can answer questions about the Community Wildfire Defense Grant program and the grant application process. He can be reached at [guy.gifford@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:guy.gifford@dnr.wa.gov).

In partnership,

Hilary S. Franz  
Commissioner of Public Lands