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## SAFEGUARDING OUR LANDS, WATERS, AND COMMUNITIES

# A PLAN FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE



**“ THIS REPORT ASSESSES OUR RISKS AND CHALLENGES, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY IT LAYS OUT ACHIEVABLE STEPS WE CAN TAKE IN EVERY CORNER OF THE STATE TO MAKE SURE WE CAN INCREASE OUR RESILIENCE TO SUSTAIN OUR LAND, OUR COMMUNITIES, AND OUR BENEFICIARIES.”**

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



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**State lands have made more than \$9 billion for Washington’s schools, firefighters and communities since 1970.**

**Climate change threatens the productivity of Washington’s farms, forests and communities, but there are steps that can be taken to minimize those threats and create new opportunities in making the state more resilient.**

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources’ Plan for Climate Resilience details the threats climate change poses for the agency and the state and provides recommendations for mitigating them.

Over the last several years, Washington’s communities have seen dramatic increases in the severity of wildfires, the prevalence of smoke, floods and drought. At the same time, degraded and lost habitat have put wildlife like orcas and salmon on the edge of extinction. DNR officials worked with science, policy and business leaders to recommend ways to build resilience to minimize those impacts and maximize new opportunities. Among them:

- Increasing use of state lands for renewable energy to lessen carbon emissions and increase revenue for trust beneficiaries;
- Restoring health of eastern Washington forests to limit the size and impact of wildfires and provide new jobs in the timber industry;
- Reforesting with species of trees suited for a changing climate;
- Restoring eelgrass beds to provide localized refuges for shellfish in acidifying marine waters;
- Strengthening roads and trails to withstand increased flooding and landslides, and;
- Forming an Urban Forestry “Strike Force” to plant more trees in towns and cities to capture stormwater and lower temperatures.

The plan also lays out steps DNR will take to lessen the agency’s carbon footprint and ensure Washington’s public lands are managed with climate change in mind.

Over the next several months, DNR will hold community conversations throughout the state to discuss how to implement the actions in the plan in ways that are just and equitable.



Download  
DNR’s Plan for Climate  
Resilience from  
[dnr.wa.gov](http://dnr.wa.gov)