

Restore Wildfire Resilience Funding



In 2021, the state Legislature passed HB 1168, committing \$125 million each biennium to meet the challenges of wildfire through 2029.

These investments are working. They support firefighters' ability to better manage fire. They have improved the health of nearly 90,000 acres of forests. They invest in community-led solutions for wildfire resilience.

However, the 2025-2027 state biennial budget cut this funding commitment in half. This not only threatens to halt but to reverse hard-won progress against the growing threat of catastrophic wildfire. It unfairly places the burden back on communities, leaving them to deal with the costs of inaction.

We cannot afford to lose momentum. Since 2021, wildfire resilience funding has provided \$65.3M in passthrough dollars for frontline communities, enabling:

- Training of 757 wildfire preparedness leaders.
- The creation of 282 neighborhood wildfire preparedness action plans.
- More than 14,000 small forest landowners to receive assistance in managing their forests.
- Over \$7.5 million provided to fire districts for equipment.

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Transforming our state's relationship with wildfire requires more than that ramp-up of state agency efforts. **Local investments are essential.** Community grants, a cornerstone of HB 1168, empower local communities to lead preparedness efforts, to reduce fuel loads in the wildland-urban interface, and to restore fire's natural role in the landscape. Without full funding of HB 1168, these community-driven solutions will stall.

The current reorganization of federal fire programs and workforce reductions creates significant uncertainty in wildfire response capabilities, forest health activities, and community support at the federal level. **It is more important than ever that Washington strengthen its own capacity.**

Continued state investment is critical to counter growing wildfire threats. Wildfire has a cost. The question is whether we will invest in preventative work to better live with fire or face much costlier suppression and recovery bills in the near future.

To protect lives, livelihoods, and landscapes, the Legislature must restore full funding (\$60 million) to the Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration, and Community Resilience Account.