



**NATURAL
RESOURCES**

HILARY S. FRANZ
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

2023 Washington Prescribed Fire Barriers Assessment Report and Strategic Action Plan



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS AND PRIMARY CONTACTS

WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) FOREST RESILIENCE DIVISION LEADS

Kate Williams, Prescribed Fire Planner
Jeff Dimke, Prescribed Fire Program Manager
Kyle Lapham, Certified Burner Program Manager
Terra Rentz, Strategic Advisor for Forest Resilience,
 Regulations, and Aquatic Resources

ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE WORKSHOP AND ACTION PLAN

Aaron Rowe, Okanagan-Wenatchee National Forest
Chris Martin, Washington Prescribed
 Fire Council (WPFC) and Roslyn Fire
Daniel Dyer, Bureau of Indian Affairs
David Way, DNR, Wildland Fire Management Division
Kara Karboski, Washington Resource Conservation
 & Development Council (WRC&D)
Matt Eberlein, Washington Department of
 Fish & Wildlife
Sami Schinnell, The Nature Conservancy
Shane Robson, Colville National Forest

TRIANGLE ASSOCIATES, INC. WORKSHOP FACILITATION AND PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Thomas Christian
Claire Wendle
Greer Maier
Ariahna Jones

WORKSHOP ATTENDEES AND PLAN CONTRIBUTORS

Amy Ramsey, DNR
Andrew Spaeth, DNR
Andrew Stenbeck, DNR
Andy Townsend, DNR
Autumn Ellison, Oregon State University
Bobby Shindelar, Spokane Co. Fire Dist. 9
Brandon Schmidt, Kittitas Fire District 1
Cindi Tonasket-Ebel, Colville Tribes
Colin Sternagel, Ecological Services LLC
Dale Swedberg, WPFC and Okanagan
 Conservation District
Ericka Hegeman, University of Washington

Erin McKay, Chelan County
Fiona Edwards, Ecostudies Institute
George Geissler, DNR
Greg Houle, Sustainable Northwest
Hilary Lundgren, WRC&D
Jacob Belsher, Department of Ecology
James Brown, Yakama Nation
Jay McLaughlin, Mt. Adams Resource Stewards
Joe Hill, Cascadia Conservation District
Joel Adams, Kalispel Tribe
Ken Meinhart, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Lonnie Newton, Bureau of Land Management
Mark Charlton, Roslyn Fire
Mason McKinley, Ecostudies Institute
Micah Cooper, Ecology
Mike Lithgow, Kalispel Tribe Nolan Brewer, DNR
Pat Haggerty, Cascadia Conservation District
Pete Teigen, Sustainable Northwest
Rich Elliott, Kittitas Valley Fire & Rescue
Richard Fleenor, Natural Resource Conservation
 Service (NRCS)
Rick Graw, U.S. Forest Service
Ryan Sanchey, Yakama Nation
Sam Steinshouer, DNR
Sanjay Barik, Department of Ecology
Sarah Allaben, Mt. Adams Resource Stewards
Sean Hopkins, Department of Ecology
Staci Lehman, WDFW
Todd Rankin, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Tonya Neider, National Park Service
Vaughn Cork, DNR
Victoria Wilkins, U.S. Forest Service
Will Rubin, DNR
Wyatt Leighton, DNR
Zach St. Amand, Washington State Parks

Cover photo by Mike Norris / DNR.

Publication design by DNR Communications, July 2023.



CONTENTS

<p>7 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</p> <hr/> <p>8 INTRODUCTION CHAPTER</p> <p>8 Action Plan Background: Why is this document needed?</p> <p>8 What is Prescribed Burning?</p> <p>9 Summary of Planning Methods</p> <hr/> <p>11 PRESCRIBED FIRE IN WASHINGTON: WHERE ARE WE HEADED?</p> <p>11 Prescribed Fire Targets/Objectives</p> <p>11 Guiding Plans</p> <hr/> <p>12 2023 PRESCRIBED FIRE GOALS AND STRATEGIES</p> <hr/> <p>14 REGULATIONS</p> <p>14 Defining Success</p> <p>14 Current Conditions</p> <p>15 2023 Regulation Barriers</p> <hr/> <p>16 TRAINING</p> <p>16 Defining Success</p> <p>16 Current Conditions</p> <p>17 2023 Training Barriers</p> <hr/> <p>18 PLANING FOR PRESCRIBED FIRE</p> <p>18 Defining Success</p> <p>18 Current Conditions</p> <p>19 2023 Planning Barriers</p> <hr/> <p>20 BURN PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATIONS</p> <p>20 Defining Success</p> <p>20 Current Conditions</p> <p>21 2023 Implementation and Operation Barriers</p> <hr/> <p>22 PUBLIC OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT</p> <p>22 Defining Success</p> <p>22 Current Conditions</p> <p>23 2023 Public Outreach and Engagement Barriers</p> <hr/> <p>24 PRIORITIZATION OF STATE POLICY NEAR-TERM ACTIONS</p> <hr/> <p>28 NEAR-TERM ACTIONS SUPPORTING MULTIPLE GOALS AND STRATEGIES</p>	<p>29 APPENDICES</p> <hr/> <p>30 APPENDIX 1. Regulations Actions Table</p> <p>33 APPENDIX 2. Training Actions Table</p> <p>35 APPENDIX 3. Planning Actions Table</p> <p>37 APPENDIX 4. Implementation and Operations Actions Table</p> <p>41 APPENDIX 5. Public Outreach and Engagement Actions Table</p> <p>43 APPENDIX 6. Prescribed Fire Implementation Barriers and Challenges Descriptions</p> <p>49 APPENDIX 7. Workshop Attendees by Day</p> <p>51 APPENDIX 8. 51 Overview of Implementers 54 Audiences for Public Outreach & Engagement 54 Additional Prescribed Fire Guiding Plans</p>
---	--





2023 Washington Prescribed Fire Barriers Assessment Report and Strategic Action Plan

Prepared by Washington State
Department of Natural Resources,
Forest Resilience Division,
July 2023



WASHINGTON STATE DEPT OF
**NATURAL
RESOURCES**

HILARY S. FRANZ
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS



This strategic action plan presents a barriers assessment and strategic action plan to serve as a common starting point for DNR and other prescribed fire partners' future planning efforts to meet our shared stewardship goals.



1

Executive Summary

State, federal, tribal, and local government and non-profit partners in Washington have identified that prescribed fire – fire set by trained practitioners, under specific fuel, weather, and topographic conditions to simulate natural processes – is a necessary tool to improve the health of Washington’s forest lands and natural habitats for plants and animals, as well as a tool to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfires and improve community resilience. Through multiple planning efforts and science- based landscape evaluations, these partners have identified that a significant increase in ecologically appropriate prescribed fire is needed to meet and maintain ecosystem health and fuels reduction goals. However, prescribed fire implementers in Washington (including public, private, and Tribal partner organizations) face barriers that prevent implementing prescribed fire at the scale necessary to meet landscape-scale goals. Previously identified common barriers to implementing prescribed fire across all- lands by Washington practitioners relate to the regulatory process, personnel training, landscape planning, burn operations, and public support for prescribed fire.

In early 2023, the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) convened partners for a week- long facilitated all-lands all-hands strategic action planning workshop in Wenatchee. Workshop objectives and agendas were informed by an advisory committee, which also informed translation of workshop outcomes into this strategic action plan. During the workshop, participants discussed and identified specific barriers to implementing prescribed fire at-scale in Washington, as well as strategies and near-term actions to overcome identified barriers.

This strategic action plan presents a barriers assessment and strategic action plan to serve as a common starting point for DNR and other prescribed fire partners’ future planning efforts to meet our shared stewardship goals. This document lays out collectively identified goals, strategies, and near-term actions that emerged from the workshop; it is not meant to be all-inclusive but highlights potential solutions. The plan includes five goals relating to regulations, training, landscape-level planning, burn operations, and public engagement respectively, as well as strategies supporting each goal. DNR intends to utilize this plan to inform programmatic work planning for the next biennium and aid in identifying agency prescribed fire objectives within a related DNR strategic plan. The goals and strategies are also intended to be a resource for DNR’s partners as they define their own organizational goals and objectives as they relate to collaborative prescribed fire planning and implementation.

The plan recommends over 60 near-term actions for an 18-month period, beginning in summer 2023 through the end of 2024. The Washington Prescribed Fire Council (WPFC) will facilitate a process for organizations to identify near-term actions they can adopt, including identification of actions individual organizations can lead on and/or financially support. WPFC will develop and maintain a living implementation plan to track assignments and progress on the recommended near-term actions.

While some financial resources exist for the implementation of certain action items, it is expected that additional public and private funding will be required to implement the full plan.

The workshop and resulting plan were made possible through the leadership of the DNR’s Forest Resilience Division Prescribed Fire Program, Wildland Fire Management Division and an advisory committee including representation from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Nature Conservancy, the U.S. Forest Service, the Washington Resource Conservation & Development Council, WPFC, and the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife. Over 60 individuals representing two dozen federal, state, local, and tribal government and non-profit entities contributed to the development of this plan.



2

Introduction Chapter

A. ACTION PLAN BACKGROUND: WHY IS THIS DOCUMENT NEEDED?

The purpose of this all-lands all-hands Barriers Assessment and Strategic Action Plan is to: (1) identify and address challenges and barriers to prescribed fire implementation; (2) identify goals, strategies, and near-term actions to address barriers to achieve targets as defined in other prescribed fire planning documents relevant to Washington.

Existing collaboratively developed planning documents, including the [20-Year Strategic Forest Health Plan](#), [Washington State Wildland Fire Protection 10-Year Strategic Plan](#), [Prescribed Fire Council Strategic Plan](#), and [2020 Forest Action Plan](#), identify critical cross-boundary restoration and community protection needs involving prescribed fire. Since 2018, forest health assessments of priority landscapes identified by the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan have shown a need for active forest treatment on 944,050 - 1,367,800 acres, including mechanical treatments to be followed by fuels treatments such as prescribed fire. Nonetheless, the identified scale of treatment need far exceeds the current annual implementation of prescribed fire burns in Washington.

The 2018 DNR Forest Resiliency Burning Pilot Project assessed barriers and provided collaboratively developed recommendations. To date, many of those recommendations have progressed or have been implemented. Now there is a need to reassess barriers that prescribed fire planners and practitioners face, the compounding effect those barriers have on identifying and completing projects, and potential strategies to address current barriers.

In early 2023, DNR hosted a five-day Action Planning Workshop series to identify barriers to statewide prescribed fire implementation and actionable steps to address those barriers. The workshop brought partners together to discuss potential solutions to better accomplish prescribed fire projects across organizations and jurisdictional boundaries. The workshop resulted in this Barriers Assessment and Strategic Action Plan.

B. WHAT IS PRESCRIBED BURNING?

The historic ecological conditions that we associate with Pacific Northwest landscapes are thanks to active indigenous management as well as natural disturbances including wildfire, insects, and disease. Indigenously managed fires have played a vital role in recycling nutrients and developing balanced structure of Washington's forests, grasslands, and shrub-steppe ecosystems for more than 10,000 years. Today, many dry forests are overgrown and susceptible to larger and more severe wildfires after over a century of policies promoting wildfire suppression. Managing, instead of preventing, fires in fire-adapted ecosystems often improves natural habitat for native plants and animals and reduces the risk of uncharacteristic high-severity wildfires.¹

Prescribed fires (prescribed burns) are intentionally set fires meant to meet management objectives such as reducing surface fuel loading, creating or maintaining wildlife habitat, invasive plant management, or for cultural purposes. Projects are often conducted as either pile burns where ignitions are intended to stay within the perimeter of piled materials, or broadcast burns where fire is meant to spread across a defined area. Fire practitioners utilize management objectives to plan operations to occur under specific fuels, weather, topographic, and staffing conditions to assure

¹<https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/oregon/controlled-burns/>

a safe and successful outcome. Fire practitioners assess weather and wind conditions, along with other variables, to prioritize safety of crews and nearby communities on planned burn days.

In early 2023, DNR hosted a five-day Action Planning Workshop series to identify barriers to statewide prescribed fire implementation and actionable steps to address those barriers. The workshop brought partners together to discuss potential solutions to better accomplish prescribed fire projects across organizations and jurisdictional boundaries. The workshop resulted in this Barriers Assessment and Strategic Action Plan.

C. SUMMARY OF PLANNING METHODS

DNR contracted Triangle Associates, Inc. (Triangle) to provide neutral, third-party facilitation for the action planning workshop and development of this plan. Triangle worked with DNR and the advisory committee to develop the format for the workshops and identify topics of discussion. Triangle provided daily facilitation and notetaking services to identify barriers and action items for each topic. The notes and summaries from each day helped inform the development of this plan.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE

DNR convened an advisory committee from partner organizations to help plan the barriers assessment and action planning workshop, develop agendas, and inform this document. Advisory committee members are identified on Page X.

DNR worked with advisory committee members to develop an invitation list for the action planning workshop. The final attendee list (see Appendix 7) considered organizational diversity and balanced participation.

ACTION PLANNING WORKSHOP

The Action Planning workshop took place from January 30 to February 3 in Wenatchee. The workshop covered five topics or goals to improve prescribed fire implementation: regulations, training, planning for prescribed fire, operations and implementation, and public engagement, and culminated with a review and discussion of policy changes needed to support the goals and strategies discussed earlier in the week.

Each day followed a similar format facilitated by Triangle. Participants discussed what success looked like for each goal, identified what is and is not working (barriers to success), and identified action items to begin addressing each barrier. Facilitators catalogued any action items needing a policy change to discuss at the end of the week. During the workshop, the facilitation team took live notes to categorize comments, and sorted barriers and corresponding strategies or actions.

REVIEW PROCESS

Following the workshop, the project team worked with DNR and the advisory committee to develop this plan. A draft was distributed to all participants for an online review and comment period before finalization.



MIKE NORRIS



3

Prescribed Fire in Washington: Where Are We Headed?

A. PRESCRIBED FIRE TARGETS/OBJECTIVES

Many prescribed fire partners have organization-specific planning documents that guide implementation of prescribed fire on their managed lands. For example, the DNR Forest Action Plan, the Wildland Fire Protection 10-Year Strategic Plan, and the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan highlight priority actions and objectives that guide DNR's Prescribed Fire Program, while the U.S. Forest Service is guided by the USDA Forest Service 10-Year Wildfire Crisis Implementation Plan (2022) among other documents.

Through multiple collaborative planning efforts, Washington partners have identified that a significant increase in prescribed fire is needed to meet forest and other ecosystem health and fuels reduction goals. Using analyses such as the 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan for Eastern Washington, land managers set acreage targets and use landscape evaluations to help identify locations appropriate for prescribed fire across the state, broken down by forest condition, type, and landowner. For example, DNR has identified a need to burn 174,100 – 285,150 acres in Eastern Washington to maintain medium to large open forest structures and to decrease risk to communities by increasing ability to control unwanted wildfires.

B. GUIDING PLANS

The following plans and reports guide application of prescribed fire in Washington:

- [20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan: Eastern Washington \(2017\)](#)
- [Forest Resiliency Burning Pilot Project Report - ESHB 2928 \(2018\)](#)
- [House Bill 1168: Long-term Forest Health and the Reduction of Wildfire Dangers \(2021\)](#)
- [Pacific Northwest Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment \(2018\)](#)
- [USDA Forest Service 10-Year Wildfire Crisis Implementation Plan \(2022\)](#)
- [Washington Prescribed Fire Council Strategic Plan \(2019 – 2022\)](#)
- [Washington State Wildland Fire Protection 10-Year Strategic Plan \(2019\)](#)
- [Washington State Forest Action Plan \(2020\)](#)

These plans identify strategies for prescribed fire, including acreage metrics for treatment, restoration targets, resiliency tools and measures, and risk reduction. They also identify successful outcomes and expected results for the future of prescribed fire in state and federal policy, training, engagement and outreach, and collaboration between partners. Each plan identifies or builds on an understanding that more prescribed fire is needed to achieve landscape management, forest health, and community resilience goals. Agencies and local organizations set their own prescribed fire objectives based on land management goals and available resources.

Workshop attendees identified additional resources for prescribed fire implementation (Appendix 8c).



4

2023 PRESCRIBED FIRE GOALS AND STRATEGIES

Workshop attendees defined success for overcoming each of the five general barriers including statements of success (see Chapters 5-10), which were used by DNR and the Advisory Committee to develop language for the following goals and strategies.

GOAL 1. REGULATIONS

State and Federal regulations support prescribed fire application through a process that is well-coordinated, transparent, collaborative, adaptable, and efficient. The regulatory process can be adapted and adjusted based on local information, technological advances, social values, and environmental/climate change considerations.

STRATEGIES

- Clarify and align regulations where possible
- Improve permit application process and templates
- Remove or revise permitting fees
- Improve permit review process
- Improve smoke approval process
- Adjust smoke regulations to prioritize prescribed fire

GOAL 2. TRAINING

There are multiple training pathways and opportunities to develop and sustain a certified, interoperable, and readily available work force.

STRATEGIES

- Clarify the National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) training pathway and increase classroom opportunities for prescribed fire practitioners
- Expand and communicate NWCG field training opportunities
- Invest in an effective non-NWCG prescribed fire practitioner training
- Develop the professional prescribed fire field separate from the fire suppression field

GOAL 3. PLANNING

Prescribed fire is implemented collaboratively and reflects organizational priorities for landscape-level planning that result in shovel-ready projects.

STRATEGIES

- Develop mechanisms to facilitate cooperative planning
- Develop regional landscape planning frameworks
- Support project planning and coordination



GOAL 4. OPERATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION

There is a robust prescribed fire workforce that is well coordinated and adequately supported to be available and meet the needs of all implementers.

STRATEGIES

- Develop a culture of prescribed burning within agencies
- Enhance and communicate liability coverage for burn implementers
- Ensure adequate and sustainable funding for operations and implementation
- Strengthen the available prescribed fire workforce
- Ensure mechanisms are in place that allow partners to operate together and share resources
- Ensure resource needs are communicated and met
- Improve monitoring and data collection to track and communicate success
- Ensure that cross boundary prescribed fire is not hampered by duplicative and/or additional permitting requirements

GOAL 5. PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH

The public is aware of, understands, and supports the use of prescribed fire as a tool for community and infrastructure protection, ecosystem health, and wildlife habitat benefit.

STRATEGIES

- Implement a public engagement campaign regarding the benefits of prescribed fire
- Implement local leadership and elected official outreach regarding the benefits of prescribed fire
- Develop consistent and accessible public burn plan notifications and notification process



5



Regulations

GOAL 1

State and Federal regulations support prescribed fire application through a process that is well-coordinated, transparent, collaborative, adaptable, and efficient. The regulatory process can be adapted and adjusted based on local information, technological advances, social values, and environmental/climate change considerations.

A. DEFINING SUCCESS

Workshop participants identified success for regulation is statutes and policies supportive of prescribed fire implementation, inclusive of a well-coordinated and efficient permitting and approval process, broad scale understanding of regulations in Washington, and more collaborative and integrated permitting and smoke approval processes. Other aspects of success include:

- A predictable, collaborative, and adaptable regulatory process that can be adjusted based on local information and input, modern technology, social values, and environmental/climate change considerations.
- The smoke approval process considers the risk of increased wildland fire and resulting smoke, relative to smoke from prescribed fire and by location.

B. CURRENT CONDITIONS

Each prescribed fire implementing entity has its own policy and regulatory framework that it must work within to implement prescribed burns. Regulations and policies vary depending on location and type of burn. Federal agencies must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Tribal governments are sovereign nations and regulate burning on tribal land.

The authority to approve burn permits is the jurisdiction of DNR and varies across the state. Burn bans for air quality and fire safety can restrict prescribed burning opportunities.

- Air quality burn bans restrict wood stove use and outdoor burning and can be issued by the WA Department of Ecology (Ecology), DNR, local clean air agencies, and Tribes to protect human health.
- Fire safety burn bans are a tool to reduce human-caused wildfires, typically during hot and dry weather conditions. Fire safety burn restrictions can be issued by the DNR and local jurisdictions. WA air quality and fire safety burn bans are tracked on the [DNR Burn Portal website](#).

What is Working?



Workshop participants agreed the regulatory approval process has become more collaborative, and dialogue between burn permit applicants and regulators has been increasing. Twice-weekly smoke management calls hosted by DNR are a useful tool for collaboration.

What is Limiting Prescribed Fire?



Workshop participants observed that Washington prescribed fire practitioners do not understand the current regulatory and policy framework well. Regulatory requirements depend on the applicant, burn type, and burn location. However, prescribed burns do not always fall into established regulatory categories. Partners and practitioners identified that restrictions on permitting are a significant barrier to implementing prescribed fire.

Regulators may lack a complete understanding of prescribed burn implementation and often do not have on-the-ground expertise or information to evaluate how local conditions influence a burn plan. This lack of information, coupled with regulatory variability, creates a series of barriers related to training, planning, and implementing prescribed fire projects.

C. 2023 REGULATION BARRIERS

Workshop participants identified the following barriers relating to regulation. A full description for each barrier and suggested actions to address them are found in Appendix 6

- B1.** Lack of clarity/understanding of Prescribed Fire regulations across federal, state, local, and private partners/lands. (Also, a barrier for planning and implementation and operations)
- B2.** Inconsistencies between local ordinances and locally issued fire safety burn bans with State and Federal regulations.
- B3.** Permitting process does not address the needs of partners implementing cross-boundary and/or multi-organizational prescribed burns and limits collaboration. (Also, a barrier for planning and implementation and operations)
- B4.** Permitting process and burn plan templates are better suited for pile burning than broadcast or other types of burning.
- B5.** Multi-day ignition template and permit process is unclear.
- B6.** Burn permits are issued to each individual entity when burn planning for multi-jurisdiction burns.
- B7.** Limited expertise in permit application review and burn plan development.
- B8.** DNR prescribed fire program requires permit fees for program funding, which has disincentivized burning, specifically for private landowners, and does not align with all types of Rx burning (e.g., broadcast burns).
- B9.** Lack of understanding between implementers and regulators; regulators do not fully understand aspects of prescribed fire implementation and implementers do not fully understand regulatory requirements or processes.
- B10.** Regulations do not clarify liability for burns – Agency leadership and permitting staff are conservative in their support and permitting of burns due to liability.
- B11.** Lack of understanding of smoke regulations and permitting authority.
- B12.** Limited coordination/collaboration between smoke regulating agencies and burn implementers.
- B13.** Inconsistencies in day of burn smoke approval (go/no go) across regulating agencies (DNR, Ecology, regional clean air agencies). (Also, a barrier for implementation, and operations).
- B14.** Statewide blanket smoke regulations limit burn approvals.
- B15.** Regulations that restrict smoke do not reflect the need for prescribed fire to reduce the risk of wildfire (no risk trade off).



6



Training

GOAL 2

There are multiple training pathways and opportunities to develop and sustain a certified, interoperable, and readily available work force.

A. DEFINING SUCCESS

Workshop participants identified success includes multiple training avenues that develop a self-sustaining, interoperable, and readily available prescribed fire professional workforce that is double its current size.

Other aspects of success include:

- A clear understanding of workforce qualifications across agency/practitioner organizations.
- An increase in the number of classroom and field training opportunities.
- A non-suppression focused training track for National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) qualifications.
- Broad utility and reciprocity of the DNR Certified Burner Program within other state programs.

B. CURRENT CONDITIONS

Two training paths exist for prescribed fire in Washington: National NWCG certifications and the DNR Certified Burner Program.

The NWCG provides national leadership for wildland fire operations, including prescribed fire, among federal, state, local, and Tribal partners. NWCG establishes position standards, qualifications requirements, and performance requirements for training. For a prescribed fire practitioner to be trained through the NWCG system, they must complete a series of basic wildland fire suppression courses and gain suppression field experiences, in addition to specific [NWCG prescribed fire standards](#).

DNR launched the [Certified Burner Program](#) in 2022 after authorization from the Legislature (HB 2733). The program is an alternative to the NWCG training framework intended to certify professionals and private citizens who possess the knowledge and skills needed to successfully implement prescribed fire on their landscapes within Washington state. DNR offers three-day workshops around the state multiple times a year which provides an overview of material participants are expected to be familiar with for certification. Instruction includes both classroom and field work.

What is Working?



Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges (TREX) have worked well and more, or similar collaborative training opportunities, are needed.

The Certified Burner Program is a major training milestone, but the program is still in early stages of development and is not intended as an introductory training program.

What is Limiting Prescribed Fire?



Opportunities for prescribed fire training through the NWCG training system are limited in Washington and the qualification process takes a significant amount of time. This is a barrier for all partners, but specifically limits training for NGO staff and private citizens who need a sponsor in the NWCG red card system and do not have agency resources backing them.

Qualified NWCG trainers are limited in capacity and the number of courses offered are limited. The NWCG system is focused on suppression, which is not helpful for prescribed fire implementation

C. 2023 TRAINING BARRIERS

Workshop participants identified the following barriers relating to regulation. A full description for each barrier and specific actions to address them are found in Appendix 6.

- B1.** Limited number of NWCG trainings/classes and instructor capacity.
- B17.** Limited NWCG opportunities prevent workforce growth and development of new trainers.
- B18.** Some NWCG classes are only offered regionally (not offered in WA).
- B19.** Limited training/class opportunities for non-federal partners.
- B20.** Limited training opportunities in the field.
- B21.** Lack of available funding for NWCG field training cost sharing.
- B22.** Limited number of training options outside of the NWCG system.
- B23.** No options for people interested in Rx fire but lacking the needed preliminary experience for the Certified Burn Course.
- B24.** Limited understanding of the Certified Burner Training relative to NWCG (no crosswalk of training pathways).
- B25.** Limited mentorship, training focus, and technical skill sharing opportunities as part of operations limit professional growth.
- B26.** Limited training on planning and permitting/regulatory approval processes.
- B27.** Lack of cross-partner mentorship and networking opportunities limits the development of the Rx fire profession.



7



Planning for Prescribed Fire

GOAL 3

Prescribed fire is implemented collaboratively and reflects organizational priorities for landscape-level planning that result in shovel-ready projects.

A. DEFINING SUCCESS

Workshop participants identified success for prescribed is a collaborative environment where funding and processes are in place to facilitate landscape-level planning resulting in prioritized, shovel-ready projects. Other aspects of success include:

- Established planning processes at multiple scales meeting multiple objectives.
- Agreements in place to support collaborative planning.
- A transparent framework for prioritizing projects, funding, and resources.

B. CURRENT CONDITIONS

The 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law included a significant investment in wildland fire management and risk reduction, community preparedness, and post-fire recovery – extending federal funding to support the implementation of prescribed fire.

Collaborative mechanisms in Washington to support planning and distribution of resources are limited but growing. The Tribal Forestry Protection Act and Good Neighbor Authority are capacity building tools for cross-agency planning and collaboration. DNR has issued a request for proposals for partners to develop local Prescribed Burn Associations (PBAs) that can coordinate prescribed fire planning locally.

What is Working?



Workshop participants pointed to recent planning successes in adequate levels of funding for prescribed fire, collaborative agreements between the Okanogan-Wenatchee and Colville National Forests and DNR, and WDFW policies to accept environmental review performed by partner agencies. There are also multiple landscape planning collaborative models to support prescribed fire planning, including:

- The DNR Service Forestry Program for collaboration with private landowners.
- DNR facilitated landscape scale restoration in the Kittitas Valley/Cle Elum area.
- Potential Operational Delineations (PODs).

What is Limiting Prescribed Fire?



While there is currently adequate funding for fire management, its application is limited, and there are limited collaborative mechanisms or agreements in place that enable cost sharing, collaboration, planning, and sharing of resources. Planning for collaboration is needed.

There is limited consensus on the best way to plan and prioritize prescribed fire across the landscape locally, regionally, and state-wide. There are limited number of bodies facilitating collaborative prescribed fire planning at a landscape scale.



Differences in regulations and project planning requirements (e.g., different burn plan templates) make it challenging to plan for multi-jurisdiction burn projects.

C. 2023 PLANNING BARRIERS

Workshop participants identified the following barriers relating to regulation. A full description for each barrier and specific actions to address them are found in Appendix 6.

- B1.** Lack of clarity/understanding of Prescribed Fire regulations across federal, state, local, and private partners/lands. (Also, a barrier for regulations and implementation and operations)
- B3.** Permitting process does not address the needs of partners implementing cross-boundary and/or multi-organizational Rx burns and limits collaboration. (Also, a barrier for regulations and implementation and operations).
- B28.** Funding restrictions limit agency planning and operations.
- B29.** Fire districts and departments are limited in using local public funding for work outside of their home area.
- B30.** Limited resources for NGOs and private citizens to engage in planning and implementation.
- B31.** Limited participation in planning by partners without master agreements (e.g., NGOs and local governments). (Also, a barrier for implementation and operations)
- B32.** Limited mechanisms for supporting planning among agencies and partners. (Also, a barrier for implementation and operations)
- B33.** The permitting process does not address the needs of partners implementing cross-boundary or multi-jurisdiction Rx burns and limits collaboration. (Also, a barrier for implementation and operations)
- B34.** Existing cooperative agreements limit opportunities for burn planning at a subregional level.
- B35.** Limited support for Rx fire within agencies limits development of cooperative planning. (Also, a barrier for implementation and operations)
- B36.** Limited landscape level planning and analysis inhibit the ability to identify and prioritize areas of high need at that scale.
- B37.** Inadequate staff experience limits Rx fire planning, implementation, and operations.
- B38.** Ownership boundaries often limit access that is needed for planning at that scale.
- B39.** Lack of understanding of what other partners are working on limits opportunities for collaboration in planning efforts.



8



Burn Plan Implementation and Operations

GOAL 4

There is a robust prescribed fire workforce that is well coordinated and adequately supported to be available and meet the needs of all implementers.

A. DEFINING SUCCESS

Workshop participants identified success includes a fully staffed and interoperable workforce that is accessible to all implementers, improved communication and collaboration between agencies and implementers, and a simplified and consistent process for implementation. Other aspects of success include:

- A functioning agreement system with administrative support for participating implementers.
- An expanded and interoperable workforce with access to adequate training.
- Improved work-life balance for the prescribed fire workforce.
- Collaboration between federal, state, local, and tribal government, non-governmental (NGO), and private implementers.

B. CURRENT CONDITIONS

Federal, state, local and tribal governments, NGOs, and private landowners participate in burn implementation and operations. Cooperative agreements are established between the U.S. Forest Service (USFS), DNR, and other state agencies.

In Washington, prescribed fire is primarily implemented by a USFS workforce using equipment dedicated primarily to suppression efforts. Other partners also contribute to prescribed fire burning. The Okanagan-Wenatchee National Forest is piloting dedicated equipment and resources in 2023.

What is Working?



Partners are collaborating on implementation of burn plans and burn operations. Practitioners are observing increased leadership from the WPFC, increased prescribed fire implementation interest from local NGOs, private landowners, community forest collaboratives, tribes, and other local partners, and recently developed resource-sharing agreements between DNR and the USFS.

What is Limiting Prescribed Fire?



There is currently a culture of conservatism regarding burning within agencies at both staff and leadership levels. This is driven by concerns about liability, particularly at the staff level, and events throughout the U.S. during which prescribed fire had escaped and burn bosses have come into conflict with local law enforcement.

State and federal agencies rely heavily on a work force and equipment primarily used for wildland fire suppression, which can limit the availability of resources when an opportunity to burn arises.

Communications regarding resource needs and available resources are limited. There are limited mechanisms and agreements in place that enable agencies to cooperate and utilize NGO and local government resources.



C. 2023 IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION BARRIERS

Workshop participants identified the following barriers relating to regulation. A full description for each barrier and specific actions to address them are found in Appendix 6.

- B1.** Lack of clarity/understanding of Rx fire regulations across federal, state, local, and private partners/lands (Also, a barrier for regulations and planning)
- B11.** Lack of understanding of smoke regulations and permitting authority.
- B28.** Funding restrictions limit agency planning and operations.
- B29.** Fire districts and departments are limited in using local public funding for work outside of home area.
- B30.** Limited resources for NGOs and private citizens to engage in planning and implementation efforts.
- B33.** The permitting process does not address the needs of partners implementing cross-boundary or multi-jurisdiction Rx burns and limits collaboration. (Also, a barrier for planning)
- B35.** Limited support for Rx fire within agencies limits development of cooperative planning. (Also, a barrier for planning)
- B40.** Competing priorities for land managers and a culture of conservatism in agencies have resulted in limited support for burning.
- B41.** Unequal distribution of resources limits NGO and private landowner Rx burning.
- B42.** Workforce conditions lead to low annual retention rates and limit the overall workforce's availability throughout a fire season.
- B43.** Maintaining workforce staffing is a challenge – Limited dedicated Rx fire workforce.
- B44.** Non-agency practitioners require a Red Card sponsor and insurance, further limiting the NWCG qualified NGO and private landowner workforce.
- B45.** Local government workforces are limited in their ability to implement Rx fire due to competing missions, funding, and experience.
- B46.** Current Master Agreements do not include all partners, limiting the ability of local government and NGO to participate in operations and share resources.
- B47.** Limited mechanisms for resource sharing between agencies.
- B48.** Limited quantity of equipment dedicated to Rx fire and competition for equipment with suppression program needs.
- B49.** No mechanism for agencies to dispatch NGO resources.
- B50.** Use of polyethylene covered piles is restricted by WA State law and limits operations.
- B51.** Limited staff capacity reduces the focus on burn monitoring, data collection, and reporting.



9



Public Outreach and Engagement

GOAL 5

Coordinated outreach and engagement efforts result in improved public understanding and support of prescribed fire, the associated benefits for forest health habitat, and community fire risk reduction, and improved community response to smoke from fire.

A. DEFINING SUCCESS

Workshop participants identified success includes coordinated outreach and engagement efforts resulting in improved public understanding and support of prescribed fire, the associated benefits for forest health habitat and community fire risk reduction, and improved community response to smoke from fire.

Other aspects of success include:

- Localized sources of information with unified educational messaging across agencies and organizations.
- Communication among local leadership across the state for clear and consistent messaging regarding prescribed fire.
- An increase in the pace and scale of prescribed fire as public understanding and support of prescribed fire and the resulting smoke increases.
- Communities that are informed and prepared to limit exposure to smoke.

B. CURRENT CONDITIONS

Agencies and organizations across the state share information about prescribed fire through many different sources. Information about smoke, active fires, and prescribed fire is provided by individual organizations and through the DNR Burn Portal. There is no statewide prescribed fire public outreach and engagement plan or campaign. Limited planning regarding public engagement for prescribed fire has taken place.

What is Working?



Agencies and partners communicate to the public regarding burn plans and the benefits of prescribed fire, two identified metrics of success.

There are strong partnerships and communication at the local level, and notifications for local burns are consistent and effective.

What is Limiting Prescribed Fire?



Agencies and organizations are not coordinated in their efforts to share information, resulting in multiple sources of information for the public related to prescribed fire, smoke, and fire monitoring. Messaging is not consistent year-round. Messaging for managed wildfire and smoke can be improved through a coordinated campaign.

Organizations and agencies need a consistent approach that focuses on the benefits and outcomes of prescribed fire, includes a call to action for the audience, and can be rolled out on a statewide level.

C. 2023 IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATION BARRIERS

Workshop participants identified the following barriers relating to regulation. A full description for each barrier and specific actions to address them are found in Appendix 6.

- B52.** The public does not differentiate between smoke resulting from wildland fire, prescribed fire, agriculture, and other sources.
- B53.** Inconsistent messaging without tailored approaches affects social perceptions of prescribed fire.
- B54.** Messaging does not focus on the habitat benefits of prescribed fire.
- B55.** Multiple organizations with varying capacity create inconsistencies in timing and delivery of information.
- B56.** Local leadership is not educated about the benefits of prescribed fire.
- B57.** Lack of public communication, education, and outreach prevents effective and proactive decision-making.



10



Prioritization of State Policy Near-Term Actions

DNR convened a policy planning session at the end of the prescribed fire action planning workshop to discuss issues identified as needing a policy change. During the session, DNR and participants discussed what a policy change would look like and prioritized near-term actions (NTAs) on each issue.

HIGH PRIORITY ACTIONS

DEVELOPMENT OF MODEL MULTI-AGENCY AND PARTNER AGREEMENTS FOR PRESCRIBED FIRE (E.G., GNA)

POLICY TYPE	STATE AGENCY
PRIORITY	HIGH
Discussion	<p>Good Neighbor Authority (GNA) currently includes prescribed fire, but it is only applicable to specific agencies. There are many different options that could be utilized; partners will explore the appropriate model agreement mechanism that is comprehensive and will facilitate work across agencies.</p> <p>Local agreement mechanisms limit fire districts, NGOs, conservation districts, and other partners from implementing prescribed fire. The ability to simplify and expand use of local agreements may create a more responsive interoperable workforce.</p>
Near-Term Action	<p>NTA 39. Explore a collaborative mechanism and authority for the use of resources, modeled on GNA, that allows for sharing of funding and resources between agencies (state and federal).</p> <p>NTA 40. Discuss how to tailor agreements and documents to allow fire districts to participate in and lead prescribed fire.</p> <p>NTA 42. Identify state contracting mechanisms that would allow fire districts, local partners, and NGOs to support prescribed fire.</p>



LIABILITY FOR BURNERS AND LANDOWNERS	
POLICY TYPE	STATE AND FEDERAL
PRIORITY	HIGH
Discussion	There is federal-level movement towards reducing liability for burners and landowners, but it is moving slowly. A state-level approach could address this policy topic sooner. There are other models across the nation that could be used, such as a claims fund to help cover the costs for private landowners. Partners may investigate and propose legislation for a damage claims funds as was enacted in California.
Near-Term Action	NTA 55. Develop a memo clarifying what the Attorney General’s liability threshold decision means for prescribed fire practitioners. NTA 11. Clarify liability coverage for permit reviewers to offer coverage for individuals.

REVISED CODE OF WASHINGTON (RCW) CHANGE TO ALLOW POLYETHYLENE COVERED PILE BURNING	
POLICY TYPE	STATE LEGISLATURE
PRIORITY	HIGH
Discussion	Regulators have already identified what legal rule-changes must take place to allow and support pile burning using polyethylene covers but have historically lacked the necessary political pressure to alter the RCW.
Near-Term Action	NTA 63. Develop a legislative package for RCW change to allow for burning of polyethylene covered piles.

SUSTAINABLE FUNDING WITH A FLEXIBLE SCOPE	
POLICY TYPE	STATE
PRIORITY	HIGH
Discussion	Existing funding is not flexible and makes it challenging to conduct cross-boundary burns. The duration of funds can be challenging with a 2-year legislative cycle, but capital funds could be utilized as rollover funds. DNR would have to identify that prescribed fire capital funds are consistently a priority each legislative season. There could be a funding or proviso ask to identify minimum funding that goes into the account. The legislature may be moving away from using capital funds for non- infrastructure items, so the name and structure may need to be reassessed in further discussion with the Office of Financial Management (OFM).
Near-Term Action	NTA 36. Research designated, sustainable state funding sources for prescribed fire planning and operations within (OFM).



MEDIUM PRIORITY ACTIONS

CONTRACTING: CLASSIFICATION OF NGOs IN STATE CONTRACTING SYSTEM	
POLICY TYPE	STATE
PRIORITY	MODERATE TO HIGH
Discussion	State agencies have run into barriers when distributing funds for forest health and prescribed fire activities to NGOs. Prescribed fire, although planned, often has a limited window of opportunity for implementation. More flexibility in giving direct investments would result in a more available shelf-stock of projects. Giving NGOs a direct contracting exemption is an internal DNR topic for discussion.
Near-Term Action	NTA 43. Investigate how to reclassify or provide an exemption for NGOs conducting forest health and prescribed fire activities within the state contracting system.

PRESCRIBED FIRE PERMITTING FEES	
POLICY TYPE	STATE LEGISLATURE AND AGENCIES
PRIORITY	MODERATE
Discussion	Potential policy actions include removing prescribed fire permit fees through legislation, evaluating fee structure and system to incentivize prescribed fire, and evaluation of classifications (by tonnage) to better differentiate 'true' prescribed fire.
Near-Term Action	NTA 8. Investigate RCW changes that could be made to reclassify prescribed fire and change the fee structure.

WAIVERS OR EXEMPTIONS FOR COUNTY AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ISSUED BURN BANS	
POLICY TYPE	STATE
PRIORITY	MODERATE
Discussion	Currently, there are multiple agencies that handle burn permits; a simplification of the burn ban waiver process could reduce barriers to prescribed fire implementation.
Near-Term Action	NTA 1. Develop a flow chart and mapping tool that helps agency staff, implementers, and landowners understand the regulatory process and identify which agencies have permitting and smoke approval authority depending on location and/or jurisdiction.



LOW PRIORITY ACTIONS

STREAMLINE UPDATES TO THE SMOKE MANAGEMENT PLAN (SMP)	
POLICY TYPE	STATE
PRIORITY	LOW
Discussion	Decoupling the state’s Smoke Management Plan (SMP) from the State Implementation Plan may result in a more efficient SMP update process. The workshop recommendation is to hold actions for now as more legal research is needed, the state is almost through the process of a current update, and the decoupling process is likely to be complex.
Near-Term Action	NTA 18.1 Evaluate updated SMP once it is released in 2024. NTA 18.2 Identify update timelines, agency point of contacts, and general update process for the SMP.

DEVELOP A GENERAL PERMIT FOR AIR CURTAIN INCINERATORS ACROSS AGENCIES	
POLICY TYPE	STATE AND FEDERAL
PRIORITY	LOW
Discussion	This is currently being looked at on a state-level with the fee structure based on location rather than device.
Action Item	None.

EXTENDED ‘EXCEPTIONAL EVENTS’ TO WILDLAND FIRE UNDER THE U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)	
POLICY TYPE	FEDERAL
PRIORITY	N/A—HIGH PRIORITY. RX smoke can be exceptional events.
Discussion	Continue to track and communicate what is happening at the Federal level and next steps for the State level.
Near-Term Action	NTA 19. Develop a letter of support from WA partners for EPA.



11



Near-Term Actions Supporting Multiple Goals and Strategies

Near-Term Actions recommended during the workshop that are tied to and support multiple goals and strategies are listed below. All Near-Term Actions are listed in Appendices 1-5.

NEAR-TERM ACTION ITEM	STRATEGIES SUPPORTED
<p>★ NTA 14. Continue bi-weekly smoke planning calls to coordinate permitting and add standing agenda items for field training opportunities/needs and resource coordination for burn operations (Regulation, Training and Operations)</p> <p>Immediate</p>	<p>Improve smoke approval process</p> <p>NWCG – Expand and communicate field training opportunities</p>
<p>★ NTA 36. Research designated, sustainable state funding sources for prescribed fire planning and operations within the OFM (Planning, Operations)</p> <p>By the end of 2023</p>	<p>Ensure adequate funding for collaborative prescribed planning and operations/implementation</p>
<p>★ NTA 37. Use existing funding sources to establish PBAs (Planning, Operations)</p> <p>By end of 2023</p>	<p>Ensure adequate funding for collaborative prescribed planning and operations/implementation</p>
<p>★ NTA 38. Research and develop a funding and grant opportunity guidance document that identifies funding sources for planning support and facilitate use of existing funding that has specific use requirements (e.g., FEMA mitigation grants) (Planning, Operations)</p> <p>By June 30, 2024</p>	<p>Ensure adequate funding for collaborative prescribed planning and operations/implementation</p>
<p>★ NTA 39. Explore a collaborative mechanism and authority for the use of resources (modeled on the Good Neighbor Authority), that allows for the sharing of funding and resources between federal, state, and local agencies and NGOs (Planning, Operations)</p> <p>By June 30, 2024</p>	<p>Develop mechanisms to facilitate cooperative planning are in place and allow partners to operate together and share resources</p>
<p>★ NTA 40. Discuss how to tailor agreements and documents to allow fire districts to participate in and lead prescribed fire (Planning, Operations)</p> <p>By end of 2023</p>	<p>Develop mechanisms to facilitate cooperative planning are in place and allow partners to operate together and share resources</p>
<p>★ NTA 41. Hold training or briefing on inter-agency and inter-organizational agreements (Planning, Operations)</p> <p>By end of 2023</p>	<p>Develop mechanisms to facilitate cooperative planning are in place and allow partners to operate together and share resources</p>



Appendices



APPENDIX 1. REGULATIONS ACTIONS TABLE

GOAL 1: State and Federal regulations support prescribed (Rx) fire application through a process that is well-coordinated, transparent, collaborative, adaptable, and efficient. The regulatory process can be adapted and adjusted based on local information, technological advances, social values, and environmental/climate change considerations. NTAs flagged with a star (★) support multiple strategies.

STRATEGIES	RELATED BARRIERS	TACTICS	NEAR-TERM ACTION (NTA) ITEMS
<p>CLARIFY AND ALIGN REGULATIONS WHERE POSSIBLE</p>	<p>B1. Lack of clarity/understanding of Rx fire regulations across federal, state, local, and private partners/lands.</p> <p>B2. Inconsistencies between local ordinances and locally issued fire safety burn bans with State and Federal regulations.</p>	<p>Clarify Rx fire permitting and regulations so that practitioners can confidently navigate the planning process.</p>	<p>NTA 1. Develop a flow chart and mapping tool that helps agency staff, implementers, and landowners understand the regulatory process and identify which agencies have permitting and smoke approval authority depending on location and/or jurisdiction – Immediate Action</p> <p>NTA 2. Develop a communications plan regarding permitting requirements and process, and smoke management process after completion of NTA #1. Hold meetings to communicate with partners – Start by end of 2023</p>
<p>IMPROVE PERMIT APPLICATION PROCESS AND TEMPLATES</p>	<p>B3. Permitting process does not address the needs of partners implementing cross-boundary and/or multi-organization Rx burns and limits collaboration.</p> <p>B4. Permitting process and burn plan templates are better suited for pile burning than broadcast or other types of burning.</p> <p>B5. Multi-day ignition template and permit process is unclear.</p> <p>B6. Burn permits are issued to each individual entity when planning for multi-jurisdiction burns.</p> <p>B7. Limited expertise in permit application review and burn plan development.</p>	<p>Communicate burn plan template differences and align where possible.</p> <p>Ensure burn plan templates meet the need for cross-boundary and different types of burns (broadcast, pile, etc.).</p> <p>Allow one burn plan for cross-boundary/multi-jurisdiction burns (fees split appropriately).</p> <p>Update burn permitting processes to better suit the needs of all types of Rx burning projects.</p> <p>Train and support permit writers.</p>	<p>NTA 3. Crosswalk burn plan templates and agency requirements Start by end of 2023</p> <p>NTA 4. Combine burn permit application and burn plan template(s) to simplify the application process Start by end of 2024</p> <p>NTA 5. Develop a recommended burn plan template for private landowners to use for broadcast burning and pile burning Start by end of 2023</p> <p>NTA 6. Update the burn permit application to allow for multiple permittees on one permit or burn plan, and ensure multiple parties can access necessary application documents By end of 2024</p> <p>NTA 7. Gather feedback on DNR’s Burn Portal webpage, advertise its use, and continue to improve the permitting process for partners By June 30, 2024</p>

² Appendix 6 provides a description of each barrier.



STRATEGIES	RELATED BARRIERS	TACTICS	NEAR-TERM ACTION (NTA) ITEMS
<p>REMOVE OR REVISE PERMITTING FEES</p>	<p>B8. DNR Rx fire program requires permit fees for program funding, which has disincentivized burning, specifically for private landowners, and does not align with all types of Rx burning (e.g., broadcast burns).</p>	<p>Financially incentivize Rx fire projects by removing fees. Seek funding solutions to make DNR Rx fire programs self-sustaining rather than fee based. Consider changing fee structure based on acres treated so implementers pay after broadcast burns.</p>	<p>NTA 8. Investigate Revised Code of Washington (RCW) changes that could be made to reclassify Rx fire and change the fee structure By June 30, 2024</p>
<p>IMPROVE PERMIT REVIEW PROCESS</p>	<p>B1. Lack of clarity/understanding of Rx fire regulations across federal, state, local, and private partners/lands. B7. Limited expertise in permit application review and burn plan development. B9. Lack of understanding between implementers and regulators; regulators do not fully understand aspects of Rx fire implementation and implementers do not fully understand regulatory requirements or processes. B10. Regulations do not clarify liability for burns – Agency leadership and permitting staff are conservative in their support and permitting of burns due to liability.</p>	<p>Create an adequately staffed and trained permit review pool. Train and support permit reviewers. Increase opportunities for dialogue between burn permit applicants and permit reviewers. Expand learning opportunities for implementers and regulators.</p>	<p>NTA 9. Train state burn permit reviewers how to read an Rx Fire burn plan, evaluate the plan based on the type of burn (pile burn, etc.), and consider unique local/regional conditions in approval process By end of 2024</p> <p>NTA 10. Empower and create a mechanism for local burn bosses to influence the burn approval based on local knowledge By end of 2024</p> <p>NTA 11. Clarify liability coverage for permit reviewers to offer coverage for individuals Immediate action</p> <p>NTA 12. Consider a new system through which permit reviewers prioritize permitted projects to inform smoke managers in an effort to increase likelihood of smoke approval for priority burns By end of 2024</p> <p>NTA 13. Explore opportunities for permit reviewers and smoke managers to attend burn plan trainings, expand collective knowledge of Rx burn implementation, and establish a long-term plan for training and engagement By June 30, 2024</p>



STRATEGIES	RELATED BARRIERS	TACTICS	NEAR-TERM ACTION (NTA) ITEMS
<p>IMPROVE SMOKE APPROVAL PROCESS</p>	<p>B11. Lack of understanding of smoke regulations and permitting authority.</p> <p>B12. Limited coordination/collaboration between smoke regulating agencies and burn implementers.</p> <p>B13. Inconsistencies in day of burn smoke approval (go/no go) across regulating agencies.</p> <p>B14. Statewide blanket smoke regulations limit burn approvals.</p>	<p>Consider smoke exemptions for all approved Rx burn plans.</p> <p>Improve communication between Ecology, DNR, and burn permit applicants.</p> <p>Improve communication between WA State air quality staff and local clean air agencies.</p> <p>Communicate Rx fire burning priorities to smoke regulators seasonally such that regulators understand and can strategically allow burning and resulting smoke when possible.</p> <p>Forecast ideal weather windows and prioritize smoke approval in areas to maximize burn windows and priority burn plans.</p> <p>Reconcile variance in local smoke regulations (e.g., by county or clean air agency) and clarify smoke approval authority.</p>	<p>★ NTA 14. Continue bi-weekly smoke planning calls to coordinate permitting and add standing agenda items for field training opportunities/needs and resource coordination for burn operations (Also in Training and Operations)</p> <p>Immediate action</p> <p>NTA 15. Hold early and late season meetings between smoke managers, reviewers, and applicants to review the smoke approval process and communicate priority/locations for burning that season</p> <p>Start by end of 2023</p> <p>NTA 16. Develop a decision support tool for smoke approval that forecasts weather windows locally and regionally to maximize the potential to implement burns</p> <p>By end of 2024</p>
<p>ADJUST SMOKE REGULATIONS TO PRIORITIZE RX FIRE</p>	<p>B15. Regulations that restrict smoke do not reflect the need for Rx fire to reduce the risk of wildfire (no risk trade off).</p>	<p>Develop smoke regulation exemptions for all approved Rx burns (both pile and broadcast/understory).</p> <p>Lower the smoke threshold for broadcast/understory burns.</p> <p>Change smoke regulations to delineate geographically areas at higher or lower risk of smoke (e.g., high elevations have a higher tolerance for smoke).</p> <p>Evaluate and streamline the process for updating the smoke management plan.</p>	<p>NTA 17. Evaluate smoke exemption language for Rx burns in the Certified Burner RCW</p> <p>Start by end of 2023</p> <p>NTA 18. Evaluate the updated SMP once it is released in 2024</p> <p>By end of 2024</p> <p>NTA 18. Identify update timelines, agency point of contacts, and a general update process for the SMP</p> <p>Immediate action</p> <p>NTA 19. Develop a letter of support from WA partners for EPA</p> <p>By end of 2024</p>



APPENDIX 2. TRAINING ACTIONS TABLE

GOAL 2: There are multiple training pathways and opportunities to develop and sustain a certified, interoperable, and readily available work force.

STRATEGIES	RELATED BARRIERS	TACTICS	NEAR-TERM ACTION (NTA) ITEMS
<p>NWCG – CLARIFY THE TRAINING PATHWAY AND INCREASE CLASSROOM OPPORTUNITIES FOR RX FIRE PRACTITIONERS</p>	<p>B16. Limited number of NWCG trainings/classes and instructor capacity.</p> <p>B17. Limited NWCG opportunities prevent workforce growth and the development of new trainers.</p> <p>B18. Some NWCG trainings are only offered regionally (not offered in WA).</p> <p>B19. Limited training/class opportunities for non-federal partners.</p> <p>B20. Limited training opportunities in the field.</p>	<p>Clarify and communicate when training opportunities are offered.</p> <p>Offer NWCG courses needed for Rx fire qualifications in Washington.</p> <p>Diversify and expand the instructor pool and the organizations offering NWCG trainings (2-3-year goal).</p> <p>Expand NWCG opportunities for non- federal/non-state partners.</p> <p>Ensure adequate funding for training.</p>	<p>NTA 20. Conduct NWCG training analysis to identify current and future training needs, status of current offerings, and what trainings will be available Start by end of 2023</p> <p>NTA 21. Outline a multi-year NWCG Rx fire practitioner training schedule Start by end of 2023</p> <p>NTA 22. Establish single points of contact within agencies to streamline the coordination of opportunities between partners Start by end of 2023</p> <p>NTA 23. Approach the DNR Training and Operations Steering Committee about:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarifying the NWCG training pathway for non-federal partners at DNR Academies • Contractors attending trainings • A review of the DNR Academy admissions process for local agencies and non-profits <p>By end of 2023</p> <p>NTA 24. Host an annual meeting of non-federal/non-state partners to coordinate and plan training opportunities, including training Rx practitioners in suppression, cost sharing, course offering, and field opportunities Immediate action</p> <p>NTA 25. Maintain a calendar/list of training opportunities, including cost sharing options, course offerings, and field opportunities Start by end of 2023</p> <p>NTA 26. Draft an issue paper for the Eastern Washington Coordinating Group to send to the Northwest Coordinating Group outlining the need and potential solutions for more training opportunities, classes, and instructors at a subregional level in the next 2-3 years Immediate action</p> <p>NTA 27. Evaluate additional options to fund Rx fire training, including fire district assistance grants and a new funding system. This is included in RCW 76.04.521 2A Immediate action</p>



STRATEGIES	RELATED BARRIERS	TACTICS	NEAR-TERM ACTION (NTA) ITEMS
<p>NWCG – EXPAND AND COMMUNICATE FIELD TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES</p>	<p>B20. Limited training opportunities in the field. B21. Lack of available funding for NWCG field training cost sharing.</p>	<p>Increase training exchange (TREX) programs in Washington. Communicate and coordinate field training opportunities. Partner outside of the region and develop agreements with other regions to facilitate partnerships.</p>	<p>NTA 28. Work with state and non-profit partners to develop a mechanism to communicate and coordinate field training opportunities Start by end of 2023 ★ NTA 14. Continue bi-weekly smoke planning calls and add standing agenda items for field training opportunities/needs and resource coordination for burn operations (also in Regulation and Operations) Immediate action NTA 29: Work on partnering with other regions of the U.S. on agreements to facilitate training partnerships By June 30, 2024 NTA 30. Create a directory of partners willing to host volunteers so partners can more readily access field training opportunities Immediate action</p>
<p>INVEST IN AN EFFECTIVE NON- NWCG RX FIRE PRACTITIONER TRAINING</p>	<p>B19. Limited training/class opportunities for non-federal partners. B22. Limited number of training options outside of the NWCG system. B23. No options for people interested in Rx fire but lacking the needed preliminary experience for the Certified Burn Course. B24. Limited understanding of the Certified Burner Training relative to NWCG (no crosswalk of training pathways). B25. Limited mentorship, training focus, and technical skill sharing opportunities as part of operations limits professional growth. B26. Limited training on planning and permitting/regulatory approval processes.</p>	<p>Clarify and communicate when training opportunities are offered. Clarify requirements to implement Rx burns. Increase the training focus on Rx fire burn plan development. Encourage Rx fire training with forest health and conservation practitioners (DNR Service Foresters, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Conservation Districts, etc.). Teach Rx fire Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK).</p>	<p>NTA 31. Develop a crosswalk between NWCG and Certified Burner qualifications (in-progress) Immediate NTA 32. Create an FAQ on liability and training requirements to participate on specific organizational projects Start by end of 2023 NTA 33. Conduct a 3rd party training assessment of non-NWCG training pathways in other states and regions and include recommendations for Washington By June 30, 2024</p>
<p>DEVELOP THE PROFESSIONAL RX FIRE FIELD SEPARATE FROM THE FIRE SUPPRESSION FIELD</p>	<p>B27. Lack of cross-partner mentorship and networking opportunities limits the development of the Rx fire profession.</p>	<p>Increase professional development and networking opportunities across agencies. Include training and mentorship as a component of burn plans to detail opportunities for trainers and trainees at burns and shadow assignments.</p>	<p>NTA 34. Host opportunities for networking or mentorship – Immediate Action NTA 35. Update burn plans to include a training and mentorship objective – Start by end of 2023</p>



APPENDIX 3. PLANNING ACTIONS TABLE

GOAL 3: Prescribed fire is implemented collaboratively and reflects organizational priorities for landscape-level planning that results in shovel-ready projects.

STRATEGIES	RELATED BARRIERS	TACTICS	NEAR-TERM ACTION (NTA) ITEMS
<p>ENSURE ADEQUATE FUNDING FOR COLLABORATIVE RX PLANNING</p>	<p>B28. Funding restrictions limit agency planning and operations. B29. Fire districts and departments are limited in using local public funding for work outside of their home area. B30. Limited resources for NGOs and private citizens to engage in planning and implementation.</p>	<p>Pursue legislative action to create sustainable and flexible Rx fire funding that will support planning efforts. Pursue funding mechanisms to support and incentivize NGO, private landowner, and fire districts/departments involvement in Rx fire planning. Establish Rx Burn Associations (PBAs)</p>	<p>★ NTA 36. Research designated, sustainable state funding sources for Rx fire planning and operations within the OFM (Also in Operations) Start by end of 2023</p> <p>★ NTA 37. Use existing funding sources to establish PBAs (Also in Operations) Start by end of 2023</p> <p>★ NTA 38. Research and develop a funding and grant opportunity guidance document that identifies funding sources for planning support and facilitate use of existing funding that has specific use requirements (e.g., FEMA mitigation grants) (Also in Operations) By June 30, 2024</p>
<p>DEVELOP MECHANISMS TO FACILITATE COOPERATIVE PLANNING ARE IN PLACE</p>	<p>B31. Limited participation in planning by partners without master agreements (e.g., NGOs and local governments). B32. Limited mechanisms for supporting planning among agencies and partners.</p>	<p>Set up master agreements and contractual support for cross-boundary and multi-jurisdiction planning. Reclassify how NGOs and local governments (e.g. fire districts) are looked at under WA State contracting and develop an exception for them to participate in or lead planning efforts. Provide trainings and support that facilitate development of agreements.</p>	<p>★ NTA 39. Explore a collaborative mechanism and authority for the use of resources (modeled on the Good Neighbor Authority), that allows for the sharing of funding and resources between agencies (state and federal). (Also in Operations) By June 30, 2024</p> <p>★ NTA 40. Discuss how to tailor agreements and documents to allow fire districts to participate in and lead Rx fire (Also in Operations) Start by end of 2023</p> <p>★ NTA 41. Hold a training or briefing on inter-agency and inter-organizational agreements (Also in Operations) Start by end of 2023</p> <p>NTA 42. Identify state contracting mechanisms that would allow fire districts, local partners, and NGOs to support prescribed fire. By June 30, 2024</p> <p>NTA 43. Investigate how to reclassify or provide an exemption for NGOs conducting forest health and prescribed fire activities within the State contracting system Start by end of 2023</p>



STRATEGIES	RELATED BARRIERS	TACTICS	NEAR-TERM ACTION (NTA) ITEMS
<p>DEVELOP REGIONAL LANDSCAPE PLANNING FRAMEWORKS</p>	<p>B33. Permitting process does not address the needs of partners implementing cross-boundary or multi-jurisdiction Rx burns and limits collaboration.</p> <p>B34. Existing cooperative agreements limit opportunities for burn planning at a subregional level.</p> <p>B35. Limited support for Rx fire within agencies limits opportunities for cooperative planning.</p> <p>B36. Limited landscape-level planning and analysis inhibits the ability to identify and prioritize areas of high need at that scale.</p> <p>B37. Inadequate staff experience limits Rx fire planning, implementation, and operations.</p> <p>B38. Ownership boundaries often limit access that is needed for planning at broader scale.</p>	<p>Develop support for Rx fire within agencies. Communicate and evaluate existing planning efforts at scales.</p> <p>Create new groups or leverage existing local or regional planning groups to facilitate planning efforts on a regular basis.</p> <p>Facilitate regional planning at the appropriate scale (e.g. POD by POD or other method). Use funding available to support the creation of PBAs.</p> <p>Plan together to maximize the use of existing funding to support planning (e.g., maximize federal WUI money for use by multiple partners).</p> <p>Ensure subregional planning processes that lead to the development of a shovel-ready list of projects to maximize funding when it becomes available.</p> <p>Develop a prioritization process with metrics based on forest health and risk reduction values (i.e., high value), availability of shovel-ready projects (e.g., agreements/resources are in place), and potential acres treated.</p>	<p>NTA 44. Synthesize and document existing Rx fire strategies and planning documents (e.g. 20-year forest plan) to inform regional/local planning Start by end of 2023</p> <p>NTA 45. Evaluate the existing use and of tools, (e.g., Inform and Forest Tracker) to track planning efforts (what has been done, what is planned, what is needed) Immediate action</p> <p>NTA 46. Explore how to best facilitate and link regional and local planning level. Explore a pilot planning process in the Kittitas Valley By June 30, 2024</p> <p>NTA 47. Evaluate how Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWPPs) can best support regional Rx fire planning and avoid redundancy Start by end of 2023</p> <p>NTA 48. Explore and develop a process for evaluating and prioritizing projects that meet multiple objectives By June 30, 2024</p>
<p>SUPPORT PROJECT PLANNING AND COORDINATION</p>	<p>B39. Lack of understanding of what other partners are working on limits opportunities for collaboration in planning efforts.</p>	<p>Communicate planned and completed projects, planning needs, and opportunities for collaboration.</p>	<p>NTA 49. Host annual or bi-annual regional Rx fire meetings to report on completed projects, planned projects, planning needs, and opportunities Immediate action</p> <p>NTA 50. Update the DNR Burn Portal to include more information about parcel boundaries By end of 2024</p> <p>NTA 51. Track planned and completed projects in a shared GIS database Start by end of 2023</p>



APPENDIX 4. IMPLEMENTATION AND OPERATIONS ACTIONS TABLE

GOAL 4: There is a robust prescribed fire workforce that is well coordinated and adequately supported to be available and meet the needs of all implementers.

STRATEGIES	RELATED BARRIERS	TACTICS	NEAR-TERM ACTION (NTA) ITEMS
<p>DEVELOP A CULTURE OF RX BURNING WITHIN AGENCIES</p>	<p>B1. Lack of clarity/understanding of Rx fire regulations between federal, state, local, and private partners/lands.</p> <p>B11. Lack of understanding of smoke regulations and permitting authority.</p> <p>B33. Permitting process does not address the needs of partners implementing cross-boundary or multi-jurisdiction Rx burns and limits collaboration.</p> <p>B35. Limited support for Rx fire within agencies limits development of cooperative planning.</p> <p>B40. Competing priorities for land managers and a culture of conservatism in agencies have resulted in limited support for burning.</p>	<p>Engage with agency leaders on Rx fire on a regular basis.</p> <p>Coordinated agency messaging on the value of Rx fire work.</p> <p>Build program resiliency by internally communicating the Rx fire process and what works well, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Success stories • Outlining burn preparation steps • Detailed incident and risk management response plans 	<p>NTA 52. Engage with agency leaders to develop a letter of support to employees Immediate action</p> <p>NTA 53. Coordinate collaborative efforts to educate agency leadership on the benefits of Rx fire Start by end of 2023</p>
<p>ENHANCE AND COMMUNICATE LIABILITY COVERAGE FOR BURN IMPLEMENTERS</p>	<p>B11. Lack of understanding of smoke regulations and permitting authority.</p>	<p>Identify and clarify the threshold of liability for burn implementation to reduce staff concerns.</p> <p>Pursue state-level solutions if the federal approach is inadequate to meet WA State needs.</p> <p>Have leadership clarify and communicate with staff about the threshold for liability coverage and support for operations.</p> <p>Explore options for liability coverage for private landowners.</p>	<p>NTA 54. Track movement towards liability for burners and landowners at the federal level to determine the need for a state-level approach Start by end of 2023</p> <p>NTA 55. Develop a memo clarifying what the Attorney General’s liability threshold decision means for Rx fire practitioners Immediate action</p> <p>NTA 56. Host an all-agency meeting to address WA Rx fire liability questions Start by end of 2023</p>



STRATEGIES	RELATED BARRIERS	TACTICS	NEAR-TERM ACTION (NTA) ITEMS
<p>ENSURE ADEQUATE AND SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR OPERATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION</p>	<p>B28. Funding restrictions limit agency planning and operations. B29. Fire districts and departments are limited in using local public funding for work outside of home area. B30. Limited resources for NGOs and private citizens to engage in planning and implementation efforts. B41. Unequal distribution of resources limit NGO and private landowner Rx burning.</p>	<p>Pursue legislative action to create sustainable and flexible Rx fire funding that will support implementation and operations efforts. Pursue funding mechanisms to support and incentivize NGO, private landowner, and fire district and department involvement in Rx fire planning. Seek funding for contractors to provide training and operations capacity.</p>	<p>★ NTA 36. Research designated, sustainable state funding sources for Rx fire planning and operations within the Office of Financial Management (Also in Planning) Start by end of 2023</p> <p>★ NTA 37. Use existing funding sources to establish PBAs (Also in Planning) Start by end of 2023</p> <p>★ NTA 38. Research and develop a funding and grant opportunity guidance document that identifies funding sources for planning support and facilitate use of existing funding that has specific use requirements (e.g., FEMA mitigation grants) (Also in Planning) By June 30, 2024</p>
<p>STRENGTHEN THE AVAILABLE RX FIRE WORKFORCE</p>	<p>B42. Workforce conditions lead to low annual retention rates and limit the overall workforce's availability throughout a fire season. B43. Maintaining workforce staffing levels for Rx fire is a challenge – Limited dedicated Rx fire workforce. B44. Non-agency practitioners require a Red Card sponsor and insurance, further limiting the NWCG qualified NGO and private landowner workforce. B45. Local government workforces are limited in their ability to implement Rx fire due to competing missions, funding, and experience.</p>	<p>Improve work-life-balance and mental health support for all fire staff. Coordinate recruitment efforts for natural resource management in high schools/colleges and highlight relevant of fire to local community. • NW Ops Committee is coordinating recruitment effort with BLM resources. • CTEs for natural resources • DNR pilot project to recruit military workforce. • Natural resources in running start programs. Establish a dedicated Rx fire workforce. Ensure seasonal workforce staff can utilize all available hours (1039-hour allotment). Leverage NGO and agency staff training and relationships. Seek funding for contractors to provide training and operations capacity.</p>	<p>NTA 57. Coordinate on issue paper for the legislature outlining:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing • Wages • Position descriptions • Public safety retirement benefits • Mental health <p>Start by end of 2023</p> <p>NTA 58. Bring Rx fire staffing needs to agency recruitment efforts By June 30, 2024</p> <p>NTA 59. Look into how to host NGO red card and provide NGOs needed insurance By June 30, 2024</p>



STRATEGIES	RELATED BARRIERS	TACTICS	NEAR-TERM ACTION (NTA) ITEMS
<p>ENSURE MECHANISMS ARE IN PLACE THAT ALLOW PARTNERS TO OPERATE TOGETHER AND SHARE RESOURCES</p>	<p>B46. Current Master Agreements do not include all partners, limiting the ability of local governments and NGOs to participate in operations and share resources.</p> <p>B47. Limited mechanisms for workforce and resource sharing between agencies.</p>	<p>Set up master agreements and contractual support for cross-boundary and multi-jurisdictional operations.</p> <p>Ensure cooperative mechanisms are in place to share resources with local fire districts and departments.</p> <p>Reclassify how NGOs and local governments (e.g. fire districts) are looked at under WA State contracting and develop an exception for them to participate in or lead planning efforts.</p> <p>Ensure agreements can establish funding mechanisms for resource cost sharing.</p>	<p>NTA 39. Explore a collaborative mechanism and authority for the use of resources (modeled on the Good Neighbor Authority), that allows for the sharing of funding and resources between agencies (state and federal). (Also in Planning) By June 30, 2024</p> <p>NTA 40. Discuss how to tailor agreements/documents to allow fire districts to participate in and lead Rx fire (Also in Planning) Start by end of 2023</p> <p>NTA 41. Hold a training or briefing on inter-agency and inter-organizational agreements (Also in Planning) Start by end of 2023</p> <p>NTA 60. Offer training or briefing on interagency/interorganizational agreements with the appropriate person in the respective organization – Start by end of 2023</p>
<p>ENSURE RESOURCE NEEDS ARE COMMUNICATED AND MET</p>	<p>B48. Limited quantity of equipment dedicated to Rx fire and competition for equipment with suppression program needs.</p> <p>B49. No mechanism for agencies to dispatch NGO resources.</p> <p>B50. Use of polyethylene covered piles is restricted by WA State law and limits operations.</p>	<p>Pursue dedicated resources and equipment.</p> <p>Regularly communicate resource needs and availability for Rx fire.</p> <p>Clarify resource needs and benefits through education and landscape NGOs.</p> <p>Identify or develop a centralized Rx fire resource sharing portal (e.g., Virtual Incident Procurement (VIPR) database.</p> <p>Consider declaring critical firesheds for emergency authorities to open procurement and agreement opportunities.</p> <p>Reduce policy and legal barriers to use and acquisition of implementation equipment and materials.</p>	<p>NTA 14. Continue bi-weekly smoke planning calls and add standing agenda items for field training opportunities/needs and resource coordination for burn operations and coordination (Also in Regulation and Training) Immediate action</p> <p>NTA 61. Consider how agreements function with local agencies and how to dispatch resources in local agreements By end of 2023</p> <p>NTA 62. Develop a centralized state contracting mechanism for Rx fire resources In progress</p> <p>NTA 63. Develop a legislative package for RCW change to allow for burning of polyethylene covered piles Immediate action</p>



STRATEGIES	RELATED BARRIERS	TACTICS	NEAR-TERM ACTION (NTA) ITEMS
<p>IMPROVE MONITORING AND DATA COLLECTION TO TRACK AND COMMUNICATE SUCCESS</p>	<p>B51. Limited staff capacity and experience reduces the focus on burn monitoring, data collection, and reporting.</p>	<p>Burners should follow implementation guides throughout burns, including monitoring.</p> <p>Implement efficient monitoring systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fuel moisture sampling • Photo plots • Use of drones • Research ground- terrestrial LIDAR (in development) <p>Add monitoring efforts to existing databases.</p> <p>Develop a list of available monitoring resources.</p> <p>Communicate efficient monitoring strategies.</p> <p>Evaluate potential partnerships with academic institutions and identify monitoring tasks.</p>	<p>No immediate action items identified at workshop.</p> <p>NTA Suggested Post Workshop: Train personnel in fire effects monitoring to determine if a burn successfully met the landscape objectives.</p>



APPENDIX 5. PUBLIC OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT ACTIONS TABLE

GOAL 5: The public is aware of, understands, and supports use of prescribed fire as a tool for community and infrastructure protection, ecosystem health, and wildlife habitat benefit.

STRATEGIES	RELATED BARRIERS	TACTICS	NEAR-TERM ACTION (NTA) ITEMS
<p>IMPLEMENT PUBLIC OUTREACH AND ENGAGEMENT CAMPAIGN REGARDING THE BENEFITS OF PRESCRIBED FIRE</p>	<p>B52. The public does not differentiate between smoke resulting from wildland fire, Rx fire, agriculture, and other sources.</p> <p>B52. Inconsistent messaging without tailored approaches affects social perceptions of Rx fire.</p> <p>B53. Messaging does not focus on the habitat benefits of Rx fire.</p> <p>B54. Multiple organizations with varying capacity create inconsistencies in timing and delivery of information.</p>	<p>Develop consistent talking points across agencies and partners.</p> <p>Work to develop consistent, year-round messaging.</p> <p>Include calls-to-action in talking points.</p> <p>Consolidate sources of information in a centralized location with consistent information.</p> <p>Coordinate state and local outreach.</p> <p>Develop messaging to highlight outcomes of Rx burning, including habitat restoration, highlighting species of interest, risk management, and focusing on known benefits.</p> <p>Develop tailored messaging for individual communities and focus on fire-adapted communities.</p> <p>Focus imagery on forest health outcomes of Rx burns instead of burning process.</p> <p>Educate public to build support and remove political risk for local leadership.</p>	<p>NTA 64. Develop draft outreach and engagement talking points and outline of what a statewide communications effort would look like Start by end of 2023</p> <p>NTA 65. Convene state and non-profit partners to discuss outline and how to prioritize consistent statewide communications, what the approach would look like, funding, and capacity. Involve the USFS for implementation support Start by end of 2023</p>
<p>IMPLEMENT LOCAL LEADERSHIP AND ELECTED OFFICIAL OUTREACH REGARDING THE BENEFITS OF PRESCRIBED FIRE</p>	<p>B55. Messaging does not focus on the habitat benefits of Rx fire.</p> <p>B56. Local leadership is not educated about the benefits of Rx fire.</p> <p>B57. Lack of public communication, education, and outreach prevents effective and proactive decision-making.</p>	<p>Coordinate at the county-level for outreach planning and involve fire districts and local emergency managers.</p> <p>Develop top-down and bottom-up messaging strategies that involve community leaders.</p> <p>Educate elected officials on benefits of Rx fire.</p> <p>Highlight the economic and community development benefits of Rx fire.</p> <p>Hold 1:1 meetings with local leaders and elected officials.</p> <p>Develop presentations for county and state leadership (e.g., WA Association of County Commissioners, planning conferences, small-forest landowners).</p> <p>Provide local leaders talking points and tools to address public health concerns related to fire and smoke, including the benefits of Rx fire in reducing large wildfires and smoke events.</p>	<p><i>No immediate action items identified.</i></p>



STRATEGIES	RELATED BARRIERS	TACTICS	NEAR-TERM ACTION (NTA) ITEMS
<p>DEVELOP CONSISTENT AND ACCESSIBLE PUBLIC BURN PLAN NOTIFICATIONS AND NOTIFICATION PROCESS</p>	<p>B58. Audiences are overloaded with different sources of information.</p>	<p>Develop a centralized map with the locations of burns, active fires, smoke information, and smoke approvals.</p> <p>Ensure notifications are accessible for English as a Second Language (ESL) audiences and under-resourced communities that could be disproportionately impacted by wildland fire damage.</p>	<p>NTA 66. Add the DNR burn calendar to the Ecology website End of 2024</p>



APPENDIX 6. PRESCRIBED FIRE IMPLEMENTATION BARRIERS AND CHALLENGES DESCRIPTIONS

BARRIER AND DESCRIPTION	STRATEGY(S) AFFECTED
<p>1. Lack of clarity/understanding of Rx fire regulations across federal, state, local, and private partners/lands.</p> <p>Overlapping or inconsistent regulations are confusing for burners. There is not clear communication about the overall regulatory picture and who the lead regulating agencies are on different lands. The regulatory environment is unpredictable. Burners need more clarity on when Ecology or DNR smoke approval is required.</p>	<p>Regulations, Planning, Implementation & Operations</p>
<p>2. Inconsistencies between local ordinances and locally issued fire safety burn bans with State and Federal regulations.</p> <p>Some local government ordinances hinder Rx burning. Specifically, there are conflicting local and state fire severity designations that hinder the ability to implement burns during burn windows. County or State burn restrictions create confusion for burners at the time of planned burns. It is not clear which regulator has the ultimate authority.</p>	<p>Regulations</p>
<p>3. Permitting process does not address the needs of partners implementing cross-boundary and/or multi-organizational Rx burns and limits collaboration.</p> <p>The current structure for planning and permitting cross-boundary burns on two different properties or across jurisdictions is limiting. Multiple permits or fees are often required because the regulatory process varies between Federal, State, local, and non-profit burners. Federal agencies' NEPA requirements extend planning timelines, and differences among agencies' burn plan templates make collaboration challenging. Only one burn plan is required for a cross-boundary burn, but splitting fees between jurisdictions is a barrier.</p>	<p>Regulations, Planning, Implementation & Operations</p>
<p>4. Permitting process and burn plan templates are better suited for pile burning than broadcast or other types of burning.</p> <p>The current permitting classification system is designed for planning and implementing pile burns rather than broadcast or understorey burns, which creates an administrative barrier to planning and implementing different types of burns.</p>	<p>Regulations</p>
<p>5. Multi-day ignition template and permit process is unclear.</p> <p>Applications for multi-day ignitions often have long waits for approval and have to be planned far in advance. Burners do not have clarity on what qualifies as a multi-day burn, and there is a lack of communication between DNR and permit applicants.</p>	<p>Regulations</p>
<p>6. Burn permits are issued to each individual entity when burn planning for multi-jurisdiction burns.</p> <p>Different partners use different burn plan templates and the template/permitting system is difficult to use, cumbersome, and duplicative when multiple partners are involved.</p>	<p>Regulations</p>
<p>7. Limited expertise in permit application review and burn plan development.</p> <p>Permit writers lack the necessary experience in Rx fire to draft successful permits and are often limited in capacity. There are inconsistencies between permits and training to write permits has changed. Writers are not always fully aware of and trained to interpret and adapt to local conditions that may allow for appropriate burning conditions. While this is improving, DNR permit writers collaborating with on the ground experts with knowledge of local conditions is also a barrier. A lot of responsibility is placed on individual permit writers who as a result maybe too conservative in issuing a burn permit.</p>	<p>Regulations</p>



BARRIER AND DESCRIPTION	STRATEGY(S) AFFECTED
<p>8. DNR Rx fire program requires permit fees for program funding, which has disincentivized burning, specifically for private landowners, and does not align with all types of Rx burning (e.g. broadcast burns).</p> <p>The current fee structure does not incentivize burning and is prohibitive for private landowners especially as fees have increased. The program does not need to be self-funded any longer, and fees could be removed to incentivize burning.</p>	Regulations
<p>9. Lack of understanding between implementers and regulators; regulators do not fully understand aspects of Rx fire implementation and implementers do not fully understand regulatory requirements or processes.</p> <p>Some local government ordinances hinder Rx burning. Specifically, there are conflicting local and state fire severity designations that hinder the ability to implement burns during burn windows. County or State burn restrictions create confusion for burners at the time of planned burns. It is not clear which regulator has the ultimate authority.</p>	Regulations
<p>10. Regulations do not clarify liability for burns – Agency leadership and permitting staff are conservative in their support and permitting of burns due to liability.</p> <p>Lack of clarity in regulations puts practitioners and regulators at risk when it comes to responsibility over burns and where liability falls when it comes to suppression costs. This disincentivizes agency leadership and staff support for burns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agency leadership and permitting staff are conservative in their support and permitting of burns. • Burn bosses are responsible for implementing burns, which leads to increased emotional risk and stress about being held liable. 	Regulations
<p>11. Lack of understanding of smoke regulations and permitting authority.</p> <p>Burners and landowners/managers must navigate different regulations and smoke permits issued by DNR and the Department of Ecology. Typically, DNR regulates smoke on forest land (but not in all cases), and it is challenging for agency staff to communicate internally and to private landowners which agency has authority to regulate smoke for a specific burn area.</p> <p>There is limited coordination between state regulators and local clean air agencies.</p>	Regulations
<p>12. Limited coordination/collaboration between smoke regulating agencies and burn implementers.</p> <p>There is room to improve on coordination between state agencies to better understand site conditions on the day of burns to help streamline approvals or restrictions on planned burns.</p>	Regulations
<p>13. Inconsistencies in day of burn smoke approval (go/no go) across regulating agencies (DNR, Ecology, regional clean air agencies).</p>	Regulations, Implementations & Operations
<p>14. Statewide blanket smoke regulations limit burn approvals.</p> <p>Risk ratings for smoke are the same across the state and are not addressed regionally where there may be areas at higher or lower risk for smoke impact. This makes it harder to get burns approved during no burn days, even if burns are planned in a low-risk area.</p>	Regulations
<p>15. Regulations that restrict smoke do not reflect the need for Rx fire to reduce the risk of wildfire (no risk trade off).</p> <p>Rx fire is a scientifically supported tool to reduce wildland fire risks and resulting large smoke events, but existing smoke regulations do not allow for a related risk analysis.</p>	Regulations



BARRIER AND DESCRIPTION	STRATEGY(S) AFFECTED
<p>16. Limited number of NWCG trainings/classes and instructor capacity. There are a limited number of NWCG training courses offered for Rx fire. Qualified instructors with experience leading higher-level training have competing obligations and responsibilities, which leads to a limited number of training courses and classes. Waitlists are long.</p>	Training
<p>17. Limited NWCG opportunities prevent workforce growth and development of new trainers. The limited number of NWCG trainings and barriers to accessing training reduces the development of new trainers.</p>	Training
<p>18. Some NWCG classes are only offered regionally (not offered in WA). Many classes needed for Rx fire qualifications are not offered in Washington and are only offered by the Pacific Northwest Training Center in Redmond, Oregon.</p>	Training
<p>19. Limited training/class opportunities for non-federal partners. Non-agency trainees require a sponsor to attend NWCG trainings, creating a barrier to access for non-Federal partners. This is particularly a challenge for NGOs and private landowners.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agencies prioritize NWCG classes for their staff. • Non-Federal partners have limited access to training and access to a Red Card sponsor. 	Training
<p>20. Limited training opportunities in the field. A small burn window and a limited number of Rx burns during the burn season make it difficult to gain experience. Training also tends to focus on suppression rather than Rx fire.</p>	Training
<p>21. Lack of available funding for NWCG field training cost sharing. Federal partners do not have a mechanism to support on-the-ground training at a local level. More funding is required to put on additional training and to support interested attendees.</p>	Training
<p>22. Limited number of training options outside of the NWCG system. There are few trainings outside of the NWCG training pathway and a limited number of trainings that are focused on Rx fire specifically. NWCG can be challenging due to the required timeline, need for sponsors, and focus on fire suppression.</p>	Training
<p>23. No options for people interested in Rx fire but lacking the needed preliminary experience for the Certified Burn Course.</p>	Training
<p>24. Limited understanding of the Certified Burner Training relative to NWCG (no crosswalk of training pathways). There is a need to clarify and establish a common understanding of how the two training paths differ and what they mean for workforce competencies.</p>	Training
<p>25. Limited mentorship, training focus, and technical skill sharing opportunities as part of operations limits professional growth. A limited number of senior practitioners with competing responsibilities and a limited number of trainings compound to reduce opportunities for mentorship and skill sharing for technical aspects of Rx fire (burn plan writing, drafting MOUs, etc.) and on-the-ground training.</p>	Training
<p>26. Limited training on planning and permitting/regulatory approval processes. Without adequate training, navigating permitting process, obtaining required qualifications and competencies needed to implement a burn, and mitigating potential liability is difficult.</p>	Training



BARRIER AND DESCRIPTION	STRATEGY(S) AFFECTED
<p>27. Lack of cross-partner mentorship and networking opportunities limits the development of the Rx fire profession.</p> <p>There is no opportunity for the community of Rx fire professionals to network and learn from one and other, specifically about Rx fire. Most opportunities have a suppression focus which limits professionals only focused on Rx fire.</p>	Regulations
<p>28. Funding restrictions limit agency planning and operations.</p> <p>Available funding is tied to restrictions, which limit agency ability to distribute it effectively. Funding increases are also difficult for agencies to adjust to and plan for without sustainable or predictable funding sources.</p>	Planning
<p>29. Fire districts and departments are limited in using local public funding for work outside of their home area.</p> <p>Fire districts and departments are funded by local taxes basis and have restrictions in using local funding for projects outside the local area.</p>	Planning
<p>30. Limited resources for NGOs and private citizens to engage in planning and implementation.</p> <p>Access to funding and use of funding mechanisms can be a barrier for both NGOs and private landowners interested in Rx fire</p>	Planning
<p>31. Limited participation in planning by partners without master agreements (e.g. NGOs and local governments).</p> <p>Current master agreements exclude NGOs and local governments. There is no central mechanism for Federal and State agencies to work collaboratively and share resources with local or NGO partners.</p>	Planning, Implementations & Operations
<p>32. Limited mechanisms for supporting planning among agencies and partners.</p> <p>There are agency policies and regulations in place that limit workforce coordination or training. Each agency is regulated by their individual policies, and there are limited coordination/cooperative mechanisms for organizations to work together.</p>	Planning, Implementations & Operations
<p>33. Permitting process does not address the needs of partners implementing cross-boundary or multi-jurisdiction Rx burns and limits collaboration.</p>	Planning, Implementations & Operations
<p>34. Existing cooperative agreements limit opportunities for burn planning at a subregional level.</p> <p>There is no mechanism for agencies to collaborate at a subregional level to coordinate or modify burn plans or coordinate resources on a local/sub-regional scale based on the planning of other partners.</p>	Planning
<p>35. Limited support for Rx fire within agencies limits development of cooperative planning.</p> <p>Agencies continue to focus on limiting smoke and perceive the Rx fire process as complex.</p>	Planning, Implementations & Operations
<p>36. Limited landscape level planning and analysis inhibit the ability to identify and prioritize areas of high need at that scale.</p> <p>Without collaborative planning process, agencies cannot identify areas of high need at both a local and statewide level.</p>	Planning
<p>37. Inadequate staff experience limits Rx fire planning, implementation, and operations.</p> <p>Agencies have limited staff that have both required experience for Rx fire and dedicated to planning work. This limits agency ability to plan for Rx fire. Shortages are amplified by a limited candidate pool, increased costs of living, and cumbersome hiring processes.</p>	Planning



BARRIER AND DESCRIPTION	STRATEGY(S) AFFECTED
<p>38. Ownership boundaries often limit access that is needed for planning at that scale. Access to areas deemed desirable for burning may be limited due to ownership and management boundaries. This limits cross-boundary planning and operations.</p>	Planning
<p>39. Lack of understanding of what other partners are working on limits opportunities for collaboration in planning efforts No central mechanism to report out on work completed, plans for future burning, or needs and opportunities.</p>	Planning
<p>40. Competing priorities for land managers and a culture of conservatism in agencies have resulted in limited support for burning.</p>	Implementations & Operations
<p>41. Unequal distribution of resources limits NGO and private landowner Rx burning. Resources and funding are not distributed evenly across the state. NGOs and private landowners face high startup costs, which are difficult to overcome.</p>	Implementations & Operations
<p>42. Workforce conditions lead to low annual retention rates and limit the overall workforce's availability throughout a fire season. Underpaid workers, limited housing, long work hours, and lack of work-life balance all contribute to high turnover and risk of burnout in the fire workforce.</p>	Implementations & Operations
<p>43. Maintaining workforce staffing is a challenge – Limited dedicated Rx fire workforce. Much of the qualified workforce is also needed for suppression purposes and is a seasonal workforce with limited hours.</p>	Implementations & Operations
<p>44. Non-agency practitioners require a Red Card sponsor and insurance, further limiting the NWCG qualified NGO and private landowner workforce.</p>	Implementations & Operations
<p>45. Local government workforces are limited in their ability to implement Rx fire due to competing missions, funding, and experience. Inexperienced workforces, funding restrictions on out-of-district work, lack of Rx fire personnel, and competing mission priorities are barriers for fire districts in Rx fire operations.</p>	Implementations & Operations
<p>46. Current Master Agreements do not include all partners, limiting the ability of local government and NGO to participate in operations and share resources.</p>	Implementations & Operations
<p>47. Limited mechanisms for resource sharing between agencies.</p>	Implementations & Operations
<p>48. Limited quantity of equipment dedicated to Rx fire and competition for equipment with suppression program needs. Rx fire implementers compete against suppression for a limited pool of resources, which are tied to contingency requirements.</p>	Implementations & Operations
<p>49. No mechanism for agencies to dispatch NGO resources. There is no mechanism to dispatch NGO resources or crews for planned Rx fires.</p>	Implementations & Operations
<p>50. Use of polyethylene covered piles is restricted by WA State law and limits operations. Rx fire implementers compete against suppression for a limited pool of resources, which are tied to contingency requirements.</p>	Implementations & Operations



BARRIER AND DESCRIPTION	STRATEGY(S) AFFECTED
<p>51. Limited staff capacity reduces the focus on burn monitoring, data collection, and reporting. Active burning takes priority over burn monitoring and data collection when staff are limited. There is also a shortage of staff with necessary experience to monitor burns.</p>	Implementations & Operations
<p>52. The public does not differentiate between smoke resulting from wildland fire, Rx fire, agriculture, and other sources.</p>	Public Outreach & Engagement
<p>53. Inconsistent messaging without tailored approaches affects social perceptions of Rx fire. Agencies and organizations do not have a collective approach to messaging about smoke. Timing and delivery are inconsistent throughout the year and messages are not tailored to specific audiences.</p>	Public Outreach & Engagement
<p>54. Messaging does not focus on the habitat benefits of Rx fire. Rx fire messaging focuses less on the outcomes and benefits and more on operations. Audiences associate Rx fire with the negative impacts of wildland fire rather than the benefits of Rx fire (habitat restoration, risk prevention, etc.).</p>	Public Outreach & Engagement
<p>55. Multiple organizations with varying capacity create inconsistencies in timing and delivery of information. Without a centralized source of information for Rx fire, audiences are overloaded with different sources of information and do not know where to look for consistent information.</p>	Public Outreach & Engagement
<p>56. Local leadership is not educated about the benefits of Rx fire. Without engagement regarding the benefits of Rx fire, local leadership will not promote it within their communities.</p>	Public Outreach & Engagement
<p>57. Lack of public communication, engagement, and outreach prevents effective and proactive decision-making. County officials and agency leaders cannot make informed decisions around Rx fire without adequate engagement and information.</p>	Public Outreach & Engagement



APPENDIX 7. WORKSHOP ATTENDEES BY DAY

REGULATION WORKSHOP

1. Aaron Rowe, USFS
2. Andy Townsend, DNR
3. Chris Martin, Roslyn Fire
4. Cindi Tonasket-Ebel, Colville Tribes
5. David Way, DNR
6. Jeff Dimke, DNR
7. Joel Adams, Kalispel Tribe
8. Kara Karboski, RCD
9. Kate Williams, DNR
10. Ken Meinhart, FWS
11. Mason McKinley, Ecostudies Institute
12. Matt Eberlein, WDFW
13. Micah Cooper, ECY
14. Rick Graw, USFS
15. Sami Schinnell, TNC
16. Sanjay Barik, ECY
17. Sean Hopkins, ECY
18. Shane Robson, USFS
19. Vaughn Cork, DNR
20. Wyatt Leighton, DNR

TRAINING WORKSHOP

1. Aaron Rowe, USFS
2. Bobby Schindelar, SCFD9
3. Chris Martin, Roslyn Fire
4. Cindi Tonasket-Ebel, Colville Tribes
5. Clint Desautel, BIA
6. David Way, DNR
7. Fiona Edwards, JBLM
8. Joe Hill, Cascadia Conservation District
9. Joel Adams, Kalispel Tribe
10. Kate Williams, DNR
11. Ken Meinhart, FWS
12. Kyle Lapham, DNR
13. Mark Charlton, Roslyn Fire
14. Mason McKinley, Ecostudies Institute
15. Matt Eberlein, WDFW
16. Rich Elliot, KVFR
17. Sami Schinnell, TNC
18. Sarah Allaben, MARS
19. Shane Robson, USFS
20. Wyatt Leighton, DNR

PLANNING WORKSHOP

1. Aaron Rowe, USFS
2. Amy Ramsey, DNR
3. Andrew Spaeth, DNR
4. Cindi Tonasket-Ebel, Colville Tribes
5. Daniel Dyer, BIA
6. David Way, DNR
7. Erin McKay, Chelan County
8. Jeff Dimke, DNR
9. Kara Karboski, RCD
10. Kate Williams, DNR
11. Lonnie Newton, BLM
12. Matt Eberlein, WDFW
13. Nolan Brewer, DNR
14. Richard Fleenor, NRCS
15. Ryan Sanchey, Yakama Nation
16. Sam Steinshouer, DNR
17. Sami Schinnell, TNC
18. Sarah Allaben, MARS
19. Shane Robson, USFS
20. Todd Rankin, FWS
21. Tonya Neider, NPS
22. Zach St. Amand, Parks

OPERATIONS AND IMPLEMENTATION WORKSHOP

1. Aaron Rowe, USFS
2. Andrew Stenbeck, DNR
3. Bobby Schindelar, SCFD9
4. Brandon Schmidt, KCFD1
5. Chris Martin, Roslyn Fire
6. Cindi Tonasket-Ebel, Colville Tribes
7. Dale Swedberg, Washington Prescribed Fire Council
& Okanogan Conservation District
8. Daniel Dyer, BIA
9. David Way, DNR
10. Greg Houle, Sustainable NW
11. Jay McLaughlin, MARS
12. Jeff Dimke, DNR
13. Kate Williams, DNR
14. Ken Meinhart, FWS
15. Kyle Lapham, DNR
16. Matt Eberlein, WDFW
17. Ryan Sanchey, Yakama Nation
18. Sam Steinshouer, DNR
19. Sami Schinnell, TNC
20. Shane Robson, USFS
21. Tonya Neider, NPS



PUBLIC OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT WORKSHOP

1. Aaron Rowe, USFS
2. Andrew Stenbeck, DNR
3. Autumn Ellison, OSU
4. Chris Martin, Roslyn Fire
5. Cindi Tonasket-Ebel, Colville Tribes
6. Dale Swedberg, Washington Prescribed Fire Council & Okanagan Conservation District
7. David Way, DNR
8. Erin McKay, Chelan County
9. Hilary Lundgren, RCD
10. Jacob Belsher, ECY
11. Jeff Dimke, DNR
12. Kara Karboski, RCD
13. Kate Williams, DNR
14. Ken Meinhart, FWS
15. Kyle Lapham, DNR
16. Matt Eberlein, WDFW
17. Mike Lithgow, Kalispel Tribe
18. Patrick Haggerty, Cascadia Conservation District
19. Rich Elliot, KVFR
20. Sami Schinnell, TNC
21. Staci Lehman, DFW
22. Victoria Wilkins, USFS

POLICY WORKSHOP

1. Aaron Rowe, USFS
2. Autumn Ellison, OSU
3. Chris Martin, Roslyn Fire
4. Cindi Tonasket-Ebel, Colville Tribes
5. Dale Swedberg, Washington Prescribed Fire Council & Okanagan Conservation District
6. David Way, DNR
7. Erin McKay, Chelan County
8. George Geissler, DNR
9. Jeff Dimke, DNR
10. Joe Hill, Cascadia Conservation District
11. Kara Karboski, RCD
12. Kate Williams, DNR
13. Kyle Lapham, DNR
14. Matt Eberlein, DFW
15. Pete Teigen, Sustainable NW
16. Rich Elliot, KVFR
17. Sami Schinnell, TNC
18. Terra Rentz, DNR
19. Wyatt Leighton, DNR



APPENDIX 8. REFERENCE INFORMATION

A. OVERVIEW OF IMPLEMENTERS

This list is not comprehensive and reflects most organizations and agencies represented at the workshop. Advisory Committee members selected attendees (Appendix 7) as important players in the Rx fire landscape and represent implementers across Washington.

STATE AGENCIES

Washington DNR and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) implement Rx burning on state lands as a tool for forest health. The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) regulates air quality and smoke intrusions in WA State.

Department of Natural Resources

Washington DNR manages 5.6 million acres of state lands, including State Trust Lands, State Forest Lands, and Community Forests. DNR is also WA State's primary fire suppression workforce, with more than 1,300 wildland fire staff. In 2021, DNR restarted its Rx fire program as part of the Forest Resilience Division. Most DNR wildfire suppression staff are housed in the Wildland Fire Management Division.

DNR issues fire safety burn bans for state lands and is responsible for administration of the WA Smoke Management Plan. DNR has delegated authority from Ecology to approve smoke intrusions for burning on some forest lands. DNR also maintains the Washington Burn Portal, a centralized resource for information about burn restrictions, permits, smoke management, and relevant state regulations.

Department of Fish & Wildlife

WDFW's Lands Division supports health and resilience of forests and local communities and the values forests support for the well-being of people, communities, wildlife, and landscapes today and into the future. One of the Division's responsibilities is to assess, plan, coordinate and implement, and monitor forest health related activities across Washington to restore and sustain ecological functions of Washington's forested landscapes.

The Prescribed Fire Program is an integral part of the Division that provides expertise and coordination in prescribed fire planning & implementation for forest resilience from an all-lands perspective in close coordination with key partners. The program works to:

- Expand the pace and scale of prescribed burning across all lands in the state of Washington utilizing prescribed fire as a tool to meet not only the immense initial treatment need but to maintain forest health treatments over time.
- Conduct burns regularly across WDFW jurisdiction and other cooperating ownership boundaries.
- Expand prescribed burn leadership using National Wildfire Coordination Group (NWCG) qualifications and look for alternative training and certification pathways.
- Work with local communities and other agencies to manage surrounding landscapes by supporting and providing experience, planning, state guidelines, training, and resources.
- Increase fuels and fire effects monitoring to determine treatment effectiveness and to drive science-based landscape management decisions.



Department of Ecology

The Air and Climate sector of Ecology has delegated enforcement authority under the federal Clean Air Act and can restrict outdoor burning under certain conditions and issue air quality burn bans to protect human health.

Washington State Parks

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission is working internally and with partners to develop a Rx fire program, with plans to develop a smaller program that relies on partner and contractor assistance. Burns will be utilized on Park lands as part of the forest health program. Rx fire treatments will generally be of lower complexity.

FEDERAL AGENCIES

The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) operates Rx fire programs and regularly implements Rx burning on the Okanagan-Wenatchee National Forest and Colville National Forest in WA.

The U.S. Department of Interior agencies including the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service also implement Rx burning in WA, primarily on federal lands.

The Department of Defense (DoD) implements Rx burning on DoD land. Joint Base Lewis McCord's (JBLM) Environmental Division conducts annual burns on the base to improve wildlife habitat, reduce fuel loading and provide training opportunities.

TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

Tribal nations have actively managed resources and fire since time immemorial. On reservations, Tribes manage and regulate the use of Rx fire and resulting smoke. Tribal communities commonly practice and support Rx burning. The Colville Confederated Tribes, Spokane Tribe, and the Yakama Nation maintain active Rx fire burn programs.

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

Tribal nations have actively managed resources and fire since time immemorial. On reservations, Tribes manage and regulate the use of Rx fire and resulting smoke. Tribal communities commonly practice and support Rx burning. The Colville Confederated Tribes, Spokane Tribe, and the Yakama Nation maintain active Rx fire burn programs.

Conservation Districts

Conservation Districts specialize in different resource management practices depending on local needs. A limited number of Conservation Districts are actively used broadcast burning as a land management tool. Many Conservation Districts work closely with the NRCS which does not currently list prescribed fire as an eligible resource management practice in Washington. Conservation Districts that do support prescribed fire work with landowners to reduce fuels and improve forest health, as well as include prescribed fire in education and outreach programming.



NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS (NGOS)

A number of NGOs employ staff trained in Rx fire, sponsor Rx Fire Training Exchanges (TREX), and implement burns in coordination with local, state, or federal agencies. These include The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Washington Resource Conservation and Development Council (WA RCD), Mt. Adams Resource Stewards (MARS), and the Ecostudies Institute. TNC is a leading Rx fire non-profit organization that implements Rx fire nationally.

The Washington Prescribed Fire Council is a non-profit coordinating body for Rx fire partners state-wide.

OTHER PARTNERS

Tribal nations have actively managed resources and fire since time immemorial. On reservations, Tribes manage and regulate the use of Rx fire and resulting smoke. Tribal communities commonly practice and support Rx burning. The Colville Confederated Tribes, Spokane Tribe, and the Yakama Nation maintain active Rx fire burn programs.

Private Landowners

There are over 19 million acres of private residential and timber lands in WA State. While many of these are “actively managed,” many are within- or in close proximity to- values at risk in the Wildland Urban Interface. Work on these lands is critical for community and infrastructure protection. Private landowners are often willing participants in prescribed fire, but unlike agencies, do not have a workforce and equipment. Prescribed fire on private lands needs an extensive support network.

Prescribed Burn Associations

Prescribed Burn Associations (PBAs) create opportunities for local practitioners and private landowners to connect on training, resources, and implementation of Rx fire. PBAs create space for community members and leaders to define, discuss, and engage in prescribed fire planning, thus creating local advocates and broader acceptance of prescribed fire application. PBAs help private landowners gain the necessary experience to safely utilize Rx fire and build networks to organize local fire management.



B. AUDIENCES FOR PUBLIC OUTREACH & ENGAGEMENT

Suggested audiences for tailored public education and outreach efforts included:

- Washington residents
- Tourists and Tourism Boards
- Clean air advocacy groups
- Rental homeowners
- Collaborative group and community organization leaders
- County-level leaders and elected officials
- Agency and organization staff
- Infrastructure and utilities
- Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI)
- Chambers of Commerce
- Academia and research
- New homeowners
- Second homeowners
- County assessors and treasury groups
- Health districts, hospitals, and senior centers
- Realtor associations'
- Sensitive and high-risk communities
- Students (K-12)
- Tribal community members
- Media
- Insurance industry
- Non-English speakers
- High-level funders
- Industrial timber complex (small and large-scale forest owners)
- Project neighbors
- Large employers

C. ADDITIONAL PRESCRIBED FIRE GUIDING PLANS

Suggested audiences for tailored public education and outreach efforts included:

- [Pacific Northwest Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment](#)
- [Bureau of Land Management \(BLM\) 5-Year Fire Plans](#)
- [Regional Forest Plans](#)
- [Washington Smoke Management Plan](#)
- [Rx fire Implementation Guide](#)
- [National Wildfire Coordinating Group Training Catalog](#)
- [Wildland Fire Learning Portal](#)
- [2021 National Prescribed Fire Use Survey Report](#)

Contact DNR



Visit our website.
dnr.wa.gov



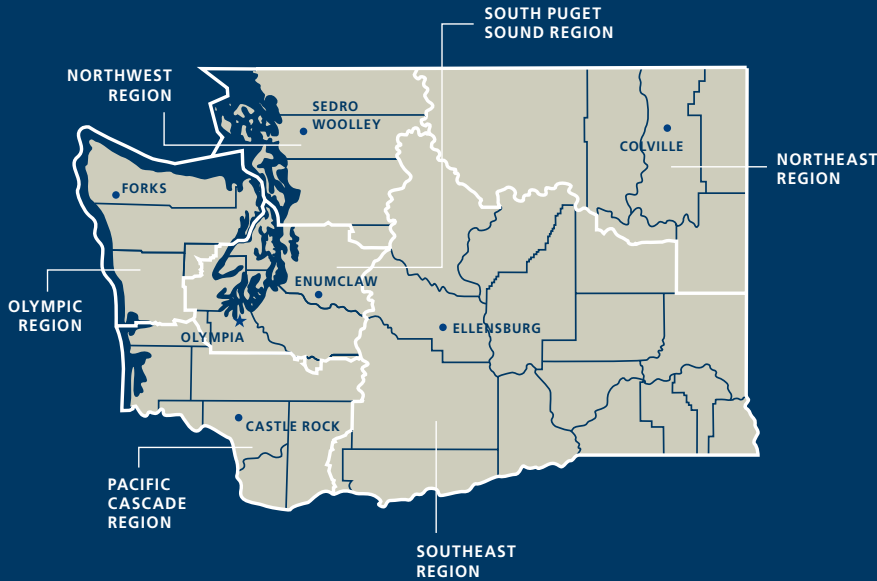
Send us an email.
information@dnr.wa.gov



Call us.
360-902-1000



Come in.
See addresses at left



dnr.wa.gov/prescribedfire

OLYMPIA HEADQUARTERS

1111 Washington St. SE
MS 47000
Olympia,
WA 98504-7000
(360) 902-1000

NORTHEAST REGION

225 S. Silke Rd.
Colville, WA 99114
(509) 684-7474

NORTHWEST REGION

919 N. Township St.
Sedro-Woolley,
WA 98284-9384
(360) 856-3500

PACIFIC CASCADE REGION

601 Bond Rd.
PO Box 280,
Castle Rock,
WA 98611-0280
(360) 577-2025

OLYMPIC REGION

411 Tillicum Lane
Forks, WA 98331-9271
(360) 374-2800

SOUTH PUGET SOUND REGION

950 Farman Ave. N.
Enumclaw,
WA 98022-9282
(360) 825-1631

SOUTHEAST REGION

713 Bowers Rd.
Ellensburg,
WA 98926-9301
(509) 925-8510

CHECK OUT OUR SOCIAL MEDIA LINKS



Facebook
WashDNR



YouTube
WAstateDNR



Twitter
@waDNR



Fire Twitter
@waDNR_fire



Instagram
washDNR

Photos from DNR photo
files unless otherwise
noted.



NATURAL RESOURCES

HILARY S. FRANZ
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC LANDS

dnr.wa.gov/prescribedfire