Wildfire Infographic

The Pacific Northwest is experiencing more and larger wildfires. Drought, hotter summers, and decades of suppression have led to increased fuels and risk of intense fires.

BRACING FOR THE BLAZE

842,358
WA acres burned in 2020, more than twice the 10-year average.*

4X
Number of human-caused fires compared with lightning in 2020.*

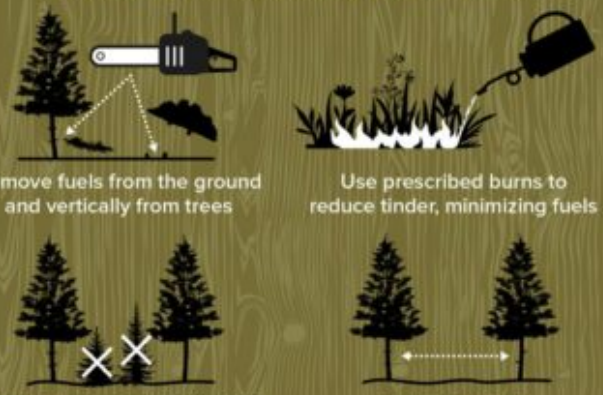
$114M
Amount spent on fire suppression in WA, FY2019.*

2.2M
Number of WA homes exposed to wildfire.*

The Pacific Northwest is experiencing more and larger wildfires. Drought, hotter summers, and decades of suppression have led to increased fuels and risk of intense fires. All of eastern Washington, forests in the Olympic rain-shadow, and dry Puget Sound prairie lowlands are all at elevated risk. WSU scientists and Extension Foresters use research-based education to help our neighbors manage risks and adapt to the reality of wildfires.

At-Risk Forest

Fire-Resistant Forest



Researchers at WSU study how forests recover from fire, and predict areas at risk for future blazes. Drones, satellites, and aircraft help us learn how forests can survive devastating fires and insect outbreaks. Scientists learned that salvage logging and re-seeding reduce flooding and return water levels to normal faster.

Sharing Knowledge

WSU Extension Foresters help landowners plan and protect their forests through education.

907
WSU forestry webinars and field days (2010–2019)

+25,000
People educated about forest fire prevention

+1.5m
Acres stewarded by Extension trained landowners

$293m
Net public benefit of forestry education

*Washington State Department of Natural Resources