



October 7, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D. C. 20500

Through: Regional Administrator Kenneth Murphy
FEMA Region X
Bothell, WA 98102

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I request that you declare a major disaster for the State of Washington as a result of the 2015 Washington Wildfires from August 9, 2015 to September 10, 2015. I request the Individuals and Households Program, the Disaster Crisis Counseling Program, the Disaster Unemployment Program, and the SBA Disaster Loan Program for Physical and Economic Loss for Okanogan County, Chelan County, Stevens County and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

I further request that this declaration be granted for the Public Assistance Grant Program for Asotin County, Chelan County, Columbia County, Douglas County, Ferry County, Garfield County, Klickitat County, Lincoln County, Okanogan County, Pend Oreille County, Stevens County, Whatcom County, Yakima County, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Spokane Tribe of Indians, and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation.

In addition, I request Public Assistance Direct Federal Assistance (DFA) to address hazards and mitigation measures associated with burned areas in the impacted jurisdictions. Impacts to the affected areas include significantly increased risks of damage from flash flooding, debris flows and other erosional events to infrastructure, residences, and environmental and cultural resources. I also request the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program statewide.

In total, the 2015 Washington Wildfires consisted of eight major fires and multiple smaller fires burning over one million acres of land to date – which threatened life safety and destroyed homes, business, and critical infrastructure in Asotin County, Chelan County, Columbia County, Douglas County, Ferry County, Garfield County, Klickitat County, Lincoln County, Okanogan County, Pend Oreille County, Stevens County,

Whatcom County, Yakima County, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Kalispel Tribe of Indians, Spokane Tribe of Indians, and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. The Okanogan Complex Fire, the largest of the wildfires, is now the largest wildfire in state history with more than 522,920 acres burned and forced level 3 immediate evacuations of more than 1,900 residents. This particular fire burned in Okanogan County and Colville Tribal communities that were heavily impacted from the previous largest state fire – the 2014 Carlton Complex. These communities are still struggling to recover from that event which burned 256,108 acres. There is significant physical damage as well as personal and economic hardship brought upon these communities.

Snapshot reflections

Okanogan County: August 19, 2015 was the most climactic day of the fire suppression efforts. The Okanogan County Sheriff referred to this day as a “hellstorm.” Three firefighters were killed, one suffered life-threatening injuries, and four others were injured during response to the Twisp River Fire, part of the Okanogan Complex. The Twisp River Fire led to immediate and full evacuations in the towns of Twisp and Winthrop with a combined population of about 1,300.

In an area decimated by power outages, telephone and cellular outages, emergency alert system outages and fires in all directions, there were multiple road closures throughout the County including State Route (SR) 153 and SR 20, leaving small, isolated communities with one emergency egress route into Canada. Okanogan emergency officials issued county-wide Level 1 evacuations preparing communities for the absolute worst. Throughout the fires in Okanogan County, the towns of Tonasket, Mallot, Riverside, Okanogan Heights, and Conconully were completely evacuated. Some of the areas threatened by wildfire were under level 3 evacuations for almost two weeks, pushing residents out of their homes and forcing businesses to close.



Chelan County: In the City of Chelan area, Level 3 immediate evacuations were in place for approximately 2,900 residents. Extremely erratic fire behavior forced immediate, no-notice evacuations of numerous communities. The entire county was placed under level 1 evacuation notices with major portions of the county placed under level 2 evacuations due to the volatile situation.

Ferry County: In the City of Republic, County officials prepared for an unthinkable situation -- being entirely surrounded by fire. Major fires in all directions were

threatening not only the city and residents but also all the evacuation routes out of the city. Significant planning efforts were implemented to ensure a fallback safe haven was in place if/when the fire could not be stopped. Planning efforts included working with U.S. Customs and Border officials for possible cross border evacuations into Canada. Stevens County: In Stevens County, local communities faced the same situation as Chelan, Ferry, and Okanogan counties: power outages, telephone and cellular outages, emergency alert system outages and fires in all directions. Volunteer firefighters were stretched thin as they battled extremely aggressive fires. Fire crews and homeowners battled the flames for structure protection as new fires popped up without warning. Lightning starts, high wind gusts, and an abundance of dry fuels resulted in tremendous growth. One man died during an evacuation near Fruitland as the fire started running extremely hard at literally hundreds of acres an hour. The man collapsed at his property but the only way to gain access was blocked by fire. The fire had swept the road, blocking the only way in or out.

Whatcom County: In the Towns of Newhalem and Diablo, the Goodell Fire forced the complete evacuation of not only the Seattle City Light dam facilities but the supporting communities as well. The aggressive fire burned so hot that cliff rocks perched alongside SR 20 were heard cracking and boulders fell on to the roadway. The active fire and rock debris blocked fire fighter's access to the area and facilities. Additionally, the road closures in this area cut off yet another egress evacuation route for Okanogan County

By the numbers -- 2015 Washington Fire Statistics

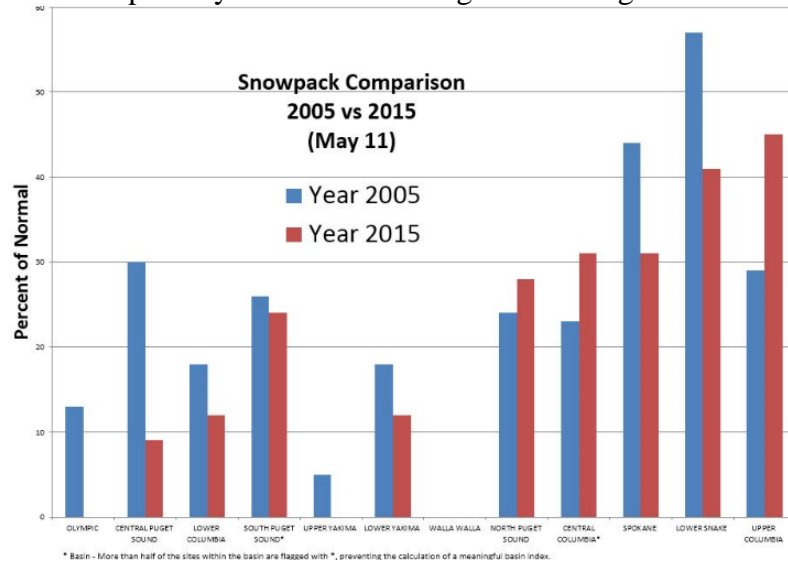
- Since June 1st: 1,005,423 acres burned
- Total of 1,541 fires: 1,084 human-caused and 457 lightning-caused
- Total of 59 fires meeting large fire criteria (at least 100 acres in timber or 300 acres in grass or brush)
- Northwest Geographic Area was at Preparedness Levels (PL) 4 and 5 for a total of 47 days (PL 4 - 24 days and PL 5 - 23 days) – highest levels on the scale.
- NW Incident Management Teams (National Interagency Management Organization, Area Command, Type 1 and Type 2) were mobilized 56 times. One or more teams were in place for 109 consecutive days June 12 - September 28.
- Total of 58,380 lightning strikes have been recorded.
- Largest single fire in Washington is the North Star at 218,138 acres. It is part of the Okanogan Complex
- Total estimated firefighting cost to date is \$319,551,300. During peak fire activity, over 11,450 firefighters/support personnel were actively working on NW fires – 1,569 Washington National Guard Soldiers were activated.
- WSP State Fire Mobilizations approved: 29
- 3372-EM-WA Public Assistance DFA was declared on August 21, 2015 (fire assets, communications assets, power generation assets, emergency planning – pre-Erosion Threat Assessment Reduction Team (ETART) efforts - \$547,000

Prelude to the 2015 Washington Wildfires

Prior to the 2014-2015 winter, the state had already entered into a significant water shortage situation. In 2014, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) declared 12

primary counties and 14 contiguous counties for drought and drought effects. In 2015, the USDA declared all 39 counties as primary counties for drought and drought effects.

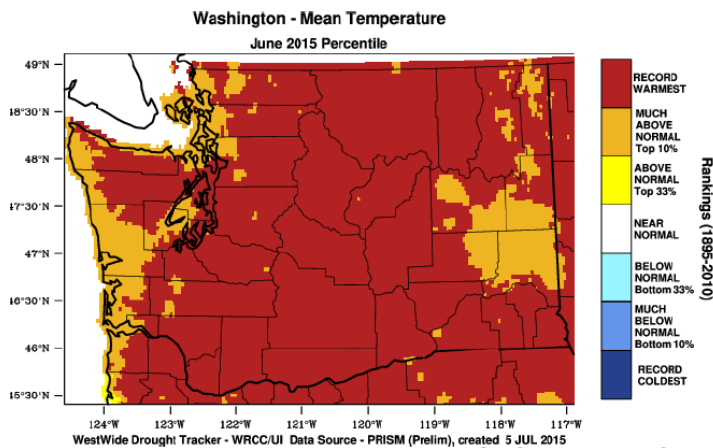
Drought Conditions: On March 13, 2015, I declared a drought in 11 of 62 Washington state watersheds. The unusually warm winter of 2014-2015 resulted in the statewide snowpack averaging 27percent of normal by March 31, 2015. The Washington State Department of Ecology convened the Water Supply Availability Committee



Snowpack Comparison 2005 vs 2015

to monitor the impacts of the snowpack on each watershed throughout the state. Worsening drought conditions led to an expansion of the declaration to 24 watersheds by April 17, 2015. Based on the observations of this committee and recommendations of the Executive Water Emergency Committee, I declared a statewide drought emergency on May 15, 2015. The low snowpack resulted in 78% of streams statewide running below normal and many already at historic lows. The last time Washington State declared a drought emergency was in 2005; the lack of snowpack and its observed effects in May 2015 were significantly higher as compared to 2005.

While precipitation totals remained normal through winter and into April, in May temperatures were warmer than normal across the state and precipitation started to fall well below normal in some parts of the state. June temperatures ranked as the warmest on record for nearly the entire state with temperatures between 4 degrees Fahrenheit and 9 degrees Fahrenheit above normal. June also ranked as the driest June on record for most of the state.

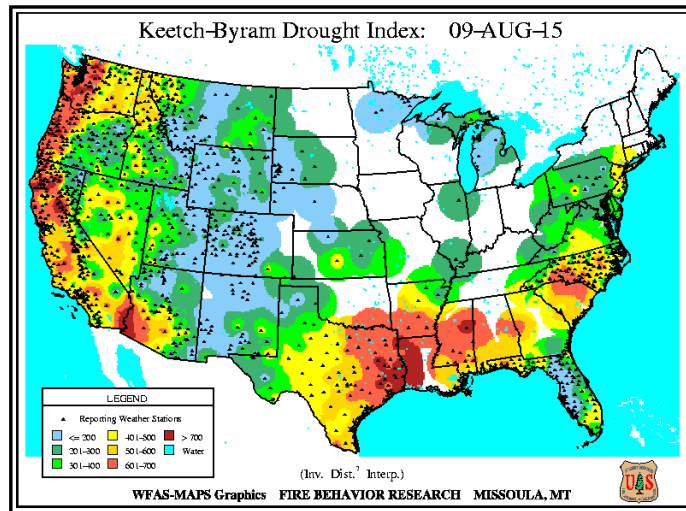


June average temperature percentiles for WA State.

Prior to the 2015 wildfire season, an evaluation of the potential threat based on the cumulative effects of warmer weather, lack of snowpack, predicted weather patterns, and state-wide drought conditions was briefed by state fire protection officials from the Washington State Patrol (WSP) Fire Marshall Office and Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Wildfire Division. During this briefing, it was highlighted that

the entire state was significantly threatened and the fire and emergency management communities needed to plan accordingly. As further evidence of the threat to western Washington, the Paradise Fire started in extremely dry fuels by a lightning strike on May 15, 2015 in the middle of the Olympic National Park and Hoh Rainforest. The Paradise Fire is still burning.

Fire Fuel Load: The severity of the drought conditions created a dry fuel load for eastern Washington that was explosive and significantly increased the immediate threat of wildfire. By the beginning of August, most of the state was over 500 on the Keetch-Byram Drought Index (KBDI). The KBDI index is used to measure the effects of seasonal drought on fire potential. The actual numeric value of the index is an estimate of the amount of precipitation (in



100ths of inches) needed to bring soil back to saturation (a value of 0 being saturated). The index deals with the top 8 inches of soil profile so the maximum KBDI value is 800 (8 inches), the amount of precipitation needed to bring the soil back to saturation. The index's relationship to fire is that as the index values increase, the vegetation is subjected to greater stress because of moisture deficiency. At higher values living plants die and become fuel, and the duff/litter layer becomes more susceptible to fire. A KBDI value of 500 and higher is often associated with more severe drought and increased wildfire occurrence. Intense, deep burning fires with significant downwind spotting can be expected. Live fuels can also be expected to burn actively at these levels.

Due to the widespread drought, Washington State had an abundance of dry fuels. The moisture content in fuels is the single most important factor that determines how much of the total fuel is available for burning, and ultimately, how much is consumed. Fuel moisture determines if certain fuels will burn, how quickly and completely they will burn, and what phases of combustion the fuels will support. Fuels with a higher moisture content reduce the rate of energy release of a fire because moisture absorbs heat released during combustion, making less heat available to preheat fuel particles to ignition temperature. Ignition normally takes place in the dead component of the fine fuels. The continuing impacts of the drought led to an unusually high amount of dead dry fuels and significantly increased the wildfire threat.

According to the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center (NWCC), fire threat was at critical levels in multiple Washington Predictive Service Areas (PSAs) due to fuel loads. The NWCC is a partnership between Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, Oregon Department of Forestry, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington Department of Natural Resources and the National Park Service.

PSA	Normal, Anomalous or Critical	ERC, 1000, 100 Relative to this time of year and Relative to critical summer conditions	Remarks	Updated
NW05	Critical	ERC- Well above average Above critical level 1,000 hour- Below average Near critical level 100 hour- Well below average	Grasses are cured at all but the highest elevations. Shrub and tree moistures are at critically dry levels and will help to support crown fire involvement. Heavy fuels are critically dry. Fine fuels are critically dry and highly receptive to fire starts and to support fire spread. Conditions are very supportive of large fire growth.	8/1/2015
NW08	Critical	ERC- Well above average Above critical level 1,000 hour- Below average Near critical level 100 hour- Well below average	Hot conditions have brought heavy fuels to critically dry conditions. Live fuels are near critical levels and crown involvement in fires is likely. Shrub moisture is at critical dryness at lower elevations but not quite to critical dryness at higher elevations. Grasses are cured at all but the highest elevations. Large fire spread is likely. Timber fuels will support active fire through the night.	8/1/2015
NW10	Critical	ERC- Well above average Above critical level 1,000 hour- Below average Near critical level 100 hour- Well below average	Shrub moisture is at levels where shrubs will significantly contribute to fire intensity. All grasses are cured. Heavy fuels are critically dry. Large fire growth is likely.	8/1/2015

Fuels are classified into four categories by which they respond to changes in moisture. This response time is referred to as time lag. The four categories are:

1 hour— grass, leaves, mulch and litter. Fuel moisture in these fuels can change within one hour according to factors such as temperature, rain, humidity and shade. Responds quickly to weather changes.

100 hour—1" to 3" diameter. Branches and brush

1000 hour—3" to 6" diameter. Trees, stumps, and deadfall logs. 1000 hour fuels are used in the National Fire Danger Rating System

Fire threat is mostly based on the 1-hour group, which includes all fine or small fuels up to 1/4-inch in diameter. These fuels can burn as quickly as one hour after it rains; hence the name 1 hour fuels. This is the group that mostly determines whether a fire will start and continue to spread. Fire intensity increases with heavier fuel loads. Fuel loading also affects other fire behavior such as ignition, rate of spread and torching (fire racing upward from the ground to treetop).

By early June, moisture content levels of common-sized trees (1000-hr fuels) were below the threshold at which large fire growth is likely. These conditions conducive to large fire growth historically do not occur in Washington until late July. Smaller vegetation (10-hr and 100-hr fuels) was critically dry and receptive to fire starts. Grasses and shrubs were completely cured, supporting rapid spread of wildfire. The combination of extremely dry fuels of all sizes, with heat and low humidity, supported very fast burning from the ground through ladder fuels into tree canopies. Fuel that can carry a fire burning in low-growing vegetation to taller vegetation is called ladder fuel. With the

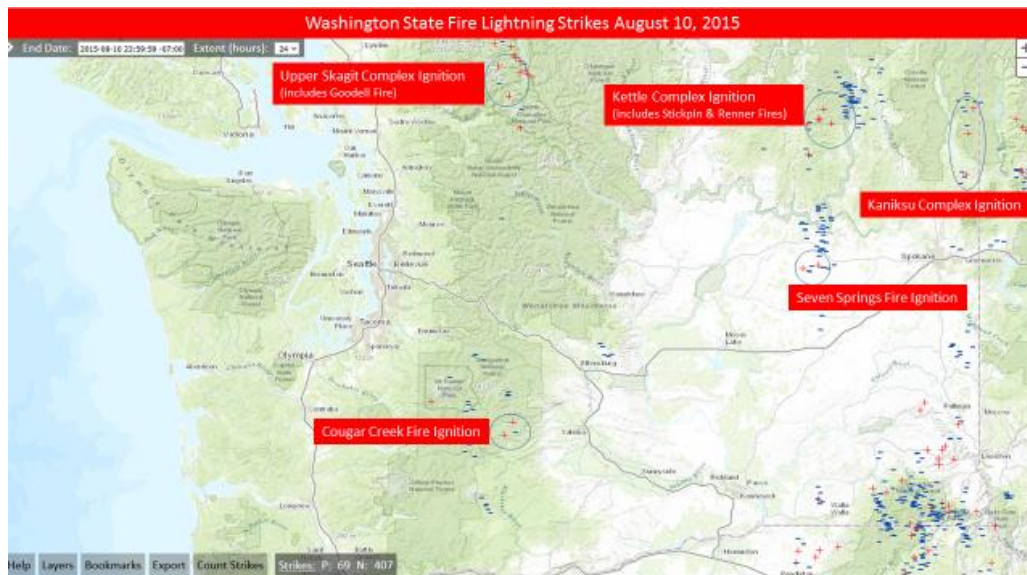
slightest breeze, fire carried from treetop to treetop, and once strong winds occurred, fire torched and carried for miles across the landscape.

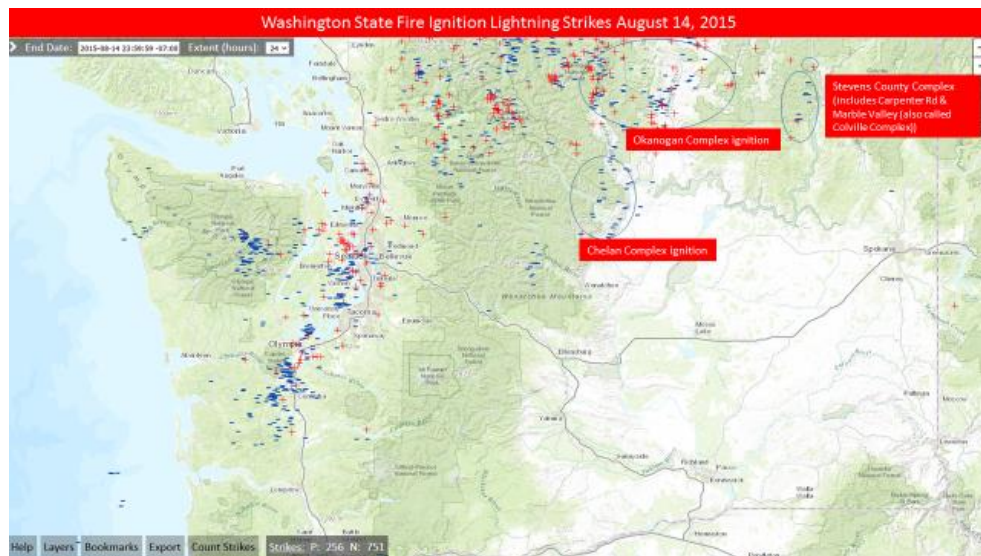
Lightning: The trend of warmer than normal temperatures continued into July. For Seattle-Tacoma Airport, July 2015 ranked as the warmest month on record. Precipitation totals continued below normal through July; in August eastern Washington precipitation continued to be below normal. August started with daily high temperatures into the second week and daily thunderstorms were common from the 8th through the 14th. During this time frame there were thousands of lightning strikes:



August 9, 2015	60	lightning strikes
August 10, 2015	476	lightning strikes
August 11, 2015	34	lightning strikes
August 12, 2015	614	lightning strikes
August 13, 2015	207	lightning strikes
August 14, 2015	1007	lightning strikes
August 15, 2015	326	lightning strikes

Lightning fires are started by strikes to ground that have a component called a continuing current. All positive discharges have a continuing current, and about 20 percent of negative discharges have one. Ignition depends on the duration of the current and the kind of fuel the lightning hits. Spread of the fire after ignition usually depends on fuel moisture. Given the excessive dry fuel with low moisture, Washington State proved to be fertile ground for extreme fire behavior as a result of multiple days of lightning strikes.





On June 26, 2015, I declared a State of Emergency for all 39 state counties through September 30, 2015 due to the increased threat of an active burning environment caused by warmer and drier conditions combined with the existing high-risk fire fuel conditions. Additionally, the declaration identified that a limitation of response resources already existed in Asotin, Chelan, Clark, Cowlitz, Ferry, Garfield, Grant, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Kittitas, Klickitat, Lincoln, Mason, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, Spokane, Stevens, Thurston, Walla Walla, and Yakima counties. The declaration directed the implementation of plans and procedures in the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Plan*, and ordered into active state service the organized militia of Washington State to include the National Guard and State Guard.

2015 Wildfire Season in Numbers

The 2015 Washington Wildfires include the following large fires which ignited by lightning between August 10 and August 14. This is not inclusive of all the fires. All

told, there were 121 fire starts in this timeframe:

Okanogan County Fire Complex

- Acres Burned: 522,920 acres
- Estimated containment date: September 30, 2015

Chelan Fire Complex

- Acres Burned: 122,845
- Estimate containment date: October 1, 2015

Stevens County Fire Complex

- Acres Burned: 63,972
- Estimated containment date: September 17, 2015

Kettle Fire Complex

- Acres Burned: 76,392
- Estimated containment date: September 17, 2015

Upper Skagit Fire Complex

- Acres Burned: 8,505
- Estimated containment date: October 15, 2015

Kaniksu Fire Complex

- Acres Burned: 26,120
- Estimated containment date: October 15, 2015

Grizzly Bear Fire Complex

- Acres Burned: 80,725
- Estimated containment date: October 21, 2015

Cougar Creek Fire

- Acres Burned: 53,523
- Estimated containment date: September 15, 2015



As wildfire activity intensified through the summer, the following local jurisdictions declared local emergencies due to active wildfires threatening life safety:

August 14, 2015	Pend Oreille County
August 14, 2015	Stevens County
August 15, 2015	Ferry County
August 17, 2015	Chelan County
August 17, 2015	Okanogan County
August 19, 2015	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
August 21, 2015	Spokane Tribe of Indians

With the explosion of fires, the Washington State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) activated to Phase 3. Working hand-in-hand with the State Office of Financial Management (OFM), state emergency management worked with emergency management staffs throughout the state to augment sheriff and emergency management staffs in the most overwhelmed counties. Washington Mutual Aid System (WAMAS) and inter-local agreements were put in place to expedite deployments of incident management team staff

personnel. In addition, the Washington National Guard Joint Operations Center (JOC) established liaisons to each fire manager.

Fire conditions continued to worsen. Fires grew significantly and firefighting resources were not available through pre-existing mutual aid agreements with Oregon, Idaho, and British Columbia due to widespread Pacific Northwest fire activity.

The dire situation posed an immediate threat to public health and safety caused by high fire danger weather conditions leading to my request for an Emergency Declaration which you approved August 21, 2015, authorizing FEMA to identify, mobilize, and provide equipment and resources necessary to alleviate the impacts of the emergency. The Emergency Declaration included the counties of Asotin, Chelan, Douglas, Ferry, Klickitat, Okanogan, Pend Oreille, Skamania, Spokane, Stevens, and Yakima along with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, the Kalispel Tribe of Indians, the Spokane Tribe of Indians, and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. The Emergency Declaration provided Public Assistance DFA including a FEMA Region X IMAT team to assist with the expanding wildfire response and seven federal missions were executed.

On the afternoon of August 19, 2015, three firefighters battling the Twisp River Fire were



killed after flames overtook their vehicle, providing no escape. This tragic event occurred on one of the days which had the most significant fire activity, forcing firefighters to battle their grief during response to increasingly dangerous wildfire conditions.

Other injuries include 8 injuries at the Chelan Complex, 5 injuries at the Okanogan Complex, 5 injuries at the Kettle Complex, and 3 injuries and a fatality at the Carpenter Road Fire.

In total, the 2015 fire weather conditions in the state of Washington produced an unprecedented 29 state fire mobilizations costing an estimated \$28,845,000 in fire suppression costs on local lands. Additionally, the state incurred an estimated \$94,872,860 in fire suppression costs on state lands. Due to the level of threat and extreme fire behavior, FEMA approved 12 Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) declarations in 2015:

FMAG #	Fire Name	Impacted Counties/Tribes
FM-5087	Sleepy Hollow	Chelan County
FM-5090	Blue Creek	Walla Walla County
FM-5094	Highway 8	Klickitat County
FM-5098	Nine Mile Fire	Okanogan County
FM-5100	Chelan Complex	Chelan, Okanogan, and Douglas County
FM-5101	Stickpin Fire	Ferry County

FM-5103	Stevens Complex	Stevens County
FM-5104	Okanogan Complex	Okanogan, Ferry, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation
FM-5106	Twisp River Fire	Okanogan County
FM-5108	Renner Fire	Ferry and Stevens County
FM-5109	Goodell Fire	Skagit and Whatcom County
FM-5113	Horsethief Butte Fire	Klickitat County

Date	State Fire Mobilization Fire	Impacted County
9/13/2015	Stateline Fire	Walla Walla
9/13/2015	Horsethief Butte Fire	Klickitat
8/29/2015	Tucannon Fire	Columbia / Garfield
8/25/2015	Upper Skagit Complex Fire	Whatcom / Skagit
8/19/2015	North Star Fire	Colville Reservation
8/19/2015	Twisp River Fire	Okanogan
8/19/2015	Renner Lake Fire	Ferry / Stevens
8/18/2015	Black Canyon & McFarland Creek Fires	Okanogan
8/17/2015	Okanogan Complex	Okanogan
8/14/2015	Marble Valley Fire	Stevens
8/14/2015	Carpenter Road Fire	Stevens
8/14/2015	Reach Fire Complex	Chelan / Douglas / Okanogan
8/14/2015	Stickpin Fire	Ferry
8/09/2015	Coulee Hite Fire	Spokane
8/05/2015	Hwy 8 Fire	Klickitat
8/01/2015	Sunrise Fire	Pierce
7/31/2015	Deckerville Fire	Mason
7/20/2015	Blue Creek Fire	Walla Walla
7/20/2015	Interstate 90 Fire	Grant
7/11/2015	Douglas County Complex Fire	Douglas
7/05/2015	Gilmore Gulch Fire	Asotin
7/05/2015	Beezley Hills Fire	Grant
7/03/2015	Junction Fire	Klickitat
7/03/2015	231 Road Fire	Stevens
7/01/2015	Monument Fire	Grant
6/30/2015	Road 6 Fire	Douglas
6/28/2015	Sleepy Hollow Fire	Chelan
6/27/2015	Les Blair Fire	Benton
6/13/2015	Cold Springs Fire	Douglas

Recent Disaster History

The 2015 Washington Wildfires follows an active history of significant disaster events that have hit Washington State in the past 18 months. Since March 2014,

the state of Washington has seen 2 FEMA Disaster Declarations, 3 FEMA Emergency Declarations, and 20 FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) Declarations. Furthermore, a Major Disaster Declaration request is in process for the August 29 Windstorm in addition to this request:

FEMA Declared Emergencies and Disasters	
March 2014	Oso (SR-530) Landslide, Mudslide, and Flooding Emergency-Direct Federal Assistance (3370-EM-WA)
March 2014	Oso (SR-530) Landslide, Mudslide, and Flooding (4168-DR-WA)
July 2014	Central Washington Wildfires Emergency Emergency-Direct Federal Assistance (3371-EM-WA)
July 2014	2014 Washington Wildfires (4188-DR-WA)
August 2015	2015 Washington Wildfires Emergency-Direct Federal Assistance (3372-EM-WA)

Undeclared Disaster Events	
March 2014	Severe Storms, Flooding, Mudslides
August 2014	Flooding
November 2014	Severe Winter Storms
Nov – Dec 2014	Severe Winter Storms
January 2015	Severe Winter Storms
February 2015	Severe Winter Storms

Pending Major Disaster Requests	
August 2015	Wildfires
August 2015	Windstorm

Other federal funding and assistance has been made available to Washington State to aid in community and infrastructure recovery, including from 5 FHWA Emergency Relief (ER) declarations, 3 Small Business Administration declarations, 3 US Army Corps of Engineers PL84-99 Emergency Flood Fighting and 3 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers PL84-99 Advance Measures, as further described below:

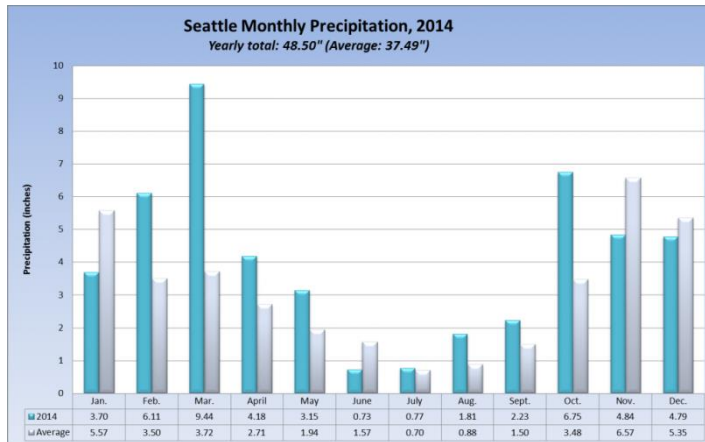
On March 22, 2014 the State Route 530 (SR-530) mudslide and subsequent flooding (4168-DR-WA) killed 43 citizens and decimated a neighborhood of 42 homes in Snohomish County. Full-time organized Urban Search and Recovery (USAR) joint operations (FEMA, WA National Guard, local SAR, and local community volunteers) took place from March 22 until April 28, with County-led SAR operations continuing until July 22 when the last



victim was recovered. In addition to Emergency Declaration 3370-EM-WA providing Direct Federal Assistance, the following aid was provided in support of the SR-530 Mudslide and Flooding:

- \$34,554,536 FEMA Public Assistance Grants (4168-DR-WA)
- \$1,311,194 FEMA Public Assistance – Direct Federal Assistance
- \$36,000,000 FHWA Emergency Relief (ER) declaration (WA 14-2)
- \$1,215,300 Small Business Administration (SBA) declaration
- \$1,150,000 US Army Corps of Engineers PL84-99 Advance Measures

Washington experienced heavy rainfall in early 2014 during late winter/early spring, followed by another deluge in late summer/early fall. These rain events contributed to 2014 being the fifth-wettest year on record at Seattle-Tacoma Airport and the wettest year since 1996. Damages incurred from the March 2014 rain events warranted the following federal funding:



- \$8,593,898 FHWA Emergency Relief for Abnormal Rainfall March 2014 (WA 14-3)
- \$50,000 FHWA Emergency Relief for Bridge Damages March 13 and April 14, 2014 (WA 15-5)

The 2014 Central Washington Firestorm (DR-4188) was the previous record-setting fire season that now pales in comparison to 2015. The 2014 wildfires saw 10 state fire mobilizations, 8 approved FMAG declarations, and burned 386,972 acres with an estimated fire suppression cost of over \$88 million. Okanogan County and Kittitas County were designated as disaster counties along with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation for FEMA Public Assistance. In addition to Emergency Declaration 3371-EM-WA providing Direct Federal Assistance, the following Federal aid provided in support of the 2014 Washington Wildfires included:

- \$33,826,495 FEMA Public Assistance Grants (4188-DR-WA)
- \$9,236 FEMA Public Assistance – Direct Federal Assistance
- \$3,000,500 Small Business Administration (SBA) declaration
- \$40,000 U.S. Army Corps of Engineers PL84-99 Advance Measures

FMAG Number	Fire Name	Impacted County
FM-5058	Lake Spokane Fire	Stevens County
FM-5059	Mills Canyon Fire	Chelan County
FM-5061	Chiwaukum Fire	Chelan County

FM-5062	Carlton Complex Fire	Chelan County, Okanogan County
FM-5063	Watermelon Hill Fire	Lincoln County, Spokane County
FM-5064	Saddle Mountain Fire	Kittitas County
FM-5071	Snag Canyon Fire	Kittitas County
FM-5072	Hansel Fire	Chelan County

Date	State Fire Mobilization Fire	Impacted County
9/13/2014	Trinidad Fire	Grant
8/21/2014	Sand Ridge Fire	Klickitat
8/06/2014	Snag Canyon Fire	Kittitas
8/01/2014	Rising Eagle Road Fire	Okanogan
7/29/2014	Road C Fire	Douglas
7/29/2014	High Drive Fire	Spokane
7/19/2014	Watermelon Hill Fire	Lincoln, Spokane
7/15/2014	Stokes Road Fire	Okanogan
7/07/2014	Rock Hill Fire	Douglas
6/17/2014	Cottonwood 2 Fire	Yakima

Less than a month after the devastating 2014 Central Washington Firestorm, summer squall rains led to flash flooding and mudslides in Okanogan County on land scarred by wildfires. Debris from the floods and mudslides affected major access routes such as SR-20 and SR-153. The following federal aid was provided due to the flooding:

\$4,277,285 FHWA Emergency Relief (ER) declaration (WA 14-4)

As the wettest year on record continued for Washington State, two additional winter storms brought damages in November 2014 and November/December 2014.

\$252,000 USACE PL84-99 Emergency Flood Fighting Measures

\$300,000 USACE PL84-99 Emergency Flood Fighting Measures

A severe winter storm in January 2015 including heavy rainfall, flooding, and mudslides, brought a significant amount of concentrated damages to Grays Harbor County and Pacific County. A Stafford Act Declaration was not requested, even though the impacted jurisdictions incurred significant damage, as the total amount of damages did not meet the state's Public Assistance Program threshold of \$9.48 million. Grays Harbor County damages of \$4.7 million met over half of the state requirement; and combined damages for Grays Harbor County and Pacific County met almost 70 percent of the state's indicator. The following federal funding was provided:

\$605,800 Small Business Administration Severe Storms, Flooding, Mudslides (14215, 14216)

\$500,000 FHWA Emergency Relief for January 3, 2015 Rainfall and Flooding (WA 15-02)
 \$750,000 USACE PL84-99 Emergency Flood Fighting Measures

Another severe winter storm occurred in February 2015 and included heavy rainfall, flooding, and mudslides. Again, this storm brought a significant amount of concentrated damages to Clallam County, Jefferson County, Mason County, Grays Harbor County, Skokomish Tribe, Quileute Tribe, Makah Tribe, Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe, and the Lower Elwha

S’Klallam Tribe. The Jamestown S’Klallam suffered significantly as the Dungeness River tore away pilings and the truss section of the trestle of a 99-year old railroad bridge. However, a Stafford Act Declaration was not requested, even though the impacted jurisdictions incurred significant damage, as the total amount of damages did not meeting the state’s Public Assistance Program indicator of \$9.48 million. Damages totaled \$3.8 million. The following federal funding was provided:



\$ 250,000 USACE PL84-99 Emergency Flood Fighting Measures

The below table portrays the total federal assistance provided to Washington for disasters during 2014 and 2015:

	FEMA Public Assistance	FHWA Emergency Relief	SBA Declaration	USACE PL 84-99
SR-530 Mudslide	\$34,554,536	\$36,000,000	\$1,215,300	\$1,150,000
SR-530 Mudslide – Direct Federal Assistance	\$1,311,194			
March 2014 Rainfall		\$8,943,898		\$500,000
Washington Wildfires 2014	\$33,826,495		\$3,000,500	\$40,000
Washington Wildfires 2014 – Direct Federal Assistance	\$9,326			
August 2014 Heavy Rainfall		\$4,277,285		

November 2014 Severe Winter Storm				\$252,000
Nov/Dec 2014 Severe Winter Storm				\$300,000
January 2015 Severe Storms		\$500,000	\$605,800	\$750,000
February 2015 Severe Winter Storms				\$250,000
Totals	\$69,701,551	\$49,721,183	\$4,821,600	\$3,242,000

While the federal assistance provided in response to the impacts from the weather events provides some relief for recovering communities, it does not meet the needs of our local jurisdictions. For example, local jurisdictions sustained \$8 million in damages and response costs from the January 2015 Severe Storms. Residents and property owners in Grays Harbor and Pacific Counties sustained \$4.3 million in uninsured losses of homes and rental housing, but were not able to garner any assistance for recovery. Residents were greeted by landslides, flooded streets, closed schools, and blocked highways. Most downtown streets were flooded curb to curb.



As illustrated in the table below, the jurisdictions impacted by this windstorm have repeatedly been impacted by severe storms over the last two years. The below events have a combined Public Assistance Initial Damage Assessment (PA IDA) of more than \$40 million. However, since damages incurred from each incident failed to meet the state threshold of \$9.48 million, the assistance that comes with a Major Disaster Declaration has not been provided to the counties for these associated events.

	Jan 2014 Severe Storms, Flooding, Mudslides	Feb 2014 Severe Storms, Flooding, Mudslides	Nov 2014 Severe Winter Storm	Nov/Dec 2014 Severe Winter Storm	Jan 2015 Severe Storms	Feb 2015 Severe Winter Storms
PA IDA Results	\$1.8M	\$6.2M	\$5.8M	\$8.0M	\$7.3M	\$3.8M
Clallam	X	X	X	X		X

Grays Harbor	X	X		X	X	X
Island	X					
Jefferson	X	X	X	X		X
King		X		X	X	
Lewis					X	
Mason		X		X		X
Pierce		X			X	
Skagit		X		X	X	
Snohomish	X	X	X	X	X	
Whatcom		X		X	X	
Quileute Nation	X			X		X

Even though the state experienced a significant number of severe storms and flooding in 2014 and 2015, and especially prior to the 2014-2015 winter, the state was already entering into a significant water shortage situation. In 2014, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) declared 12 primary counties and 14 contiguous counties for drought and drought effects. In 2015, the USDA declared all 39 counties as primary counties for drought and drought effects

Unfortunately, the 2015 Washington Wildfires wreaked havoc in communities that are in the midst of recovery from previous disasters. Okanogan County, the most impacted county in this request, is still struggling to recover from the catastrophic declared fire from 2014. In early summer 2015, Chelan County was impacted by the Sleepy Hollow Fire, the first FMAG declared fire of the season in Washington which burned 29 homes and more than four square miles. In addition to the destroyed homes, four commercial businesses ignited in an industrial site including a recycling center and adjoining businesses in the City of Wenatchee. Three businesses were burned.

Further impacts to Okanogan County occurred in the midst of the wildfires. On August 15, 2015, a thunderstorm cell and minimal rain led to flash flooding and mudslides in Okanogan County on land scarred by wildfires. Debris from the floods and mudslides in the burned area affected County roads as well as SR-153. Firefighters were forced off side and the main roads as the roads were blocked by mudslide debris - rocks and trees.

State, Local, Tribal Impacts

Although we can provide a list of immediate impacts for the state and the affected local communities from the 2015 Washington Wildfires, we may not fully understand the intricacy of the disaster impacts for a long time.

This event caused extreme disruption of normal functions and services in the affected communities. Whole towns were placed on Level 3 immediate evacuation with many more surrounding areas also requiring immediate evacuations. At one point, the entirety



of Okanogan County and Stevens County population were placed under a Level 1 evacuation due to the lack of sheriff deputies, power outages, emergency alert system outages, and fire protection assets to carry out fire evacuation, alerting and protection.

The Twisp River turned red after an aerial drop of fire retardant dropped to combat the Twisp River Fire.

An analysis was conducted to ascertain if any of the damaged primary residences were located in areas of recent previous fires of 2012, 2013, or 2014. Results indicated that none of the observed damage of this current PDA was located in areas which had previously been struck by fires, but what could not be determined is if the individuals who lost homes in previous fires were also victims of the 2015 Washington Wildfires.



Home damage surveyed in the counties was more widespread in nature with small pockets of concentrated damage from fire and smoke in Okanogan, Chelan, and Stevens Counties and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. A lack of conclusive measurement tools prevented the State, Tribal, and Federal PDA teams of effectively measure the extent of smoke damage.

Individually owned water well contamination was noted for multiple dwellings and “Boil Water Orders” were issued by several jurisdictions. Widespread power outages also rendered private wells inoperable. Residents in the City of Omak were without power for more than a week and resorted to retrieving water from the Town of Conconully’s 100 year-old fire ditch.

The impact to tribes has been extensive. The Colville Reservation suffered very significant fires in 2012, 2014, and 2015. In addition to these fires, a major disaster declaration (4083-DR-WA) resulted from a Straight-line Winds microburst in 2012 which decimated the forests. This year, the Tunk Block and North Star Fires (Okanogan Complex) burned more than 20 percent of the land managed for timber on the Colville Reservation. Commercial timber revenues usually make up 20-25 percent of the annual operating budget. When combining the St Mary’s Mission Fire of 2012, the Devil’s Elbow Fire of 2014, and the Okanogan Complex Fire of 2015 – the impact to the Colville

Tribe is quite significant. The Spokane Tribe also experienced significant impact to its commercial timber revenues.

In its emergency proclamation, the Spokane Tribe stated that more than \$1 million in timber was impacted by the Carpenter Road Fire, which will have a significant effect on the tribal annual operating budget. The Yakama Nation also experienced a significant impact to its managed forests. The Cougar Creek Fire burned into many of the areas of the Cold Springs Fire of 2008.

The timing of the wildfires and associated impacts also affected schools in many communities. Grand Coulee Dam School District delayed its opening from September 1st to September 8th due to wildfire and smoke concerns. The Nespelem School District delayed the start of classes until September 10th. In Stevens County, the Hunter School District delayed its opening by a week. The Colville Tribe placed staff on administrative leave due to the smoke level within their governmental facilities.

Social Impacts

In addition to this 2015 wildfire incident, the Okanogan region is still recovering from last year's devastating Carlton Complex fire. Of the homes destroyed, more than two-thirds were considered a primary home, and only 40 percent were completely covered by insurance. The Carlton Complex Long Term Recovery Group (CCLTRG) was formed in response to the wildfire to collaborate and provide coordination and recovery services to those individuals, families, businesses and communities that were adversely impacted. The CCLTRG has been working for more than a year to raise approximately \$4.3 million needed to replace 40 homes for the most vulnerable residents of the region.

As a result of the 2015 wildfire event, the CCLTRG is significantly short of funding to rebuild the planned 40 homes plus address the new need. There are 103 open cases from last year's incident being addressed by three disaster case managers. The 2015 Washington Wildfires have added another 120 cases and no additional case managers. For example, 93 families still need volunteer assistance, 35 need fencing, 28 need site cleanup, 17 need tree removal assistance, and others need assistance removing debris, and rebuilding. We only expect these numbers to increase as the needs of the affected population this year become more apparent.

For the Colville Tribe, senior meal sites were closed for three weeks and convalescent center patients were evacuated to shelters during the fires. Four community and recreation centers, the major source of exercise and social activity for tribal members, were closed either due to smoke or use for response and/or sheltering purposes. Damages to forest land will significantly affect outdoor



recreational activities for years. The Tribe continues to monitor the compounding effects of stress due to this incident and combined with being located in the area also affected by the 2014 Carlton Complex. Immediate Tribal and non-profit resources have been made available to the community, but long term solutions have not yet been identified.

Economic Impacts

An estimated 25 percent of businesses do not reopen following a major disaster. Local business were closed and lost revenue during the height of firefighting efforts due to the combination of evacuations, unsafe air conditions, and power and communication outages. It is expected that businesses may continue to experience impacts to facilities, shipping delays, and interruptions in employee productivity. Smaller towns dependent on tourism were evacuated and recovery in future years due to perceived issues of danger or health concerns is yet to be determined.

In addition to the negative impacts on tourism and businesses, the state will incur recovery costs related to watershed & soil stability/water quality mitigation and sensitive species & habitat restoration.

The fires destroyed traditional and cultural food sources throughout the tribal area. Many Tribal members depend on hunting and gathering berries, and it is estimated that the fire will affect future hunting and harvesting for at least two years. The fire also destroyed stored and frozen food Tribal members depend on throughout the year as well as camas root, which is a ceremonial food item. Ceremonial sites including burial grounds and cemeteries were affected by the fires as well as one of the historic trees at the treaty site.

The natural resource field comprises approximately 15.9 percent of the employed population in Okanogan County. As a result, much of the indirect employment within this region relies on the employment created through these resource-based occupations. The yearly operating budget of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation is financed primarily from revenues generated from the sale of the Tribe's timber products. Timber makes up nearly one third of the tribal budget. The fires burned 20-25 percent of tribal forest lands which will significantly reduce tribal revenue for the next 12 years with adverse effects expected within a year. It is expected that the remaining undamaged timber stocks will be highly susceptible to beetle infestation, which could potentially increase the long term damage of this event.

It is expected that the fires may lead to long-term instability in local labor markets by amplifying seasonal "ups and downs" in employment over the subsequent year. Among the sectors most affected in the months following a fire are tourism and natural resources. During the fires, 100 Fish and Wildlife employees were unable to work and resulted in a significant number furloughed or laid off without pay. Additionally, days of work productivity was lost for over 300 Tribal employees.

Tourism is also a major economic driver in the affected area. This time of year is high tourist season and the source of the majority of revenue for the year. Local events continued when possible despite cancellations of hotel reservations and campground sites, although the fires reduced visitors and incomes derived from such events and will

continue to reduce visits in coming years. The Okanogan County fair was delayed by two weeks. These fires will have a lasting negative impact on tourism in the area as fire damaged lakes, hiking trails, and wilderness areas are unappealing to the average visitor.

Tourism was negatively impacted due to smoke, active fires, and media perception from the region. This will continue to impact the later fishing and hunting season visitors. Tourism displacement is a significant issue. All Lake Roosevelt campgrounds in Stevens County were closed. Outfitters were forced to close business operations. Losses to area sawmills due to forest conditions and direct fire proximity are still being calculated. Vaagen Brothers mill estimated a \$500,000 loss and six other small mills in Stevens County were directly impacted by forest shut-downs or direct fire activity. Negative impacts to small businesses due to evacuations and air quality are still being calculated but smaller towns were completely evacuated for many days resulting in losses of inventory and tourism.

Serious damage to all County roads occurred due to firefighting efforts. The Public Utility Districts discontinued new hook-ups due to fire conditions. It is anticipated that watershed damage will also have a negative impact on water systems.

Agricultural Losses

Agriculture is the affected area's most important economic driver. It is too soon to fully assess the agricultural losses caused by these fires but they are likely to be lasting for many years.

Ranching and livestock total 11,000 head of cattle in Okanogan County, and it is estimated 3,850 were lost, worth a total of \$7.7 Million. Another 1,400 are expected to starve without adequate feed solutions, a loss of \$2.8 Million. That leaves 5,750 head of cattle in the county and a \$10.5 Million possible revenue loss to producers. Virtually every fence line is gone, in some places for the second year in a row. In addition, 95 percent of DNR grazing land and 80 percent of U.S. Forest Service land burned out, as well as some private and tribal areas. Sales of valuable cattle at slaughter houses are the highest on record. There has been a virtual elimination of bitterbrush, a winter feed for deer, so deer are already descending to eat orchards and stashes of hay belonging to growers and producers. Stevens County lost hundreds of cattle and an estimated 100 miles of fence line and faces similar issues of lost habitat and impact of deer descending.

The Colville Tribe lost many specialty animals to the fires, including alpacas and horses. Cattle loss is still being tallied as cattle slowly return, but impacts from these fires, combined with the wildfires in 2014, have destroyed winter and summer range lands, which will likely result in having to sell some of the current cattle. Stored hay and hay fields were destroyed.

In addition to the immediate loss of forage, the availability of livestock forage will continue to be reduced through the next growing season. In addition to the loss of private rangeland, the U.S. Forest Service could restrict grazing for three to five years on severely burned allotments to ensure regrowth. It's expected those lands will also suffer from extensive mudslides and toxic weed growth, which is expected to flourish this

following spring unless extensive seeding and land use mitigation activities are put into place.

Water is being delivered to those with damaged wells for both human consumption and livestock use with no solution for sustainable, long term storage and delivery.

State, Local, and Tribal Response

The unprecedented local, state, and federal response efforts to the 2015 Washington Wild Fires required the full activation of the State's Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) for 41 days. The SEOC activated 14 Emergency Support Functions and completed 149 mission requests in support of the local response effort.

In addition to the responsibilities associated with Emergency Support Functions (ESF),



the Washington State Department of Commerce, as lead for the State Disaster Housing Task Force, synchronized with state and federal agency partners to coordinate and share housing resource information for those affected by the wildfires. This included updating the HousingSearchNW database to reflect accurate short-term housing options as well as providing support to other housing providers to facilitate effective outreach to

potentially available properties. Additionally, properties funded by the Housing Trust Fund provided income restriction and qualification waivers as to assist those affected by the wildfires.

As compared to the 2014 wildfire which required the activation of 250 National Guard members to assist with the firefighting and security response, the 2015 Washington Wildfires involved the activation of 1,569 National Guardsmen to assist in firefighting efforts. Through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), the state requested and received assistance from the Wyoming National Guard, Minnesota National Guard, and Colorado National Guard. Additionally, the Department of Defense mobilized 200 active military personnel from Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) to assist in firefighting efforts, a measure that has not been taken by the National Interagency Fire Center since 2006.





Through a strategy meeting at the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC) Boise, WADNR Fire Managers were able to secure outside firefighting assistance from the Governments of Australia and New Zealand. These firefighting task forces were able to secure the southern flanks of Canadian fires spreading south toward the U.S.-Canada border as well as assisting with securing the north flank of a number of our fires prior to spreading north to the border. Many thanks go to our fellow firefighters who came to our aid when we needed it the most.

The following information is furnished on the nature and amount of State, local, or Indian tribal government resources that have been or will be used to alleviate the conditions of this disaster:

Washington Military Department, Emergency Management Division (EMD)

- Implemented the State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), activating State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) to Level III in support of Okanogan, Stevens, Chelan, Douglas, and Ferry County; on-scene command posts; and resource providing state agencies
- Deployed SEOC Liaison Officers (LNO) to Okanogan County, Stevens County, Chelan County, Ferry County, and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation to coordinate SEOC response and facilitate information sharing
- Used social media to share key public safety messaging. Wrote and distributed the daily emergency update briefing to the Governor's office. Worked with the Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs to ensure those who speak limited English received critical information. Shared key County and Tribal messaging regarding volunteers, donations, insurance claims, and community services.
- Recruited public information officers (PIO) to serve in the Okanogan and Stevens County EOC
- Deployed IA/PA technical assistance in conjunction with SEOC response elements to Okanogan, Stevens, and Chelan Counties
- Coordinated EMAC support for the WA National Guard
- Secured and deployed three Cellular on Wheels (COWs): one at the Chelan Falls Fire Camp, one in the City of Chelan, one at Chelan Butte
- Provided one person to provide relief dispatch support for EOC
- Provided relief dispatch support for 911 Center
- Provided cellular support and 20 handsets to Carpenter Fire Base Camp
- Provided land mobile radios to Colville Tribe Emergency Operations Center. Provided generator and land mobile radio support to the town of Twisp.

Washington Military Department, National Guard

- Deployed LNO to Chelan Complex Fire
- Deployed LNOs to Cougar Creek Fire

- Deployed LNOs to DNR in Olympia to coordinate full integration of National Guard, EMAC, DoD, FEMA ESF-4 assets, and other government firefighters into the state fires
- Deployed one mobile kitchen trailer, with one MKT and five cooks
- Deployed Security Patrols to the Stickpin fire (2 Shift Supervisors and 6 X 2 person security elements)
- Deployed five medic teams to Stickpin Fire
- Provided Aviation Support (Helicopter w/ water bucket and crew w/ LNO) to the Chelan Complex Fire
- Provided a Fueler and Crew to Cougar Creek Fire
- Provided two UH-60 aircraft w/water buckets and crews to Cougar Creek Fire
- Provided Communications Support Element providing cross-band repeating capability
- Provided Joint Staff from the National Guard Joint Operations Center (JOC)
- Total of 1,569 National Guard personnel deployed to assist with fire suppression activities
- Provided three Heavy Equipment Maintenance Mobility Trucks to the Columbia Gorge
- Deployed LNO for hand crews
- Provided nine Fire suppression hand crews to Chelan Falls ICP
- Provided Hand Crew Command to Chelan Falls ICP
- Provided Hand Crew Medical Support to Chelan Falls ICP
- Provided Hand Crew Fueler to Chelan Falls ICP
- Provided hand crew vehicle support to Chelan Falls ICP
- Provided one hand crew equipment maintenance to Chelan Falls ICP
- Provided Hand Crew Shelter to Chelan Falls ICP
- Provided six land mobile radios to the Twisp ICP
- Provided liaison officer for hand crews and support to Kettle Falls
- Provided five Medical support vehicles to Kettle Falls
- Provided six Security vehicles to Kettle Falls
- Provided a LNO officer to the Colville Tribe Emergency Operations Center
- Provided three medical support vehicles to the Colville Tribe
- Provided four Water Buffalos to the Colville Tribe
- Provided 20 Mobile Security teams to the Colville Tribe
- Deployed a LNO to North Star Fire ICP Aviation element
- Deployed five Medic Teams for NorthStar ICP
- Deployed seven security vehicles to North Star Fire
- Provided LNO to Carpenter Road Fire
- Provided one CH-47 Helicopter to the Carpenter Road Fire
- Provided two Hummers for the Carpenter Road Fire
- Deployed one IMT Support package and one vehicle to the Carpenter Road Fire
- Provided four light towers to the Okanogan Complex
- Provided five traffic control point staffing/vehicles to the Okanogan Complex
- Provided 15 mobile security packages to the Okanogan Complex
- Provided one HMMWW RETRANS Support to Okanogan Complex
- Provided one LNO for the NEAC and ICP support

- Provided one mobile security team to Colville
- Provided a mobile kitchen to Marble Valley ICP
- Provided kitchen support to Marble Valley Fire ICP
- Provided Mobile Security patrols for Graves Mountain Fire
- Provided support for the Colville Complex IMT managing the Graves Fire
- Provided Security controls to Marble Valley

Department of Agriculture

- Coordinated with Cattleman's Association and Cattle Producers of Washington to support farmers and ranchers with livestock and range land losses
- Provided support in identifying brands of deceased livestock
- Worked with counties, local public health jurisdictions and associations on potential debris management issues (livestock carcasses)

Department of Commerce

- Surveyed several wildfire impacted utilities, either calling, emailing or checking websites, to assess number of outages and time for restoration of service. Checked for updates throughout the day and reported on changes in daily SITREP.
- Provided daily ESF12 summary to Commerce, BPA, and Governor's office
- Checked with BPA on status of main transmission lines threatened by fire
- Reported on the general utility situation during EOC afternoon (2 PM) shift report
- Added above information to EOC 5 PM Situation Report
- Responded to EOC special information requests, generally involving critical power lines threatened by fire
- Logged ESF12 actions in WebEOC
- Coordinated with USDEO ESF 12 counterparts
- Coordinated with iMAP Data to provide access for WAESDTS (Automated Energy Supply Tracking System)
- Developed and announced CDBG funding availability of up to \$150,000 for disaster recovery services to qualifying counties and communities action agencies. Provided technical assistance on application development for these funds. Responded to numerous inquiries from ineligible applicants regarding funding opportunity.
- Received a CDBG application on 9/8/15 from Okanogan County and awarded a \$1 million grant to expand the Douglas-Okanogan County Fire District #15's ambulance and emergency medical services facility in Brewster. This application was in the works prior to the fires, but the award was made in response to the evident need to build future disaster resilience for similar events.
- Responded to inquiries from local officials on the availability of potential short-term (CDBG Imminent Threat) and longer-term (CDBG Economic Opportunity or CDBG General Purpose) grants to address urgent needs

Department of Ecology

- Provided staff in the SEOC to lead ESF-10 (Hazardous Materials)
- Provided supplemental staff to work in the SEOC
- Provided Public Information Officers and communications support to the SEOC
- Offered translation services on an on-call, as-needed basis

- Offered tribal liaison services on an on-call, as-needed basis
- Inventoried hazardous materials storage locations near areas with fire activities to prepare for possible chemical releases
- Hazmat response teams were on standby to assist local jurisdictions and fire management teams with any needs related to hazardous materials releases
- In partnership with EPA, responded to concerns over possible releases of radiological materials from mine sites near active fires
- Worked with Department of Agriculture to provide technical assistance on the proper disposal of animal carcasses burned in the fires
- Maintained real-time air quality monitoring system; used data from this system to inform air quality advisories and forecasts
- Responded to requests for placement of additional air monitoring infrastructure
- Generalized forecast of smoke behavior based on weather information
- Worked with local jurisdictions and the National Weather Service to put out Air Quality Alerts and Health Advisories
- Fielded calls from public and media concerning smoke (health, predictions, and conditions)
- Washington Conservation Corps (WCC) provided crews to support fire camp operations and related fire management tasks. This included up to 88 staff deployed in crews ranging in size from six to 20 people. WCC crews were deployed at locations throughout the state of Washington.

Department of Enterprise Services

- LNOs to the SEOC
- PIO to the SEOC
- Deployed an Adventist Community Service liaison to Stevens County for Donation Management coordination
- Central Contracts Office fulfilled resource requests
- Located and sent generators to Town of Twisp, Town of Conconully Fire Department and the Colville Reservation
- Located and sent 10 air purifiers to Ferry County
- Located and sent two air scrubbers to the Colville Tribe
- Located and sent a coordinator to the Colville Tribe for a generator assessment
- Located a vendor to supply the Colville Tribe with 40 gas cans with flame arresters
- Identified suitable and ADA accessible facilities to receive and shelter up to 1,000 people for DSHS
- DES Surplus transported various resources to the different fire locations

Department of Health

- Activated ESF#8 Public Health, Mortuary Services on 8/18/15 and deployed DOH employees to the SEOC for 14 days
- Activated DOH Agency Coordination Center on 8/20/15
- Deployed 100,760 N-95 respirators to the impacted local health jurisdictions and tribes
- Deployed air scrubbers:

- 4 units - Ferry County EOC
- 8 units - Colville Tribes
- 2 units - Spokane Tribe
- Deployed three LNOs to the Colville Tribes EOC through the 14 day activation as requested
- Staged three caches of portable hospital beds, blankets, pillows and linen kits
- Established recommendations for improving indoor air quality in schools and other buildings during smoke events
- Coordinated with the State of Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Office of emergency Preparedness regarding potential public health impacts of fires along the Washington/Idaho border
- Completed FAQs for the Midnight Mine and had DOH and EPA representatives available to answer questions from the Spokane Tribe and other interested parties
- Coordinated with local health jurisdictions to monitor the resource needs of medical facilities across the regions
- Provided a staff contact to coordinate air quality messaging related to air pollution and school activities
- Provided staff contacts to coordinate drinking water and on-site septic system information
- Established web page for information regarding WIC clinic closures: <http://www.doh.wa.gov/YouandYourFamily/WIC>
- Coordinated deployment of nurses to the Colville Tribes from the Eastern Washington MRC. Sent out a request to all MRC in Washington for additional available nurses.
- Participated in the newly formed Behavioral Health Taskforce
- Coordinated with partners to obtain and deliver 50 Albuterol inhalers, 500 nebulizers and 20 vials of epinephrine to the Colville Tribes
- Assisted with obtaining FEMA/EPA Air Monitor in Stevens County and NE Tri-County Health District
- Supported affected partners with processing resource requests

Department of Social & Health Services

- Identified potential shelter and feeding support needs and collaborated with other state agencies including: Dept. of Ecology; Dept. of Enterprise Services; Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction; and the Washington State Dept. of Agriculture to stage additional resources for deployment, if needed
- Convened daily mass care conference calls to make sure immediate response needs were identified and addressed, including persons with access or functional needs. DSHS also kept the Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters apprised of state level actions.
- Facilitated a multi-agency task force to summarize efforts by all state agencies to assess unmet needs of Spanish speaking farmworkers in Chelan County. Agency partners included: Commission on Hispanic Affairs; Dept. of Health; Employment Security Department; Labor and Industries; and Washington State Dept. of Commerce. No unmet needs were identified.
- Developed maps of the fire impacted area in Chelan County to support voluntary agency outreach to Spanish speaking farmworker populations

- Designated staff who are Spanish speaking interpreters/translators to be available for deployment, upon request
- Elicited daily reports from the Regional Support Networks regarding the behavioral needs of impacted counties and tribes and oversaw provision of related services, consistent with contract terms
- Provided data to the Republic EOC on the specific location of vulnerable clients within a 10 mile radius of the town to support evacuations in progress
- Provided additional data to the Colville EOC to support planning for evacuations
- Responded to a request from the FEMA IMAT to plan for what FEMA characterized as “contingency planning for a mass fatality incident of several hundred people” in case the wildfire overwhelmed the town of Republic
- Staffed the State EOC ESF #6 desk and Policy Room, as requested

Washington State Patrol

- Responded to calls for service for local law enforcement agencies impacted by the fires
- Coordination of and transport for Governor Inslee’s visits to affected areas
- Local WSP troopers staffed roadblocks and assisted with evacuation notifications in affected areas
- WSP Aviation transported DNR personnel to affected areas
- Provided EOC Staff Relief to Stevens County
- Provided roadblock for Chelan County
- Provided a CISM Team
- Provided a road block for Stevens County
- Provided Evacuation support for Okanogan County
- Provided Evacuation notification/ access control/ and road block for Chelan County
- Provided a Personal Correctional Officer

Department of Transportation

- Set up and manning traffic control points
- Conducted damage assessments to highway infrastructure and right-of-ways
- Attended fire management meetings
- Provided Air Space Coordinator For NW Coordination Center
- Provided transportation for critical firefight assets
- Provided portable message boards to warn motorists in hazardous areas
- Provided barricades to local and tribal jurisdictions
- Provided evacuation support to Ferry and Okanogan Counties

Department of Corrections

- Deployed EOC team to assist Stevens County EOC.

Volunteer Agency Assistance

To date, at least 31 WAVOAD groups have provided assistance to residents affected by the 2015 Washington Wildfires. More than 42,000 hours have been donated by volunteers to date. Services include: feeding, sheltering, health services and nurses,

mental health services, bulk distribution, welfare inquiry, casework, spiritual and emotional care, clothing, gas cards, financial support, operating distribution centers, prescriptions, taking care of animals and allowing use of facilities for shelters. Currently, the State of Washington Mental Health Division is gathering data from local service providers to assess disaster-related mental health impacts within the counties to determine whether the State and local capabilities can adequately address the need.



American Red Cross

- Feeding: 13 feeding sites, 6 ERVs, 2 kitchens, 10,843 meals, 15,159 snacks
- Shelter: 16,326 people, 1,076 overnight stays
- Disaster Health Services: 1,394 contacts, 77 assisted
- Disaster Mental Health Services: 871 contacts
- Bulk Distribution: Four sites, 1,203 items (i.e., rakes, shovels, work gloves, plastic containers, trash bags, diapers and other items)
- Casework: 126 families, 282 people
- Call center: 1,393 calls
- Disaster Welfare Inquiry: 41
- Total volunteer hours as of 9/3 (41,270 and ongoing)

Catholic Community Services

- Conducting a 90 day deployment to assist with case management services.

United Methodist

- Provided food and shelter for evacuees with pets
- Provided spiritual and emotional care for evacuees
- Supplied emergency clothing and gas cards to evacuees
- Provided an alternate Red Cross shelter
- Provided emergency financial support to evacuees
- Working with the Carlton Complex Long Term Recovery Group to rebuild homes
- Recruited volunteers from across the country and provided training and coaching

Tonasket/Oroville Distribution Center (TDC)

- Received \$264,377 in donations and have distributed \$70,367

- 162 volunteers contributed 2,034 hours over a period of 19 days (Aug 23 - Sept 11)
- Received \$400 worth of Subway cards, \$200 in Chevron gas cards

Presbyterian Disaster Assistance

- Set up a single point long term recovery project in Colville WA with 30 hours per week of service

Salvation Army

- Providing gas cards, clothing, food and prescriptions. Cooking and supplying food at the ARC shelter in Brewster

Southern Baptist Convention

- Established additional feeding kitchens in Omak

Foursquare Disaster Relief (FDR)

- Chaplains supported two local churches in Tonasket and Omak
- Supported the warehouse at the Tonasket Distribution center both in organizing and chaplaincy and assisted with victim identification for both the local church and distribution center
- Nine chaplains gave 245 hours throughout Okanogan County and the town of Republic in Ferry County

Washington State Animal Response Team (WASART)

- Emergency sheltering for animals

Individual Assistance

Joint FEMA/state Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDA) were performed by county over the course of a week in September.

	Average of Persons Below Poverty Level*	Median Household Income*	Percent Elderly*	Percent Disabled**	Percent Pre-Disaster Unemployment*
National Average	15.4%	\$53,046	13.0%	12%	5.1%
State Average	13.4%	\$59,478	14.1%	%	6.2%
Okanogan	20.7%	\$40,368	49.5%	10.5%	10.6%
Chelan	12.8%	\$34,851	17.2%	8.1%	7.2%
Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation			21.4%	12.5%	
Douglas	16.5%	\$32,101	15.3%	12.3%	7.2%
Stevens	N/A	\$42,746	19.9%	14.3	3.5%

* [Washington State Security Department County Profiles](#)

***Provided by Washington State Department of Social and Health Services*

Public Assistance

On September 1, 2015, Washington State requested a joint FEMA-State Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) for Public Assistance with FEMA Region X. The jurisdictions included in the PDA request were Chelan County, Ferry County, Okanogan County, Stevens County, and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. On September 10, 2015 the state requested the following additional jurisdictions: Asotin County, Douglas County, Columbia County, Garfield County, Klickitat County, Pend Oreille County, Skagit County, Whatcom County, Yakima County, Spokane Tribe of Indians, and the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation. On September 25, 2015, the state requested the following additional jurisdictions: Lincoln County. The PDA began on Monday September 21st at Camp Murray, Washington and was completed September 25th. The joint FEMA/State PDA teams validated that damages incurred by Washington State due to the 2015 Washington Wildfires totaled **\$42,493,711.81**:

- Category (B) emergency measures comprised 37 percent of the overall damage at \$15,684,130.25.
- Category (G) parks, recreation, and other comprised 32 percent of the overall damage at \$13,566,929.00. Okanogan County had 93 percent of the Category (G) costs.
- Category (F) utilities comprised 27 percent of the overall damages at \$11,384,717.11. Okanogan County PUD, Chelan County PUD, and Seattle City Light (Whatcom County) all experienced millions of dollars to their utilities.

The following counties exceeded their respective indicators for the Public Assistance Program:

County	Verified	Threshold	Amount Exceeded
Chelan	\$4,724,252.11	\$257,932.68	(\$4,466,319.43)
Columbia	\$175,242.00	\$14,517.68	(\$160,724.32)
Ferry	\$229,979.00	\$26,881.56	(\$203,097.44)
Garfield	\$125,000.00	\$8,066.96	(\$116,933.04)
Lincoln	\$39,994.00	\$37,629.20	(\$2,364.80)
Okanogan	\$20,804,457.65	\$146,387.20	(\$20,658,070.45)
Pend Oreille	\$7,310,842.18	\$46,283.56	(\$7,264,558.62)
Stevens	\$837,486.00	\$154,970.36	(\$682,515.64)
Whatcom	\$2,111,090.00	\$716,058.40	(\$1,395,031.60)
Yakima	\$5,978,757.00	\$865,902.36	(\$5,112,854.64)

The two most impacted counties were Pend Oreille County and Okanogan County inclusive of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation with impacts per capita at \$505.94 and \$562.33, respectively. Okanogan County, inclusive of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, incurred the most damages at 49 percent of the overall reported damages from the 2015 Washington Wildfires. The largest area of cost for

The Honorable Barack Obama

October 7, 2015

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Okanogan County is under Category (G) parks, recreation, and other for wildlife fencing owned by the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Washington Department of Natural Resources. An additional 14 percent of the county's costs were for Category (B) emergency protective measures not covered under the existing FMAG declarations. None of the cost totals from the PDA include costs eligible under the FMAG program.

In accordance with 44 CFR § 201.5 the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) approved the Washington State Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan on October 1, 2013. In accordance with 44 CFR § 201.36 I certify that state and local government obligations and expenditures for this incident comply with all cost share requirements of the Stafford Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee", is written over a horizontal line.

Jay Inslee, Governor

Enclosures

OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13

A: Individual Assistance

B: Public Assistance

C: Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs

D: Washington Lightning Events August 9 – August 15

E. NOAA Executive Weather Statement

ENCLOSURE A TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Numbers in parenthesis are uninsured homes

County Name	Destroyed	Major	Minor	Affected	Total	Insurance Rate	Owner Percent
Okanogan	79 (46)	1 (1)	2 (2)	76 (46)	158 (95)	40%	97%
Chelan	33 (20)	1 (1)	0	202 (122)	236 (143)	40%	97%
Colville Tribe	24 (20)	2 (2)	3 (3)	111 (89)	140 (114)	20%	96%
Douglas	1 (0)	0	0	0	1 (0)	100%	100%
Stevens	9 (6)	0	2 (2)	76 (46)	87 (54)	40%	100%
Total	146 (92)	4 (4)	7 (7)	465 (303)	622 (406)		

ENCLOSURE B TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Estimated Stafford Act Requirements for Public Assistance

Enclose Public Assistance Preliminary Damage Assessment Cost Estimate Worksheet

Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) Overall Results

Aug 2015 Wildfires

The PA County per capita impact indicator is \$3.56 for FY 2015.

The PA Statewide per capita impact indicator is \$1.41 for FY 2015.

	Category A Debris Removal	Category B Emergency Protective Measures	Category C Roads & Bridges	Category E Buildings & Equipment	Category F Utilities	Category G Parks, Recreation & Other	Total	Impact Per Capita
<i>Asotin County Total</i>	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 0.46
<i>Chelan County Total</i>	\$ 35,300.00	\$ 134,241.00	\$ 282,844.00	\$ 238,120.00	\$ 3,722,747.11	\$ 311,000.00	\$ 4,724,252.11	\$ 65.20
<i>Columbia County Total</i>	\$ -	\$ 134,742.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 40,500.00	\$ 175,242.00	\$ 42.97
<i>Douglas County Total</i>	\$ 3,100.00	\$ -	\$ 13,014.00	\$ -	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -	\$ 46,114.00	\$ 1.20
<i>Ferry County Total</i>	\$ 17,500.00	\$ 159,079.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 51,000.00	\$ 229,979.00	\$ 30.46
<i>Garfield County Total</i>	\$ -	\$ 125,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 55.16
<i>Klickitat County Total</i>	\$ -	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 43,000.00	\$ 2.12
<i>Lincoln County Total</i>	\$ -	\$ 3,994.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 39,994.00	\$ 3.78
<i>Okanogan County Total</i>	\$ 268,390.00	\$ 1,464,239.65	\$ 473,549.00	\$ 317,000.00	\$ 5,685,910.00	\$ 12,595,369.00	\$ 20,804,457.65	\$ 505.94
<i>Pend Oreille County Total</i>	\$ -	\$ 7,299,723.73	\$ 11,118.45	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,310,842.18	\$ 562.33
<i>Stevens County Total</i>	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 350,486.00	\$ 73,000.00	\$ 85,000.00	\$ -	\$ 289,000.00	\$ 837,486.00	\$ 20.90
<i>Whatcom County Total</i>	\$ -	\$ 167,430.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,943,660.00	\$ -	\$ 2,111,090.00	\$ 10.50
<i>Yakima County Total</i>	\$ -	\$ 5,752,697.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 226,060.00	\$ 5,978,757.00	\$ 24.58
<i>State Agency (not attributable to specific county) Total</i>	\$ -	\$ 57,497.87	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 57,497.87	
Statewide Total	\$ 364,290.00	\$ 15,684,130.25	\$ 853,525.45	\$ 640,120.00	\$ 11,384,717.11	\$ 13,566,929.00	\$ 42,493,711.81	\$ 6.32

ENCLOSURE C TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Estimated Assistance from Other Federal Agency Programs

County/ Tribal Area	SBA Business Loans	FSA Loans	NRCS	USACE	BIA	OTHER
Asotin	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Chelan	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Columbia	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Douglas	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Ferry	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Garfield	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Klickitat	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Lincoln	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Okanogan	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Pend Oreille	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Stevens	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Whatcom	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Yakima	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Totals	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

Note: Extent of other federal assistance is not known at this time