

Shrubsteppe Fire Recovery & Preparedness Proviso



\$2.35M GF-S

to restore shrubsteppe habitat, wildlife, and communities affected by 2020 wildfires

\$1.5M Capital Funds

for shrubsteppe and rangeland cooperative wildlife fencing

Contacts

Hannah Anderson
Wildlife Diversity Division
Manager
h.anderson@dfw.wa.gov
360-902-8403

Tom McBride
Legislative Director
tom.mcbride@dfw.wa.gov
360-490-1472

Resilient Landscapes for Wildlife and People

Once covering over 10 million acres in Eastern Washington, 80 percent of historic shrubsteppe has been lost or degraded. In 2020 alone, 800,000 acres of this imperiled landscape burned in devastating wildfires. Restoring shrubsteppe habitats and creating resiliency is more important than ever for wildlife and human communities.

Immediate, No-Regret Restoration Actions

Funding through this proviso will provide near-term relief for no-regret actions that support wildlife habitat and private landowners in shrubsteppe communities affected by 2020 wildfire, including:

- Creating and sustaining local jobs in Eastern Washington communities by engaging the Washington Conservation Corps and others to enhance capacity of trained personnel for cultural resources review, equipment operations, and actions to restore habitat.
- Establishing growing contracts with local nurseries and collaborating with the Sustainability in Prisons Project to increase availability of native shrubsteppe seeds and plugs for replanting after fire.
- Supporting recovery actions for endangered pygmy rabbits and threatened Greater sage grouse populations that were severely impacted by fire.
- Partnering with landowners on cost-sharing for wildlife-friendly rangeland fencing.
- Making hay available for ranchers to defer grazing and allow burned habitat time to recover.

Shrubsteppe and Rangelands Conservation Strategy

To plan for the future, the proviso guides stakeholders to identify longer-term shrubsteppe and rangeland conservation needs and includes recommendations to prevent devastating wildfires, respond to wildfire when it occurs, and implement recovery and restoration actions to sustain habitat and working lands.

Collaborating to Achieve Success

Washington's Department of Fish and Wildlife, with the State Conservation Commission, and the Department of Natural Resources will lead the collaboration supported by diverse stakeholders representing public and private landowners, land managers, environmental and working lands interests, local governments, conservation districts, and fire districts.

Persons with disabilities who need to receive this information in an alternative format or who need reasonable accommodations to participate in WDFW-sponsored public meetings or other activities may contact Dolores Noyes by phone (360-902-2349), TTY (360-902-2207), or email (Title6@dfw.wa.gov). For more information, see <https://wdfw.wa.gov/accessibility/requests-accommodation>.