

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



Crown fires can sweep from tree to tree, causing intense firestorms

Underbrush acts as tinder for fire



Fire can climb branches (called ladder fuels) to the crown of a tree

Fire-Resistant Forest



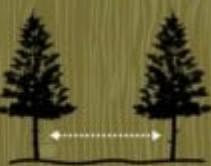
Remove fuels from the ground and vertically from trees



Use prescribed burns to reduce tinder, minimizing fuels



Keep larger trees with thicker bark that can resist fire



Increase space between trees



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