RCW 76.04.183  Prescribed burn manager certification program—
Rule-making authority.  (1) Subject to availability of amounts
appropriated for this specific purpose, the department must create a
prescribed burn manager certification program for those who practice
prescribed burning in the state. The certification program must
include training on all relevant aspects of prescribed fire in
Washington including, but not limited to, the following: Legal
requirements; safety; weather; fire behavior; smoke management;
prescribed fire techniques; public relations; planning; and
contingencies.

(2) The department may not require certification under the
program created under subsection (1) of this section for burn permit
approval under this chapter. Nothing in this section may be construed
as creating a mandatory prescribed burn manager certification
requirement to conduct prescribed burning in Washington.

(3) No civil or criminal liability may be imposed by any court,
the state, or its officers and employees, on a prescribed burn manager
certified under the program created under subsection (1) of this
section, for any direct or proximate adverse impacts resulting from a
prescribed fire conducted under the provisions of this chapter except
upon proof of gross negligence or willful or wanton misconduct.

(4) The department may adopt rules to create the prescribed burn
manager certification program and to set periodic renewal criteria.
The rules should be developed in consultation with prescribed burn
programs in other states. The department may also adopt rules to
establish a decertification process for certified prescribed burn
managers who commit a violation under this chapter or rules adopted
under this chapter. The department may, in its own discretion, develop
an equivalency test for experienced prescribed burn managers.

(5) Certified prescribed burn managers may be issued burn permits
with modified requirements in recognition of their training and
skills. In such cases, normal smoke management and fire risk
parameters apply.  [2018 c 172 § 1.]