



# **Washington Military Department Emergency Management Division**

## **Senate Special Committee on Economic Recovery – 2020 Wildland Fire Season**

**Jason Marquiss, Deputy Director  
29 September 2020**



## Agenda

- Washington's Disaster Experience
- Disaster Grants Overview
- 2020 Wildfire Season snapshot –Fire Mobe/FMAG Crosswalk
- Fire Management Assistance Grants - 2020
- Other Fire Season Recovery Efforts
- Economic Impacts



## Washington's Recent Disaster Experience

### 2020 Federal Declarations

2 Major Disasters (Jan Severe Storms, Pandemic)

**10 Fire Management Assistance Grants**

3 Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Declarations

### 2019 Federal Declarations

1 Major Disaster (Severe Winter Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Tornado)

3 Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Declarations

### 2018 Federal Declarations

**9 Fire Management Assistance Grants**

1 Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Declaration

### 2017 Federal Declarations

1 Major Disaster (Severe Winter Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides)

**3 Fire Management Assistance Grants**

1 Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Declaration

### 2016 Federal Declarations

**4 Fire Management Assistance Grants**

2 Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Declarations

### 2015 Federal Declarations

4 Major Disasters (**Historic Fires**; Windstorm; Nov Severe Storm; Dec Severe Storm)

**12 Fire Management Assistance Grants**

6 Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Declarations

### 2014 Federal Declarations

2 Major Disasters (SR530 Landslide/**Central Washington Firestorm**)

**8 Fire Management Assistance Grants**

5 Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Declarations

### 2013 Federal Declarations

**3 Fire Management Assistance Grants**

1 Small Business Administration (Skagit River Bridge, economic injury loans)

### 2012 Federal Declarations

2 Major Disasters (January winter storm, July high winds and flooding)

**8 Fire Management Assistance Grants**

6 Small Business Administration Disaster Loan Declarations

**FMAG Totals: 57**

### Major Disaster Declarations:

Fire	2
Windstorm	2
Winter Storms	6
Landslide	1
Pandemic	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>

SBA Declarations: 28



## 4 Disaster Grant Programs

Most Frequently Declared under a Major Presidential Disaster

- **Public Assistance Grant Program (PA)**
- **Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)**

Least Frequently Declared under a Major Presidential Disaster

- **Human Services Programs - Individual Assistance (IA)**

**Declared by the FEMA Regional Administrator (does not go to the Governor)**

- **Fire Management Assistance Grant Program (FMAG)** - provides financial assistance to state, local, and federally recognized tribal governments for the mitigation, management, and control of fires on publicly or privately owned forests or grasslands.
- <https://mil.wa.gov/fire-management-assistance-grant-program-fmagp-for-public-agencies>
- More program details can be found in the back-up slides



## Fire Management Grant (FMAG) Program

- **Funding – 75% Federal share and 25% non-federal share (state/local share)**
- Applies only to FEMA declared fires
- Cost recovery includes fire suppression measures and other emergency measures and at the direction of Incident Commander
  - Emergency Measures = Category B Emergency Protective Measures
- FMAG declarations are a collaborative team effort with FEMA, State (EMD, DNR, WSP), Local Jurisdictions, and the USDA USFS Principal Fire Advisor
- Timing Critical - State or Indian tribal government must submit a request for fire management assistance declaration to the FEMA Regional Administrator while the fire is:
  - Burning uncontrolled, and
  - Threatens such destruction as would constitute a major disaster – lives, improved property, critical facilities/infrastructure, critical watersheds



## 2020 Wildland Fire Season - Fire Mobe / FMAG Crosswalk

<u>Fire Name</u>	<u>Mobilization Authorized</u>	<u>FMAG Declared</u>	<u>Jurisdictions</u>	<u>FMAG ACRES</u>
Sunset Fire	X		Chelan	
Road 11 Fire	X	X	Douglas	9,330
Colockum Fire	X		Chelan	
Anglin Fire		X	Okanogan	1,992
Moses Coulee Fire	X		Douglas	
Sunset Frontage Fire	X		Spokane	
Badger Lake Fire	X		Spokane	
North Brownstown (3)		X	Yakima/Yakama Res.	5,981
Chief Timothy Fire	X		Whitman	
Palmer Fire	X	X	Okanogan	17,988
Bartholomew Fire	X		Spokane	
Evans Canyon Fire	X	X	Yakima	75,817
*Cold Springs/Pearl Hill Fire	X	X	Okanogan/Douglas/Colville Res.	413,653
Colfax Fire	X		Whitman	
Whitney fire	X		Lincoln	
Babb (Road) Fire	X	X	Spokane/Whitman	15,266
Apple Acres Fire	X	X	Chelan	5,500
Euclid Track Fire	X		Spokane	
244th Command Fire	X		Pierce	
Sumner Grade Fire	X	X	Pierce	494
Bourdeaux (Road) Fire	X	X	Thurston	290
Wawawai Canyon Fire	X		Whitman	
*1 Declaration/1 Mobilization Authorized - Managed as 2 separate fires. Cold Springs Fire - 189,923 acres. Pearl Hill Fire - 223,730 acres.			<b>Total Acres FMAG Fires:</b>	<b>546,311</b>



## Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG)

2020 Fire season FMAGs:

- Road 11 Fire declared for **Douglas County** on 11 July 2020 @ 2309 PDT, FM-5320-WA, FMAG incident period – 11 – 15 July 2020; **State Fire Mobe** Approved – 11 July 2020 @ 1730 – 15 July 2020 @ 0800
- Anglin Fire declared for **Okanogan County** on 27 July 2020 @ 2315 PDT, FM-5323-WA, FMAG incident period – 27 July 2020 – 1 August 2020; **No State Mobe**
- North Brownstone Fire declared for **Yakima County and the Yakama Reservation** on 17 August 2020 @ 1858 PDT, FM-5330-WA, FMAG incident period – 16 August 2020 – 17 August 2020; **No State Mobe**
- Palmer Fire declared for **Okanogan County** on 20 August 2020 @ 2023 PDT, FM-5337-WA, FMAG incident period 18 August 2020 – 3 September 2020; **State Fire Mobe** Approved 16 August 2020 @ 0945 – 27 August 2020 @ 0800
- Evans Canyon Fire declared for **Yakima County** on 1 September 2020 @ 1300, FM-5342-WA, FMAG incident period 1 September 2020 – TBD; **State Fire Mobe** Approved 1 September 2020 @ 0000 – 7 September 2020 @ 0800



## Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG)

2020 Fire season FMAGs:

- Cold Springs/Pearl Hill Fire declared for **Okanogan and Douglas Counties and the Colville Reservation** on 7 September 2020 @ 1233 PDT, FM-5351-WA, FMAG incident period 7 September 2020 – TBD; **State Fire Mobe** Approved 7 September 2020 @ 0645 - TBD
- Apple Acres Fire declared for **Chelan County** on 7 September 2020 @ 1233 PDT, FM-5352-WA, FMAG incident period 7 September 2020 – TBD; **State Fire Mobe** Approved 7 September 2020 @ 1615 - TBD
- Babb Fire declared for **Spokane and Whitman Counties** on 8 September 2020 @ 0103 PDT, FM-5355-WA, FMAG incident period 7 September 2020 – TBD, **State Fire Mobe** Approved 7 September 2020 @ 1615
- Bordeaux Road Fire declared for **Thurston County** on 9 September 2020 @ 0009, FM-5359-WA, FMAG incident period 8 September 2020 @ 0001 – TBD; **State Fire Mobe** Approved 8 September 2020 @ 1600 - TBD
- Sumner Grade Fire declared for **Pierce County** on 9 September 2020 @ 0009, FM-5360-WA, FMAG incident period 8 September 2020 @ 0001 – TBD; **State Fire Mobe** Approved 8 September 2020 @ 0930 - TBD



## Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) Program

Current priorities of work:

1. Focusing on completing project worksheet documentation review for the 2015 fires first. We believe we can get about **\$9 million** worth of projects reviewed and funded before the end of SFY 21. (DNR and WSP primarily fire suppressions costs)
2. We've estimated **~\$73 million recoupment** in the 21-23 biennium (completion of 2015 thru 2018 fire seasons) (DNR and WSP: primarily fire suppressions costs; does include small agency and counties/city related fire suppression and CAT B costs, <5% of the overall recoupment projection for the 2020 fire season).
3. Additionally beyond SFY23, we estimate **~\$50 million recoupment** (completion of 2018, 2019 and the first 5 fires thru 2020) (DNR and WSP primarily fire suppressions costs).
4. It's too early to speculate on cost estimates for the most recent 5 FMAG declarations; Justification: the most recent 5 FMAGs contained >80% of the total acres burned – so the recoupment will be a very large dollar amount.
  - A. We expect to see a significant increase in estimated reimbursements due to the size and costs of fighting the fires.
  - B. However, we won't see any major reimbursement to the DRA for these fires any time soon due to the back log and the time it takes to settle accounts with the federal agencies (DNR just settled accounts for the 2015 Stickpin Fire in May of this year).
  - C. We anticipate combined DNR & WSP fire suppression costs easily in excess of \$50 million for the 5 new FMAG fires.



## Individual Assistance for Fires

- Presidential Declaration for Individual Assistance submitted to FEMA on September 16, 2020
  - Declaration request was for Whitman County only
    - EMD conducted a joint damage assessment with FEMA (virtual) and SBA (virtual) of Whitman County on September 11, 2020.
    - Since Whitman County was hardest hit, we will wait for the outcome of the IA Declaration request before considering a request for other counties. If Whitman County is denied, then other counties are extremely likely to be denied as well since they were less damaged.
  - It can take up to 30 days to receive notice of approval (or denial) from FEMA
  - If approved for IA Declaration, then SBA Physical Damage and Economic Injury programs are automatically approved.
    - There is currently no SBA assistance available for any of the fires in Washington



## Individual Assistance for Fires

- If we do not receive a Presidential Declaration for Individual Assistance:
  - The state will make a request directly to SBA for Physical Damage declaration and Economic Injury
  - There is no state Individual Assistance Program that would replace the assistance provided by a FEMA program.
  - **The current proposed legislation for a State Individual Assistance Program would be ideal to assist in the absence of a federal IA declaration; otherwise, state agencies have to reallocate (if possible) existing funding to help.**



## Individual Assistance for Fires

- Ongoing Assistance to Counties
  - Statewide:
    - Coordination with the American Red Cross on immediate housing needs through non-congregate shelters
    - The SEOC has activated the Housing Recovery Support Function (RSF) under Emergency Support Function (ESF) 14
      - Focused on identifying housing assistance opportunities for all impacted communities
  - Whitman County:
    - EMD Human Services, Recovery team continues to provide ongoing technical support to Whitman County on establishing a long-term recovery program.
    - Assisted the county with bringing in assistance from other state agencies (DSHS, DOL, L&I, OIC) for the Multi Agency Resource Center held on 9/25 and 9/26.
  - Okanogan and Douglas Counties and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville:
    - Provide technical assistance to the Okanogan Long Term Recovery Group, which is assisting members of the Colville Tribe and residents of Okanogan and Douglas Counties



## Most recent wind/dust storm & wildland fires

### Pending results from a Public Assistance Program Joint (state and FEMA) Damage Assessment

#### Counties impacted:

- Okanogan County, Ferry County, Pend Oreille County, Chelan County, Douglas County, Kittitas County, Yakima County, Whitman County, Lincoln County, Franklin County, Skamania County, Mason County

#### Utilities:

- Nespelem Valley Electric - \$4M
- Okanogan PUD - \$7.2M
- Pend Oreille PUD - \$400K
- Inland Power and Light - \$3.5M
- Franklin County - \$400K
- Big Bend Electric Cooperative - \$300K

#### State agency and Tribes:

- WA Parks – 4 Rails-to-Trails trestles
- WA DNR, WDFW, Colville Tribe fencing

#### Local Government:

- City of Bridgeport WWTP
- City Brewster – Congregate Sheltering
- Okanogan Fairgrounds - Sheltering
- Mid Valley hospital communications tower
- Okanogan County Airport

- **Current damage cost estimates (PA Program) ~\$45 million:**
  - PUDs/RECs (power transmission & distribution) – ~\$20 million
  - State Agencies infrastructure (fences, roads, trails, trestles, etc.) – ~\$15 million
  - City/County/Other Special Purpose Districts – ~\$10 million



## Economic Impacts

- Across the western states, a county/region that has experienced large wildfires generally should expect to see local employment and wages increase.
- Large wildfires historically lead to instability in local labor markets by amplifying seasonal variation in employment from the prior year.
- Labor market disruptions are typically outweighed by the employment that the suppression effort creates in the short term.

(source: University of Oregon, Ecosystem Workforce Program)



## Economic Impacts

- Department of Commerce does not track specific, isolated impacts caused by wildland fires, but has been tracking impacts of COVID in partnership with DOR, ESD and DSHS.
- Impacts felt by a given county/region due to COVID will be exacerbated by the simultaneous and cascading impacts of wildland fire direct, immediate costs and unknown future costs.
- The longer-term economic impacts of both COVID and wildland fires will likely not be known for some time.



## Economic Recovery Dashboard

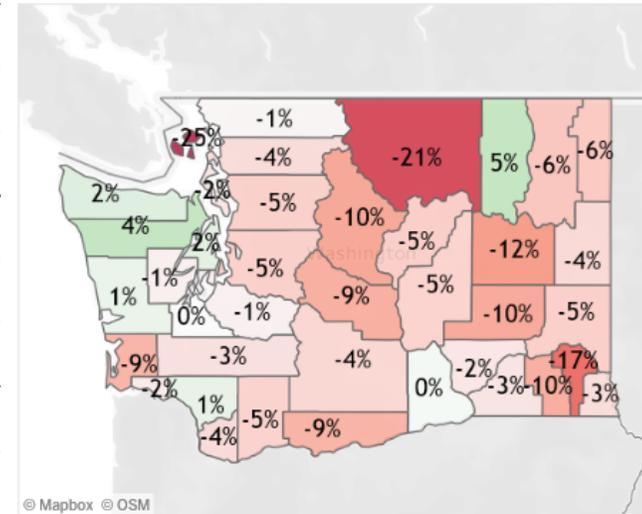
Economic Recovery Dashboard

<https://www.commerce.wa.gov/datadashboard/>

Best viewed in full screen

		Current Level	% Change <sup>1</sup>	Absolute Change <sup>1</sup>	Trend
<b>Employment</b> <a href="#">Detailed views</a>	Total Employment	3,630K	-4% ▼	-140K	
	Unemployment Rate	8.4%	4.3% ▲		
	Job Postings		-41% ▼		
<b>Business</b> <a href="#">Detailed views</a>	Taxable Retail Sales	\$15,816M	-5% ▼	-\$887M	
	Taxable Business Income	\$59.77B	-12% ▼	-\$8.50B	
	Export Volume	\$2.75B	-45% ▼	-\$2.27B	
<b>Support Programs</b> <a href="#">Detailed views</a>	Basic Food <sup>2</sup> Participants	944.4K	16% ▲	129.4K	
	TANF <sup>3</sup> Participants	72.5K	33% ▲	18.1K	
<b>Consumer Behavior</b> <a href="#">Detailed views</a>	Credit Card Spend		-8% ▼		
	Time Outside Home		-8% ▼		

Year-over-year employment change by county



Click a county to view county-specific statistics in the table to the left - click in the gray area outside Washington to clear the filter

1. Change over time period shown in trend-line. Time periods differ due to differences in publication schedules. Percentage change reflects change over last 12 months or since the first available month in last 12 months.  
 2. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and State Food Assistance Program (FAP)  
 3. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

The Economic Recovery Dashboard is a visualization tool that uses an assortment of data sources to track Washington state's economic recovery and resiliency. It displays the latest available data on employment, businesses, government assistance programs, and consumer behavior, helping monitor the economic impact of COVID-19 across Washington state. This dashboard is intended to provide the public access to key metrics that may help inform policy and economic recovery initiatives. As this dashboard is still evolving, we may update the available views and data sources where possible. Updates are made on a monthly basis.

Dashboard last updated: September 23, 2020



Back-up



## FMAG Program

- The Fire Management Assistance declaration process is initiated when a State submits a request for assistance to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Regional Director at the time a "threat of major disaster" exists. The entire process is accomplished on an expedited basis and a FEMA decision is rendered in a matter of hours.
- The Fire Management Assistance Grant Program (FMAGP) provides a 75 percent Federal cost share and the Applicant pays the remaining 25 percent for actual costs.
- Before a grant can be awarded, a State must demonstrate that total eligible costs for the declared fire meet or exceed either the individual fire cost threshold - which applies to single fires, or the cumulative fire cost threshold, which recognizes numerous smaller fires burning throughout a State.
- Eligible firefighting costs may include expenses for field camps; equipment use, repair and replacement; tools, materials and supplies; and mobilization and demobilization activities.
- Eligible emergency protective measures may include staff overtime and equipment time for providing evacuation notices, barricading roads, water pumping, and emergency operations center costs.
- Eligible applicants to participate as subrecipients for the FMAG program may include state agencies, county and local emergency management, law enforcement and public works offices, and special purpose districts such as fire districts and publicly owned utility companies



# WASHINGTON MILITARY DEPARTMENT

County  
Damage/  
cost  
indicators

County	2010 Census	Threshold Effective 10/01/18	County	2010 Census	Threshold Effective 10/01/18
Adams	18,728	\$71,915.52	Lewis	75,455	\$289,747.20
Asotin	21,623	\$83,032.32	Lincoln	10,570	\$40,588.80
Benton	175,177	\$672,679.68	Mason	60,699	\$233,084.16
Chelan	72,453	\$278,219.52	Okanogan	41,120	\$157,900.80
Clallam	71,404	\$274,191.36	Pacific	20,920	\$80,332.80
Clark	425,363	\$1,633,393.92	Pend O'reille	13,001	\$49,923.84
Columbia	4,078	\$15,659.52	Pierce	795,225	\$3,053,664.00
Cowlitz	102,410	\$393,254.40	San Juan	15,769	\$60,552.96
Douglas	38,431	\$147,575.04	Skagit	116,901	\$448,899.84
Ferry	7,551	\$28,995.84	Skamania	11,066	\$42,493.44
Franklin	78,163	\$300,145.92	Snohomish	713,335	\$2,739,206.40
Garfield	2,266	\$8,701.44	Spokane	471,221	\$1,809,488.64
Grant	89,120	\$342,220.80	Stevens	43,531	\$167,159.04
Grays Harbor	72,797	\$279,540.48	Thurston	252,264	\$968,693.76
Island	78,506	\$301,463.04	Wahkiakum	3,978	\$15,275.52
Jefferson	29,872	\$114,708.48	Walla Walla	58,781	\$225,719.04
King	1,931,249	\$7,415,996.16	Whatcom	201,140	\$772,377.60
Kitsap	251,133	\$964,350.72	Whitman	44,776	\$171,939.84
Kittitas	40,915	\$157,113.60	Yakima	243,231	\$934,007.04
Klickitat	20,318	\$78,021.12	<b>Washington State</b>	<b>6,724,540</b>	<b>\$10,288,546.00</b>



## Public Assistance (PA) Program

- Repair or restoration of public infrastructure
  - State and local governments
  - Tribes
  - Private non-profits
  - Special Purpose Districts
- Specific counties are declared, based upon damage thresholds which change every 1<sup>st</sup> of October
- Overall state threshold is approximately \$10.3 million
- Damage must be a direct result of declared incident, located within declared area, and responsibility of applicant
- **Funding - 75% federal and 25% non-federal share**
- State has traditionally paid half the local share (12.5%)



## Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

- Mitigation reduces the impact of a future disaster
- Funding available for HMGP is 20% of the total disaster costs from IA & PA
- Washington State receives a higher percentage because we have an Enhanced Mitigation Plan
- Applicants must have a FEMA approved mitigation plan to qualify
- **Funding - 75% federal share and 25% non-federal share**



## Human Services

### Individuals and Households Program (IHP)

- **100 % Federal**
- Direct Assistance to individuals with damages to primary residences and renters

### Other Needs Assistance (ONA)

- **75% Federal share and 25% State share**
- Administered by the State
- Household Items, Transportation, Moving & Storage
- Uninsured Medical / Dental / Funeral

### Unmet Needs

- State Administered
- Individuals who are uninsured or underinsured and whose needs exceed Federal or SBA available assistance
- Voluntary organizations



## Fire Management Grant Program (FMAG)

- Applies only to FEMA declared fires
- FMAG declarations are a collaborative team effort with FEMA, State (EMD, DNR, WSP), Local Jurisdictions, the USDA USFS Principal Fire Advisor, and the National Interagency Fire Center (NIFC)
- Timing Critical - State or Indian tribal government must submit a request for fire management assistance declaration to the FEMA Regional Administrator while the fire is:
  - Burning uncontrolled, and
  - Threatens such destruction as would constitute a major disaster – lives, improved property, critical facilities/infrastructure, critical watersheds
- Covers emergency measures and fire suppression measures at the direction of Incident Commander
- **Funding – 75% Federal share and 25% non-federal share**



## How the Military Dept Receives DRA Authority for Disaster Obligations

RCW 38.52.105 / RCW 38.52.070(2)

- RCW 38.52.105 creates the disaster response account. Money may be spent only after appropriation is allocated. Expenditures from the account may be used only for support of state agency and local government disaster response and recovery efforts
- Typically only use disaster response account funds for Presidentially declared disasters.



## DRA Funding Distribution

### Public Assistance

#### State Agencies

- 75% Federal pass thru funding
- 25% State funding from DRA

#### Local Jurisdictions

- 75% Federal pass thru funding
- 12.5% State funding from DRA
- 12.5% Local funding
- *State Management Costs of 3.34%, as well as, 75% federally funded Direct Administrative Costs, for disasters prior to Oct 2018, and 7% for disasters after Oct 2018.*

### Individual Assistance

- 75% Federal pass thru funding
- 25% State funding from DRA

*State Management Costs of up to 5%,*

### HMGP

- 75% Federal pass thru funding
- 12.5% State funding from DRA
- 12.5% Local funding

*State Management Costs of 4.89% federally funded for disasters prior to Oct 2018, and 10% for disasters after Oct 2018.*

### FMAG

#### State Agencies

- 75% Federal pass thru funding
- 25% State funding from DRA

#### Local Jurisdictions

- 75% Federal pass thru funding
  - 12.5% State funding from DRA
  - 12.5% Local funding
  - DNR/WSP pay fire suppression from approved budget and DRA appropriation
  - DNR/WSP/Mil reimbursements go back to the DRA not to state agency budget
- 75% federally funded Direct Administrative Costs 25*