WashingtonPROPOSED STUDY QUESTIONSJLARCWildfire Prevention, Preparedness, and Expenditure Review

State of Washington Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee

April 2020

JLARC directed a study of DNR's wildfire prevention and preparedness activities and expenditures

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) includes wildfire prevention and preparedness activities in many of its planning documents. The intent of these activities is to reduce the risk of wildfire. Examples include public education, landowner assistance, forest health assessments and treatment, fuel mitigation, good neighbor agreements, and fire adapted communities. DNR may work with other agencies and landowners to implement the plans.

In 2019, the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee directed its staff to review DNR's wildfire prevention and preparedness activities and related expenditures, and to identify if evidence exists about how effectively they reduce the risk of wildfire.

JLARC also directed its staff to evaluate DNR's progress in implementing recommendations from the 2018 JLARC report <u>Wildfire</u> <u>Suppression Funding and Costs</u>. The recommendations are focused on refining DNR's data collection and reporting efforts and improving its ability to identify the costs of individual fires.



Study will address DNR's activities, costs, and potential results

- 1. What fire prevention and preparedness activities is DNR planning and/or performing? How does DNR work with other agencies and landowners?
- 2. How does DNR track information about its activities and related spending? How does it use and report this information?
- 3. Does research identify certain types of activities that affect the number, size, and cost of wildland fires? How do the activities DNR is planning or performing align with those identified in the research?
- 4. What actions has DNR taken to fulfill the recommendations in JLARC's 2018 <u>Wildfire Suppression Funding</u> <u>and Costs</u> report to improve fire data collection and reporting?

Fire suppression and pre-suppression activities (e.g., staging resources) are not part this study.

Study Timeframe

Preliminary Report:	December 2020	Proposed Final R	Report: January 2021
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