Budget Savings Options 2025

Dollars in Thousands

Agency: 490_Dept of Natural Resources

Agency Priority	Impact	Program/Activity			GF-S				(Other Fund	s			F	TE Change			Brief Description and Rationale	Effective Date	Impacts of Reductions and Other Considerations	Law/Reg. Change Required (cite)
H, M, L	1-5		FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY28	FY 2	9 FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY28	FY 29	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY28	FY 29		(MM/YY)		
Н	1	Wildfire: Community Resilience							1000	1000	1000	1000						Reduce CR Grants in 25P	07-25	Less pass-through fund to private land owners/HOAs	N/A
н	1	Wildfire: Fire Dist Assist							825	825	825	825						Reduce FDA Grants in 25P	07-25	Less pass-through fund to Fire Districts; Equip, PPE, Computers	N/A
н	4	Wildfire: DNR Fire Training		250	250	250	25	0										Move from GFS over to FFPA	07-25	No change to program; FFPA fund balance would approach zero at end of FY29	N/A
н	1	Wildfire: Suppression		2000	2000	2000	200	0										Reduce 2 Fire Bosses - Suppression. Reduce number of standby (exclusive use) Fire Bosses.	07-25	Has the potential to extend response times, reducing the capacity for initial attack. DNR would maintain exclusive use of 25 aircraft.	N/A
н	1	Wildfire: Suppression		2000	2000	2000	200	0										Reduce 288 Seasonal Costs - Suppression; Adjust composition of staffing on engines	07-25	Reduction to capacity for initial attack.	N/A
н	1	Wildfire: Suppression		1850	1850	1850	185	0										Reduce Suppression add from Gov budget	07-25	Reduction to anticipated increases in personnel and equipment.	N/A
		Aquatic Management: Kelp/Eelgrass																Shift part of the FTE that supports our Kelp and Eelgrass			
М	1	SB5619		105.9	103.2	103.2	103.	2 0	0	0	0	0	0	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	work from GF-S to RMCA-A	07-25	Acceptably reduces RMCA-A projected fund balance	N/A
ι	1	Forest Regulation: 1.1. Rule making for Forestry Riparian Easement Program (FREP)		30	30	30	3	0										SSB 5667 amended RCW 76.13.120 and RCW 76.13.15 in March 2024. The amendments increased FREP compensation to 90% of qualifying timber. The amendment also required rulemaking by the Forest Practices Board. All rulemakings are complete and the division does not expect to spend the proviso funds provided for this purpose in the 23-25 budget appropriation bill.	02-25	None	N/A
L	1	Forest Regulation: 1.2. HCP Administrator and other Policy vacancies		161	161	161	16	1										Forest Regulation Division administers the Forest Practices HCP. Data gathering and annual reporting to the Federal Services among the HCP administration area of work. The division can absorb this extra workload without hiring a permanent HCP Administrator next biennium.	02-25	Minimal near-term impact. Long-term, however, if position remains vacant for longer than a blennium, the Division may not have an in-house Forest Practices HCP expert/administrator.	N/A
ι	1	Forest Regulation: 1.3. Northern Spotted Owl Safe Harbor Agreement		318	318	318	31	8										The 2023 legislative session included a bill authorizing DNR to enter into a northern spotted owl programmatic safe harbor agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The legislature also provided funding for DNR to pursue the agreement with USFWS as well as enter into an Inter Agency Agreement with WDFW. DNR completed the application and the associated EIS and submitted it to USFWS in December of 2023. USFWS has not agreed to approve the application and negotiations are ongoing.	02-25	None could be identified. Federal rule changes in late 2023 and USFWS position to increase baseline habitat in excess of what FP Rules provide mean that an agreement is unlikely to be reached. Division foresees minimum impact due to lack of interest by landowners and other key stakeholders, including USFWS.	N/A
М	1	Forest Regulation: 1.4. Small Forest Landowner Outreach and Assistance SFLO		287	287	287	28	7										25 P/1168 Funds augmented the ability of the Small Forest Landowner Office to increase onsite landowner assistance; provide training; conduct outreach; provide technical assistance on Forest Practices Application Reviews and stream typing. These programs can be sustained albeit with reduced level of assistance to small forest landowners.	07-25	Response time to Small Forest Landowner (SFL) requests will increase from the current average of 0.33 days to about 2 business days; outreach, education and training events will get reduced by about 50%; new training modules and materials will not be developed. SFLs may be dissatisfied with the reduced level of service provided by DNR at this funding level.	N/A
н	2	Forest Regulation: 1.5. Forest Practices Board Rule Making and Board manual Development		288	288	288	28	8										DNR provides staff support to the Forest Practices Board which is chaired by the Commissioner of Public Lands or his designee. The Board is responsible for adopting all forest practices rules and approves rule associated Board Manual Guidance, but DNR staff to the Board are responsible for developing those materials and implementing the new rules once adopted. Two major rulemakings are expected to conclude this biennium and the Board's workplan does not include new rule making next biennium.	07-25	DNR will be unable to support new rulemaking decisions by the Board for the next two biennia (none are currently planned). If, for any reason, the two current rulemakings do not conclude by June, 2025 as scheduled, DNR would be unable to commit additional funds to conclude rule package development work which may include public hearings, cost-benefit analyses, SEPA, etc. Should a need arise to continue rulemaking activities beyond this biennium, Board members and stakeholders could be dissatisfied if DNR doesn't have the resources to support those activities and may bring those concerns to the legislature.	N/A

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H. M. L	1-5	Program/Activity	FY 25	FY	26	FY 27	FY28	FY 29	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY28	FY 29	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY28	FY 29	·	Date (MM/YY)	Other Considerations	Required (cite)
н	2	Forest Regulation: 2.1. Region and Division Administration - Interagency Agreements	F1 23	127		1127	93.6	97.6	F1 25	F1 20	FT 27	F120	F1 29	F1 25	F1 20	F1 27	F120		WDFW implements certain elements of forest practices rules, including participation on ID teams, review of FPAs, review of FP Hydraulic Projects; review of water type modification forms; and participation in the adaptive management program. This funding is passed through from DNR to WDFW to perform these functions.	07-25	WDFW would need to find alternative funding to support their rule implementation activities. If unable to do so, they may be unable to review FPAs and/or provide regulatory functions in a timely manner. If that is the case, WDFW and Forest Practices stakeholders are likely to raise concerns with the legislature.	N/A
L	1	Forest Regulation: 2.2. Road Maintenance and Abandonment Plans			10	10	10	10											through from Dink to WDFW to perform these functions. DNR reviews landowner compliance with Road Maintenance and Abandomment Plan and related FPAs. This area of work is largely complete.	07-25	stakenolders are likely to raise concerns with the legislature. None	N/A
L	1	Forest Regulation: 2.3. Aerial Herbicides and Forestland			5	5	5	5											In 2022, the legislature established a workgroup to review aerial application of chemicals and make recommendations. This work is complete. DNR completed and published the report.	07-25	None	N/A
М	4	Forest Regulation: 2.4. Forest Practices Science Team Consultation		1	30	130	130	130											Forest Practices Science Team is a group of Licensed Engineering Geologists who provide professional services, advice and technical assistance to all DNR regions who implement the forest practices rules. The geologist predominately review Class V Forest Practices Applications and associated geotechnical reviews prepared by landowner qualified experts. This work requires a lot of travel and participation in Interdisciplinary teams. Reductions target equipment purchase and some travel reductions.	07-25	Limits the ability of division science team to timely review high risk Forest practices applications and provide technical assistance to regions.	N/A
М	1	Forest Resilience: Service Forestry								244	242	244	242						Represents pass-through financial cost-share dollars to non-industrial small forest landowners to facilitate and encourage forest health and wildfire risk reduction treatments on their lands	07-25	Will reduce the number of non-industrial small forest landowners assisted, as well as the overall acres treated for fuels mitigation and forest health.	N/A
М	1	Forest Resilience: Strategic Science and Planning								136	135	136	135						Represents financial pass-through to federal, state, local, tribal, and private forest landowners through direct investments to conduct priority forest health treatments under RCW 76.06.200 in established priority landscapes.	07-25	Will Reduce the number of acres treated annually to move forests into a more resilient state and meet our forest health targets.	N/A
н	1	Forest Resilience: Federal Lands								21	21	21	21						Represents financial pass-through in contracts to facilitate increased pace and scale of planning and implementation of forest health and risk reduction treatments on federal lands in Washington utilizing the Good Neighbor Authority.	07-25	Will reduce capacity to plan and implement forest health and risk reduction treatments on federal lands.	N/A
М	1	Forest Resilience: Division - Forest Resilience strategic pass-through								37	36	37	36						Represents financial pass-through managed by Forest Resilience management team that can utilize any of Forest Resilience Divisions financial pass through programs to support strategic, timely, priority implementation of our 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan and Forest Action Plan across all-landownerships.	07-25	Will reduce number of acres of high priority forests treated to achieve forest health and climate resilience objectives.	N/A
М	1	Forest Resilience: Div Admin strategic pass-through								18	18	18	18						Represents financial pass-through managed by Forest Resilience management team that can utilize any of Forest Resilience Divisions financial pass through programs to support strategic, timely, priority implementation of our 20-Year Forest Health Strategic Plan and Forest Action Plan across all-landownerships.	07-25	Will reduce number of acres of high priority forests treated to achieve forest health and climate resilience objectives.	N/A
н	1	Forest Resilience: Prescribed Fire								25	25	25	25						Represents financial resources to support the necessary planning, workforce training, and resources to utilize prescribed fire as a tool to reduce wildfire risk and improve forest health statewide.	07-25	Will reduce the number of acres planned and treated with prescribed fire annually, resulting in increased fuels on the landscape.	N/A
н	1	Forest Resilience: Post-Fire Recovery								12	12	12	12						Represents financial pass-through dollars that support direct investments to local communities and forest landowners impacted by wildfires to assist in mitigating hazards and facilitating recovery.	07-25	Will reduce the number of landowners assisted and overall acres treated after a catastrophic wildfire event.	N/A
L	1	WGS: Geoscience & Data Management		1	21	121	121	121							1	1	1	1	Eliminate NR Scientist 3 hydrogeologist position; In the short term, critical job duties can be distributed to remaining staff.	07-25	The position supports geologic carbon sequestration and geothermal projects. In the short term, there will be limited impact from vacancy. There will be a reduction in long-term capacity in Earth Resource Program.	N/A

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H, M, L			FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY28	FY 29	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY28	FY 29	FY 25	FY 26	FY 27	FY28	FY 29		(MM/YY)		
н	4	WGS: Geoscience & Data Management		175	175													Planned use of obligated NOAA grant funding for two years to cover FTE costs for one IT Data Management-Journey position, which supports the lidar program.	07-25	No impact to WGS's Lidar Program for FY26 and 27; and impact beyond would be contingent upon ongoing Lidar DP funding. Grant funding is obligated to ECY, with WGS as a subrecipient, through IRA funding.	N/A
L	5	WGS: Science and Research		54	54	54	54											Voluntary suspension of discretionary replacement funding for WGS equipment such as seismometers and gravimeters; will resume funding replacements with improved budget outlook	07-25	WGS has an adequate supply of most of its needed scientific equipment for the medium term. Should any this equipment break or be lost, WGS anticipates that it would not be replaced at full value	N/A
М	1	WGS: Science and Research		33	35													Reduction in travel, mostly for conferences, workshops, or other discretionary in-person meetings. Geology fieldwork and mission-critical travel would continue	07-25	Reduction in professional development and networking opportunities for staff; some of this travel would continue if externally funded through grants.	N/A
М	1	WGS: Science and Research		18	29	29	29											Reduction in equipment purchases	07-25	Limited impact to programs.	N/A
м	1	Uplands: Environmental Justice		287.4	293	293	293							2	2	2	2	Reduces staffing by 2 Environmental Planner 5 positions. Instead of having assets located in each region Uplands will have 2 people located in Division that conduct all the EJ work.	07-25	no reduction of service is expected because we don't know how many projects will occur each year. This assumes the 2 FTE remaining will do EJ assessment work for 40 projects per year.	N/A
М	1,3	Recreation and Conservation: Teanaway		5	172.6	250	250											Eliminates the IAA between WDFW and DNR for co- management of the Teanaway Community Forest. Reduces pass through funding.	07-25	None for DNR. RCW does not require DNR to co-manage the Teanaway with WDFW, that was an executive decision. Would reduce complications for DNR but would reduce pass through funding to WDFW.	N/A
L	1	Forest Resources: Silviculture		12.4	12.4	12.4	12.4							0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	Covers ADM time for 4 meeting/year for PASCO can cover within normal operations. Meetings are mostly held virtually and the funding was based on in-person meetings. Actual cost to the program is less than funding provided.	07-25	None	N/A
L	1	Engineering: Title and Records		7.7	7.7									0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	Funding used for increases to maintenance costs of scanners.		None. Small enough for program to cover.	N/A
М	1	Product Sales and Leasing: Communication Sites		20	20	20												Reduce the amount paid by GFS to supplement trust revenue from Amateur Radio leases. DNR did not increase the number of leases in 23-25 as expected so this can be reset to a lower amount.	07-25	Once fair market rental rates reach the current appropriation, DNR will not add any more Amateur Radio Leases. Rental rates have a 3% increase per year therefore DNR will need to ask for a supplemental allotment after 4-5 years, assuming no new leases are added. This is a direct compensation to DNR and DNR's beneficiaries for revenue earned on communication towers. Amateur Radio rent for lessees is capped at \$100/year per RCW.	N/A
L	5	Law Enforcement Officers and Wildfire Investigation		52														Discontinue the use of Tasers by DNR Police. Tasers have never been deployed by DNR Police (except in training), are not practical in single-officer operations, and are less effective against persons wearing bulky outdoor clothing.	07-25	Low impact. DNR officers are equipped with other, more suitable, intermediate weapons.	N/A
L/M	1	Executive Management and Support		534.1	534.1	534.1	534.1						10	10	10	10	10	Reduction in communications, external affairs, policy, and executive leadership positions.		Allows for on-going program delivery but at reduced levels. These positions are currently vacant.	N/A
		Total Combined Total	-	8,882 11,200	8,886	8,882	8,886	-	2,318	2,314	2,318	2,314	10.0	14.6	14.6	14.6	14.6				

Combined Total 11,200 11,200 11,200 11,200 11,200 11,200 11,200 11,200

Priority:

L = Low priority agency activity or program
M = Medium priority agency activity or program

H = High priority agency activity or program

Impact:

1 = Allows continuation of the program/activity at a reduced level

2 = Eliminates the ability to perform program objectives

3 = Eliminates agency function

4 = Long term implications (moves the problem to next biennium)

5 = Short term (reduction to one time increase)

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