Fire Recovery Program

Created by the state Legislature and administered by the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC) to help landowners and cooperators recover losses to natural resources and agriculture that occurred during the 2014-16 wildfires.

TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING: $6.8 MILLION

BY THE NUMBERS
- 112 miles of fencing reinstalled / repaired
- 436 acres of land replanted / reforested
- 2,500 feet of pipeline repaired
- 606 acres treated for slope stabilization

MORE WORK TO DO
- Continue to review and award funds to fire recovery projects that can be completed before program funding expires on June 30, 2017.
- Assess on-going fire recovery needs beyond the current biennium; work with conservation districts on options to address and fund the fire recovery needs of their cooperators.
- Bring attention to and find ways to fix barriers to fire recovery. This includes ensuring that funds are available immediately after fire containment for seeding severely burned slopes, matching federal funds for the Emergency Watershed Program, and funding conservation district staff to provide direct technical assistance.
- Coordinate with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and Farm Service Agency on common fire recovery activities to encourage efficiencies.
- Identify ways for conservation districts to coordinate joint fire recovery activities and share staff, expertise, and services between districts.
- Support conservation district coordination of, and participation on, Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) teams to evaluate risks to private lands in future fires.
- Support and participate in opportunities for interagency cooperation related to fire recovery.

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SCC-FR-02-17
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Updated: February 2017
Examples of cost-share projects funded by SCC Fire Recovery Program:

**DIKE RECONSTRUCTION**
- Dike originally built in 2015 as part of Emergency Watershed Protection project after Carlton Complex Fire to protect property and houses along French Creek.

**IRRIGATION DELIVERY SYSTEM REPAIR**
- Okanogan Conservation District worked with Benson Creek Water User’s Association to restore functionality of irrigation delivery system.
- Irrigation system was damaged by floods after the Carlton Complex Fire burned most of the watershed.

**LIVESTOCK FENCE REPLACEMENT**
- Stevens County Conservation District is working with 14 landowners to replace over 29,000 feet of damaged fence.
- Majority of fire-damaged fence impacts beef operators who need to control their animals’ movement.

**SLOPE STABILIZATION**
- Stevens County Conservation District helped landowners with contour log falling and placement on steep, burned areas.
- Projects help slow erosion, stabilize slopes, and protect new seedlings.

"I was counting on my past proper forest management and labor on my property as my retirement fund. Within a couple of hours, it was all lost. These projects will not only protect the soil and water, but will speed up the recovery process."
- David Price, Price Ranch

**PLANTING / EROSION CONTROL**
- Lincoln County Conservation District is helping landowners reseed and replant hundreds of acres that burned in the Hart Road Fire.
- Many properties have steep slopes with bare soil, which puts them at-risk of heavy sediment loss and erosion during rainfall.

**ABOUT FIRE RECOVERY COST-SHARE PROJECTS**
- 126 projects funded to date.
- Conservation districts applied and received funding to implement all cost-share work.
- Projects help individuals impacted by 2014 Carlton Complex Fire and/or impacted by 2015-16 wildfires.
- Eligible activities must protect water quality, stabilize soil, prevent crop damage, and/or replace fencing.
- Program allows flexibility to address requests for non-traditional recovery needs on a case-by-case basis.