

Successful implementation of the Climate Commitment Act (CCA) is integral to The Nature Conservancy’s work to build an equitable and resilient future for communities, lands and waters in Washington. With the defense of the CCA against Initiative 2117, Washington is in a strong position to reduce the state’s greenhouse gas emissions, lead a clean energy economy, and build resilience alongside communities most impacted by climate. In addition to our continued commitment to the successful implementation of this vital climate legislation, we have three other priorities this legislative session:

PRIORITY: HONOR 2030 COMMITMENT TO FOREST HEALTH AND WILDFIRE FUNDING

In 2021, the Legislature made a commitment to fund forest health and wildfire resilience at \$125 million per biennium over the next four biennia (\$500 million in total). That continued commitment is essential for success in tackling the forest health and wildfire crises.

Tangible progress has been made in community preparedness, forest health, and fire response capacity – all thanks to work that has just begun under these state investments. Let’s keep up the momentum.

PRIORITY: ACCELERATE CLEAN ENERGY DEPLOYMENT

To meet state goals and future energy demands, Washington needs to rapidly accelerate the deployment of clean energy infrastructure. How the state sites, scales, and revives clean energy infrastructure is critical.

We support legislation that ensures clean energy projects are sited in a way that balances community needs, Tribal sovereignty,

climate action, and conservation. Through a 3 C’s Approach – communities, climate, and conservation – Washington can ensure that the state’s clean energy infrastructure is sustainable, equitable, and ready to ambitiously reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

PRIORITY: CREATE A PRESCRIBED FIRE CLAIMS FUND

Fire itself is an essential tool in responding to the forest health crisis in our state. Controlled, prescribed burning can help prevent catastrophic wildfires. One of the biggest barriers to getting more “good fire” on the ground is liability risk. The potential financial burden has repeatedly deterred practitioners.

We are advocating to establish a state-funded claims fund to provide some initial liability coverage in the rare instance of an escapement despite going through all the qualifications, permits, and due diligence. Similar pilots have been passed into law in California and Oregon over the last few years and include access for Indigenous cultural burn practitioners.

[learn more >](#)



Our Strategic Plan Shapes Our Work

THE NATURE CONSERVANCY IN WASHINGTON'S STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK guides our priorities through 2030 as we address the climate crisis and biodiversity loss in Washington State and beyond. Five strategies shape our work and steer our legislative efforts:



Climate Policy Development & Implementation

We develop new policy and support effective implementation of legislation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote healthy ecosystems and communities



Ecological Forest Management

We protect and restore forests to support crucial habitats, preserve biodiversity, and build resilience to extreme wildfires



Caring for TNC in Washington's Lands & Waters

We manage 100,000 acres of preserves across WA by working in partnership with Tribal Nations and local communities, conducting scientific research, and testing innovative conservation practices



Supporting Indigenous Rights and Connections to Lands & Waters

When invited, we provide technical and financial assistance for Tribal Nations to support them in reacquiring, restoring, caretaking their lands and waters for seven generations



Equitable Public Funding Access

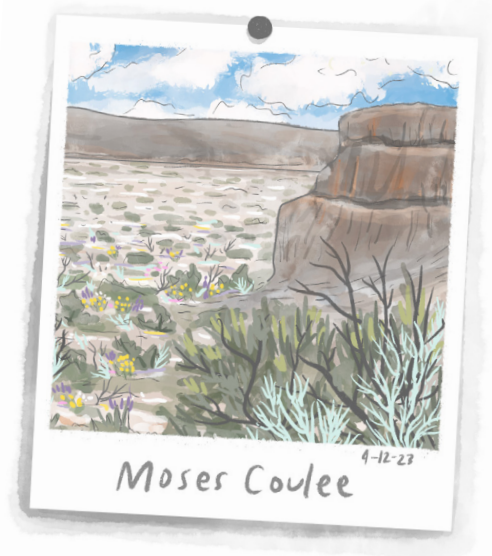
We utilize our resources and expertise to support community organizations, Tribal Nations, and local jurisdictions in accessing public funding.

COMMITMENT TO PARTNERSHIP

We commit to the legislative priorities of the coalitions we engage in:

- BlueGreen Alliance
- Environmental Priorities Coalition
- Washington Association of Land Trusts
- Washington Prescribed Fire Council
- Washington Wildlife & Recreation Coalition

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SAFEGUARD FOUNDATIONAL NATURAL RESOURCE INVESTMENTS

We continue to advocate for long-standing programs funding natural resources in the 2025-27 biennial budgets, including:

- Community Forests (Recreation and Conservation Office)
- Floodplains by Design (Department of Ecology)
- Trust Land Transfer (Department of Natural Resources)
- WA Coastal Restoration & Resiliency Initiative (Recreation and Conservation Office)
- WA Wildfire & Recreation Program (Recreation and Conservation Office)
- Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (Department of Ecology)

