

Recommendation Summary

Agency: 471 State Conservation Commission

12:15:39PM

10/31/2014

Dollars in Thousands

	FY2 FTEs	General Fund State	Other Funds	Total Funds
2013-15 Current Biennium Total	17.1	13,527	3,351	16,878
Total Carry Forward Level Percent Change from Current Biennium	17.1	13,527	3,351	16,878
Carry Forward plus Workload Changes Percent Change from Current Biennium	17.1	13,527	3,351	16,878
Total Maintenance Level Percent Change from Current Biennium	17.1	13,527	3,351	16,878
PL AE Carlton Complex Fire Recovery Funds		1,680	1,568	3,248
Subtotal - Performance Level Changes	0.0	1,680	1,568	3,248
2013-15 Total Proposed Budget Percent Change from Current Biennium	17.1	15,207 12.4%	4,919 46.8%	20,126 19.2%

PL AE Carlton Complex Fire Recovery Funds

The Carlton Complex Fire burned a Washington State record 256,000 acres in Okanogan County, destroying over 300 homes, millions of dollars in agricultural infrastructure, and removing critical soil stabilizing vegetation. This request funds a portion of the costs needed to recovery from these losses.

Agency Budget Request Decision Package Summary

(Lists only the agency Performance Level budget decision packages, in priority order)

Agency: 471 State Conservation Commission

10/31/2014
12:38:11PM

Budget Period: 2013-15

Decision Package	
Code	Decision Package Title
PL-AE	Carlton Complex Fire Recovery Funds

Agency: 471 State Conservation Commission
Decision Package Code/Title: AE Carlton Complex Fire Recovery Funds
Budget Period: 2013-15
Budget Level: PL - Performance Level

Recommendation Summary Text:

The Carlton Complex Fire burned a Washington State record 256,000 acres in Okanogan County, destroying over 300 homes, millions of dollars in agricultural infrastructure, and removing critical soil stabilizing vegetation. This request funds a portion of the costs needed to recovery from these losses.

Fiscal Detail

Operating Expenditures	<u>FY 2014</u>	<u>FY 2015</u>	<u>Total</u>
001-1 General Fund - Basic Account-State		1,680,000	1,680,000
001-2 General Fund - Basic Account-Federal		1,567,500	1,567,500
Total Cost		3,247,500	3,247,500

Package Description:

Funding will be used as cost-share to private landowners to assist them with replacing critical agricultural and other property infrastructure related to natural resource management, stabilize soils, and partially fund conservation district staff time to coordinate landowner cost-share and coordination with other entities assisting with fire recovery efforts. Much of the funding in this package will be used as match for federal funds already committed and other funds being requested through federal cost-share programs and grants.

Narrative Justification and Impact Statement

The Carlton Complex Fire burned 256,000 acres in Okanogan County in July and August 2014. This is now the largest single fire in the history of the State and was spread across approximately 100,000 private lands acres. During the fire, hundreds of miles of livestock and deer fencing was damaged or destroyed, irrigation systems were impacted, crops and forage areas were burned, and soil stabilizing vegetation was burned. The resulting impact is a large area needing re-vegetation to reduce erosion, critical areas replanted with woody vegetation to protect natural resource values and establish wildlife cover and habitat, and loss of critical agricultural and private property infrastructure.

The State/Private Lands Burned Area Emergency Response evaluation identified 37,320 acres of private and state lands as a high soil erosion rating, and another 72,768 acres as a moderate rating. Stabilizing soils will ensure fewer significant erosive events will occur which carry sediment, debris, garbage, and other hazardous materials to streams and rivers in the region that cause further economic hardships with infrastructure such as culverts and roads lost, and impact natural resources such as water quality degradation and impacts to sensitive aquatic species such as ESA listed Chinook Salmon and Steelhead.

Assisting landowners with replacement of infrastructure such as fencing and irrigation systems is necessary as many are not receiving assistance with these costs from insurance companies, and no assistance for these costs will be forthcoming from the Federal Emergency Management Agency since individual assistance was denied.

What specific performance outcomes does the agency expect?

Funds will be used to fund directly, or as federal match, projects that protect critical natural resources destroyed by the Carlton Complex Fire. Projects will include critical area seeding and planting, fence repair/construction, stock water system repairs, noxious weed control, and hazard reductions such as flash flood diversions and/or hazard tree removal.

Performance Measure Detail

Activity: **A001 Technical Services and Program Delivery**

		Incremental Changes	
		<u>FY 2014</u>	<u>FY 2015</u>
Outcome Measures			
001409	Miles of stream protected, improved or enhanced through the implementation of best management practices on landowner's property.		see detail below
001424	Number of land owners/managers assisted and those contacts resulting in new actions by the conservation districts.		see detail below
001425	Number of acres protected, improved, or enhanced through the implementation of best management practices on landowner property.		see detail below
001426	Number of authorized best management practices (conservation practices) installed on landowner property, including those practices which received financial assistance.		see detail below
Feet of Fence		1,570,000	
Acres Seeded		750	
Landowners serviced		200	
Livestock Water Systems		5	
Acres of weed control		500	
Emergency Structures Installed		20	
Weather Service Broadcast Antenna Installed		1	

Is this decision package essential to implement a strategy identified in the agency's strategic plan?

Yes, the following is derived from the agency's strategic plan adopted in May 2014.

Impact on Natural Resource Concerns

Goal Statement: Continue to improve Washington State Natural Resources by demonstrating environmental objectives identified by each conservation district addressing resource priorities statewide by utilizing the local connection of Conservation Districts with private land owners to the network of federal, state and local agencies and organizations to implement the work necessary to achieve results through long term conservation implementation and documentation of related resource impacts.

Does this decision package provide essential support to one of the Governor's priorities?

According to Governor Inslee's web-site: Agricultural is one of the economies of Washington State that is a priority and he would like to "protect and manage scarce resources: land, water, energy, labor, capital, and credit"

Results Washington Implementation

The Washington State Conservation Commission and the 45 Conservation District Boards of Supervisors and employees provide the local linkage and relationship building with private land owners when they are making conservation planning and conservation practice implementation decisions. These local relationships for conservation work will be instrumental in the implementation activities under Goal 3 Sustainable Energy & a Clean Environment including strategic implementation for healthy fish and wildlife, clean and restored environment, and working & natural

lands. This unique structure provides partnering agencies and organizations the opportunity to effectively and efficiently work with private land owners throughout Washington State on conservation planning, technical assistance, and information exchange and project implementation.

Does this decision package make key contributions to statewide results? Would it rate as a high priority in the Priorities of Government process?

Working and Natural Lands Use our lands responsibly

4.1.b. Increase treatment of forested lands for forest health and fire reduction

Clean and Restored Environment Keep our land, water and air clean

3.2 Increase the percentage of rivers meeting good water quality

- Commission is a leader in facilitating change in culture to be a positive, results oriented conservation district family by involving partners and opportunities.
- Coordination with other agencies using the model area concept for getting together on an area-wide project(s) to address an area-wide resource concern.

We believe that the record size of the fire and scarce federal resources being provided to private landowners would make this a critical priority for the Governor, Legislature, and the public. These activities will provide critical economic stimulus to an economically depressed area while simultaneously providing resource protection to large areas of a landscape damaged by a natural disaster.

What are the other important connections or impacts related to this proposal?

This funding package funds the local conservation district to continue work with state, federal, and tribal agencies along with private organizations in their collective efforts to have a coordinated and seamless recovery program for private and public lands alike. Much of the natural resource protection offered in this funding package will protect many thousands of dollars in public improvements to natural resources that are near the burned area that will otherwise be at risk to erosion and other post-fire damage. Furthermore, the installation of the critical agricultural infrastructure will assist this rural economy to recovery quicker and provide for jobs and local tax revenue.

What alternatives were explored by the agency, and why was this alternative chosen?

Federal program assistance has been secured but necessary non-federal match is needed to get many of these funds on the ground. Furthermore, federal assistance has generally been limited to agricultural producers and many of the property owners affected by the fire do not qualify for programs that require agricultural production as a minimum qualification.

What are the consequences of not funding this package?

Private landowners in the area burned by the Carlton Complex fire will have to replace infrastructure they have vested millions of dollars in and that private insurance is not covering in most cases and some residents will have significant risk of further property damage caused by erosion and/or flash flooding that frequently occurs in burned areas. Federal assistance will come for some but will only cover a small portion of costs up to maximum ceiling amounts that are quickly met with scope and scale of the damage caused by this fire.

What is the relationship, if any, to the state's capital budget?

OFM and the Legislature could decide to fund a portion of these requests in the capital budget. Those items that are construction in nature also allowing the construction to occur without fiscal year interruptions.

What changes would be required to existing statutes, rules, or contracts, in order to implement the change?

None.

Expenditure and revenue calculations and assumptions

Request	Total Cost	Federal Share	Non Federal Share	Name of Federal Agency/ Program Support	Notes
Staff time - CD's and CC	\$500,000		\$500,000		Site visits for property owners. 195 requests or so. Bringing in other CD's staff to assist;
EWP match requirement	\$1,000,000	\$800,000	\$200,000	NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP).	44 homes identified as defensible, but high risk. 75% of cost for defensible homes. 25% of costs for structure protection will be covered by WSCC. Homes rebuilt already not eligible.
Noxious weed control for private landowners in Carlton Complex	\$200,000		\$ 200,000		Funding would be passed through to the Okanogan County Noxious Weed Control Board, who will coordinate with Okanogan County CD's reseeding efforts.
Wildlife Fencing	\$1,115,000	\$550,000	\$565,000	FSA-ECP, USFWS, NFWF	Federal share is dependent upon qualified individuals applying for and receiving federal program assistance.
Irrigation System	\$45,000	\$30,000	\$15,000	NRCS-EQIP, BuRec,	Some irrigation components have merely been bypassed by temporary measures to finish the irrigation season. This funding would assist landowners with recouping some costs towards permanent repairs
Seeding	\$112,500	\$75,000	\$37,500	FSA-ECP, NRCS-EQIP, USFWS	Federal share is dependent upon qualified individuals applying for and receiving federal program assistance.
Livestock Fencing (Critical Area)	\$165,000	\$112,500	\$52,500	FSA-ECP, NRCS-EQIP, USFWS	Federal share is dependent upon qualified individuals applying for and receiving federal program assistance
Conservation Corps Crews	\$110,000	\$0	\$110,000		Crews will be used to assist recovery organizations with riparian restoration, bank stabilization, fence construction, and debris removal
	\$3,247,500	\$1,567,500	\$1,680,000		

Which costs and functions are one-time? Which are ongoing? What are the budget impacts in future biennia?

It is anticipated the investments from this supplemental and the funding into the 15-17 biennium will be one-time funding. The caveat would be if another fire occurred in the same area or if there was a delay in getting the work done over the next 2 years.

Object Detail	FY 2014	FY 2015	Total
N Grants, Benefits & Client Services		3,247,500	3,247,500

State of Washington

Summarized Revenue by Account and Source

Budget Period: 2013-15

10/31/2014

Dollars in thousands

12:36PM

471 - State Conservation Commission

Agency Level

FS - 2nd Supplemental

Supporting Text Included

	Maintenance Level		Performance Level		Biennium Totals		Total
	FY2014	FY2015	FY2014	FY2015	FY2014	FY2015	
001 - General Fund							
AE - Carlton Complex Fire Recovery Funds				1,568			
Total - 0310 - Dept of Agriculture - F				1,568		1,568	1,568
001 - General Fund - Federal				1,568		1,568	1,568
Total - 001 - General Fund				1,568		1,568	1,568
471 - State Conservation Commission - Federal				1,568		1,568	1,568
Total - 471 - State Conservation Commission				1,568		1,568	1,568

AE - Carlton Complex Fire Recovery Funds

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