



Washington State

Conservation Commission

Washington State Conservation Commission
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.


CONSERVATION DISTRICTS OF WASHINGTON STATE
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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.

FIRE RECOVERY FUNDING PROCESS

- ▶ Conservation district works with local landowners/cooperators to identify fire-related losses and recommend recovery projects.
- ▶ Conservation district submits proposed projects to the Washington State Conservation Commission (SCC).
- ▶ SCC Review Committee evaluates project proposals twice a month for consistency with funding guidelines and evaluates unique projects on a case-by-case basis.
- ▶ SCC notifies conservation district of approved project(s).
- ▶ Conservation district works with landowners/cooperators on final design, planning, and implementation of funded projects.

TOTAL PROGRAM FUNDING: \$6.8 MILLION

HIGHLIGHTS OF PROGRAM INVESTMENTS:



126 cost-share projects led by conservation districts in 11 counties. Projects help landowners:

- ▶ Protect water quality
- ▶ Stabilize soil
- ▶ Prevent crop damage, and
- ▶ Replace fencing

Yale Road Fire (Spokane County) Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Team study and report. Identifies post-fire threats to:

- ▶ Human life
- ▶ Critical cultural and natural resources, and
- ▶ Infrastructure



Fence inspections in Okanogan County in partnership with federal Emergency Conservation Program.

- ▶ Helps farmers and ranchers repair damage to operations.

State match for federal Emergency Watershed Protection projects:

- ▶ Helps landowners mitigate impacts from mud and debris flows in burned areas.



CONTACT

Mike Baden, SCC Regional Manager
mbaden@scc.wa.gov | 509.385.7510

www.scc.wa.gov

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BY THE NUMBERS

anticipated results of allocated funds:

112

miles of fencing reinstalled / repaired

436

acres of land replanted / reforested

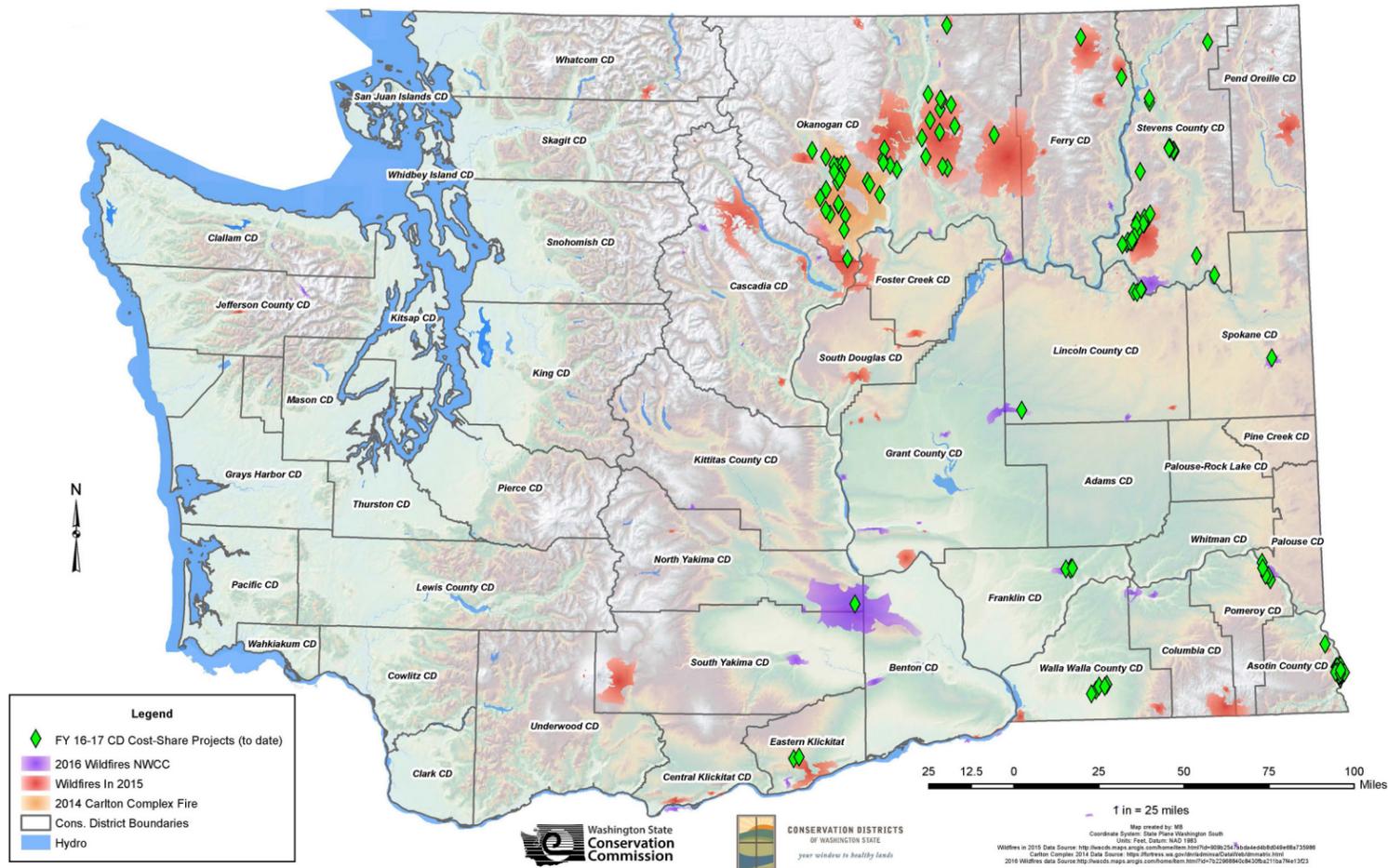
2,500

feet of pipeline repaired

606

acres treated for slope stabilization

Examples of cost-share projects funded by SCC Fire Recovery Program:



DIKE RECONSTRUCTION

- ▶ Okanogan Conservation District helped repair 900-foot-long dike that breached during massive mud and debris flow in 2016.
- ▶ Dike originally built in 2015 as part of Emergency Watershed Protection project after Carlton Complex Fire to protect property and houses along French Creek.

Photo: (left) Excavator constructs protective dike near French Creek home

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.

Photos: (right) Damage to earthen dam and blown out spillway



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.

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.

Photos: (below) Seeds and grass are sprouting and eventually will re-establish vegetative cover



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.

Photos: (top left) Damaged fence had to be pulled out and hauled away (bottom left) Cost-share dollars helped landowner Matt Newbill build a new fence

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

Photo: (right) Contour log falling and placement at Price Ranch

