



Sustains significant damage from the Lime Belt Fire, part of the 2015 Okanogan Complex Fires.

Fuels reduction and Rx burn completed by WDFW in 2014. Successfully resists Okanogan Complex Fires.

UNTREATED

Rx TREATED

The choice is ours.

The public, landowners and land managers can work together to communicate that **prescribed fire is a planned, controlled and necessary tool** to change wildfire behavior to mild fire behavior.

It's time to face reality: In Washington's forests and prairies, no fire is not an option, and no smoke is not an option. **The only questions that remain are: how do we want our smoke, and how do we want our fire?**

Fire works for us in so many ways.

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waprescribedfire.org



So, why don't we use more prescribed fire in Washington?

Smoke management rules and laws are the greatest obstacle to prescribed fire. We need to encourage greater understanding that:

- Prescribed fire teams are held accountable for regulating smoke levels.
- Smoke exposure from prescribed fire is much shorter and less intense than smoke exposure from wildfire – minutes to hours, instead of days to weeks.

The cost of planning and implementing a prescribed burn can be prohibitive, especially for the first burn when higher levels of planning and resources must be devoted to achieving site-specific goals. Subsequent “maintenance burns” are typically much more cost-effective.

A shortage of trained and qualified teams. More trained, year-round fire professionals are needed to work with landowners and land managers on implementing prescribed burn programs.

Public perception and fear of fire. This is a complex issue, but the fact remains that 99% of prescribed burns are managed successfully, as planned. We need to start talking, and keep talking, about how prescribed fire keeps us all safer.



It's time we started working with fire.

Fire has existed as long as life, and Washington's forests and prairies have evolved with and depend on fire to thrive. In addition to the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest, which includes approximately 2.8 million acres of dry forest, there are about 3 million acres of other federal, state, tribal and private lands historically maintained by frequent, low-intensity fires caused by lightning, and intentionally set by human populations.

History and science agree that fire can work for us — if we work with it.



UNDERSTAND

Fire suppression has been attempted for over 100 years in Washington State, resulting in unprecedented forest density and fuels accumulation.

While intention was good, the cost has been high: degraded forest ecosystems and mega-wildfires that cannot be controlled.

Despite millions of dollars spent each year in fire suppression, we are losing homes, business revenue, and at times, human lives, to big wildfire. There has to be a better way, and there is.



REDUCE RISK

We can get our forests back on track, and reduce the frequency and severity of catastrophic fire. We can choose "mild" fire.

Prescribed fire is the controlled application of fire to a specific area. The fires are managed by trained, specialized teams who:

- strategically apply the burn
- minimize smoke levels
- enhance wildlife habitat
- protect personal property

We really can fight fire with fire.



FUEL ECONOMIES

The severity of recent fire seasons has taken a heavy toll.

Local economies dependent on peak-season tourism dollars have lost significant revenue due to closed public roads and facilities, lost electricity, and heavy smoke.

It's time to come together to protect our homes and businesses, create fire jobs, and keep our neck of the woods safe and productive for generations to come.

It's time to embrace prescribed fire.



"As a pharmacist, I know how the right prescription can restore someone's health. As a lawmaker who has worked to promote outdoor recreation, and as a fourth-generation resident of North Central Washington, I appreciate how **prescribed fire could restore the health of our forests, and protect families and employers from more hurt."**

— Senator Linda Evans Parlette, 12th Legislative District



What Washington needs now.