

Multiple Agency Fiscal Note Summary

Bill Number: 1971 HB	Title: Rangeland fire pilot
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Estimated Cash Receipts

NONE

Estimated Operating Expenditures

Agency Name	2023-25				2025-27				2027-29			
	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total	FTEs	GF-State	NGF-Outlook	Total
Washington State Patrol	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0	.0	0	0	0
Department of Natural Resources	2.0	1,240,900	1,240,900	1,240,900	7.9	2,342,200	2,342,200	2,342,200	7.9	2,342,200	2,342,200	2,342,200
Total \$	2.0	1,240,900	1,240,900	1,240,900	7.9	2,342,200	2,342,200	2,342,200	7.9	2,342,200	2,342,200	2,342,200

Agency Name	2023-25			2025-27			2027-29		
	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total
Local Gov. Courts									
Loc School dist-SPI									
Local Gov. Other	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.								
Local Gov. Total									

Estimated Capital Budget Expenditures

Agency Name	2023-25			2025-27			2027-29		
	FTEs	Bonds	Total	FTEs	Bonds	Total	FTEs	Bonds	Total
Washington State Patrol	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Department of Natural Resources	.0	0	0	.0	0	0	.0	0	0
Total \$	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0	0

Agency Name	2023-25			2025-27			2027-29		
	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total	FTEs	GF-State	Total
Local Gov. Courts									
Loc School dist-SPI									
Local Gov. Other	Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.								
Local Gov. Total									

Estimated Capital Budget Breakout

NONE

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Phone:
(360) 742-2239

Date Published:
Final 1/16/2024

Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 1971 HB	Title: Rangeland fire pilot	Agency: 225-Washington State Patrol
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Part I: Estimates

No Fiscal Impact

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Operating Expenditures from:

NONE

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

- If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.
- If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).
- Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.
- Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact: Robert Hatfield	Phone: 360-786-7117	Date: 01/02/2024
Agency Preparation: Yvonne Ellison	Phone: 360-596-4042	Date: 01/03/2024
Agency Approval: Mario Buono	Phone: (360) 596-4046	Date: 01/03/2024
OFM Review: Tiffany West	Phone: (360) 890-2653	Date: 01/03/2024

Part II: Narrative Explanation

II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.

The proposed legislation is not expected to have a fiscal impact to the Washington State Patrol (WSP).

The proposed legislation adds language to RCW 76.04 requiring the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to conduct a five-year Rangeland Fire Protection Association pilot project to assess the measures needed to ensure the safe and effective operation of rangeland fire protection associations. The scope of the pilot project is limited to three locations in eastern Washington and must conclude at the end of the calendar year 2028 fire season.

II. B - Cash receipts Impact

Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

NONE

II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

The Chief of the Washington State Patrol is responsible for authorizing mobilizations under the Washington State Fire Service Mobilization Plan (RCW 43.43.960), which requires us to make reimbursements to state agencies and local jurisdictions from the Disaster Response Account for mobilization related costs. The limited scope of the pilot project is not expected to impact the number of mobilizations authorized during the project period, however, it is possible that there may be future impacts if the pilot project results in changes to the mobilization plan that allow mobilizations for fire events that do not currently qualify for statewide mobilization, such as by adding Rangeland Fire Protection Associations to the entities that can request a mobilization and receive reimbursement. If that occurs, a request for additional mobilization resources may be needed.

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

NONE

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA.*

NONE

III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

IV. D - Capital FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

Part V: New Rule Making Required

Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.

Individual State Agency Fiscal Note

Bill Number: 1971 HB	Title: Rangeland fire pilot	Agency: 490-Department of Natural Resources
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Part I: Estimates

No Fiscal Impact

Estimated Cash Receipts to:

NONE

Estimated Operating Expenditures from:

	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
FTE Staff Years	0.0	3.9	2.0	7.9	7.9
Account					
General Fund-State 001-1	0	1,240,900	1,240,900	2,342,200	2,342,200
Total \$	0	1,240,900	1,240,900	2,342,200	2,342,200

Estimated Capital Budget Impact:

NONE

The cash receipts and expenditure estimates on this page represent the most likely fiscal impact. Factors impacting the precision of these estimates, and alternate ranges (if appropriate), are explained in Part II.

Check applicable boxes and follow corresponding instructions:

- If fiscal impact is greater than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete entire fiscal note form Parts I-V.
- If fiscal impact is less than \$50,000 per fiscal year in the current biennium or in subsequent biennia, complete this page only (Part I).
- Capital budget impact, complete Part IV.
- Requires new rule making, complete Part V.

Legislative Contact: Robert Hatfield	Phone: 360-786-7117	Date: 01/02/2024
Agency Preparation: Nicole Dixon	Phone: 360-902-1155	Date: 01/15/2024
Agency Approval: Brian Considine	Phone: 3604863469	Date: 01/15/2024
OFM Review: Lisa Borkowski	Phone: (360) 742-2239	Date: 01/16/2024

Part II: Narrative Explanation

II. A - Brief Description Of What The Measure Does That Has Fiscal Impact

Significant provisions of the bill and any related workload or policy assumptions that have revenue or expenditure impact on the responding agency by section number.

Section 1 (3) requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to implement a five-year pilot project in three locations in eastern Washington in order to assess the effectiveness of Rangeland Fire Protection Associations (RFPA) in Washington.

Section 2 outlines the requirements of the pilot project, including the requirement to be operational by the beginning of the calendar year 2025 fire season and must conclude at the end of the calendar year 2028 fire season. DNR is assuming that staffing and funding for this project will need to come from the department as no other fund source is identified.

Section 2(2)(a) Working with the RFPAs, the DNR may develop and publish recommendations concerning the formation, management, operation, and training of members of a rangeland fire protection association and;

Section 2(2)(b) prior to entering into an agreement with a rangeland fire protection association, and annually thereafter, the DNR shall review and inspect the rangeland fire protection association; and

Section 2 (2) (c) the DNR may enter into agreements with fire protection districts and regional fire protection service authorities within the pilot project in order to implement a rangeland fire protection firefighting program utilizing volunteer firefighters.

Section 2 (5) Requires DNR to submit a report on the pilot project to the appropriate committees of the legislature at the conclusion of the pilot project. The report is due by November 15, 2028.

The pilot programs authorized under this legislation will expire on June 30, 2029.

II. B - Cash receipts Impact

Cash receipts impact of the legislation on the responding agency with the cash receipts provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of the revenue sources. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the cash receipts impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

II. C - Expenditures

Agency expenditures necessary to implement this legislation (or savings resulting from this legislation), with the provisions of the legislation that result in the expenditures (or savings) identified by section number. Description of the factual basis of the assumptions and the method by which the expenditure impact is derived. Explanation of how workload assumptions translate into cost estimates. Distinguished between one time and ongoing functions.

To establish an effective pilot in a short amount to time, the department will require significant additional staffing to establish RFPAs, provide adequate oversight, coordination, training, establishment of cooperative agreements, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs). It is assumed that DNR will need to provide equipment to the associations so they can deliver wildland fire protection services, DNR currently provides equipment (DNR surplus, federal excess and grant-funded) and PPE (federal excess and grant-funded) to local fire districts and would use the same mechanism to acquire equipment for the RFPAs.

Anticipated need to support implementation of this bill:

Staffing –

Standard Assumption for all staff involved with Wildland Fire Suppression - DNR is unable to conduct hiring during the wildland fire season. Recruitment efforts would begin in October of 2024 with a projected hire date of January 2025.

- WMS 1 Rangeland Fire Manager – .5 FTE in FY 25 and 1.0 FTE in FY 26 (ongoing until FY 2029) – This position will serve as the manager for the pilot project, including supervising the operational staff in the program. This position will also

be responsible for the development of policy, procedure and guidance for RFPAs, as well as any agreements that need to be developed.

- Program Specialist 5 – 1.5 FTE in FY 25 (3 positions at .5 FTE each) and 3.0 FTE in FY 26 (ongoing until FY 2029) – These positions will work directly with each association, providing operation guidance, training, assistance with achieving National Wildfire Coordinating Group (NWCG) standards, coordination with protection agencies and identifying equipment and Personal Protective Equipment needs.

- Wildland Fire Program Coordinator 1 - .5 FTE in FY 25 and 1.0 FTE in FY 26 (ongoing until FY 2029) – This position will serve as an Equipment Assistance Coordinator. This role will specialize in acquiring, deploying and tracking of Federal Excess Equipment (FEPP/FFP) for rangeland associations. This position will work closely with the Program Specialist 5s.

- Administrative Assistant 4 – .5 FTE in FY 25 and 1.0 FTE in FY 26 (ongoing until FY 2029) - This position will provide administrative support to the DNR Rangeland Program staff and assist with the procurement and administration of Liability insurance for the three associations.

Professional Service Contracts –

Liability Insurance – This funding is intended to pass-through to the RFPAs to purchase their own liability insurance. Cost is indeterminate but currently estimated at \$150,000 per fiscal year. DNR will submit a decision package for additional funding, if necessary, when actual costs are identified.

Travel –

Additional funding for extensive field travel - \$30,000 in FY 25 and \$60,000 in FY 26 (ongoing until FY 2029).

Capital Outlays -

Heavy Duty Diesel Pickup x 5 - \$375,000 in FY 25 (one-time) - DNR does not have a fleet of vehicles available in the areas these positions are focused. The positions will travel a significant amount of time while establishing and coordinating the RFPAs in remote areas of eastern Washington.

Multi Passenger ATV & Trailers x3 - \$144,000 in FY 25 (one-time)

Laptop and Monitors x 6 - \$19,400 in FY 25 (one-time)

Total Costs

FY 2025 - \$1,240,900

2025-27 - \$2,342,200

2027-29 - \$2,342,200

Administrative costs are calculated at 31% of staff salary and benefits and staff-related goods and services and travel. For fiscal note purposes, this cost is represented as a Fiscal Analyst 2 position (.9 FTE in FY 25 and 1.9 FTE in FY 26 (ongoing until FY 2029)).

Part III: Expenditure Detail

III. A - Operating Budget Expenditures

Account	Account Title	Type	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
001-1	General Fund	State	0	1,240,900	1,240,900	2,342,200	2,342,200
Total \$			0	1,240,900	1,240,900	2,342,200	2,342,200

III. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
FTE Staff Years		3.9	2.0	7.9	7.9
A-Salaries and Wages		234,700	234,700	939,400	939,400
B-Employee Benefits		86,800	86,800	346,800	346,800
C-Professional Service Contracts		150,000	150,000	300,000	300,000
E-Goods and Other Services		85,500	85,500	174,000	174,000
G-Travel		30,000	30,000	120,000	120,000
J-Capital Outlays		538,400	538,400		
M-Inter Agency/Fund Transfers					
N-Grants, Benefits & Client Services					
P-Debt Service					
S-Interagency Reimbursements					
T-Intra-Agency Reimbursements		115,500	115,500	462,000	462,000
9-					
Total \$	0	1,240,900	1,240,900	2,342,200	2,342,200

III. C - Operating FTE Detail: *List FTEs by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals need to agree with total FTEs in Part I and Part IIIA*

Job Classification	Salary	FY 2024	FY 2025	2023-25	2025-27	2027-29
Administrative Assistant 4	58,704		0.5	0.3	1.0	1.0
Fiscal Analyst 2	58,104		0.9	0.5	1.9	1.9
Program Specialist 5	82,896		1.5	0.8	3.0	3.0
Wildland Fire Program Coordinator 1	77,028		0.5	0.3	1.0	1.0
WMS - Band 1	85,270		0.5	0.3	1.0	1.0
Total FTEs			3.9	2.0	7.9	7.9

III. D - Expenditures By Program (optional)

NONE

Part IV: Capital Budget Impact

IV. A - Capital Budget Expenditures

NONE

IV. B - Expenditures by Object Or Purpose

NONE

IV. C - Capital Budget Breakout

Acquisition and construction costs not reflected elsewhere on the fiscal note and description of potential financing methods.

NONE

IV. D - Capital FTE Detail: *FTEs listed by classification and corresponding annual compensation. Totals agree with total FTEs in Part IVB.*

NONE

Part V: New Rule Making Required

Provisions of the bill that require the agency to adopt new administrative rules or repeal/revise existing rules.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FISCAL NOTE

Department of Commerce

Bill Number: 1971 HB

Title: Rangeland fire pilot

Part I: Jurisdiction-Location, type or status of political subdivision defines range of fiscal impacts.

Legislation Impacts:

- Cities: City fire departments
- Counties: County fire departments
- Special Districts: Fire protection districts; regional fire protection service authorities
- Specific jurisdictions only:
- Variance occurs due to:

Part II: Estimates

- No fiscal impacts.
- Expenditures represent one-time costs:
- Legislation provides local option:
- Key variables cannot be estimated with certainty at this time:

Estimated revenue impacts to:

None

Estimated expenditure impacts to:

Non-zero but indeterminate cost and/or savings. Please see discussion.

Part III: Preparation and Approval

Fiscal Note Analyst: Brandon Rountree	Phone: (360) 999-7103	Date: 01/05/2024
Leg. Committee Contact: Robert Hatfield	Phone: 360-786-7117	Date: 01/02/2024
Agency Approval: Allan Johnson	Phone: 360-725-5033	Date: 01/05/2024
OFM Review: Lisa Borkowski	Phone: (360) 742-2239	Date: 01/10/2024

Part IV: Analysis

A. SUMMARY OF BILL

Description of the bill with an emphasis on how it impacts local government.

Overview: The intent of the legislation that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to implement a five-year pilot project in three locations east of the crest of the Cascade mountains in order to assess the effectiveness of Rangeland Fire Protection Associations (RFPA). RFPAs are a nonprofit corporation or nonprofit unincorporated association that enters into an agreement to detect, prevent, or suppress wildfires with any agency of the state of Washington or any fire protection service agency.

Applicable sections of bill:

Sec. 1:

(1-3) Outlines legislations intent and reasoning behind the bill.

Sec. 2 (New section to RCW 76.04):

(2) (c) Allows RFPA to enter into agreements with Fire Protection Districts (FPD) and Regional Fire Protection Service Authorities (RFPSA) with the pilot project area as described in subsection (4) of this section, to implement a Rangeland Fire Protection Firefighting Program (RFPFP) that utilizes volunteer firefighters.

(3) Allows RFPA to enter into agreements with RFPSA for the detection, prevention, or suppression of fires. Subject to the approval of DNR, the RFPSA can negotiate the form and content of the agreement, and may determine the safety, administrative, and training requirements that must be met for the RFPA to enter into an agreement.

(4) Requires DNR to conduct the RFPA pilot project in three separate areas east of the crest of the Cascade mountains.

Sec. 3 (New section to RCW 76.04):

(1) (a-b) Defines “Member” and “Rangeland fire protection association”

Sec. 4 (New section to RCW 76.04):

(1) Allows persons engaged in the detection, prevention, and suppression of wildfires outside of the boundaries of a local, regional, or state fire protection service agency may act together for the mutual benefit of the members and their communities in nonprofit associations or unincorporated associations. These associations are authorized to enter into agreements with RFPSA.

B. SUMMARY OF EXPENDITURE IMPACTS

Expenditure impacts of the legislation on local governments with the expenditure provisions identified by section number and when appropriate, the detail of expenditures. Delineated between city, county and special district impacts.

This legislation would have an indeterminate impact on fire district expenditures. The costs of cooperative agreements and rangeland fire protection association programs are unknown and would vary by district.

The focus of this legislation on rural and rangeland areas east of the cascade mountains makes it likely that fire districts would be primarily impacted by this bill. However, this legislation does not preclude city fire departments from adopting cooperative agreements and establishing rangeland fire protection association programs, and bearing the indeterminate costs of doing so.

C. SUMMARY OF REVENUE IMPACTS

Revenue impacts of the legislation on local governments, with the revenue provisions identified by section number, and when appropriate, the detail of revenue sources. Delineated between city, county and special district impacts.

This legislation would have no fiscal impact on fire district revenues.

SOURCES:

Local Government Fiscal Note HB 2562 (2018)

