

# TNC 2026 State Legislative Agenda



## Seeding Resilience in Chelan County

In one of Washington's most fire-prone valleys, wildfire resilience investments are helping neighbors take action—building fuel breaks that slow the spread of fire, restoring the health of surrounding forests, and helping families make their homes safer. Volunteers, local crews, and community leaders are working side by side to protect the places they love – proving that through

partnerships and sustained investments we can change the story of living with fire.



The Nature Conservancy brings science and on-the-ground stewardship experience to help decision-makers build a resilient future. In 2026, we are asking the Legislature to advance solutions that protect people and nature through **three priorities**:

### Priority 1: Restore funding for Wildfire Resilience

In 2021, the Legislature passed HB 1168, committing \$125 million each biennium over eight years to protect communities, forests and firefighters from the growing wildfire crisis.

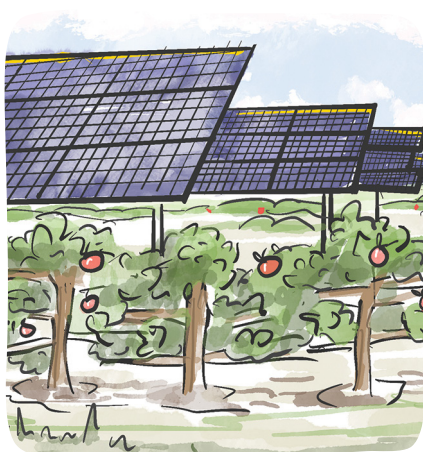
That commitment is working. To date, investments from the Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration & Community Resilience Account have treated 90,000 acres of forests, expanded firefighter capacity and supported 178 local organizations in community-led resilience projects.

**A \$60 million cut in the 2025–27 state budget threatens to reverse hard-won progress.** Without the consistent funding outlined by the 2021 commitment, agency efforts stall, community grants vanish and the momentum built under HB 1168 erodes.

Prevention is the most cost-effective path forward. To protect Washingtonians, we urge the Legislature to **fully fund the Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration & Community Resilience Account.**

[learn more >](#)

**“Wildfire has a cost. The question is whether we will invest in preventative work to reduce the risks to communities and severity of wildfires or face much costlier suppression and recovery bills in the near future.”** —Cody Desautel, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation & TNC Washington Board of Trustees



### Priority 2: Accelerate clean energy deployment that works for people and nature

Washington's electricity grid is at a crossroads: unprecedented demand, rising utility bills and an urgent need to cut climate pollution. An expanded transmission system would unlock lower-cost, clean energy sources like wind and solar.

Guided by a **"3C" approach—climate, communities and conservation**—TNC supports policies that advance clean energy sources and transmission infrastructure to meet state climate commitments, center communities and Tribes, and conserve and restore intact landscapes. This also includes addressing potential impacts from data centers.



### Priority 3: Ensure Climate Commitment Act investments deliver impact with integrity

Washington's Climate Commitment Act is the state's most powerful tool to cut pollution and invest in communities most impacted by climate change.

Smart investments in renewable resources and energy efficiency are helping close the gap to net-zero by 2050, while **natural climate solutions**—like investments in forest and soil health that improve their ability to store carbon—offer a cost-effective way to reduce emissions and build resilience. Every dollar from cap-and-invest auction revenues must deliver tangible results for Washingtonians: cleaner air, lower energy costs and resilience in the face of climate impacts.

## 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



**Skippy Shaw**

Director, State Government Relations

[skippy.shaw@tnc.org](mailto:skippy.shaw@tnc.org) or (206) 496-6484