



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE —

March 22, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Through: Mr. Willie Nunn  
Regional Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Region 10  
130 228<sup>th</sup> Street Southwest  
Bothell, WA 98021-9796

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act) and implemented by 44 CFR § 206.36, I request that you declare a Major Disaster for the State of Washington as a result of damages incurred by a continuous series of severe storms, winter storms, straight-line winds, flooding, landslides, and mudslides beginning January 5, 2024, through January 29, 2024. This event is of such severity and magnitude that effective recovery exceeds the capability of the state and impacted local governments, and supplemental federal assistance is required. I am specifically requesting assistance from the Public Assistance program for the following 16 counties: Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Ferry, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Klickitat, Lewis, Mason, Okanogan, Pacific, Skagit, Skamania, and Wahkiakum. This request for assistance includes Category A Debris Removal, Category B Emergency Protective Measures, Category C Roads and Bridges, Category D Water Control Facilities, Category E Public Buildings and Contents, Category F Public Utilities, and Category G Parks, Recreational and other facilities. In addition, I am requesting assistance from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program statewide.

Additionally, we are requesting Public Assistance for the federally recognized Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

### **Weather Conditions**

From January 5, 2024, through January 29, 2024, a strong and persistent storm track was directed at Washington state. This storm track delivered a 25-day period of winter storms, windstorms, extreme cold, and atmospheric rivers that battered Washington state in rapid

succession that resulted in a continuous series of overlapping significant impacts across the state. The order in which these events occurred further exacerbated the impacts across the state.

The timeline was characterized by the development of an active storm track beginning January 5, 2024, which increased in strength through January 10, 2024, resulting in significant coastal flooding and culminating in widespread blizzard conditions across Washington's Cascade Mountain Range. This was immediately followed by a highly anomalous cold upper-level low that shifted south from the interior of Canada into the northwestern United States bringing widespread winter precipitation as well as wind and rare extreme cold conditions beginning January 11, 2024, through January 16, 2024. These systems resulted in significant fresh snowpack which would set the stage for increased runoff and flooding as temperatures warmed to record levels and the storm track shifted to an atmospheric river pattern which continued through late January.

With the storm track directed at Washington state, strong winds also prevailed through much of January. This resulted in damage to trees and above-ground power infrastructure, as well as power outages across the state. In addition, strong winds and low pressure resulted in significant storm tides that pounded the Washington coastline causing coastal inundation and erosion.

During this 25-day period, continuous significant weather-related impacts were experienced across Washington state due to winds, extreme cold, winter precipitation, and coastal and river flooding. Three major Western Washington rivers exceeded flood stage at least once, with the Skokomish River reaching moderate flood stage.

### **Weather Impact Timeline**

From January 5, 2024, through January 29, 2024, Washington state experienced a continuous series of severe winter storms, high winds, flooding, landslides, and mudslides. The strong winds toppled trees and downed power lines causing widespread power outages throughout much of the state of Washington, exceeding 100,000 customers. Heavy precipitation across the state and along the coast resulted in damaging coastal and inland flooding. In other portions of the state, record-low temperatures and blizzards led to deadly and hazardous conditions. The severe weather resulted in widespread tree damage, damage to public and private infrastructure, and damage to homes and businesses.

Beginning January 5, 2024, the first in a series of repetitive storms began impacting Western Washington counties. Strong winds exceeding 60 miles per hour were recorded in several locations starting January 5, 2024, through January 10, 2024. The persistently strong winds resulted in widespread tree damage and utility damage, leading to numerous power outages. High tides along the coast were exacerbated by the strong winds, leading to damaging coastal flooding. During this time frame, the Cascade Mountains of Washington state began recording significant amounts of snowfall from the first in what would become a series of severe winter storms.

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By January 9, 2024, high winds and increased snowfall rates led to dangerous blizzard conditions in the Cascades and the closure of United States Interstate 90 (I-90), a major east-west transportation corridor in the state. Nearly five feet of snow was recorded at Snoqualmie Pass along I-90 during the six-day period beginning January 6, 2024, through January 12, 2024. Elsewhere in the state, continued strong winds led to additional widespread tree damage and subsequent power outages. High winds also continued to create hazardous conditions along the coast, with damaging waves and coastal flooding. Heavy precipitation accompanied the winds, resulting in river flooding, including the Skokomish River in Mason County.

From January 11, 2024, through January 16, 2024, a strong arctic front plunged temperatures in many areas across the state into record-low territory. Record lows of negative 24 degrees Fahrenheit (-24° F) and negative 20 degrees Fahrenheit (-20° F) were recorded at the city of Newport and at the Boundary Dam, respectively, in Pend Oreille County on January 13 and 14, 2024. The city of Spokane also set a new daily record low with negative seven degrees Fahrenheit (-7° F) recorded on January 12, 2024. Continued strong wind gusts during this timeframe combined with the extreme cold resulted in at least five fatalities in King County. Homes and businesses across Western Washington reported significant damage to infrastructure due to freezing and burst water pipes. Heavy snowfall continued to impact several southwest Washington counties, leading to ongoing hazardous driving conditions, and adversely impacting commerce. On January 16, 2024, the snow transitioned to freezing rain, further impacting travel, and leading to additional downed trees and power lines, adversely impacting the health and safety of the public.

Although temperatures aloft continued to rise, persistent winds and extremely cold surface conditions beginning January 17, 2024, through January 21, 2024, led to ongoing and substantial freezing rain and ice buildup. Tree limbs snapped due to the weight of the ice and strong winds, taking down utility lines and once again causing widespread power outages across the state during this time period. Major roadways were again closed due to the hazardous conditions and multiple collisions, including the I-90 corridor.

Warmer temperatures finally began moving into the region beginning January 19, 2024, leading to rapid snowmelt from the recent low- and mid-elevation snowfall events. The warmer temperatures were also accompanied by a potent atmospheric river event with heavy rain falling on many areas in the state. The near-nonstop precipitation during the month of January, combined with the warmer temperatures beginning January 19, 2024, through January 29, 2024, resulted in saturated and oversaturated soils in many areas of Western Washington. Flooding, mudslides, and landslides were recorded during this time period, leading to extensive roadway closures and public infrastructure damage.

On January 29, 2024, new daily high temperature records were set in multiple locations in Western Washington, with 69 degrees Fahrenheit recorded in the city of Bellingham and 61 degrees Fahrenheit in the city of Seattle. As the atmospheric river continued to bring warm air and heavy rain into the region, ongoing and rapid snowmelt led to flooding along three rivers in Western Washington.

## **State and Local Impacts and Response**

The Washington State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Alert and Warning Center conducted real-time monitoring and information dissemination of all National Weather Service (NWS) weather warnings and briefings, river flood levels, evacuations, road disruptions, and electrical outages and coordinated essential support to emergency activities throughout the incident period beginning January 5, 2024, through January 29, 2024.

Throughout the incident period, state agencies, local jurisdictions, and utility providers activated Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) and Emergency Coordination Centers (ECCs). The SEOC was monitoring an increase in respiratory illness in the state along with the ongoing Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza as the weather outlook increasingly called for hazardous conditions across much of the state. The SEOC coordinated resource requests and information in support of impacted jurisdictions as the severe weather slammed the state. The SEOC was activated throughout the incident period to respond to life safety and property preservation resource requests. State agencies coordinated efforts to support transportation, search and rescue, mass care, logistics, and external affairs related to the damaging storm systems.

State agencies and departments utilized state resources to do everything reasonably possible to assist affected political subdivisions to respond to and recover from the event. The Washington State Military Department's Emergency Management Division coordinated incident-related assistance to the affected areas.

Across the state, the Washington State Department of Transportation coordinated with the impacted jurisdictions on temporary repairs of critical roadway systems. As of December 16, 2023, potentially eligible Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Emergency Relief funds may be applied to an estimated \$480,000 in damages to roadways.

During the incident period, the USACE-Seattle District activated its EOC, monitored levees where severe flooding was occurring, and responded to requests for flood fight materials across several locations in the state.

### **Clallam County**

From January 5, 2024, through January 29, 2024, Clallam County experienced a series of severe winter storms bringing extensive flooding, high winds, damaging high tides, extreme cold temperatures, snow, and freezing rain. The city of Port Angeles activated its Emergency Operations Center on January 8, 2024, as the continuous hazardous weather threatened the health and public safety of the community. The city took emergency protective measures to establish a warming center for vulnerable populations as the extreme cold set in and increased staffing of its fire department to respond to the increased calls for assistance. As the temperatures warmed, numerous frozen pipes burst, leading to major water utility line breaks across the city. As a result, a boil order notice was issued while emergency repairs were underway.



*Figure 1 A sinkhole caused by excessive rains and subfreezing temperatures on a main public street in Clallam County.*



*Figure 2 Boat launch damage caused by storm-driven waves.*

High winds combined with the high tides along the coast caused substantial damage to a boat launch, including significant deposits of rocks, sand, beach driftwood, and other debris. The boat launch plays an important role in the local commercial and recreational fishing activities. Additional damages were sustained at the nearby Olympic Discovery Trail, one of the most visited waterfront trail systems in the United States, due to the severe coastal flooding. Approximately 6,500 feet of the trail was damaged by the wind-driven waves and coastal debris.

Also impacted was Clallam County Public Utility District when sustained high winds downed electrical power lines and necessitated the replacement of utility poles and transformers throughout the county.

### **Clark County**

From January 5, 2024, through January 29, 2024, Clark County experienced damaging severe winter storms, leading to extensive flooding, extreme cold, snow, freezing rain, and high winds. Crews with Clark Public Utilities worked around the clock to restore utility outages across the county during the incident period. The National Weather Service issued a Winter Storm Warning on January

13, 2024, due to heavy snowfall and winds gusting to 60 miles per hour. Hazardous roads and extreme working conditions hampered the restoration efforts of the linemen. The continued freezing temperatures and snowy conditions presented an additional challenge in restoring the widespread outages in the county. Nearly 25,000 customers were without power for more than 24 hours and some were without power for multiple days due to the extensive damage to the utility infrastructure. Throughout the county, the estimated greater than \$3 million in damages to the utility infrastructure included numerous downed or damaged power lines, poles,

transformers, jumpers, fuses, pedestals, arrestors, anchors, and cross-arms. Heavy winds continued to knock down trees and tree limbs on top of roads, trail systems, and utility infrastructure, causing additional health and public safety concerns and adversely impacting the public during the incident period.

In the city of Vancouver, the high temperature for January 13, 2024, reached 21 degrees Fahrenheit (21° F), the coldest high temperature recorded in the city in 33 years. Critical care facilities, including clinics and urgent care facilities, were forced to close or reduce operating hours due to the life-threatening weather conditions. A local gas utility company covering Southwestern Washington asked customers to conserve gas due to record-breaking natural gas use because of the extreme winter temperatures. Public transportation was adversely impacted by the severe weather with numerous road closures and significant delays.

Wind-blown debris, including downed trees, utility infrastructure, and vegetative debris covered roads and sidewalks, making them impassable. Public works crews worked overtime to try to clear the roads and to respond to several car accidents where vehicles slid into and smashed utility poles. First responders increased staffing and worked overtime through much of the incident period as the relentless storms created health and public safety issues countywide. Additionally, the heavy snow and ice accumulation further exacerbated conditions. The City Hall in Camas was forced to close for a week due to lack of road access. City parks and trails were also closed due to the damage and dangerous conditions wrought by the severe winter storms.



*Figure 3 A utility pole knocked down and lines across a public road in Cowlitz County.*

The Evergreen Public Schools school district reported damage to its facilities because of the severe winter weather. The fire suppression sprinkler system and water lines froze and burst, impacting the use of classrooms and other facilities. The damage impacts the school's ability to hold classes until it is repaired.

Wastewater lines across the county froze due to the subfreezing temperatures, breaking as they thawed and causing disruptions in services to residences and businesses. The Washington State Department of Corrections sustained significant damage to its facilities as a result of the subfreezing temperatures, which also caused a fire suppression sprinkler system to burst, flooding a building. Additionally, the heavy snow, ice accumulation, and rain resulted in damage to ceilings, walls, and exterior equipment.

## **Cowlitz County**

From January 5, 2024, through January 29, 2024, Cowlitz County experienced a series of severe winter storms bringing extensive flooding, high winds, extreme cold temperatures, snow, and freezing rain, resulting in widespread damage to public infrastructure. Cowlitz Public Utility District responded to numerous outages across the county because of downed utility lines and poles. The city of Kelso reported damage to the stormwater outfall line as heavy rains, snowmelt, and runoff overwhelmed the pipe. The subsequent flooding led to the separation and collapse of sections of the stormwater line under BNSF railway mainline tracks, leading to delays and closures of railway traffic (BNSF and Amtrak) and nearby roadways until repairs can be made.

## **Ferry County**

From January 5, 2024, through January 29, 2024, Ferry County and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Indian Reservation experienced a series of severe winter storms bringing extensive flooding, high winds, extreme cold temperatures, snow, and freezing rain, resulting in widespread damage to public infrastructure. At the tribal Keller Head Start education and development facility, a water pipe burst in the attic due to the severe cold weather, causing damage to flooring, walls, sheetrock, and insulation. The heavy snow and precipitation also damaged the exterior of the building. The damage impacts the ability for school-aged children to participate in the early education programs at this location until repairs can be made. The tribal Mt. Tolman Fire Center training facility also sustained extensive damage because of the destructive weather. The fire educational facility sustained extensive water damage due to a burst water pipe to its ceiling tiles, warehouse, utility room, kitchen, dispatch office, and equipment, impacting the ability for first responders to train at the facility for the upcoming wildfire season.

## **Grays Harbor County**

From January 5, 2024, through January 29, 2024, Grays Harbor County experienced a series of severe winter storms bringing extensive flooding, damaging high tides, high winds, extreme cold temperatures, snow, and freezing rain, resulting in widespread damages to public infrastructure. In the city of Ocean Shores, the strong winds exacerbated higher than normal tidal conditions, leading to substantial shoreline erosion. The shoreline berm protects a water pump station and other essential public utilities. Storm-driven high tides led to overtopping and significant erosion of the protective berm. The city made emergency repairs by installing a temporary sand berm and staging supersacks behind it to limit further damage and the threat to public infrastructure and safety. Sand and silt from waves overtopping the berm increased the risk of breach and complete failure of the berm, which would inundate the freshwater canals. The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Seattle District, utilizing its Public Law 84-99 (PL84-99) Emergency Flood-fighting authorities, provided the city with flood-fighting materials, including 10,000 sandbags and 500 supersacks, equipment, and personnel to assist in temporary emergency flood protection measures.



*Figure 4 Grays Harbor College Road blocked by trees and woody debris.*

As with several other counties in the state, the severe cold weather led to frozen and burst water pipes, while the high winds toppled trees, branches, and other debris onto public rights-of-ways. Public works crews and city and county employees closed roads across the county due to multiple landslides and mudslides, debris, downed utility infrastructure, water over roadways, and damaged roadway surfaces. More than 9,000 customers lost power during the incident period because of wind-damaged utility infrastructure in the

county. The severe winter weather threatened public health and safety, impacted travel, and led to low or no access to water and power while repairs were made.

Additionally, Grays Harbor College sustained damage due to high winds that toppled trees that blocked access to campus. Freezing temperatures caused fire suppression sprinkler systems to burst, causing interior damage to campus buildings and their contents.

The city of Hoquiam was hit by high winds that downed trees and branches throughout the city right-of-way. In addition, the city was also hit by a significant freeze that caused numerous water main lines to break leaving citizens with low water pressure or out of water while repairs were made. In addition, the city of Westport experienced roadway frost heaves caused by the significant freeze that resulted in failure of road surfaces.

### **Island County**

From January 5, 2024, through January 29, 2024, Island County experienced a series of severe winter storms bringing extensive flooding, damaging tidal surges, freezing temperatures, and high winds, resulting in widespread damage to public infrastructure. Washington Parks and Recreation Commission (WA Parks) Deception Pass State Park sustained significant damage caused by the high winds and pounding waves. A substantial amount of logs, sand, and woody debris were deposited by the storm, ripping up the parking lot and parking meters and completely restricting access to the shoreline and trail system. Preliminary estimates to remove the debris and make repairs along the nearly three acres of damaged groomed trails exceed \$3.2 million.



At the Cama Beach Center for Wooden Boats facility in the Washington Parks and Recreation Commission Cama Beach State Park, a water pipe connected to the fire suppression sprinkler system burst, leading to major water damage in the building and its contents.

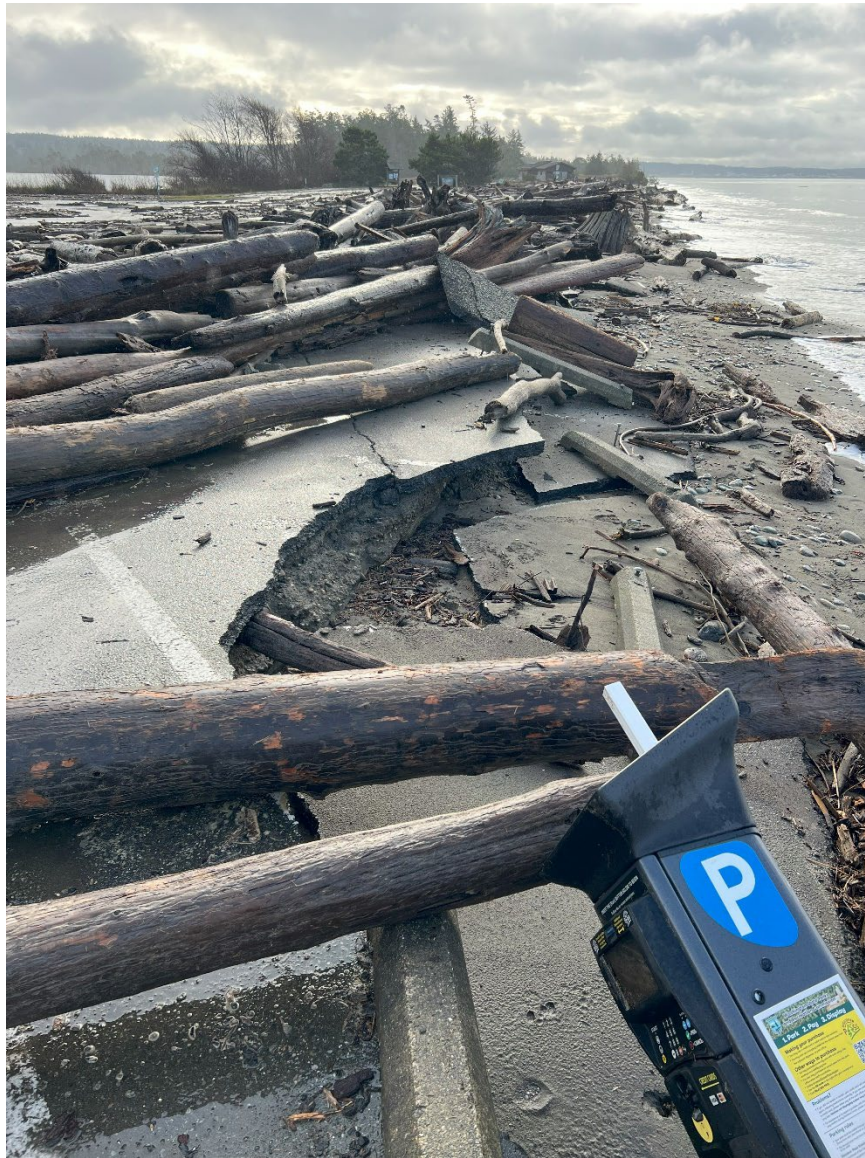


Figure 5 Damage at Deception Pass State Park

wall coverings, water system, flooring, building contents, and exterior drywall will need to be replaced. Fort Worden Historical State Park also sustained significant damage due to burst water pipes of the fire suppression sprinkler system, leading to major flooding of historic building facilities and necessitating substantial repairs.

### Jefferson County

From January 5, 2024, through January 29, 2024, Jefferson County experienced a series of severe winter storms bringing extensive flooding, freezing temperatures, and high winds, resulting in major damage to public infrastructure, particularly at Washington Parks and Recreation Commission historic state parks located in the county. Damages at both parks will impact visitor access and result in lost opportunities for recreational tourism. At Fort Flagler Historical State Park, several buildings sustained severe damage because of flooding caused by burst water pipes connected to the fire suppression sprinkler systems. In addition to needing to replace the fire suppression systems, the damaged electrical circuits, interior



*Figure 6 Burst pipe damages at Fort Flagler*

## **King County**

From January 5, 2024, through January 29, 2024, King County experienced a series of severe winter storms bringing extensive flooding, damaging high tides, freezing temperatures, high winds, landslides, and mudslides resulting in widespread damage to public infrastructure. High winds and prolonged freezing temperatures caused widespread outages across the county. Fire suppression sprinkler system water pipes burst at multiple public facilities across the county, causing millions of dollars in estimated damage.

The subfreezing temperatures led to frost heaving on nearly a dozen artificial turf fields in the city of Seattle, causing extensive damage and impacting recreational public access to Seattle Parks until repairs could be completed.

The city of Seattle established multiple warming shelters during this incident period and first responders supported the transportation of individuals to the sites. City law enforcement facilities sustained damage due to frozen and burst water pipes, which flooded office spaces, hallways, common areas, furniture, ceilings, storage areas, and police lab equipment.

The Puget Sound Energy Emergency Coordination Center activated January 9, 2024, because of the county-wide impacts from the weather. Puget Sound Energy fully staffed the center on a 24-hour basis to respond to the winter storm impacts causing widespread utility outages and damage to public utility infrastructure across the service area. Puget Sound Energy asked customers to conserve natural gas due to record breaking gas consumption because of the extreme winter temperatures.

Across the county, numerous frozen water pipes burst, leading to significant flooding and damage of municipally- and county-owned public facilities. The substantial flooding included the city of Des Moines Senior Center, where a pipe burst in a ceiling over the weekend and was not discovered until Monday morning. The resulting flooding adversely impacted the public by cancelling lunch service for several days for seniors in the area, as well as the relocation or cancellation of classes.

Swedish Health Services experienced extensive damages to multiple critical health care facilities due to frozen fire suppression sprinkler system water lines bursting from the extreme cold and flooding several of its facilities. Swedish Health Services had more than \$19.9 million in total damages with all but \$5.2 million covered by insurance. The water damage in multiple buildings and facilities impacted mechanical and electrical systems, leading to health and safety concerns for patients and staff. Patients were forced to relocate to other wings of one of the buildings and a damaged hospital diverted patients elsewhere until the leaks stopped and water was cleaned up. Extensive damage occurred to expensive medical equipment, patient rooms, and the interior and exterior of some of the facilities due to the burst pipes. As a result of the burst water pipes, a primary care clinic was forced to close in the city of Seattle and is not expected to reopen for months. Additionally, two senior living facilities also in the city of Seattle sustained damage to fire sprinkler waterlines due to the severe winter weather.



*Figure 7 Extraordinary efforts taken by Swedish staff to protect valuable medical equipment.*

King County facilities reported widespread damage of more than \$1.7 million to its public facilities. The sub-freezing temperatures froze and broke water pipes, resulting in damages to a county justice center, administrative building, elections building, and multiple hotels / inns purchased by the county to support emergency and permanent housing for people experiencing chronic homelessness. Tenants at some locations were evacuated due to power loss, while emergency repairs were made to the facilities. Treasury services and public health vital records, including volumes of archival records, were damaged and require restoration.

King County Solid Waste Division reported damage to multiple recycling and transfer stations because of the severe winter storms that caused water pipes to burst and subsequent water damage to the buildings. King County Wastewater Treatment Division also reported damage to its facilities caused by burst pipes and sub-freezing temperatures. A water treatment station became inoperable because of damage sustained to its critical operating equipment until emergency repairs were made.

The continuous combination of high winds, heavy precipitation, and subfreezing temperatures knocked hundreds of trees and branches onto public rights-of-way, leading to significant debris cleanup efforts in the city of North Bend and elsewhere in the county. Public works crews worked throughout the incident period to clear the debris throughout the city. Pipes also froze and burst in a public restroom downtown causing damage to the facility.



*Figure 8 Strong winds knocked over numerous trees in King County, including in the city of North Bend.*

The city of Renton reported major damage because of the severe winter storm impacts. Heavy rains resulted in high and extreme water flow, which inundated and overwhelmed a culvert causing major erosion and damage to the three-sided box culvert's weir and footing.

During the incident period, a Sallal Water Association pump station for a large reservoir serving 2,700 households, businesses, schools, and a volunteer fire station with potable water lost power damaging the control system for the pump station.

The city of Kenmore reported damage following excessive rains and stormwater runoff, which led to several embankment washouts along a stream bank running parallel to a public roadway. The roadway and sidewalk panels are at risk of erosion by undercutting and compromising their integrity, leading to road closure due to a public safety issue.



*Figure 9 In the city of Kenmore, a roadway sustained severe erosional undercutting by excessive rains and stormwater runoff.*

The main facility of Evergreen Treatment Services, a local nonprofit that provides lifesaving treatment and counseling services for individuals with opioid addictions, sustained severe damage to approximately 80 percent of its building and most of its contents due to burst water pipes used by the fire suppression sprinkler system. The facility serves more than 1,100 patients who rely on the clinic and supports more than 80 staff members. The loss of the facility has significant adverse impacts on the community.

The Lake Washington School District was forced to cancel classes due to frozen water pipes rupturing and flooding classrooms across nine schools. Extensive damage occurred to classroom furniture, contents, classrooms, hallways, and common areas of the school buildings.

### **Klickitat County**

From January 5, 2024, through January 29, 2024, Klickitat County experienced a series of severe winter storms bringing extensive flooding, high winds, extreme cold temperatures, snow, and freezing rain. Widespread power outages occurred because of strong winds that knocked down trees onto utility lines and snapped dozens of utility poles. Downed lines also blocked public access to businesses and private residences, and inhibited emergency services. Additionally, the extreme cold temperatures overloaded major transmission lines leading to extensive outages and the need for repairs. During the incident period, more than 30,000 customers lost power, many for extended periods of time. Public works crews worked continuously throughout the hazardous weather conditions to restore utility services as quickly and safely as possible. The strong winds knocked down more than 150 trees onto county and public rights-of-way, impacting county-wide travel and leading to significant delays and detours.

The county took emergency protective measures to protect lives and property during the incident period. Unfortunately, during the incident, a radio site used to communicate public safety messaging, along with the site's back-up power generator, was damaged during the incident due to the heavy precipitation and extensive ice accumulation. The loss of this critical communication system adversely impacts the ability for county public safety agencies to communicate with the county dispatch center and with the public. Many areas in the county lack adequate cell service and are reliant on radio communication for emergency messaging purposes.

Additional damage to public infrastructure in the county includes a treatment plant pump that froze and damaged the facility as well as a fire suppression sprinkler system that burst, causing substantial flooding of the county jail facilities.

### **Lewis County**

From January 5, 2024, through January 29, 2024, Lewis County experienced a series of severe winter storms bringing extensive flooding, high winds, extreme cold temperatures, snow, and freezing rain. Significant damage occurred to Lewis County Public Utility District infrastructure leading to widespread power outages to nearly 50,000 customers throughout the county as trees and branches fell onto power lines and poles. The high winds also knocked trees and woody debris onto county roads and public rights-of-way, impacting emergency response. Sub-freezing temperatures caused a water line to burst at the city of Centralia public works office building, spilling more than 26,000 gallons of water into the building and leading to substantial damages, all while the public works crews worked tirelessly to support the impacted community.



*Figure 10 The Lewis County public works building was flooded and severely damaged by burst and frozen pipes.*



*Figure 11 Lewis County public roadways were covered by snow, ice, debris and fallen trees and powerlines throughout the incident period.*

## **Mason County**

From January 5, 2024, through January 29, 2024, Mason County experienced a series of severe winter storms bringing extensive flooding, high winds, extreme cold temperatures, snow, and freezing rain. Freezing temperatures caused two waterlines to freeze and burst at a wastewater treatment facility. The water destroyed walls, floors, and critical control equipment for the facility. The facility required asbestos testing to ensure the safety of workers cleaning up the damage. Additionally, Mason County Public Utilities District staffed overtime crews to help



clear the significant number of downed trees on powerlines and restore power to the public and water utility systems.



*Figure 12 A massive tree fell into utility lines as a result of the straight-line winds recorded in Mason County during the incident period.*

### **Okanogan County**

From January 5, 2024, through January 29, 2024, Okanogan County experienced a series of severe winter storms bringing extensive flooding, high winds, extreme cold temperatures, snow, and freezing rain.

At the tribal Nespelem Head Start education and development facility, a pipe burst in the attic due to the severe cold weather, caused damage to flooring, walls, sheetrock, and insulation. The heavy snow and precipitation also damaged the exterior of the building. The damage impacts the ability for school-aged children to participate in the early education programs at this location until repairs can be made. The town of Riverside sustained damage to public utilities and took emergency protective measures during the incident period due to the severe winter weather. A six-inch water main crossing a bridge in the town froze and burst, leading to the loss of water

services for multiple households and businesses in the area for 12 days until temporary emergency repairs were made. The water main break also led to inadequate water volume and pressure for the use of a fire hydrant at that location, threatening public health and safety until a permanent repair is completed.

### **Pacific County**

From January 5, 2024, through January 29, 2024, Pacific County experienced a series of severe winter storms bringing extensive flooding, high winds, extreme cold temperatures, snow, and freezing rain. Damage to the city of Long Beach's wastewater treatment plant caused by stormwater runoff and erosion compromised the integrity of a manhole that leads to the direct lift station. Flooding also caused the open storm ditch to overflow and eroded the surrounding area, putting significant strain on the pumps in the system.

### **Skagit County**

From January 5, 2024, through January 29, 2024, Skagit County experienced a series of severe winter storms bringing extensive flooding, high winds, extreme cold temperatures, snow, and freezing rain. The Washington Parks and Recreation Commission suffered extensive damage to Bowman Bay, Deception Pass State Park. The park suffered significant damage to the trail that leads to Lottie Point Trail and Lighthouse Point Trail, including the loss of a 30-foot wooden

pedestrian bridge. Additionally, the park had an extensive number of downed trees all along the picnic areas and groomed trail areas.



*Figure 13 Damage to a wooden pedestrian bridge at Deception Pass State Park.*

## Skamania County

From January 5, 2024, through January 29, 2024, Skamania County experienced a series of severe winter storms bringing extensive flooding, high winds, extreme cold temperatures, snow, and freezing rain. The Skamania Public Utility District suffered extensive electrical transmission and distribution line damage, which significantly impacted more than 6,500 customers. Skamania County had a large landslide on Baker Road that threatened residences and emergency services' access to the area. In addition, the County Community Health Department had significant damage as water pipes froze and broke with water infiltrating the ceilings and walls of exam rooms, office spaces, and bathrooms, as well as the west wing of the Hegewald Center. The damage to the Community Health Department directly impacted health services to Medicaid and underserved populations for everything from mental health, substance use disorders, and developmental disabilities.



*Figure 14 Debris from a massive landslide which blocked Baker Road in Skamania County.*

## **Wahkiakum County**



From January 5, 2024, through January 29, 2024, Wahkiakum County experienced a series of severe winter storms bringing extensive flooding, high winds, extreme cold temperatures, snow, and freezing rain. The Wahkiakum Public Utility District suffered electrical distribution outages due to downed trees and freezing rain on power lines. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) had extensive landslide damage to the Grays River Hatchery access road. Two landslides undercut the road and caused large trees to overhang the roadway.

*Figure 15 Following weeks of relentless precipitation, landslides were reported across Western Washington, including this one seen here along Shannon Road in Wahkiakum County.*

## **Washington State Recent Disasters**

Washington state has experienced numerous devastating disasters over the past two years, resulting in three major disaster declarations. There are currently eight “open” federally declared disasters being coordinated and managed through the FEMA-State Joint Field Office, highlighting the repetitive major disasters Washington has experienced in recent years and resulting ongoing recovery work. Some of the major disasters the state has recently experienced include the COVID-19 pandemic; droughts; and severe weather impacts, such as flooding, wind damage, landslides, and wildfires (including the Gray and Oregon Road wildfires), as well as Avian Influenza (ongoing) and the European Green Crab infestation (ongoing).

Since January 2022, Washington state has experienced four Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Major Disaster Declarations, nine Small Business Administration (SBA) declarations, and 10 FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) declarations. Additionally, since January 2022, I have signed 10 Governor's State of Emergency Proclamations, not including amendments, related to current and recent emergencies in the state. To assist Washington state in the response and recovery from these incidents, other federal funding and assistance have been made available, including multiple Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Emergency Relief declarations and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE-Seattle District and USACE-Walla Walla District) PL84-99 Emergency Flood-fighting and Advance Measures operations. While the assistance provided in response to the impacts from the recent disasters provides some relief for recovering communities, it does not meet the needs of our affected local jurisdictions.

Below is a brief description of some of the most costly and damaging events that have adversely affected the state of Washington and its residents in the past 24 months.

### **2023 Disasters**

#### **May 2023 State Route 504 Landslide**

On May 14, 2023, record high temperatures caused rapid snowmelt in the Cascade Mountains, resulting in a landslide occurring near Johnston Ridge Observatory that severely damaged a portion of State Route (SR) 504 and demolished a bridge on SR 504 in Skamania County, necessitating repair of the roadway surface and replacement of the bridge. The landslide damage and its effects continue to impact the life and health of the people in the State of Washington, as well as the property and transportation infrastructure. On June 5, 2023, I signed Governor's Proclamation 23-03, proclaiming that a State of Emergency existed in Skamania County.

#### **July 2023 Extreme Weather and Flooding**

On July 10, 2023, a severe thunderstorm producing heavy rain and lightning caused flash flooding and started multiple fires, resulting in damage to portions of US 2 and SR 28 in Douglas and Grant Counties. The flooding and lightning-caused wildfires caused damage to guardrails, highway signs, guideposts, and roadway infrastructure, resulting in road closures. On July 24, 2023, I signed Governor's Proclamation 23-04, proclaiming that a State of Emergency existed in Douglas and Grant counties.

#### **2023 Wildfires**

The 2023 Washington wildfire season saw an excess of 155,503 acres burned and more than 370 homes and dozens of other buildings destroyed. The 2023 wildfire season destroyed more primary homes than any other wildfire season in Washington state history. The 2023 wildfire season consisted of 27 state fire mobilizations. Under these mobilizations, the state has shouldered a significant portion of the financial burden for fire suppression. Due to the high level

of threat and extreme fire behavior, FEMA approved seven FMAG declarations in 2023. The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) responded to 1,855 fires. Firefighting expenditures for DNR are still being totaled at this time. The Washington State Patrol expects firefighting expenditures to exceed \$25 million in 2023. The exact state expenditures resulting from the 2023 wildfire season are still being totaled. The Oregon Road Fire and Gray Fire in Spokane County began on August 18, 2023, and quickly damaged or destroyed approximately 447 primary homes, killed two individuals, and displaced more than 1,000 individuals. The scale of destruction is immense and exhausted all local and state resources to adequately support the response and recovery to this major disaster. In response to these record-breaking wildfires, you declared disaster DR-4759-WA for Individual and Public Assistance on February 15, 2024.

<b>Date</b>	<b>2023 State Fire Mobilizations</b>	<b>Impacted County / Tribe</b>
5/27/2023	Tenth Street Fire	Douglas
6/13/2023	Benton Complex Fire	Franklin
6/13/2023	Ruppert Road Fire	Benton
6/13/2023	Hat Rock Fire	Walla Walla
6/19/2023	Oasis Fire	Walla Walla
6/24/2023	Matson Fire	Asotin
6/27/2023	Methow Fire	Chelan
6/29/2023	Moran Fire	Stevens
7/2/2023	Rest Haven Fire	Yakima
7/2/2023	Tunnel Five Fire	Skamania
7/3/2023	OIE Highway Fire	Benton
7/4/2023	McEwan Fire	Mason
7/10/2023	Baird Springs Fire	Grant
7/12/2023	Wagner Road Fire	Whitman
7/20/2023	Badger Road Fire	Douglas
7/21/2023	Newell Road Fire	Klickitat
7/25/2023	Wawawai Fire	Whitman
7/29/2023	Eagle Bluff Fire	Okanogan
7/31/2023	West Hallett Fire	Spokane
7/31/2023	Pine Hollow Fire	Yakima
8/14/2023	Trinity Fire	Benton
8/14/2023	*Pre-positioning of State Resources	Kittitas/Klickitat
8/14/2023	Toothaker Fire	Benton
8/18/2023	Winona Fire	Whitman
8/18/2023	Gray Fire	Spokane
8/18/2023	Oregon Road Fire	Spokane
9/2/2023	Yellepit Fire	Benton

<b>2023 FMAG #s</b>		
FM-5467	Tunnel Five Fire	Skamania
FM-5468	McEwan Fire	Mason
FM-5469	Baird Springs Fire	Grant
FM-5470	Newell Road Fire	Klickitat
FM-5472	Eagle Bluff Fire	Okanogan
FM-5479	Gray Fire	Spokane
FM-5481	Oregon Fire	Spokane

### **December 2023 Storm Damage**

Starting on December 3, 2023, Washington state experienced a potent atmospheric river event, causing flooding and damage to public infrastructure in Clallam, Grays Harbor, Mason, Skagit, and Snohomish counties. The estimated repairs to the affected roadways alone exceed \$3 million. On December 4, 2023, the USACE-Seattle District responded to a direct assistance request from the town of Hamilton, which consisted of a 24” temporary levee raise to help prevent the Skagit River from overtopping the levee and flooding the town. On January 24, 2024, I signed Governor’s Proclamation 24-01, proclaiming that a State of Emergency existed in the above-mentioned counties. On February 29, 2024, I signed Governor’s Proclamation 24-02, proclaiming that a State of Emergency existed in Whatcom County as well due to the damaging storm effects that threatened the life and health of residents, property, and transportation infrastructure.

### **2022 Disasters**

#### **December 2021 and January 2022 Winter Weather and Flooding**

From December 26, 2021, to January 15, 2022, a strong series of winter storms, windstorms, and atmospheric rivers impacted the state over a multi-week period. During this 21-day period, 18 major rivers exceeded flood stage, and record or near-record snow amounts were observed. This disaster came on the heels of record-breaking flooding and mudslides (DR-4635) occurring between November 5, 2021, through December 2, 2021, that caused widespread and significant damage across the state. The continuous series of severe storms beginning December 26, 2021, resulted in more than \$25 million in preliminary damages to public infrastructure across the state. In response to these impacts and my request, you declared disaster DR-4650-WA for public assistance on March 29, 2022.

#### **January 2022 (and continuing) Invasive European Green Crab Infestation**

In early 2019, the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) began work on establishing a framework for a management response to the European green crab. Initially native to the northeastern Atlantic Ocean, the European green crab is a globally damaging invasive species that can survive in a wide range of water. Once they become permanently established, European green crabs have disturbed native habitat, displaced and outcompeted resident native species, altered natural food webs, and decimated shellfish and other aquatic industries. On January 19, 2022, I signed Governor’s Proclamation 22-02, ordering the WDFW to begin

implementation of emergency measures as necessary to affect the eradication of, or to prevent the permanent establishment and expansion of, the European green crab. As of August 2023, WDFW has captured or removed 137,700 European Green Crabs this year alone and nearly 250,000 in 2022.

### **May 2022 (and continuing) Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI)**

In May 2022, the Washington Department of Agriculture confirmed the presence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in several backyard flocks across Washington state. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife has since confirmed cases of the disease in wild birds. Avian influenza, also known as bird flu, refers to the disease caused by infection with avian (bird) influenza (flu) Type A viruses. The HPAI is extremely infectious, difficult to contain, and deadly to birds, resulting in an 80 percent mortality rate. Significantly, HPAI is also potentially zoonotic, posing a substantial public health risk should HPAI-infected birds unintentionally enter the food system. The spread of HPAI poses a significant economic impact to Washington state with commercial poultry and egg production being a top 10 commodity representing a more than \$220 million industry. The largest outbreak of HPAI in Washington state began May 2022 and has required a considerable joint state and federal regulatory response to manage. Response to HPAI in Washington State remains ongoing, with dozens of HPAI-positive backyard premises in multiple counties and more than 1 million affected birds. On December 14, 2022, HPAI was detected among a large commercial flock, representing the first commercial detection in Washington state.

### **2022 Wildfires**

The 2022 wildfire season saw more than 154,222 acres burned and at least six homes and 16 other buildings destroyed. The 2022 wildfire season consisted of 15 state fire mobilizations and three FEMA approved FMAG declarations. Under these mobilizations, the state has shouldered a significant portion of the financial burden for fire suppression. The Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) responded to 865 fires. Firefighting expenditures for DNR are estimated at more than \$43.5 million. The Washington State Patrol reported firefighting expenditures exceeded \$5 million.

<b>Date</b>	<b>2022 State Fire Mobilizations</b>	<b>Impacted County / Tribe</b>
4/7/2022	Spring Street Fire	San Juan
7/26/2022	Ragged Butte Fire	Douglas
8/1/2022	Vantage Highway Fire	Kittitas
8/3/2022	Williams Lake Fire	Spokane
8/4/2022	Lind Fire	Adams
8/4/2022	Riparia Fire	Whitman
8/9/2022	Mohr Canyon Fire	Douglas
8/11/2022	Canyon Road Fire	Yakima
8/12/2022	Miller Road Fire	Whitman
8/18/2022	Wagner Road Fire	Whitman
8/24/2022	Blankenship Fire	Asotin



<b>Date</b>	<b>2022 State Fire Mobilizations</b>	<b>Impacted County / Tribe</b>
4/7/2022	Spring Street Fire	San Juan
9/9/2022	Goat Rocks Fire	Lewis
9/10/2022	Bolt Creek Fire	Snohomish, King
9/14/2022	Montesano Health and Rehabilitation Fire	Grays Harbor
10/16/2022	Nakia Creek Fire	Clark, Skamania

<b>2022</b>	<b>FMAG Name</b>	<b>Impacted County / Tribe</b>
FM-5447	Lind Fire	Adams
FM-5455	Bolt Creek Fire	Snohomish, King
FM-5456	Nakia Creek Fire	Clark, Skamania

### **July 2022 Lieser Road Overpass Damage**

On July 7, 2022, the Lieser Road overpass spanning SR 14 was severely damaged when a vehicle with an over-height load struck the overpass where it crosses SR 14 near milepost 4.2 in Clark County. The damage sustained to the SR 14 overpass will require replacement of one overpass girder and repair of another girder. The Washington State Department of Transportation took emergency measures, closing travel lanes to restrict traffic from driving over the damaged girder. The Washington State Department of Transportation estimated that the cost to repair the damage from the collision is more than \$2 million. On September 28, 2022, I signed Governor’s Proclamation 22-04, proclaiming that a State of Emergency existed in Clark County.

### **September 2022 State Route 506 Overpass Damage**

On September 22, 2022, the State Route 506/108 bridge over Interstate 5 (SR 506 overpass) was severely damaged when a vehicle with an over-height load heading northbound on I-5 struck the SR 506 overpass where it crosses I-5 near milepost 60 in Lewis County. The damage sustained to the SR 506 overpass required replacement of one span of the structure. The Washington State Department of Transportation took emergency measures, closing travel lanes to restrict traffic from driving over the damaged girder. The Washington State Department of Transportation estimates that the cost to repair the damage from the collision is more than \$1 million. On September 29, 2022, I signed Governor’s Proclamation 22-05, proclaiming that a State of Emergency existed in Lewis County.

### **November 2022 Severe Winter Storm, Straight-line Winds, Flooding, Landslides and Mudslides**

Widespread flooding impacted several counties in the state beginning November 3, 2022, and continuing through November 8, 2022. This disaster resulted in widespread and significant damage to public infrastructure, causing millions of dollars in damage. More than 250,000 customers lost power during this incident period due to extreme winds. Record-breaking precipitation flooded and damaged numerous roadways across the state. In response to the widespread damage, you declared disaster DR-4682-WA for public assistance on January 12, 2023.

**December 2022 Extreme Weather and Flooding**

A series of atmospheric river events struck Washington state between December 18, 2022, and December 28, 2022, producing straight-line winds, ice, extreme cold temperatures, and heavy rainfall. This, coupled with extreme tidal and wave actions along coastal shorelines, resulted in coastal flooding, saturated soils, and landslides in several counties across the state. These storms caused significant damage to homes and businesses, road damage, road closures and detours, and extensive damage to public utilities and electrical power systems, threatening the public health and safety. The Washington State Department of Transportation estimated that the costs of repairs exceed \$3 million. On January 31, 2023, I signed Governor’s Proclamation 23-01, proclaiming that a State of Emergency existed in Chelan, Clallam, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kitsap, Okanogan, Pacific, Pierce, Snohomish, Stevens, and Whatcom counties.

**Other Disasters**

Additional disasters that have adversely impacted our state in the past two years include historic wildfires, landslides, severe weather, drought, flooding, fisheries disasters, agricultural disasters, and significant public health emergencies. While most of these incidents were not deemed to qualify the state to receive Major Disaster Declarations - Public Assistance or Individual Assistance, cumulatively they have led to hundreds of millions of dollars in response and recovery costs and continue to impose a burden on communities.

Below is a list of the federally declared disasters and other undeclared incidents for the state since 2022:

<b>FEMA Declared Major Disasters &amp; Emergencies 2022-Present</b>	
<b>Declaration Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
January 2022	Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Flooding, Landslides and Mudslides (DR-4635)
March 2022	Severe Winter Storms, Snowstorms, Straight-line Winds, Flooding (DR-4650)
January 2023	Severe Winter Storms, Straight-line Winds, Flooding, Landslides and Mudslides (DR-4682)
February 2024	Wildfires (DR-4759)

<b>Undeclared (and other Federal Agency declared) Emergencies and Disasters 2022-Present</b>	
<b>Incident Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
January 2022	Winter Weather and Flooding ( <i>State of Emergency &amp; SBA Declaration</i> )
January 2022 (ongoing)	Green Crab Infestation ( <i>State of Emergency</i> )
March 2022	Drought ( <i>USDA Declaration</i> )
April 1, 2022	Drought ( <i>USDA Declaration</i> )

<b>Undeclared (and other Federal Agency declared) Emergencies and Disasters 2022-Present</b>	
<b>Incident Date</b>	<b>Event</b>
April 15, 2022	Drought ( <i>USDA Declaration</i> )
April 2022	Spring Street Fire ( <i>SBA Declaration</i> )
July 2022	Lieser Road Overpass Damage ( <i>State of Emergency</i> )
September 2022	SR 506 Overpass Damage ( <i>State of Emergency</i> )- ( <i>FHWA ER Allocation</i> )
September 2022	Bolt Creek Wildfire ( <i>SBA Declaration</i> )
October 2022	Main Street Fire ( <i>SBA Declaration</i> )
November 2022	Winter Weather and Flooding ( <i>State of Emergency</i> )
April 1, 2023	Severe Storms, Flooding and Freezing Conditions ( <i>SBA Declaration</i> )
May 3, 2023	Drought ( <i>USDA Declaration</i> )
May 15, 2023	Drought ( <i>USDA Declaration</i> )
May 30, 2023	Drought ( <i>USDA Declaration</i> )
June 5, 2023	SR 504 Landslide ( <i>State of Emergency</i> )- ( <i>FHWA ER Allocation</i> )
July 4, 2023	Drought ( <i>USDA Declaration</i> ) - Drought ( <i>USDA (FSA) SBA EIDL Declaration</i> )
July 10, 2023	SR 506 Overpass Damage ( <i>State of Emergency</i> )- ( <i>FHWA ER Allocation</i> )
July 11, 2023	Drought ( <i>USDA Declaration</i> ) - Drought ( <i>USDA (FSA) SBA EIDL Declaration</i> )
July 25, 2023	Drought ( <i>USDA Declaration</i> ) - Drought ( <i>USDA (FSA) SBA EIDL Declaration</i> )
August 28, 2023	Drought ( <i>USDA Declaration</i> ) - Drought ( <i>USDA Declaration</i> )- Drought ( <i>USDA (FSA) EIDL Declaration</i> )
September 5, 2023	Drought ( <i>USDA Declaration</i> )
September 18, 2023	Drought ( <i>USDA Declaration</i> )
September 25, 2023	Drought ( <i>USDA Declaration</i> )
October 10, 2023	Drought ( <i>USDA Declaration</i> )
October 23, 2023	Drought ( <i>USDA Declaration</i> )
November 1, 2023	Sourdough Wildfire ( <i>SBA EIDL Declaration</i> )
November 6, 2023	Drought ( <i>USDA Declaration</i> )
November 12, 2023	Drought (Fast-Track) - Drought ( <i>USDA (FSA) SBA EIDL Declaration</i> )
November 13, 2023	Drought (Fast-Track) - Drought ( <i>USDA (FSA) SBA EIDL Declaration</i> )
November 13, 2023	Drought ( <i>USDA Declaration</i> )
January 24, 2024	December Storm Damage ( <i>State of Emergency</i> ) - ( <i>pending FHWA ER Allocation</i> )
February 15, 2024	Wildfires - ( <i>SBA EIDL Declaration</i> )
February 23, 2024	Drought, Heat, Excessive heat, High temp (incl. low humidity) ( <i>USDA Declaration</i> )
February 23, 2024	Excessive rain, moisture, humidity ( <i>USDA Declaration</i> )

### **Fisheries Disasters**

Fisheries in Western Washington have experienced sudden and unexpected large decreases in fish stock biomass multiple times in recent years. The economic impact from these fisheries disasters has significantly impacted several tribes and dozens of communities across the state. Many fisheries have been unable to operate multiple years in a row because of low fish returns, causing detrimental impacts to annual fishery income. The low fish stock biomass also impacts the availability of fish for important ceremonial and subsistence food source purposes that many community and tribal members depend on in the winter months. During the past 24 months, 10 fisheries disasters have been declared, requested, or remain pending for Washington state under section 308(b) of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act and section 312(a) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Approved and requested federal fishery disaster declarations includes the following tribes and fisheries:

<b>Fisheries Disaster (request date)</b>	<b>Impacted Tribe(s) / Region</b>	<b>Approval Date</b>
Puget Sound Coho & Fall Chum Salmon Fisheries (2021)	Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe	Pending
Puget Sound Fall Chum Salmon (2020)	Squaxin Island Tribe	12/6/2023
Washington Fraser River Sockeye and Puget Sound Fall Chum Salmon Fisheries (2021)	Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe	Pending
Washington Ocean Salmon Fisheries (2021)	Non-Tribal West Coast Region Fisheries	12/16/2022
Washington Columbia River, Willapa Bay, Puget Sound Salmon Fisheries (2021)	Non-Tribal West Coast Region Fisheries	12/16/2022
Washington Fraser River Sockeye and Puget Sound Chum and Coho Salmon Fishery (2020)	Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe	9/1/2022
Washington Puget Sound Fall Chum Salmon Fishery (2020)	Squaxin Island Tribe	9/1/2022
Washington Green River Chinook, Chum, Coho, and Pink Salmon Fishery (2020 & 2021)	Muckleshoot Indian Tribe	10/6/2023
Washington Fraser River Sockeye, Chum, Coho, and Pink Salmon Fishery (2020)	Lummi Nation	9/1/2022
Washington Fraser River & Skagit River Salmon Fisheries (2019 & 2020)	Swinomish, Tulalip, and Upper Skagit Tribes	9/1/2022

### **Federal Assistance**

Washington state has received substantial federal assistance for disasters from 2020 to present. Due to the numerous recent disasters in our state, the exact amounts of federal assistance

provided to the state are unknown at this time. Federal assistance provided to Washington state since 2020 includes the following:

<b>Federal Assistance Provided to Washington State Since 2020</b>		
<b>Federal Amount</b>	<b>State Amount</b>	<b>Qualifying Event / Federal Assistance</b>
TBD	TBD	Wildfires (DR-4759 Individual Assistance Program)
TBD	TBD	Wildfires (DR-4759 Public Assistance Program) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grants Portal projection - \$26,000,000</li> </ul>
\$5,604,921	\$1,868,307	Severe Winter Storms, Straight-line Winds, Flooding (DR-4682) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grants Portal projection - \$19,075,589</li> </ul>
\$21,396,020	\$2,377,336	Severe Winter Storms, Snowstorms, Straight-line Winds, Flooding (DR-4650) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grants Portal projection - \$29,357,319</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$91,830</li> <li>\$46,194</li> </ul>		Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Flooding, Landslides and Mudslides (DR-4635 Individual Assistance Program) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Other Needs Assistance (ONA)</li> <li>Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program (CCP)</li> </ul>
\$35,049,592	\$3,894,399	Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Flooding, Landslides and Mudslides (DR-4635 Public Assistance Program) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grants Portal Projection - \$68,114,105</li> </ul>
\$20,080,391	\$2,231,155	Washington Severe Winter Storm, Straight-line Winds, Flooding, Landslides and Mudslides (DR-4593) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grants Portal Projection - \$24,224,528</li> </ul>
\$52,748,289	\$5,860,921	Washington Wildfires and Straight-Line Winds (DR-4584) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grants Portal Projection - \$69,454,749</li> </ul>
\$64,286,332	\$7,142,926	Washington Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides and Mudslides (DR-4539) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grants Portal Projection - \$88,621,844</li> </ul>
\$18,801,948 \$1,537,867 - CCP	N/A	Washington COVID-19 Pandemic (DR-4481 Individual Assistance Program)
\$2,571,547,072	\$7,361,632	Washington COVID-19 Pandemic (DR-4481 Public Assistance Program) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grants Portal Projection - \$3,918,786,817</li> </ul>
\$3,458,999	\$691,800	Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Estimated Expenditures for Emergency Relief (ER)
\$17,662,400*	N/A	U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) (Estimated*, excludes the Paycheck Protection Program – see below)
\$33,946,000	\$5,155,000	United States Army Corps of Engineers PL84-99 Emergency Flood Fighting Measures / Emergency Operations – Seattle District & Walla Wall District (Estimated 2020-2023)
\$2,846,257,855	\$36,583,476	<b>Total Federal Funding Provided to Date (estimated)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grants Portal Projection - \$4,151,296,318</li> </ul>

\*Additionally, through the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP), the SBA has approved 187,339 loans in Washington State totaling \$17,856,048,132 in federal assistance through October 3, 2023.

**Public Assistance**

On January 30, 2024, the state requested county emergency management departments to begin initial damage assessments for the severe winter storms, flooding, mudslides, landslides, and straight-line winds that began January 5, 2024. On February 13, 2024, the state requested a time extension to request a Major Disaster Declaration. This time extension request was approved by FEMA on February 16, 2024, with the new deadline set as March 23, 2024. On February 13, 2024, the state requested a joint FEMA-State Public Assistance Preliminary Damage Assessment (PA PDA) for Public Assistance with FEMA Region 10. The 18 counties included in the joint FEMA-State PA PDA request were Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Ferry, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Klickitat, Lewis, Mason, Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, and Wahkiakum counties. The joint FEMA-State PA PDA began on February 26, 2024, at Camp Murray, Washington, and was completed on March 8, 2024. The joint FEMA-State PA PDA teams validated that damage incurred by Washington state due to the series of severe winter storms totaled \$33,084,432 with \$31,593,515 in damages attributed to 16 counties which met impact indicators.

- Category (F) Utilities comprised more than 43 percent of total reported damages at \$14,431,041. Cowlitz County had the most Category (F) damages at \$5,997,000.
- Category (E) Buildings and Equipment comprised more than 31 percent of total reported damages at \$10,286,946. King County had the most Category (E) damages at \$8,354,693.

The most impacted jurisdiction was King County with a total PDA estimate of \$11,438,805 in damages and a per capita impact of \$5.04.

Listed below are the respective indicators, by county, for the Public Assistance Program:

<b>County</b>	<b>PDA Estimate</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Threshold</b>	<b>Impact per Capita</b>
Clallam	\$ 1,526,705	77,155	\$ 354,913.00	\$ 19.79
Clark	\$ 3,917,981	503,311	\$ 2,315,230.60	\$ 7.78
Cowlitz	\$ 5,997,000	110,730	\$ 509,358.00	\$ 54.16
Ferry	\$ 84,893	7,178	\$ 33,018.80	\$ 11.83
Grays Harbor	\$ 938,796	75,636	\$ 347,925.60	\$ 12.41
Island	\$ 3,357,700	86,857	\$ 399,542.20	\$ 38.66
Jefferson	\$ 660,000	32,977	\$ 151,694.20	\$ 20.01
King	\$ 11,438,805	2,269,675	\$ 10,440,505.00	\$ 5.04

<b>County</b>	<b>PDA Estimate</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Threshold</b>	<b>Impact per Capita</b>
Klickitat	\$ 455,431	22,735	\$ 104,581.00	\$ 20.03
Lewis	\$ 494,006	82,149	\$ 377,885.40	\$ 6.01
Mason	\$ 396,136	65,726	\$ 302,339.60	\$ 6.03
Okanogan	\$ 246,107	42,104	\$ 193,678.40	\$ 5.85
Pacific	\$ 166,700	23,365	\$ 107,479.00	\$ 7.13
Skagit	\$ 998,198	129,523	\$ 595,805.80	\$ 7.71
Skamania	\$ 741,832	12,036	\$ 55,365.60	\$ 61.63
Wahkiakum	\$ 173,226	4,422	\$ 30,341.20	\$ 39.17
<b>Washington State</b>	<b>\$ 31,593,516</b>	<b>7,705,281</b>	<b>\$ 14,177,717.04</b>	<b>\$ 4.29</b>

In accordance with 44 CFR § 201.4, FEMA approved the Washington State Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan on October 1, 2023, I certify that state and local government obligations and expenditures for this incident comply with all cost share requirements.

I have designated Stacey McClain of the Washington Military Department, Emergency Management Division, as the State Coordinating Officer for this request. He will work with FEMA and is authorized to provide any further information, assurances, requests, or justifications on my behalf.

Very truly yours,



Jay Inslee  
Governor

Enclosures (8)

- A: Individual Assistance (Not Applicable)
- B: Estimated Stafford Act Requirements for Public Assistance and Preliminary Damage Assessment Cost Estimate Worksheet
- C: Estimated Assistance from Other Federal Agency Programs
- D: OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13
- E: NWS Executive Weather Summary
- F: State Emergency Proclamation
- G: February 13, 2024, Request for Time Extension to FEMA Associate Administrator Bink
- H: February 16, 2024, Request for Time Extension Approval

**ENCLOSURE A TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST**

No request for Individual Assistance will be made for this event.



**ENCLOSURE B TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST**

**Washington Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) Estimate**  
**State of Washington Major Disaster Request**  
 Incident Period January 5th 2024 - January 29th 2024 for Severe Storms, Winter Storms, Straight-line Winds, Flooding, Landslides and Mudslides.

Applicant	Category A Debris Removal	Category B Emergency Protective Measures	Category C Roads & Bridges	Category D Water Control Facilities	Category E Buildings & Equipment	Category F Utilities	Category G Parks, Recreation Facilities & Other	Total	Population	Impact Per Capita
<i>Clallam County, WA Total</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$249,505.00	\$1,277,200.00	\$1,526,705.00	77,155	\$ 19.79
<i>Clark County, WA Total</i>	\$26,453.00	\$21,522.00	\$24,292.00	\$0.00	\$659,935.00	\$3,185,779.00	\$0.00	\$3,917,981.00	503,311	\$ 7.78
<i>Cowlitz County, WA Total</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,997,000.00	\$0.00	\$5,997,000.00	110,730	\$ 54.16
<i>Ferry County, WA Total</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$84,893.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$84,893.00	7,178	\$ 11.83
<i>Grays Harbor County, WA Total</i>	\$150,136.00	\$127,019.00	\$30,193.00	\$0.00	\$75,000.00	\$556,448.00	\$0.00	\$938,796.00	75,636	\$ 12.41
<i>Island County, WA Total</i>	\$3,256,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$101,700.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,357,700.00	86,857	\$ 38.66
<i>Jefferson County, WA Total</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$660,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$660,000.00	32,977	\$ 20.01
<i>King County, WA Total</i>	\$111,749.00	\$57,404.00	\$1,451,701.00	\$0.00	\$8,354,693.00	\$1,463,258.00	\$0.00	\$11,438,805.00	2,269,675	\$5.04
<i>Klickitat County, WA Total</i>	\$0.00	\$16,441.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$113,000.00	\$325,990.00	\$0.00	\$455,431.00	22,735	\$ 20.03
<i>Lewis County, WA Total</i>	\$154,234.00	\$10,624.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$25,000.00	\$304,148.00	\$0.00	\$494,006.00	82,149	\$ 6.01
<i>Mason County, WA Total</i>	\$69,279.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$326,857.00	\$0.00	\$396,136.00	65,726	\$ 6.03
<i>Okanagan County, WA Total</i>	\$0.00	\$10,945.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$15,617.00	\$219,545.00	\$0.00	\$246,107.00	42,104	\$ 5.85
<i>Pacific County, WA Total</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$166,700.00	\$0.00	\$166,700.00	23,365	\$ 7.13
<i>Pend Oreille County, WA Total</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	13,401	\$ -
<i>Skagit County, WA Total</i>	\$495,698.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$502,500.00	\$998,198.00	129,523	\$ 7.71
<i>Skamania County, WA Total</i>	\$17,574.00	\$12,000.00	\$325,000.00	\$0.00	\$151,108.00	\$236,150.00	\$0.00	\$741,832.00	12,036	\$ 61.63
<i>Snohomish County, WA Total</i>	\$56,800.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$46,000.00	\$1,388,116.00	\$0.00	\$1,490,916.00	827,957	\$ 1.80
<i>Wahkiakum County, WA Total</i>	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$161,681.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$11,545.00	\$0.00	\$173,226.00	4,422	\$ 39.17
<b>Statewide Total</b>	<b>\$4,337,923.00</b>	<b>\$255,955.00</b>	<b>\$1,992,867.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$10,286,946.00</b>	<b>\$14,431,041.00</b>	<b>\$1,779,700.00</b>	<b>\$33,084,432.00</b>	<b>7,705,281</b>	<b>\$ 4.29</b>
<b>Percentage by Category</b>	<b>13.11%</b>	<b>0.77%</b>	<b>6.02%</b>	<b>0.00%</b>	<b>31.09%</b>	<b>43.62%</b>	<b>5.38%</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		

**ENCLOSURE C TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST**

## Estimated Assistance from Other Federal Agency Programs

County / Tribal Area	SBA Home Loans	SBA Business Loans	FSA Loans	NRCS	FHWA	USACE	BIA	OTHER
Clallam	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Clark	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Cowlitz	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Ferry	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Grays Harbor	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Island	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Jefferson	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
King	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Klickitat	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Lewis	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Mason	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Okanogan	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Pacific	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Skagit	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Skamania	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Wahkiakum	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
<b>*Statewide Totals (by program)</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>	<b>TBD</b>

*\*Note: Limited information is available regarding the extent of other federal assistance is not known at this time*

**DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
REQUEST FOR PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATION  
MAJOR DISASTER OR EMERGENCY**

OMB Control Number 1660-0009  
Expires 06/30/2026

1. Request Date Mar 18, 2024

**Burden Disclosure Notice**

Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 9 hours per response. The burden estimate includes the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and submitting the form. This collection of information is required to obtain a benefit. You are not required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. Send comments regarding the accuracy of the burden estimate and any suggestions for reducing the burden to: Information Collections Management, Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency, 500 C Street SW, Washington, DC 20472, Paperwork Reduction Project (1660-0009). **NOTE: Do not send your completed form to this address.**

Completion of this form including applicable attachments satisfies legal requirements for emergency and major disaster declaration requests under 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170 and 5191, respectively, as implemented at 44 C.F.R. §§ 206.35 and 206.36. Failure to use this form may result in a failure to meet these requirements and/or a delay in processing the request.

2a. Name of State (as defined in Stafford Act 102, 42 U.S.C. § 5122) or Indian tribal government requesting declaration.

Washington State

2b. Population (as reported by 2020 Census) or estimated population of Indian tribal government's damaged area(s).

7,705,281

3. Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Name

Governor Jay Inslee

4. Designation of State or Tribal Coordinating Officer upon declaration (if available) and phone number

State Coordinating Officer - Stacey McClain 253-512-7071

5. Designation of Governor's Authorized Representative or Tribal Chief Executive Representative upon declaration (if available) and phone number

Governor's Authorized Representative - Stacey McClain 253-512-7071

6. Declaration Request For:  Major Disaster (Stafford Act Sec. 401)  Emergency (Stafford Act Sec. 501 (a))

7. Incident Period: Beginning Date Jan 5, 2024 End Date Jan 29, 2024 or  Continuing

*If requesting a "continuing" incident period, enclose an official statement from a qualified Federal Government agency acknowledged as a national authority in a specific incident field (e.g., United States Geological Survey for seismic incidents, the National Weather Service for flooding).*

7b. Type of Incident (Check all that apply)

- Drought  Earthquake  Explosion  Fire  Flood  Hurricane  Landslide  Mudslide
- Severe Storm  Snowstorm
- (rain, high water, wind-driven, rain, hail, lightning)  (Must include Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data)  Straight-Line Winds
- Tidal Wave  Tornado  Tropical Depression  Tropical Storm  Tsunami  Volcanic Eruption  Winter Storm
- Other (please specify) \_\_\_\_\_

8. Description of damages (Short description of impacts of disaster on affected area and population). Include additional details in enclosed Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's cover letter.

Washington State was battered by a 25-day period that impacted multiple counties and tribes across the state, bringing widespread flooding, high winds, slope erosion, dozens of landslides, mudslides, and heavy rain. The severe storm systems caused significant damages to homes, businesses, public utilities, public facilities, electrical power systems, waste water systems, infrastructure and property, resulting in widespread power outages, road closures and detours of major travel corridors. This disaster has caused significant disruptions to life-saving, life-sustaining and essential community services, utilities and infrastructure.

9. Description of the nature and amount of State and local or Indian tribal government resources which have been or will be committed. Include additional details in enclosed Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's cover letter.

As a result of the severe storms and the devastating impacts, I signed Emergency Proclamation 24-02 on March 15, 2022, proclaiming that a State of Emergency exists in Chelan, Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Douglas, Ferry, Grays Harbor, King, Klickitat, Lewis, Lincoln, Mason, Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Skamania, and Wahkiakum counties.

10. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment\*

Individual Assistance    Dates Performed    Requested \_\_\_\_\_    Start \_\_\_\_\_    End \_\_\_\_\_

Individual Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)  
N/A

Public Assistance    Dates Performed    Requested Feb 13, 2024    Start Feb 26, 2024    End Mar 8, 2024

Public Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)  
None

11. Programs and Areas Requested

Individual Assistance  N/A     Individuals and Households Program     Crisis Counseling Program     Disaster Unemployment Assistance  
 All     Disaster Case Management     Disaster Legal Services     Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Assistance

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities; for Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)) If additional space is needed, please enclose additional documentation.

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes in the requested counties (if applicable).

Please see **Enclosure A: Supplemental Information for Individual Assistance** for additional information in support of this request\*.

\*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request

11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

Public Assistance  N/A  Debris Removal (Category A)  Emergency Protective Measures (Category B)  Permanent Work (Categories C-G)\* (not available for Emergency Declaration Requests)

For the following jurisdictions, specify programs and areas (counties, parishes, independent cities; for Indian tribal government, list tribe(s) and/or tribal area(s)). If additional space is needed or your request includes different categories of work for different jurisdictions; please enclose additional documentation.

I am specifically requesting assistance from the Public Assistance program for all categories A-G for the following 16 counties: Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Ferry, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Klickitat, Lewis, Mason, Okanogan, Pacific, Skagit, Skamania and Wahkiakum.

Additionally, we are requesting Public Assistance for the federally recognized Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes included in the requested counties (if applicable).  
 Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation; Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation; Cowlitz Indian Tribe; Hoh Indian Tribe; Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe; Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe; Makah Tribe; Muckleshoot Indian Tribe; Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe; Quileute Tribe; Quinault Indian Nation; Samish Indian Nation; Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe; Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe; Skokomish Indian Tribe; Snoqualmie Indian Tribe; Squaxin Island Tribe; Swinomish Indian Tribal Community; Upper Skagit Indian Tribe

Please see **Enclosure B: Supplemental Information for Public Assistance** for additional information in support of this request\*.

**Indemnification for Debris Removal Activity**

I do not anticipate the need for debris removal.

I anticipate the need for debris removal, which poses an immediate threat to lives, public health and safety. Pursuant to Sections 403 and 407 of the Stafford Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170b & 5173, the State or Indian tribal government agrees to indemnify and hold  harmless the United States of America for any claims arising from the removal of debris or wreckage for this disaster. The State or Indian tribal government agrees that debris removal from public and private property will not occur until the landowner signs an unconditional authorization for the removal of debris.

**Request for Direct Federal Assistance**

I do not request direct Federal assistance at this time.

I request direct Federal assistance for work and services to save lives and protect property, and:

a. I request the following type(s) of assistance:

b. List of reasons why State and local or Indian tribal government cannot perform, or contract for, required work and services.

c. In accordance with 44 C.F.R. § 206.208, the State or Indian tribal government agrees that it will, with respect to direct Federal assistance: (1) Provide without cost to the United States all lands, easements, and rights-of-ways necessary to accomplish the approved work; (2) Hold and save the United States free from damages due to the requested work, and shall indemnify the Federal Government against any claims arising from such work; (3) Provide reimbursement to FEMA for the non-Federal share of the cost of such work in accordance with the provisions of the FEMA-State or FEMA-Tribe Agreement ; and (4) Assist the performing Federal agency in all support and local jurisdictional matters.

**Request for Snow Assistance**

N/A  I request snow assistance.

Snow assistance for the following jurisdictions (Specify counties, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas).

Please see **Enclosure D: Historic and Current Snowfall Data** for additional information in support of this request\*.

\*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request

11. Programs and Areas Requested (Continued)

Hazard Mitigation\*  Statewide OR

For the following specific counties, parishes, independent cities or tribes and/or tribal areas.

12. Mitigation Plan Information\*

a. Mitigation Plan Expiration Date 9/30/2028 b. Type of Plan  Enhanced  Standard

13. Other Federal Agency Programs

I do not anticipate requirements from Other Federal Agencies  I do anticipate requirements from Other Federal Agencies

Please see **Enclosure C: Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs** for additional information in support of this request\*.

14. Findings and Certifications

I certify the following:

- a. I have determined that this incident is of such severity and magnitude that effective response is beyond the capabilities of the State and the affected local government or Indian tribal government and that supplementary federal assistance is necessary.
- b. In response to this incident, I have taken appropriate action under State or tribal law and have directed the execution of the State or Tribal Emergency Plan on Mar 15, 2024 in accordance with the Stafford Act.
- c. The State and local governments, or Indian tribal government will assume all applicable non-Federal share of costs required by the Stafford Act.

15. List of Enclosures and Supporting Documentation

- Cover Letter  Enclosure A (Individual Assistance)\*  Enclosure B (Public Assistance)\*
- Enclosure C (Requirements for Other Federal Agency Programs)  Enclosure D (Historic and Current Snowfall Data)
- Additional Supporting Documentation State Emergency Proclamations, NWS-NOAA Executive Weather Statement, Extension Letter



\_\_\_\_\_  
Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Signature

March 22, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

If anyone except the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive signs this document, please provide the documentation that establishes that this individual has the legal authority to act on behalf of the Governor or Tribal Chief Executive.

\*Not Required for Emergency Declaration Request



# Executive Weather Summary

**Severe Storms, High Winds, Extreme Cold, Ice Storm,  
Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides**

5 January 2024 - 29 January 2024

For FEMA Region X Preliminary Damage Assessment - Washington

**Reid Wolcott**, Warning Coordination Meteorologist; **Brent Bower**, Senior Service Hydrologist

*National Weather Service, Seattle, Washington*

**Treana Jensen**, Warning Coordination Meteorologist

*National Weather Service, Portland, Oregon*

**Andrew Brown**, Meteorologist-In-Charge, **Greg Koch**, Lead Meteorologist

*National Weather Service, Spokane, Washington*

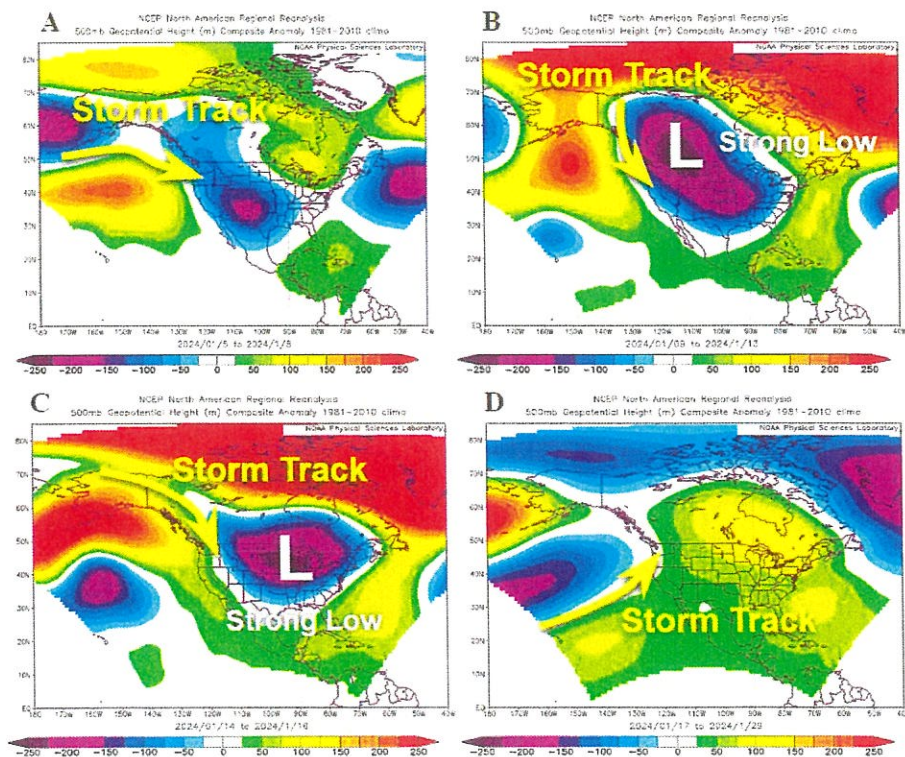
**Katy Branham**, Warning Coordination Meteorologist

*National Weather Service, Pendleton, Oregon*

## Event Synopsis

From January 5-29 a strong and persistent storm track was directed at Washington State (Figure 1). This storm track delivered a 25-day period of winter storms, wind storms, extreme cold, and atmospheric rivers that battered Washington State in rapid succession that resulted in a continuous series of overlapping significant impacts across the state. The order in which these events occurred further exacerbated the impacts across the state.

The timeline was characterized by the development of an active



**Figure 1:** Upper level (500mb) Weather Pattern Anomalies between A) JAN 5 – 8. B) JAN 9-13. C) JAN 14-16. and D) JAN 17-29 based on NCEP North American Regional Analysis. During this period an active storm track remained directed at Washington State. Between JAN 9-16 a very strong upper level low (magenta purple colors) migrated from the interior of Canada south across the Northwestern U.S.

storm track beginning January 5 which increased in strength through January 9-10, resulting in significant coastal flooding and culminating in widespread blizzard conditions across the Cascades of Washington State. This was immediately followed by a highly anomalous cold upper level low that shifted south from the interior of Canada into the northwestern U.S. bringing widespread winter precipitation as well as wind and rare extreme cold conditions January 11-16. These systems resulted in significant fresh snowpack which would set the stage for increased runoff and flooding as temperatures warmed to record levels and the storm track shifted to an atmospheric river pattern which would continue through late January.

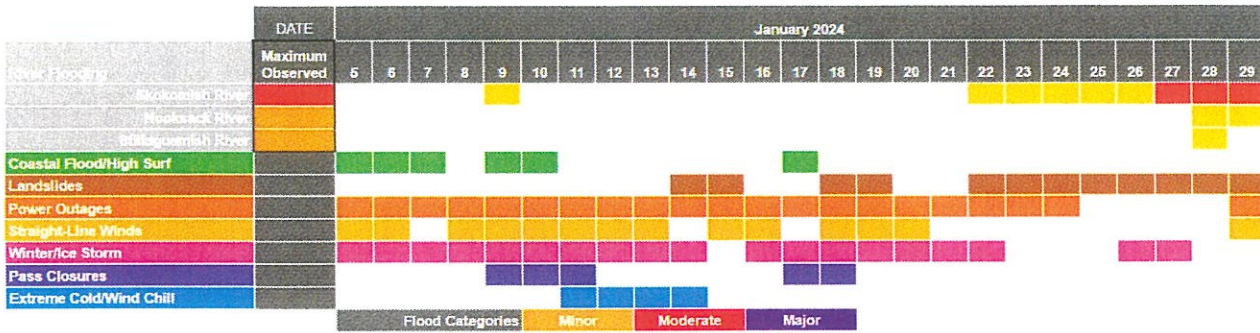


Figure 2: Timeline of flooding (including maximum observed flood category and records), coastal flooding and high surf, landslides, power outages, straight-line winds, winter and ice storms, pass closures, and extreme cold in Washington State between JAN 5 - 29, 2024.

With the storm track directed at Washington State, strong winds also prevailed through much of January. This resulted in damage to trees, above-ground power infrastructure, and power outages across the state. In addition, strong winds and low pressure resulted in significant storm tides that pounded the Washington coastline causing coastal inundation and erosion.

During this 25-day period, continuous significant weather-related impacts were experienced across Washington State due to winds, extreme cold, winter precipitation, coastal flooding and river flooding (Figure 2). Three major western Washington rivers exceeded flood stage at least once with the Skokomish River reaching moderate flood stage.

### Meteorological Timeline & Impacts - January 05-08

A strong and persistent upper level storm track became directed at Washington State during this time frame. Strong westerly winds developed reaching over 60 MPH along the Washington Coast and Strait of Juan de Fuca (Figure 3). These winds resulted in dangerous high ocean swells and pounding surf along the coast which exacerbated coastal flooding due to already high tides along Washington’s Pacific Coast. Winds also resulted in widespread tree damage, damage to above-ground power infrastructure, and widespread power outages. Meanwhile, the first of multiple rounds of significant snowfall began to accumulate across the Cascades.

Peak Winds (MPH) January 5-10, 2024	
Location	MPH
Whidbey	64
Camano	63
Westport	63
Destruction Island	62
Hoquiam	62
Port Angeles	59
Quillayute	55
Shelton	53
Cape Disappointment	51
Seattle	48
Everett	47
Bellingham	46
La Push	46

Figure 3: Selected observed peak wind speeds in miles per hour (MPH) for JAN 5-10, 2024.



## Meteorological Timeline & Impacts - January 09-10

Conditions deteriorated further January 9-10 as both snowfall rates and winds increased across the Cascades resulting in blizzard conditions across the major east-west transportation corridors across Washington State causing pass closures. From January 9-10 between 27.5 - 34.0 inches of new snow was

WSDOT Snowfall Reports (Inches) JAN 6-12, 2024								
Pass & Road	Jan 6	Jan 7	Jan 8	Jan 9	Jan 10	Jan 11	Jan 12	Total
Stevens Pass US-2	9.5	5.0	0.0	15.5	18.0	2.0	15.0	65.0 in.
Snoqualmie Pass I-90	12.5	5.5	0.5	19.5	8.0	3.5	9.0	58.5 in.
White Pass US-12	4.0	7.0	0.0	9.0	25.0	3.0	6.0	54.0 in.

**Figure 4:** Snowfall reports from January 6 - 12, 2024 for mountain passes in Washington State. Major snowfall and blizzard conditions led to several closures of major east-west mountain passes in Washington State. Data courtesy: Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT).

recorded at the three major Cascade passes, with 54 to 65 inches occurring between January 6-12 (**Figure 4**). Strong winds also became more widespread January 9-10 with widespread gusts in excess of 45 MPH across western Washington (**Figure 3**). These winds also resulted in widespread tree damage, damage to above-ground power infrastructure, and widespread power outages in the more heavily populated

areas of King and Snohomish counties. In addition, another round of high surf and coastal flooding occurred along the Pacific coastline, again resulting in dangerous high ocean swells and pounding surf along the coast. Heavy precipitation across western Washington also resulted in the Skokomish River in Mason County reaching flood stage.

Areas of wintry precipitation also occurred in lower-elevation locations as snow levels fell across the region, particularly across southwest Washington from Lewis County southward where 3 to 7 inches of snow were reported as well as Ferry, Stevens, and Pend Oreille counties in eastern Washington where 6 to 10 inches of snow were observed.

## Meteorological Timeline & Impacts - January 11-16

A vigorous arctic front dropped southeast out of the interior of Canada on January 11, ushering in the coldest temperatures across western

Low Temperatures (°F) JAN 11-16, 2024						
Location	Jan 11	Jan 12	Jan 13	Jan 14	Jan 15	Jan 16
Bellingham	9*	3*	7*	12	16	18
Seattle	25	15	15	19	21	22
Olympia	30	17	16	11	15*	16
Hoquiam	35	19	20*	20*	27	27
Quillayute	27	19	20*	22	23	24
Vancouver	37	22	17	17	17	16
Spokane	13	-7*	-10	-4	-2	5
Newport	-5	3	-24*	-9	-17	2
Boundary Dam	14	-8	-20*	-20*	-10	-10
The Dalles	34	13	6	8	-2*	-2

\* - New Daily Record

**Figure 5:** Low temperature observations from January 11 - 16, 2024 for select locations across Washington State.

Peak Winds (MPH) January 11-29, 2024	
Location	MPH
Morton	72
Greenwater	65
Bellingham	62
Cape Disappointment	60
Westport	56
North Bend	56
Lopez Island	55
Destruction Island	51
Camas	50
Maple Valley	48
Long Beach	47
Mossyrock	47
Cape Horn	47
Sumas	45
Washougal	45
Hoquiam	44
Whidbey	43

Figure 6: Selected observed peak wind speeds in miles per hour (MPH) for JAN 11-29, 2024.

Minimum Wind Chills (°F) January 11-16, 2024	
Location	°F
Deer Park	-41
Omak	-32
Spokane	-28
Moses Lake	-24
Walla Walla	-22
Bellingham	-21
The Dalles	-12
Friday Harbor	-4
Arlington	-2
Seattle	-1
Everett	1
Vancouver	2
Kelso	2
Shelton	4
Olympia	6
Quillayute	6
Port Angeles	7

Figure 7: Selected minimum observed wind chill values (°F) for JAN 11-16, 2024.

Washington in nearly 15 years and breaking numerous daily minimum temperature records (Figure 5). In Pend Oreille County the average temperatures for the 5-day period between January 12-16 were the 3rd and 11th coldest periods on record for Boundary Dam and Newport respectively and were the coldest since 1979. These cold temperatures were accompanied by strong easterly winds, peaking January 11-13 with gusts between 50 and 72 MPH (Figure 6). These exceptional temperatures and strong winds combined to result in freezing spray across the waters of the northern Puget Sound and Salish Sea as well as extremely cold wind chill values across Washington State

which persisted through January 16. Widespread wind chill values of -20 to -45 degrees were observed across populated areas of northeastern Washington and under 10 degrees in western Washington (Figure 7). This period of extreme cold caused significant damage to infrastructure through freezing pipes and other effects including the loss of at least 5 lives in King County alone.

Strong, cold northeasterly winds also resulted in enhanced upslope snowfall across Clallam County where 3 to 5 inches of snow were reported. Farther south, 3 to 7 inches of snow were reported once again across areas of southwest Washington between Cowlitz, Clark, Skamania, and Klickitat counties.

By January 16, surface temperatures remained below freezing however, temperatures aloft were beginning to warm. As precipitation began to move into western Washington, snow began to transition to freezing rain. By the end of the day on January 16, between 0.10 to 0.20" of freezing rain had been reported across portions of Clark and Cowlitz counties as well as the I-90/Snoqualmie Pass corridor in King County with more on the way, resulting in hazardous road conditions, downed trees, and power outages across the region.

### Meteorological Timeline & Impacts - January 17-29

As temperatures aloft continued to gradually moderate and precipitation continued, persistent easterly winds kept cold air funneling down to the surface through the Cascade gaps. This set the stage for widespread freezing rain across Washington State January 17-21 with the heaviest amounts of 0.25 to 0.75" in Clark County as well as in isolated areas of King and Snohomish counties. This resulted in

damage to trees and above-ground power infrastructure, and extended the stretch of widespread power outages across the state.

Temperatures continued to rise January 19-29 as the extreme cold gave way to transition to atmospheric river activity with prolonged bouts of moderate to heavy rain. As temperatures warmed, snowmelt from the recent low- and mid-elevation snowfall combined with significant precipitation to result in flooding, mudslides, and landslides in western Washington by January 22. Between January 22-29 rainfall of 5 to 10 inches was observed across the Cascades, 7 to 10 inches was observed along the Olympic Peninsula with 1 to 5 inches elsewhere in the lowlands of western Washington. By January 27-29, temperatures reached record warm levels (**Figure 8**) between 56 and 69 degrees in the lowlands and mountain valleys of western Washington, further contributing to rapid snowmelt runoff and flooding along the Skokomish, Nooksack, and Stillaguamish rivers in western Washington.

High Temperatures (°F) JAN 24-29, 2024							
Location	Jan 23	Jan 24	Jan 25	Jan 26	Jan 27	Jan 28	Jan 29
Bellingham	50	51	51	52	58	62*	69*
Seattle	52	51	51	53	57	61*	61*
Olympia	56*	55	54	52	61*	63*	59*
Hoquiam	48	52	50	52	56*	59*	59*
Quillayute	52	54	52	55	57	65*	67*

\* = New Daily Record

**Figure 8:** High temperature observations from January 24 - 29, 2024 for select locations across western Washington.



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE —

**PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR**

24-02

**January Winter Storms**

**WHEREAS**, a series of atmospheric river events struck Washington State between January 5, 2024, and January 29, 2024, producing straight-line winds, ice, extreme cold temperatures, and heavy rainfall. This, coupled with extreme tidal and wave actions along coastal shorelines, resulted in coastal flooding, saturated soils, and landslides in Chelan, Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Douglas, Ferry, Grays Harbor, King, Klickitat, Lewis, Lincoln, Mason, Okanagan, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Skamania, and Wahkiakum counties; and

**WHEREAS**, these storms caused significant coastal flooding to homes and businesses, road damage, temporary road closures and detours, and extensive damage to public utilities and electrical power systems; and

**WHEREAS**, damage to roadways caused by the storms resulted in temporary road closures, limiting access to and complicating the provision of response and recovery efforts by emergency responders, businesses, and utilities to address the aftermath of these storms, requiring Washington's Secretary of Transportation to commence work immediately to repair affected roadways through the implementation of emergency procurement procedures to alleviate impacts to public safety; and

**WHEREAS**, state agencies and local jurisdictions are coordinating resources to address damage to residences, public utilities, and roadways, to assess damage caused by the storms, and to implement damage repairs; and

**WHEREAS**, storm damage, including the cost of repairs and ongoing impacts, currently exceeds \$30 million and the effects of the storms continue to impact the life and health of the people as well as the property and infrastructure of Washington State, all of which is a public disaster that affects life, health, property, or the public peace; and

**WHEREAS**, the Washington State Military Department has been monitoring and coordinating supporting actions through the State Emergency Operations Center, implementing emergency response procedures, and is coordinating resources to support local officials in alleviating the immediate social and economic impacts to people, property, and infrastructure, and is continuing to assess the magnitude of the event.





STATE OF WASHINGTON  
— OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JAY INSLEE —

February 13, 2024

Anne Bink  
Associate Administrator  
Office of Response and Recovery  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Federal Center Plaza  
500 C Street Southwest  
Washington, D.C. 20472

Through: Mr. Willie Nunn, Regional Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
Region X  
130 – 228th Street Southwest  
Bothell, WA 98021-9796

Re: Time Extension to Request Major Disaster Declaration

Dear Associate Administrator Bink:

Under the provisions of 44 CFR Part 206.36(a), I hereby request a 30-day extension, from February 22, 2024, to March 23, 2024, for the purpose of determining the appropriateness of requesting a Major Disaster Declaration for Public Assistance for the January winter storm event that impacted communities in the state of Washington.

Beginning on January 5, 2024, Washington state experienced a series of severe winter weather events that caused significant damage through winter storms, straight line winds, flooding, snow, landslides, and mudslides. The storm system produced extensive amounts of rain that caused disruptions to water systems, road closures, and disruptions to other public utilities in the affected areas.

The local response and recovery efforts associated with these events, along with continued storm systems, have drastically slowed the damage assessment process. Therefore, this additional time

Associate Administrator Bink  
February 13, 2024  
Page 2

is necessary for the state to complete the Initial Damage Assessment, verification, and analysis of the damage.

I have designated Stacey McClain, 253-312-8291 or [stacey.mcclain@mil.wa.gov](mailto:stacey.mcclain@mil.wa.gov), as the State Coordinating Officer and Governor's Authorized Representative for this request. He will work with the Federal Emergency Management Agency and provide further information or justification on my behalf.

We look forward to a favorable response to this request.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jay Inslee  
Governor

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20472



FEMA

FEB 16 2024

The Honorable Jay Inslee  
Governor of Washington  
P.O. Box 40002  
Olympia, Washington 98504-0002

Dear Governor Inslee:

This is in response to your February 13, 2024, request for a time extension to request for a major disaster declaration for the State of Washington as a result of severe winter storms, straight-line winds, flooding, mudslides, and landslides during the period of January 5-24, 2024.

The basis of your request is that additional time is needed to complete the Initial Damage Assessment, verification, and analysis of the damage. You indicated that the local response and recovery efforts associated with this weather event, along with continued storm systems, have drastically slowed the damage assessment process.

Your request for an extension is approved until March 23, 2024. Should you have any questions or concerns regarding your deadline, please contact Willie G. Nunn, Regional Administrator, FEMA Region X at (425) 487-4607.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Anne Bink".

Anne Bink  
Associate Administrator  
Office of Response and Recovery