Washington Military Department

Emergency Management Roles and Responsibilities

Briefing to the House Innovation, Community & Economic Development, and Veterans Committee

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EMD Vision

A disaster ready and resilient Washington State.

EMD Mission

EMD leads and coordinates mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery in Washington State to minimize the impact of disasters and emergencies on the people, property, environment and economy.

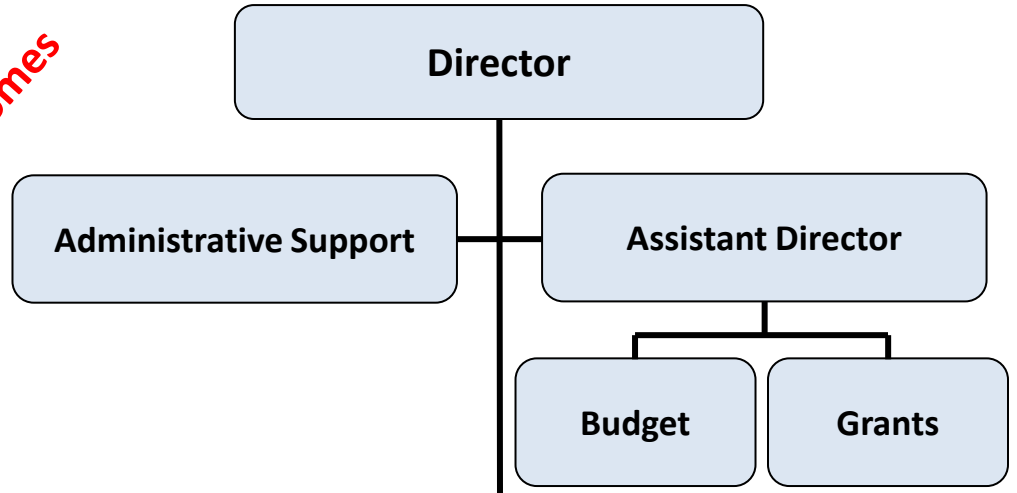
RCW 38.52

- The department shall administer the comprehensive emergency management program of the state of Washington as provided for in this chapter.
- The director, subject to the direction and control of the Governor, shall be responsible to the governor for carrying out the program for emergency management of this state.
- The director shall coordinate the activities of all organizations for emergency management within the state, and shall maintain liaison with and cooperate with emergency management agencies and organizations of other states and of the federal government
- The director shall develop and maintain a comprehensive, all-hazard emergency plan for the state

The Emergency Management Division

How it's organized….

*30+ programs with statewide outcomes



*Total staff: +/- 160

Infrastructure & Cybersecurity

- EM Cyber
- Private Sector
- Critical Infrastructure

Operations

- Response Section (AWC, SEOC, logistics)
- Preparedness Section (Outreach/Geologic Hazards, Planning, Exercises, Training)
- Mitigation and Recovery Section (Mitigation, Human Services, Public Assistance)

911

- 911 Technical Branch
- 911 Customer Service Section

Essential Programmatic Activities

- ***Alert and Warning Center***
- ***State Emergency Operations Center***
- Comprehensive Emergency Management Planning – technical assistance to local EMs
- State Exercise and Training Program (includes EOC Training)
- Stakeholder Preparedness Review
- Cybersecurity/Critical Infrastructure
- Public Education, Public Information
- Geologic Hazards Program
- Search and Rescue (SAR) Program

- Support of the statewide 911 System
- Appliance and Human Services grants
- Individual/Public Assistance (post disaster)
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (post disaster)
- Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) Grant Program
- Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant
- Homeland Security/Emergency Preparedness Grants Management
- HAZMAT Grant Program
- State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program

Approx $3 billion, 1,000+ contracts

NIMS/ICS Across All Levels of Government

Off-scene Coordination



On-scene Command



Requests and Information

Resources

Joint Field Office
with Unified Coordination Group

Mutual Aid:
EMAC, PNEMA

State Emergency Operations Center
and elected officials

Mutual Aid:
WAMAS

City/County Emergency Operations Center
and elected Officials

Delegation of Authority

Mutual Aid:
LE, Fire, EMS

Incident Command Post with
Incident Command/Unified Command/
Type III, II, or I Incident Management Team

State Role in Disaster

- The State EOC coordinates the resources and activities of state government, voluntary organizations, and the private sector in support of local and tribal jurisdictions responding to incidents and disasters
- When federal help is required EMD drafts the request for assistance and partners with FEMA to manage the assistance provided to the state
- EMD facilitates establishment of a structure/process to manage long term recovery

State Recovery Assistance FY 21-23 BIEN

- Governor's emergency assistance fund
  - $5 million (replenished in CY22 session)
- $7.5 million CY22 legislative appropriation for disaster assistance

Federal Recovery Assistance

- Major Disaster Declaration for any natural catastrophe, or regardless of cause, any fire, flood, or explosion, in which the President determines has caused damage of sufficient severity and magnitude to warrant federal disaster assistance to alleviate the damage, loss, hardship, or suffering.
- Federal assistance is supplementary to the efforts and available resources of States, local governments, and relief organizations.
  - Public Assistance (PA)
  - Individual Assistance (IA)
  - Small Business Administration (SBA)

Legislature's Role in Disaster

- Authorizing and appropriating
  - Emergency management programs
  - Response and recovery activities
- Preparedness and mitigation advocacy
- Communications conduit between emergency management and the community during disasters

National Disaster Landscape

- 1956-1980
  - 3 Billion-dollar disasters annually in 1980 (1 every 120 days)
  - Acute crisis framework
  - Advent of NIMS/ICS
- 1980-Today
  - Exponential disaster growth
  - 18 Billion-dollar disasters annually (1 every 20 days)
  - Polycrisis
  - Chronic disaster environment supported by an acute disaster framework
- 2030
  - 20 Billion-dollar disasters annually (1 every 12 days)

Washington State Hazard Profile

Natural Hazards

1. Avalanche
2. Coastal Hazards
3. Drought
4. Earthquake
5. Flood
6. Landslide
7. Severe Weather
8. Tsunami
9. Volcano
10. Wildfire

Human-Induced Hazards

1. Agricultural Disease Outbreak
2. Dam Failure
3. Pandemic/Epidemic
4. Terrorism
5. Hazardous Materials
6. Cyber Incident
7. Radiological Incident

Current Activation (3 Years)

- **Jan-Feb 2020 Severe Storms, Flooding, Landslides and Mudslides**
- **Jan 2020 COVID-19 Pandemic**
- **Sept 2020 Wildfires and Straight-line Winds**
- **Dec 2020-Jan 2021 Severe Winter Storm, Winds, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides**
- **Nov 2021 Flooding and Landslides**
- **Dec 2021-Jan 2022 Severe Winter Storms, Snowstorms, Straight-line Winds, Flooding**
- European Green Crab
- Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza
- Mpox
- **Nov 2022 Severe Storms and Flooding (Major Disaster Declaration Requested)**
- Flu and respiratory virus

Washington's Recent Disaster Experience

2023 Federal Declarations

1 Major Disaster (Nov 2022 Flooding and Mudslides)

0 Fire Management Assistance Grants

2022 Federal Declarations

2 Major Disasters (Nov 2021 Flooding and Mudslides, Jan 22 Winter Storms)

3 Fire Management Assistance Grants

2021 Federal Declarations

2 Major Disasters (Sept 2020 Wildfires, Dec 20-Jan 21 Winter Storms)

8 Fire Management Assistance Grants

2020 Federal Declarations

2 Major Disasters (Jan Severe Storms, Pandemic)

10 Fire Management Assistance Grants

2019 Federal Declarations

1 Major Disaster (Severe Winter Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Tornado)

2018 Federal Declarations

9 Fire Management Assistance Grants

2017 Federal Declarations

1 Major Disaster (Severe Winter Storms, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides)

3 Fire Management Assistance Grants

2016 Federal Declarations

4 Fire Management Assistance Grants

2015 Federal Declarations

4 Major Disasters (Historic Fires; Windstorm; Nov Severe Storm; Dec Severe Storm)

12 Fire Management Assistance Grants

2014 Federal Declarations

2 Major Disasters (SR530 Landslide/Central Washington Firestorm)

8 Fire Management Assistance Grants

2013 Federal Declarations

3 Fire Management Assistance Grants

FMAG Totals: 60

Major Disaster Declarations:

Fire	3
Windstorm	1
Winter Storms/Flooding	9
Landslide	1
Pandemic	1
Total	**15**

Washington's Disasters Over Time

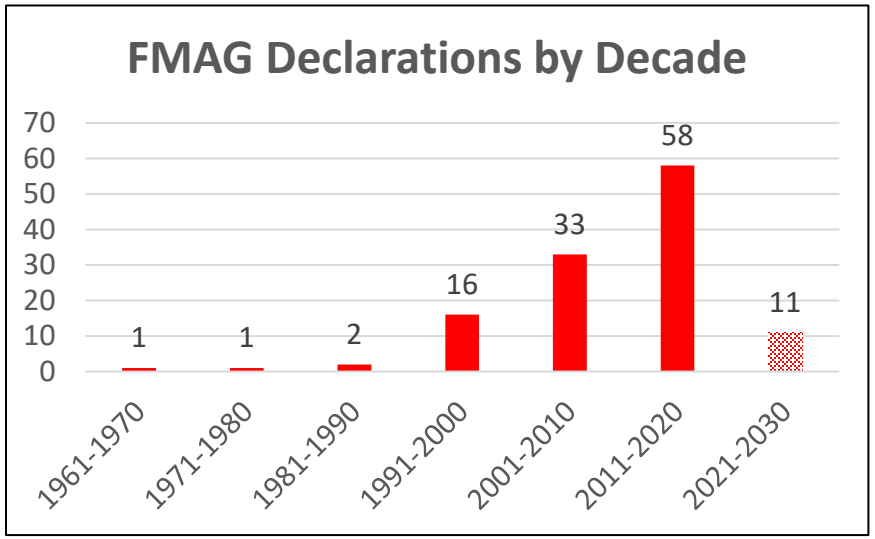
Since 1956 – 194 Federal Declarations

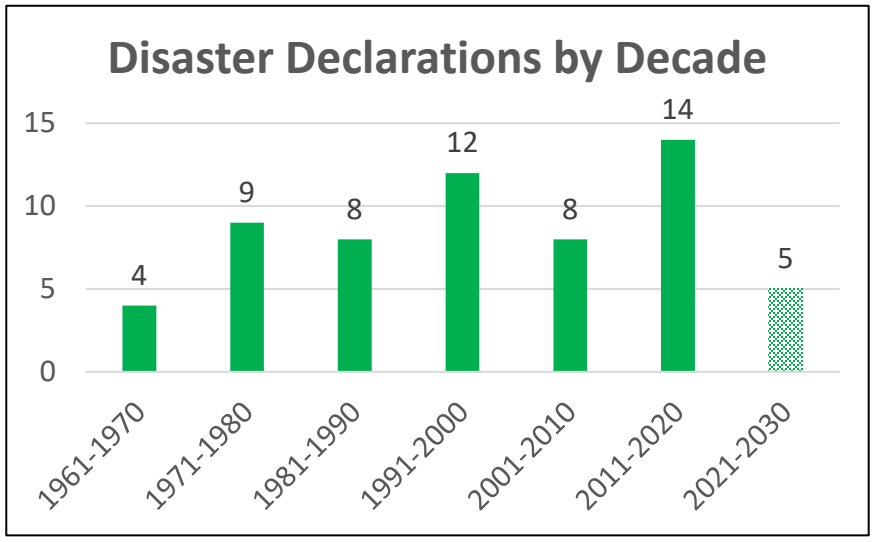
- 63 Major Disasters
- 9 Emergency Declarations
- 122 Federal Fire Suppression/Management Declarations

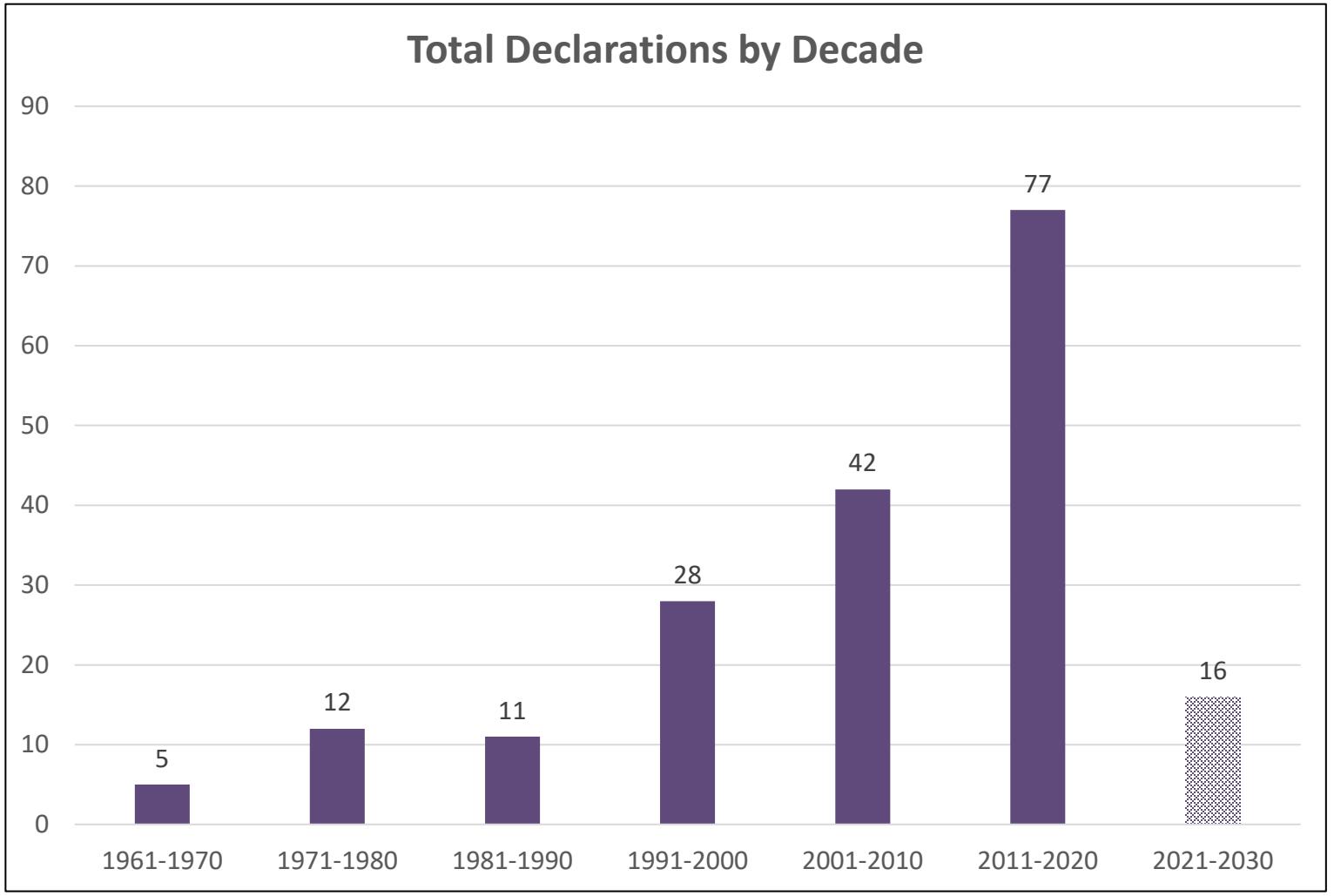
Washington ranks as the fourth most disaster-prone state in the U.S.A

Caveat: In the last ten years, we're number two

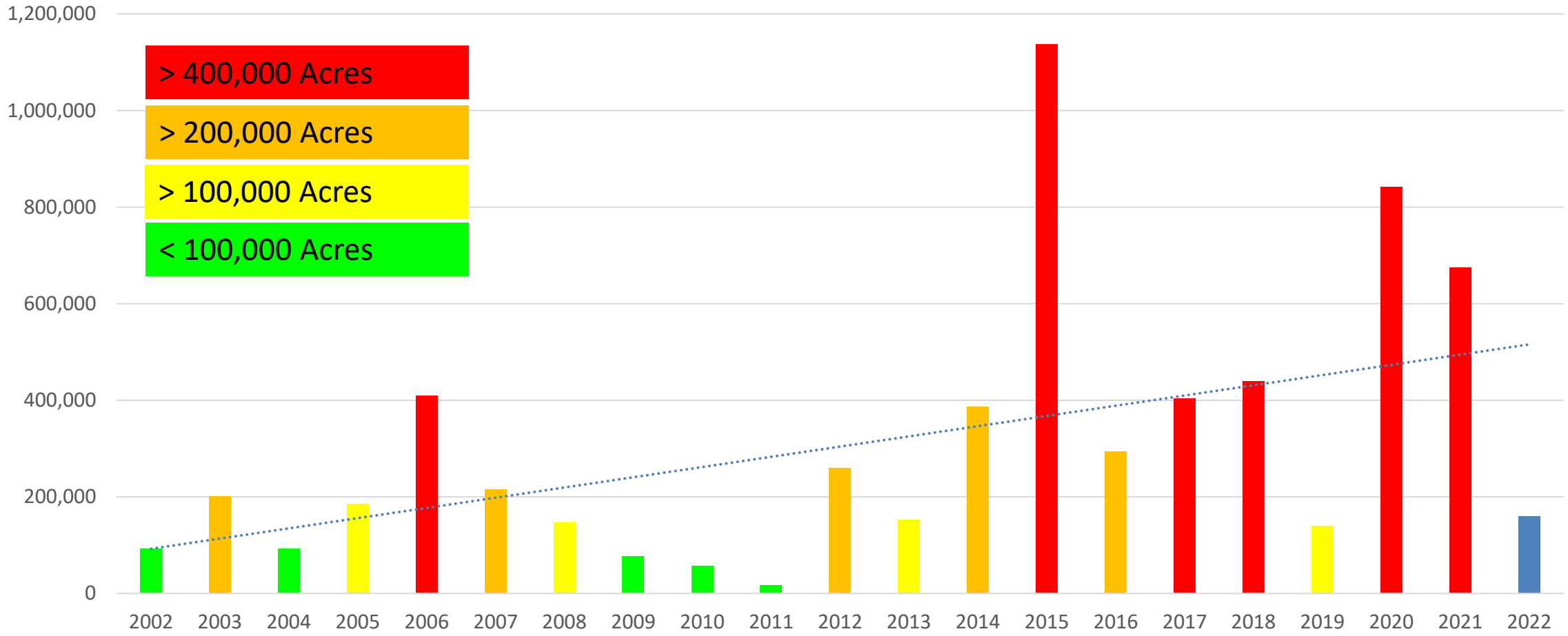
Disaster Growth







Acres Burned Since 2002



(Source: NIFC)

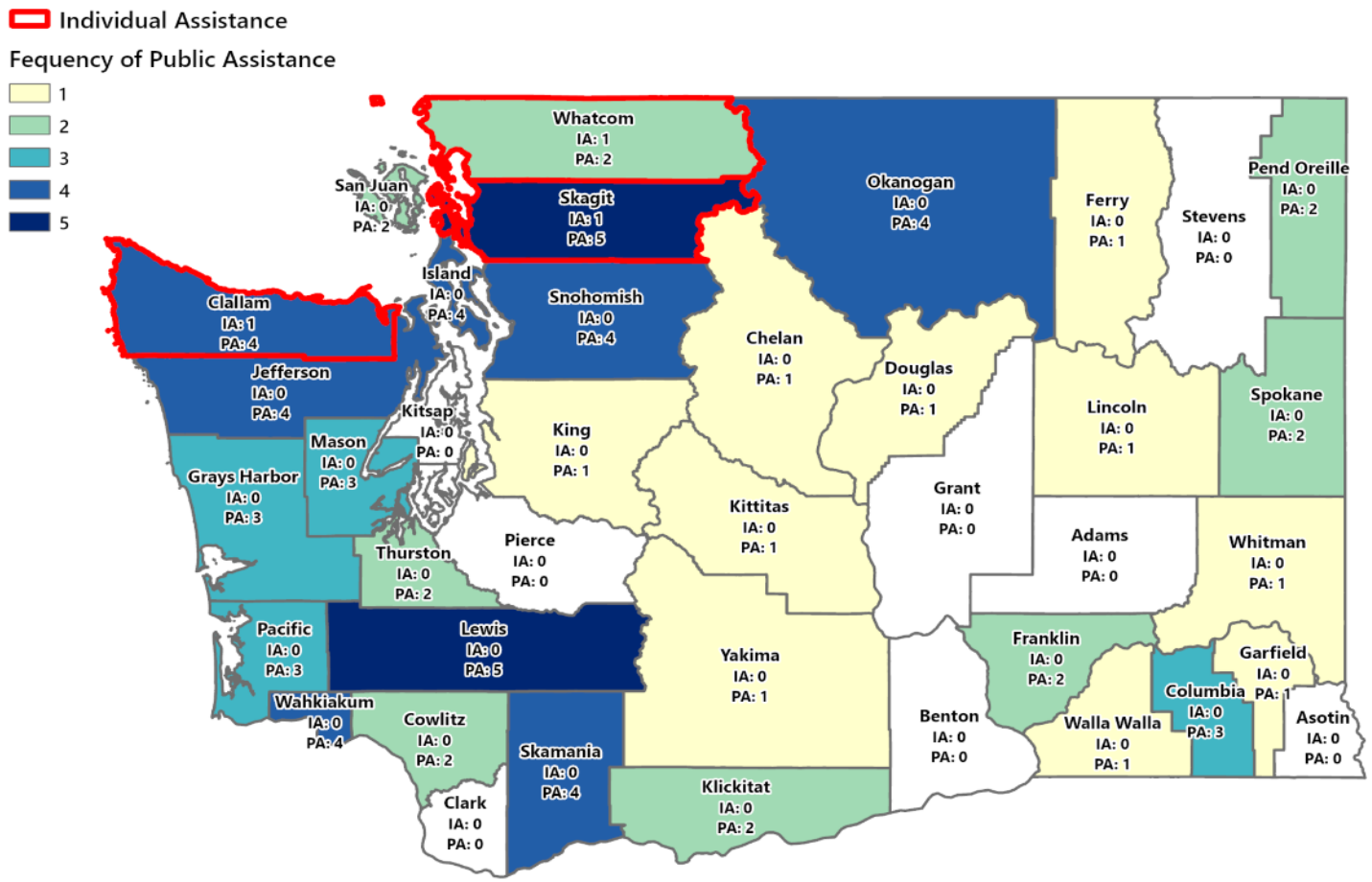
Average 2003-2012: 166,211

Average 2013-2022: 467,535

Polycrisis in WA

Compounding Disasters

Active Major Disasters in Washington State by County
4539, 4584, 4593, 4635, 4650, 4682

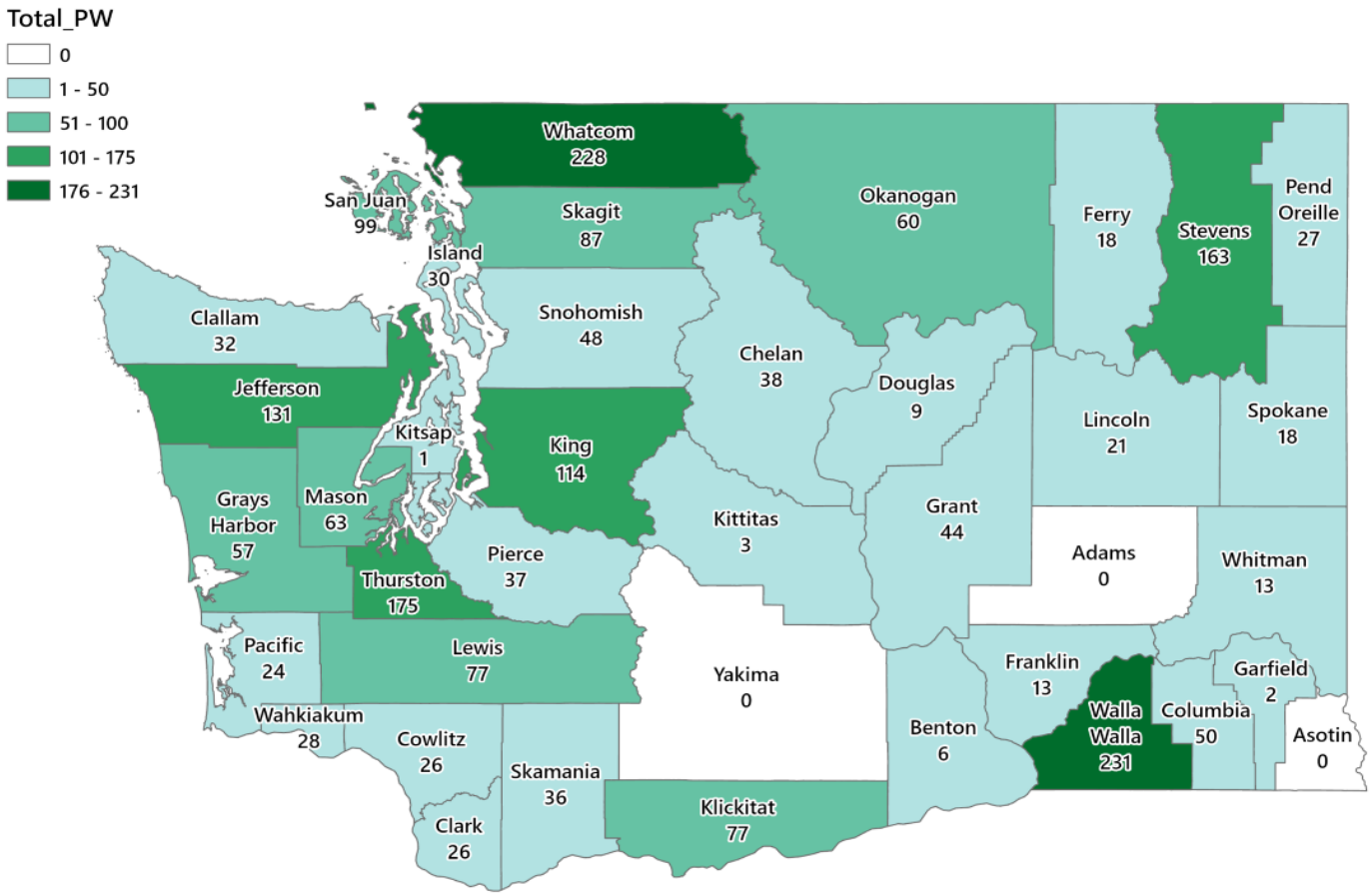


Current as of 1/13/2023

Polycrisis in WA

Compounding PA Recovery Projects

Public Assistance Project Worksheets for Washington Disasters:
4539, 4584, 4593, 4635, 4650, 4682



Current as of 1/12/2023

Short Term Issues

- Increased disaster load due to climate change
- Lack of state programs to assist individuals and communities impacted by disasters
  - Individual assistance
  - Public assistance
- Enabling access to mitigation grants for small and impoverished communities
- Direct support to local emergency management during disasters
- Reauthorization of match for State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program

Long Term Focus

- Resiliency of critical infrastructure
- Preparedness for a catastrophic event
- Continuity of operations and continuity of government planning
- Aging/inadequate emergency communications infrastructure
- Statewide emergency management capacity and resourcing

State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program

- Notice of funding opportunity September 16
- $3,666,530 available to Washington State
  - 4-year performance period (12/1/2022-11/30/2026)
  - 10 percent match required first year of grant (increases for subsequent awards)
  - 80 percent pass through to local jurisdictions
  - 25 percent to rural jurisdictions
- Application submitted by 15 Nov deadline
- Award pending development of required cybersecurity plan
  - Anticipated completion 6/2023

Questions