

# Appendix D: Ecology Public Notice Documents

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## Tribal Outreach

### Letter to tribes July 22, 2021



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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711 for Washington Relay Service • Persons with a speech disability can call 877-833-6341

July 21, 2021

Dear Chairperson:

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) extends this offer for government-to-government discussion to you and other tribal governments on the updated Smoke Management Plan (SMP) that Ecology will be proposing to include in the state's air quality plan.

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) updated the state's 20-year-old SMP. The purpose of the SMP is to coordinate and facilitate the statewide regulation of prescribed, silvicultural (forestland) burning on lands under the authority of DNR, and on unimproved, federally managed forestlands and participating tribal lands.

In Washington State, several agencies share outdoor burning oversight and authority. Specific jurisdiction depends on the type of burning conducted. DNR has authority and responsibility to regulate silvicultural burning throughout the state and on participating tribal lands.

DNR made some changes to the existing, 1998 SMP. For some changes, they conducted an analysis to show how the SMP will continue to protect the federal National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and the state's regional haze goals. They convened a task force, held several focus groups and conducted a webinar over the last few years. Ecology, DNR, and EPA collaborated to ensure that the updated plan would continue to protect people, Washington's scenic vistas, and meet federal Clean Air Act requirements.

The SMP is part of Washington State's State Implementation Plan (SIP). The SIP contains state and local rules, plans, and programs that direct how the state implements, maintains and enforces air quality standards and achieves visibility goals. Washington's Clean Air Act (Chapter 70.94 RCW) requires compliance with the federal CAA requirements and gives Ecology legal authority to manage the SIP. Ecology's Director, as the Governor's Designee, has responsibility for the SIP. Ecology submits all SIP revisions to EPA for review and approval. Ecology is also responsible for visibility/regional haze plan updates.

After DNR submits the final, draft SMP and supporting documents to Ecology, we will solicit public comments and hold a hearing. We will ask for feedback on whether we should submit the SMP to EPA. After the comment period, Ecology will decide whether to adopt the plan and submit it to EPA to replace the 1998 version in the SIP. We will notify you when we plan to open the formal comment period.

Chairperson  
July 21, 2021  
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After Ecology submits the plan and documents, EPA Region 10 staff will review them, hold a separate public comment period, respond to any comments, and transmit the submittal to EPA headquarters. The 2021 SMP, once approved, will become part of the SIP.

Ecology's mission is to protect air quality for people. We recognize the importance of prescribed burning as a tool for forest management and reducing wildfires. At the same time, we know that with good planning, implementation and oversight, burners can conduct prescribed burning safely and minimize smoke impacts. With careful consideration for timing of approvals, and using best smoke management practices that can minimize smoke, forest health burning can be conducted with minimum impacts to people and public vistas.

Please contact my assistant, Marilyn Turnbow, at [marilyn.turnbow@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:marilyn.turnbow@ecy.wa.gov) or (360) 407-6879, by August 21, 2021 if you would like to schedule a government-to-government discussion on the issue of the DNR's SMP SIP submittal. Although DNR sent invitations for government-to-government consultation in January 2021, Ecology is also providing this separate invitation. DNR is responsible for the SMP and Ecology is responsible for submitting it to EPA for incorporation into the SIP.

If you have questions about the SIP process, please contact Laurie Hulse-Moyer at (360) 522-6610 or [laurie.hulse-moyer@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:laurie.hulse-moyer@ecy.wa.gov). For questions about the SMP, please contact Karen Zirkle at [karen.zirkle@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:karen.zirkle@dnr.wa.gov) or (360) 902-1315.

Sincerely,



Kathy Taylor  
Air Quality Program Manager

cc: Heather Bartlett, Deputy Director  
Tyson Hawk Oreiro, Executive Advisor for Tribal Affairs  
Laurie Hulse-Moyer, Environmental Planner  
Tribal Natural Resources Director  
Karen Zirkle, Department of Natural Resources

# Key message handout at EPA-Tribal Air Quality Monthly Call, May 13, 2022

## Washington State Smoke Management Plan SIP Update

Martha Hankins, Policy & Planning Section Manager, Washington State Department of Ecology  
May 13, 2022

The Washington State Department of Ecology is responsible for the state air quality implementation plan (SIP). It consists of rules, plans and programs to protect air quality, and includes the Smoke Management Plan (SMP) developed by the Washington Department of Natural Resources.

- Ecology and DNR have been working cooperatively toward replacing the 1998 SMP currently in the SIP. This is the first update for the Washington SMP in over 20 years. It is a significant update with a number of substantive operational changes.
- We consulted with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency about federal Clean Air Act requirements.
- DNR is responsible for forestland (silvicultural) burning across the state. DNR's updated Smoke Management Plan includes burn approval procedures, practices and techniques to minimize smoke impacts, and an action level to maintain fine particulate matter concentrations below the federal health-based standards.

Ecology is seeking comments on whether the updated 2022 Smoke Management Plan should replace the 1998 version currently in Washington's SIP.

The SMP:

- Outlines the burn approval process and other practices and techniques to minimize smoke impacts and prevent exceedances of federal health-based air quality standards.
- Describes procedures and requirements for DNR and burners to minimize smoke impacts and protect Washington communities from smoke from forestland burning.
- Includes burn approval procedures, practices, and techniques to minimize smoke impacts and an action level to maintain fine particulate matter concentrations below the federal health-based standards.

Key changes from the 1998 plan are:

- Aligning DNR's authority with language in state law ([RCW 70A.15.5140](#)), to deny forest burning if air pollution levels will exceed federal air quality standards.
- Removing the prohibition against summer weekend burning.
- Notifying burners of permission to ignite their units by 4:30 pm the day prior to ignition.
- Allowing burning inside Urban Growth Areas (UGA) on forestland under DNR fire protection, with additional precautions.
- A complaint tracking section to help burners, the public, and regulators respond to and resolve any smoke-related complaints.

Public comment period May 25 - June 30, 2022

- Ecology will be accepting public comments on whether DNR's 2022 SMP should replace the

1998 SMP in the SIP. The SMP and supporting documents will be posted on the Ecology website by May 25, 2022.

- A public hearing will be June 28, 2022, at 6:30 pm through Zoom.
- After receiving and responding to public comments, Ecology will submit the plan to EPA later this summer.