STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR BOB FERGUSON

January 21, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Through: Mr. Vincent Maykovich
Acting Regional Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
Region 10
130 228th Street Southwest
Bothell, WA 98021-9796

Dear Mr. President:

Historic flooding struck Washington state in December 2025, caused by a series of atmospheric rivers battering the state, one after another. For 18 days, the rain was unrelenting. Three of the state's largest rivers broke all-time record flooding levels, and about 30 other rivers flooded as well. Levees and dikes were breached, causing sudden and severe flooding in industrial and residential areas.

The agricultural heartland of the state's west side was devastated by river flooding and landslides that took out farms and access to major roads, including two interstates and three U.S. highways. Farmers, rural residents, and small businesses suffered the most from the storms. Many farmers had significant losses, including eroded land, livestock deaths, saturated fields, damaged crops, equipment loss, barn damage, and damage to employee housing and primary dwellings. I declared a statewide emergency to mobilize all available state resources and our state's National Guard for emergency assistance. Thirteen counties and seven Tribal Nations declared states of emergency or disaster. More than 100,000 people were under evacuation orders, 383 emergency rescues were conducted, one person lost their life, and nearly 4,000 homes were damaged.

A video highlighting the devastation is available at this link:
https://ofmwagov.box.com/s/om9xrf8di0b58pbstvodxq83lwsf0kai.

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 its implementing regulations, 44 CFR § 206.36, I request that you declare a Major Disaster for the State of Washington as a result of the damages caused by this continuous series of severe atmospheric rivers, flooding, landslides, high winds, and mudslides that occurred from December 5, 2025, through December

22, 2025. This historic disaster is of such severity and magnitude that effective recovery exceeds the capability of the state and local governments in impacted areas, requiring supplemental federal assistance to recover from this disaster.

I am specifically requesting the Individual Assistance Program for the following counties:

- Chelan County
- Grays Harbor County
- King County
- Lewis County
- Pacific County
- Pierce County
- Skagit County
- Snohomish County
- Thurston County
- Whatcom County

Additionally, we are requesting Individual Assistance for the following federally recognized Tribes:

- Lummi Nation
- Muckleshoot Indian Tribe
- Nisqually Indian Tribe
- Nooksack Indian Tribe
- Puyallup Tribe
- Quinault Indian Nation
- Samish Indian Nation
- Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe
- Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe
- Snoqualmie Indian Tribe
- Squaxin Island Tribe
- Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians
- Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
- Tulalip Tribes
- Upper Skagit Indian Tribe

This request for Individual Assistance includes the following programs: Mass Care and Emergency Assistance, Crisis Counseling Assistance and Training Program, Disaster Unemployment Assistance, Disaster Legal Services, Disaster Case Management, and the Individuals and Households Program.

In response to the extreme winter storms and atmospheric river-driven flooding, I declared a statewide emergency on December 10, 2025, to mobilize state resources and seek federal support. I formally requested an expedited federal emergency declaration from you, Mr. President, on December 10, and you approved that request on December 12, 2025. FEMA Emergency Declaration EM-3629-WA authorized direct federal assistance for emergency

protective measures in numerous counties affected by severe storms, flooding, landslides, and mudslides.

The following information highlights the severity of this disaster:

- Three of our state's largest rivers (Skagit, Snohomish, and Cedar) reached their highest levels in recorded history.
- A total of 33 rivers exceeded flood stage, with 18 of those exceeding major flood stage.
- Approximately 3,891 homes were damaged statewide, with 440 homes being destroyed or sustaining major damage.
- The storms resulted in one fatality, 383 emergency rescues, and approximately 1,000 assisted evacuations.
- More than 100,000 people were ordered evacuated, including the residents of two entire cities.
- 34 state-managed transportation routes were severely impacted, including portions of two interstate highways and three U.S. highways.
- Amtrak Cascades rail service was suspended for four days between Vancouver, B.C., and Seattle, WA, due to weather-related rail line disruptions.
- Around 450,000 customers experienced power outages during the disaster.
- At the peak, 15 emergency shelters were operating.
- One skilled nursing facility, with its 78 patients, was evacuated; two additional facilities closed due to flooding; one Level 3 facility sheltered in place for multiple days; and one facility operated on generator power for three days.
- Seven Tribal Nation emergency declarations and 13 county disaster declarations were issued.
- 20 county and Tribal emergency operations centers were activated.
- 151 resource requests were submitted to the State Emergency Operations Center.

Damages to public infrastructure are still being collected at this time. A request for Public Assistance and the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program will be made on or before February 18, 2026. We appreciate FEMA's recent extension of our deadline to February 18 to submit the separate request for Public Assistance, which will allow sufficient time to conduct initial damage assessments and complete joint preliminary damage assessments with FEMA.

Weather Conditions

From December 5-19, 2025, a strong and persistent area of high pressure developed over the southwest coast of the United States, directing a series of catastrophic atmospheric rivers directly at Washington state. This pattern also resulted in much warmer than normal temperatures and high snow levels that brought overlapping impacts—including record-breaking flooding, landslides, mudslides, high winds, coastal flooding, and winter storms—to Washington. These impacts persisted through December 22, 2025. Between December 6-19, 2025, many river basins across the state experienced between 20 to 30 inches of precipitation (Figure 1), which is **300 to 600 percent** of normal precipitation in what is typically a very wet time of year in Washington state. (Figure 2.) According to the National Resource Conservation Service's (NRCS) Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) precipitation data, the vast majority (87.5 percent) of sites with at least 20 years of data recorded their highest 14-day precipitation totals on record for December 6-19, while the remaining (12.5 percent) recorded their second-highest observations on record. (Figure 3.)

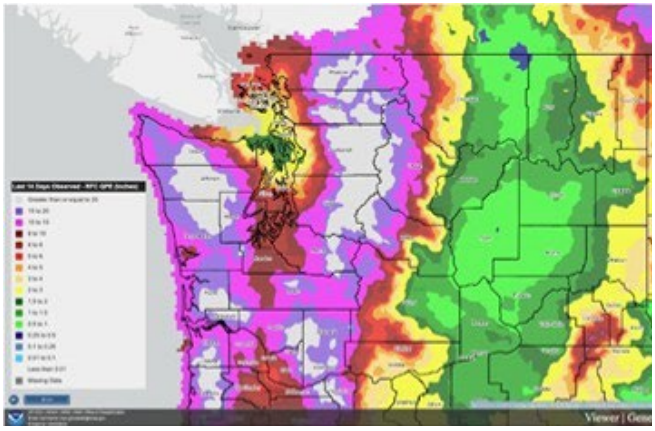

Figure 1: Observed precipitation December 6-19, 2025, based on NWS River Forecast Center Quantitative Precipitation Estimate analysis. Widespread rainfall totals between 20-30 inches were observed across the mountains of western Washington. Not shown are several locations that received 30-40 inches of rain during this period.

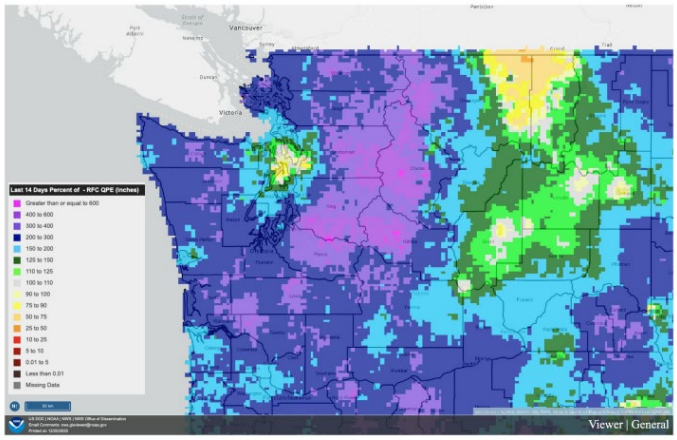

Figure 2: Percent of normal precipitation 14-day precipitation between December 6-19 based on NWS River Forecast Center Quantitative Precipitation Estimate analysis. Nearly all of western Washington experienced more than 200% of normal precipitation. Between 300-600% of normal precipitation was observed across much of the central and northern cascades. (NRCS.)

Water vapor transport into Washington associated with this event averaged **280 to 360 percent** of normal from December 2-13 (Figure 4). This highly anomalous and persistent feed of moisture was a direct result of the persistent high-pressure system over northern California directing back-to-back atmospheric rivers into Washington.

A shift in this pattern that occurred on December 16, 2025, significantly contributed to the complexity of this event. (Figure 5.) Between December 5-15, 2025, high pressure over northern California and weak low pressure over southwest Canada resulted in atmospheric river activity that brought extreme precipitation to Washington. On December 16, 2025, high winds caused significant damage to trees and above-ground power infrastructure, which led to widespread power outages. This hampered flood response efforts across the state amid an already challenging situation.

During this 18-day period, continuous significant weather-related impacts occurred across Washington due to river and coastal flooding, winds, and winter precipitation. Across the state, 33 separate rivers exceeded flood stage, with 18 of those exceeding major flood stage and three of the largest rivers reaching record levels. (Figure 6.)

A total of 19 counties across Washington saw flooding impacts due to surging rivers and streams. Figure 7 outlines the county-level flooding information, provides the highest National Weather Service (NWS) Flood Category reached by county, and the associated water bodies.

Meteorological Timeline & Impacts – December 5-7, 2025

High pressure began to develop over northern California between December 5-7, 2025, directing the first of multiple atmospheric rivers toward Washington. This first round of moisture resulted in 3-6 inches of precipitation across the Cascade and Olympic Mountains and increasing the base flows on rivers across the state. This set the stage for amplified impacts from the upcoming precipitation. (Figure 8.) In addition, strong winds of 45-55 mph were seen across western Washington, and even stronger winds of 45-65 mph were recorded in eastern Washington.

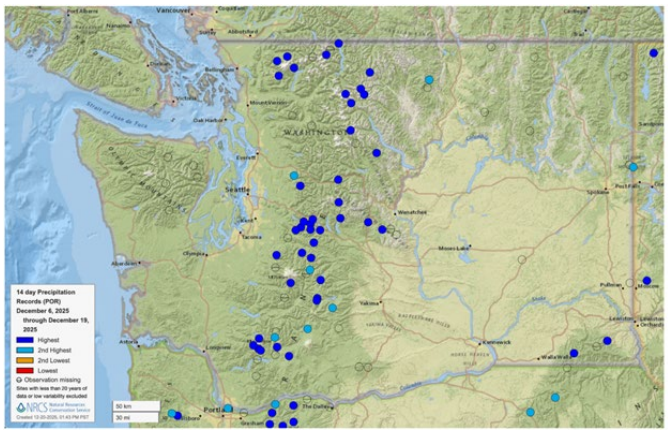

Figure 3: 14-Day observed precipitation rank for NRCS observation sites. The majority of observation sites recorded their highest 14-day precipitation totals on record for the period December 6-19, 2025. Data courtesy National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

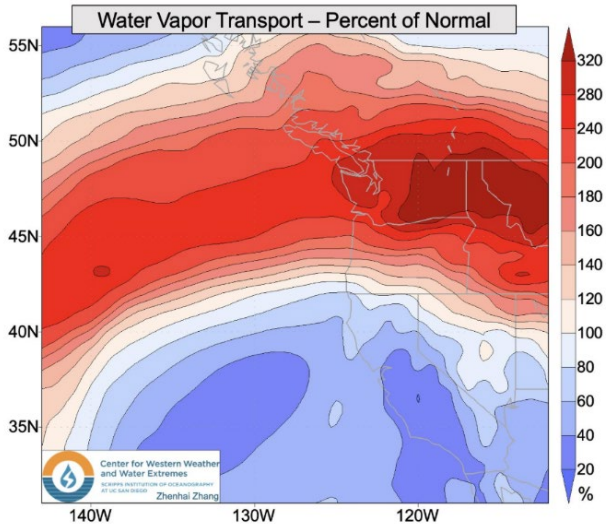

Figure 4: Average water vapor transport as a percentage of normal conditions (1979-2024) during December 8-12, 2025 (UTC), based on NCEP CFSv2 analysis data. Image courtesy of the Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes (CE3E).

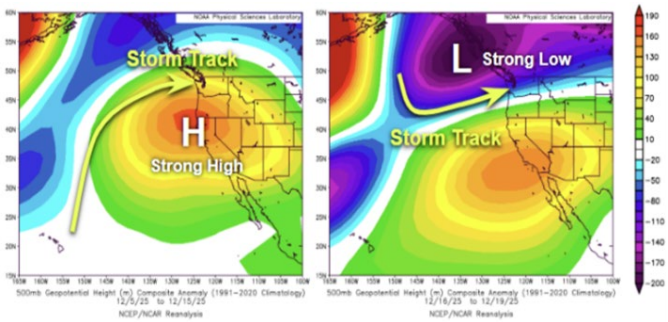

Figure 5: Upper level (500mb) Weather Pattern Anomalies between Dember 5-15 and December 16-19 based on the NCEP North American Regional Analysis. A strong and persistent area of high pressure over northern California directed atmospheric river moisture towards Washington state through December 15. Beginning December 16 a Gulf of Alaska low strengthened and resulted in a significant increase in winds across the region.

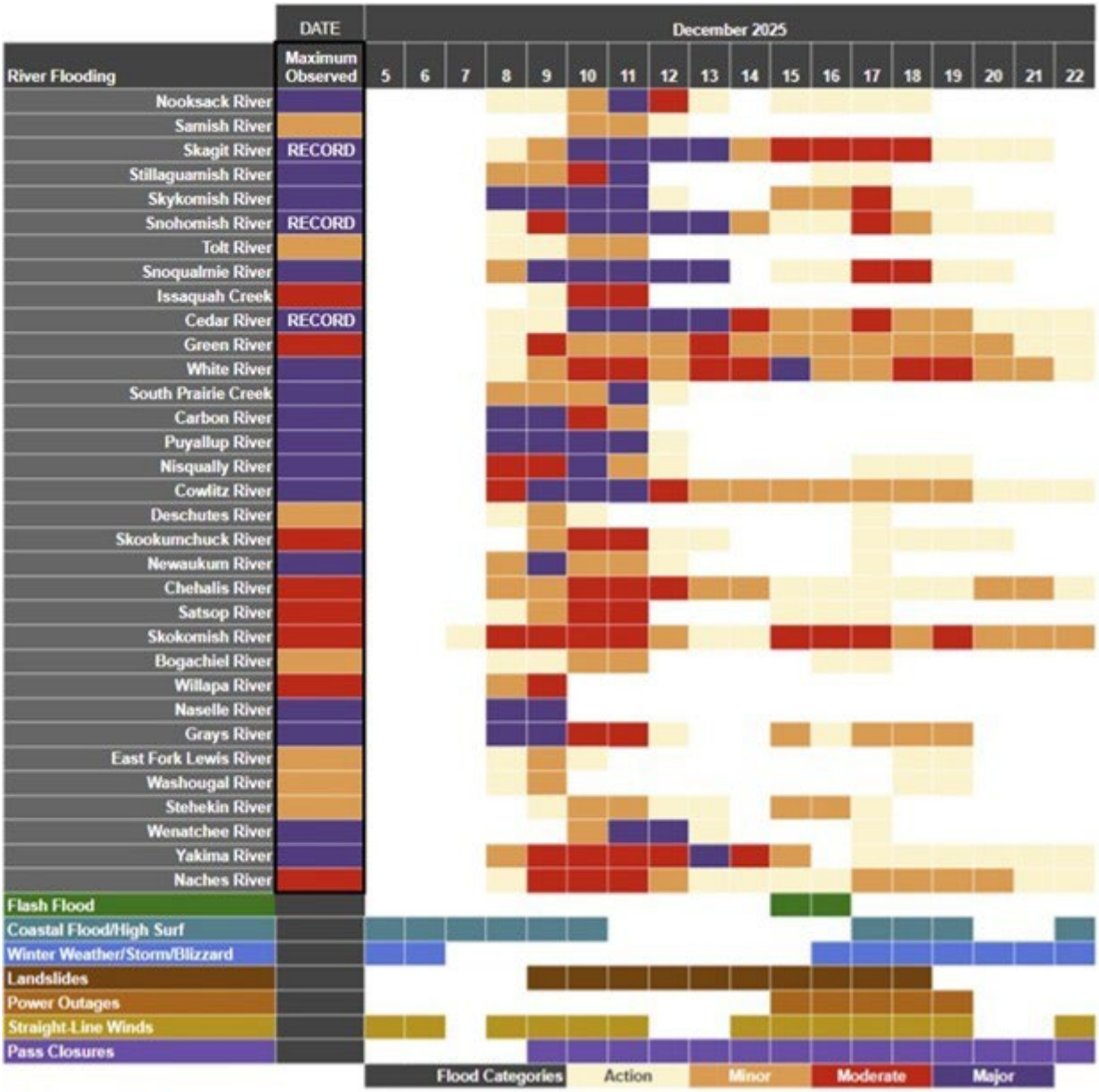

Figure 6: Timeline of flooding, landslides, high winds, power outages, winter weather, and pass closures across Washington from December 5-22, 2025.

County	River	River Gage Flood Level
Asotin		No flooding
Benton	Yakima	Major
Chelan	Wenatchee	Major
Clark	East Fork Lewis	Minor
Clark	Washougal	Minor
Clallam	Bogachiel	Minor
Cowlitz	Cowlitz	Minor
Grays Harbor	Chehalis	Minor
Island		No flooding
Jefferson	Hoh	Road/Bridge Damage due to Flooding
King	Cedar	Major
King	Snowqualmie	Major
Kittitas	Yakima	Moderate
Lewis	Cowlitz	Major
Mason	Skokomish	Moderate
Okanagan		No flooding
Pacific	Naselle	Major
Pierce	Nisqually	Major
Pierce	Puyallup	Major
Skagit	Skagit	Major
Skamania		No flooding
Snohomish	Skykomish	Major
Snohomish	Snohomish	Major

Figure 7: County-level flooding information including highest NWS flood stage level reached and associated rivers.

Meteorological Timeline and Impacts – December 8-15, 2025

Beginning December 8, 2025, multiple rounds of extreme precipitation impacted Washington as several strong atmospheric rivers pounded the state. With river levels already elevated from the December 5-7 events, rivers rapidly rose above flood stage across the state. Beginning December 8, atmospheric river activity was focused across the central and southern Cascades, and the most sensitive rivers in these areas—including the Skykomish, Carbon, Puyallup, Naselle, and Grays Rivers—rapidly exceeded major flood stage. Atmospheric river activity then spread north from December 9-10, 2025, causing a number of other large rivers to rapidly reach major flood stage between December 9-12, 2025—including the Nooksack, Skagit, Stillaguamish, Snohomish, Snoqualmie, Cedar, Nisqually, and Cowlitz Rivers. The Skagit, Snohomish, and Cedar Rivers all rose to historically high levels in this time frame, resulting in unprecedented flooding. Further north, the Nooksack River in Whatcom County began to overflow its banks near Everson, WA, sending water north well out of the typical path and causing major flooding in Sumas, WA, and north into British Columbia, Canada.

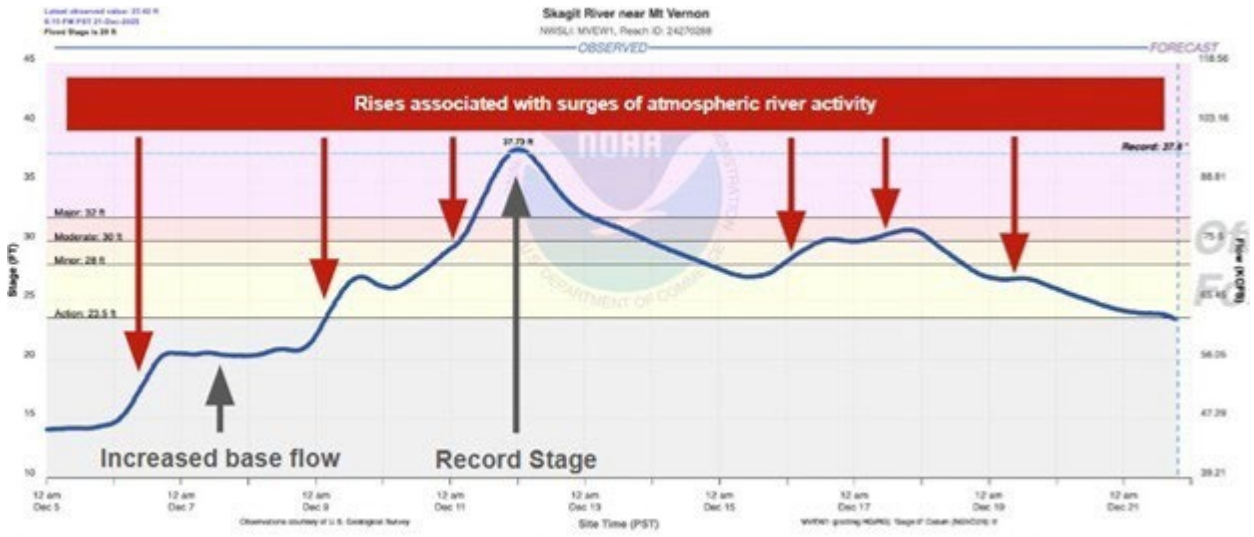

Figure 8: Observed river stage for the Skagit River near Mount Vernon from December 5-21, 2025. Observations at this site indicate rises associated with at least six surges in atmospheric river activity. Furthermore, this illustrates the increased base flow associated with atmospheric river activity between December 5-7, 2025, which contributed to the record-setting flood stage reached early on the morning of December 12, 2025.

Along and east of the Cascade crest, extreme precipitation and flooding resulted in significant damage to two of the three major wintertime east-west routes across the state. The critical east–west roadways U.S. Highway 2 and U.S. Highway 12 both sustained significant damage, with U.S. Highway 2 closing indefinitely.

Atmospheric river activity continued through December 15, 2025. During this timeframe, dam-regulated rivers began to experience increased flooding as reservoirs filled and water releases became necessary. This extended period of high flows increasingly strained these river systems, and levees became saturated under immense pressure. Several levee and dike breaches occurred in Washington during this period. Two notable examples were a breach along the Green River in Tukwila on December 15, 2025, resulting in flooding in industrial areas of Tukwila, Kent, and Renton; and another breach along the White River in the city of Pacific. This resulted in rapid residential flooding in the city early in the morning of December 16, 2025.

Meteorological Timeline & Impacts – December 16-19, 2025

Beginning December 16, 2025, the high pressure across California weakened and shifted south while a strong low pressure developed off the coast of Washington. This directed a vigorous storm track and strong winds across the region, which peaked from December 16-17, 2025. Widespread winds in excess of 50 mph battered the state, with many locations exceeding 60 and even 70 mph. (Figure 9.) The combination of these high winds along with already-saturated soils resulted in widespread tree and power infrastructure damage. This in turn caused statewide power outages for more than 378,000 customers at the peak of the event. Meanwhile, heavy rainfall continued during this period, resulting in another increase in river levels across the state.

Peak Winds (mph)
DEC 16-17, 2025

Location	mph	Location	mph
White Pass	114	Smith Island	66
Alpental Ski Area	112	Greenwater	63
Rattlesnake Mtn	85	Moses Lake	60
Snoqualmie Pass	82	Wenatchee	60
Pullman	81	Freeland	60
Mission Ridge	80	Toke Point	59
Union Gap	76	Walla Walla	59
Spokane	75	Kapowsin	59
Whidbey Is. NAS	71	Graham	59
Paradise	71	Hoquiam	58
Colton	70	Possession Sound	58
Hanford	69	Port Townsend	56
Centerville	69	Ellensburg	56
Sequim	69	Arlington	55
Easton	68	North Bend	53
Tumwater Mtn	67	Tacoma	52
Westport	67	Ferndale	51
Tri-Cities	66	Seattle	51
Dallesport	66	Renton	51

Figure 9: Selected observed peak wind speeds in miles per hour (mph) for December 16-17, 2025.

Meteorological Timeline & Impacts – December 20-22, 2025

Between December 20-22, 2025, while rivers started to slowly recede, river flooding from prior events continued across the state. Cooler temperatures began to limit additional flooding, but brought heavy snowfall to the mountains as well as occasional strong winds.

State and Local Impacts and Response

Spanning nearly three weeks, the multiple major atmospheric river and winter weather systems repeatedly impacted Washington. This persistent extreme weather pattern produced high winds and extreme rainfall, driving major coastal, riverine, and localized urban flooding; soil saturation; landslides and mudslides; streambanks and slope erosion; fallen trees and debris; and widespread hazardous conditions. Impacts were recorded across Washington, affecting homes and residents, businesses, agriculture, transportation corridors, and critical infrastructure.

Statewide impacts included large-scale evacuations, life-safety incidents requiring rescue operations, prolonged disruptions to electrical services and other essential systems, and widespread damage to private property. In multiple communities, flooding reached levels not seen in decades, if ever. Despite the scale and rapidly evolving life-safety threats, Washington's early mobilization and sustained response operations helped limit loss of life to one fatality. Statewide, 3,773 homes were affected, thousands of residents were displaced, approximately 383 rescues were conducted, and more than 1,000 individuals were assisted through evacuation orders affecting more than 100,000 people.

Beginning December 2, 2025, the Washington State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) Alert and Warning Center (AWC) conducted continuous 24/7 monitoring and real-time dissemination of NWS warnings and briefings, river flood conditions, evacuation information, transportation disruptions, and electrical outages. Throughout the incident, the AWC also coordinated essential support to statewide emergency response activities to maintain situational awareness and facilitate timely decision-making.

As impacts intensified and resource demands increased, the SEOC elevated from Level 3 – Enhanced Monitoring to Level 2 – Partial Activation on December 8, 2025, and then to Level 1 – Full Activation at 1200 hours on December 9, 2025.

In response to the significant atmospheric river and winter weather event, I issued Emergency Proclamation 25-07 on December 10, 2025. The proclamation extended emergency assistance statewide and authorized a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) driver hours-of-service waiver pursuant to 49 CFR § 390.23. The waiver applied to motor carriers and CMV drivers providing emergency relief through the delivery of livestock feed and dairy farm products and supplies. The waiver was effective for 14 days from the date of issuance. On December 12, 2025, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services declared a public health emergency for Washington following widespread damage caused by strong winds, flooding, landslides, and mudslides.

As impacts continued to escalate, I issued amended Emergency Proclamation 25-07.1 on December 16, 2025, to specifically identify the severity of impacts in Benton, Chelan, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, King, Kittitas, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, Whatcom, and Yakima Counties. This amendment authorized the activation of the state's Family Emergency Assistance Program (FEAP). I extended FEAP benefits to individuals and families without children, as authorized under Wash. Rev. Code § 74.04.660(6) during a state of emergency and pursuant to executive order. Funding for Washington's Disaster Cash Assistance

Program (DCAP) was also available from December 17, 2025, until funds were depleted on December 23, 2025. There were 3,149 applications for this program, with 2,637 households receiving assistance, totaling $988,242.54 in state cash assistance provided to survivors.

On December 23, 2025, I issued further amended Emergency Proclamation 25-07.2 to expand coverage to Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Franklin, Ferry, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kittitas, Lewis, Mason, Okanogan, Pacific, Pierce, Pend Oreille, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Spokane, Stevens, Thurston, Wahkiakum, Whatcom, and Yakima Counties. This amendment, accompanied by a request to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, extended the CMV driver hours-of-service waiver to include emergency debris-hauling activities. Continuous debris removal was essential to mitigate immediate threats to public health and safety, restore access, and support the re-establishment of essential services. Without the waiver extension, commercial drivers would have been unable to complete critical deliveries and response operations within federally prescribed hours-of-service limits, resulting in significant disruptions to livestock feed and dairy farm product supply chains, as well as delays in removing debris that was needed to mitigate health and safety hazards.

Throughout the flooding disaster, state agencies utilized all available state resources to assist affected political subdivisions in both response and early recovery operations. The Washington Military Department's (WMD) Emergency Management Division (EMD), with support from the Washington National Guard, coordinated incident-related assistance to impacted areas. Following the issuance of Emergency Proclamation 25-07 on December 10, 2025, the Washington National Guard mobilized roughly 400 soldiers and airmen across Skagit, Snohomish, and King Counties, rapidly expanding operational capacity under immediate-response authority to support flood mitigation and lifesaving missions. This included sandbag production and placement, aviation rescue support, evacuations, and traffic control. The Washington National Guard also postured ground vehicle assets to reach cut-off communities and support levee patrol and protection missions as conditions evolved. During the multi-week event, state agencies, Tribal Nations, and local jurisdictions activated Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) and Emergency Coordination Centers (ECC) and issued emergency declarations to support coordinated response efforts.

State and local emergency management agencies, in coordination with Tribal governments and partner organizations, continued response and recovery operations focused on protecting life safety, restoring essential services, and supporting impacted communities. To assist residents navigating long-term recovery, particularly in the most heavily impacted counties of Skagit and Whatcom, I authorized $3,500,000 in emergency funding to support immediate relief and recovery needs.

Figure 110 - Rooftop rescue in Sumas, Whatcom County, WA.

Disaster-Impacted Population Profile

The most heavily impacted counties include Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, King, and Lewis, with the most severe flooding concentrated in rural, low-lying areas within river floodplains. These communities are characterized by limited transportation access, dispersed populations, and a strong reliance on agriculture, natural resources, and land-based industries for employment and local economic stability. Flooding in these areas resulted in disproportionate impacts to farms, agricultural infrastructure, rural residences, and small businesses—many of which are located in areas with repeated exposure to flood hazards and limited capacity for rapid recovery.

Community Resilience Estimates developed by the U.S. Census Bureau using data from the 2023 American Community Survey (ACS) identify factors that influence a community's ability to recover following a disaster. These factors include poverty status, household caregiving responsibilities, housing crowding, communication barriers, employment characteristics, disability status, health insurance coverage, age (65 and older), access to vehicles, and broadband internet access. Statewide, an estimated 17.3 percent of Washington's population meets three or more risk factors. By comparison, Whatcom County has an estimated rate of 17.7 percent, Skagit County 19.3 percent, Snohomish County 15.4 percent, King County 15.5 percent, and Lewis County 22.9 percent.

While some of these counties have overall resilience estimates near or below the statewide average, the most severe flooding occurred in rural census tracts with substantially higher concentrations of risk factors. These areas include agricultural valleys, Tribal lands, and small rural communities where households often depend on floodplain lands for housing, farming, and employment tied to natural-resource-based economies. For example, the Lummi Nation in Whatcom County experienced significant impacts when flooding closed all roadway access to

the community; the associated census tract has a resilience risk estimate of 22.7 percent. Similarly, the town of Concrete in Skagit County, located along the Skagit River and surrounded by steep terrain, has a resilience risk estimate of 32.4 percent.

In rural agricultural areas, flooding caused extensive damage to cropland, livestock facilities, farm equipment, access roads, and irrigation systems, directly disrupting livelihoods and regional food production. Many farmers and rural landowners experienced losses not only to current production but also to the land itself, as floodwater scoured fields, deposited debris, and removed topsoil. These impacts represent long-term economic losses that extend beyond the immediate disaster period and significantly reduce the ability of affected households and businesses to recover without external assistance.

Taken together, these population characteristics and impact patterns indicate that many of the hardest-hit communities face heightened challenges in absorbing, withstanding, and recovering from the physical, economic, and social effects of this disaster. The concentration of impacts in rural floodplain communities with limited infrastructure redundancy and strong dependence on natural-resource-based economies underscores the need for sustained recovery support across affected counties.

	Resident Population	Percent Population over 65	Population with Disability, under 65 Years	Percent Persons in Poverty	^3+ Components of Social Vulnerability
US Average	340,110,988	18.0%	9.1%	10.6%	20.6%
Chelan County	81,228	21.8%	12.5%	10.2%	21.8%
Grays Harbor County	77,893	24.5%	15.1%	15.1%	24.1%
King County	2,340,211	14.6%	6.9%	8.8%	15.5%
Lewis County	87,049	22.0%	14.0%	13.7%	22.9%
Pacific County	24,245	35.3%	15.0%	13.1	24.3%
Pierce County	941,170	15.5%	9.9%	9.9%	15.7%
Skagit County	132,736	23.6%	10.0%	9.7%	19.3%
Snohomish County	864,113	15.5%	8.5%	8.8%	15.4%
Thurston County	302,912	19.6%	11.0%	9.9%	12.3%
Whatcom County	234,954	19.6%	9.9%	12.9%	17.7%

*Population estimates based on July 2024 dates from US Census.
^ US 2023 Census Bureau Community Resilience Estimates Viewer

Local Impact and Response Overview

Whatcom County

Beginning on December 8, 2025, Whatcom County experienced a severe storm system that produced significant riverine flooding, landslides, and high winds, resulting in residential

impacts, evacuation operations, road closures, and disruptions to essential services. As flooding forecasts for the Nooksack River rapidly escalated from December 8-9, 2025, local jurisdictions, Tribal governments, and the county ECC coordinated to prepare for life-safety threats and potential displacement in communities that have experienced multiple major flooding events in recent years.

As the storm intensified, local swiftwater search and rescue (SAR) teams were supplemented by state all-hazards fire service mobilization swiftwater teams and federal support, including U.S. Coast Guard and U.S. Customs and Border Protection search and rescue assets. Pre-staging these resources was critical to conducting rescue operations in areas cut off by debris, landslides, floodwaters, and roadway closures. Local, state, Tribal, and federal support was coordinated through the Whatcom Unified ECC in Bellingham.

Figure 11 - Aerial imagery of flooding in a neighborhood in Everson, Whatcom County, WA.

On December 10, 2025, flooding and slope failure caused widespread residential impacts across Whatcom County. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDA) identified 1,248 homes impacted, including 159 with major or destroyed damage, reflecting substantial displacement pressure and significant repair and replacement needs. Within these broader impacts, two residences were destroyed as the Nooksack River overtopped its banks in the foothills, sweeping homes and outbuildings downriver. In the Maple Falls area, a third home was destroyed by a landslide. No major injuries or fatalities were reported. Level 2 (Get Set) and Level 3 (Go) evacuation notices were issued for residents in the cities of Everson, Nooksack, Sumas, Ferndale, and surrounding areas, to reduce life-safety risk as floodwater continued to rise. Local water-treatment and power infrastructure were taken offline or put into bypass to reduce impacts.

Essential services disruptions compounded household impacts during the event. In the city of Everson, the wastewater treatment plant sustained approximately three feet of floodwater inside the facility, forcing a complete shutdown of the plant and contributing to contamination concerns in floodwaters that flowed through Everson and downstream into the city of Nooksack and city of Sumas. Water treatment for Everson and Nooksack was also offline for several days, creating public health hazards and increasing hardship for residents managing flooded homes, evacuation, and limited access to basic needs.

Figure 12: A home on Truck Road, being swept away along the Nooksack River, Whatcom County, WA.

As floodwaters rose from the Nooksack River and its tributary creeks, numerous roadways flooded, hampering response and evacuation efforts and isolating communities. For the Lummi Nation near the mouth of the Nooksack River, Slater Road and Marine Drive—the primary access routes—were underwater for multiple days, limiting access to food, medication, and delaying delivery of response resources. In the foothills, the two bridges that provide access to the Mosquito Lake area were cut off, trapping residents for up to eight days.

On December 11, 2025, SAR crews shifted operations downstream to the city of Ferndale as waters began to crest in lower river areas. Crews worked overnight to provide rescue services to affected neighborhoods. Floodwaters finally began to recede in Everson, Nooksack, and Sumas on December 12, 2025, but residual impacts and re-entry challenges persisted. Everson City Hall, having finalized repairs from prior flooding in October 2025, took 8-10 inches of water, reducing local service capacity during the recovery. Fire stations in downtown Everson and Sumas were also inundated, highlighting the operational challenges of sustaining emergency services while flood impacts affect response facilities.

As the storm continued into the following week, high winds caused additional infrastructure damage and power outages, including on Lummi Island. Wind impacts damaged the Lummi Island ferry dock, restricting movement on and off the island and delaying response access until emergency repairs were completed, increasing hardship for households in need of power, heating, and essential supplies.

Economic impacts also intensified household hardship during recovery. The only grain mill operating in Western Washington which supplies feed to dairies and other agribusiness throughout the state is in Sumas, and it was taken offline for more than seven days due to flooding. Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) railway infrastructure that runs to the mill was not repaired until December 20, 2025. Current estimates for impacts on local small businesses are well above $2 million, with reporting still incomplete.

These conditions produced substantial displacement pressures and unmet household needs in Whatcom County, including extreme residential flooding, destruction of and major damage to housing, access limitations for Tribal and rural communities, disruptions to water and wastewater services, and overlapping wind-related utility outages that affected heating, communications, and access to essential supplies. The scope and duration of these impacts exceed local capacity and demonstrate the need for federal assistance to support impacted residents, stabilize housing, and address disaster-related needs during recovery.

Figure 13: 2Flooding at Boots Bar and Grill on Maple Street in the town of Hamilton, Skagit County WA, where Skagit River floodwaters inundated downtown structures and surrounding residential areas, contributing to near-total evacuation and prolonged displacement.

Skagit County

Beginning on December 10, 2025, Skagit County experienced severe riverine flooding and landslides that produced widespread residential impacts across the Skagit River corridor, from the Upper Skagit through Mount Vernon. During this incident, the Skagit River reached levels exceeding established flood records. Heavy precipitation and elevated river levels resulted in rapid inundation and flooding of homes, prolonged standing water, and road closures in both rural and urban areas, creating significant displacement and unmet household needs. Many affected communities are in low-lying floodplain areas with limited structural flood protection and constrained access routes, which increased life-safety risk, delayed safe re-entry, and prolonged recovery timelines for impacted households.

As river levels rose, flooding expanded along an approximately 50-mile stretch of the Skagit River corridor, affecting communities from Concrete and Hamilton through Sedro-Woolley, Burlington, and Mount Vernon as well as rural areas in the lower river corridor. On December

10, 2025, Skagit County issued town-wide evacuation notices in Concrete for residents within the 100-year floodplain due to forecast crest levels that placed the community at risk of becoming isolated. During this same operational period, multiple landslides occurred within and adjacent to Concrete, including areas near the Mill Addition neighborhood, Burpee Hill Road, and Shannon Lake Road, prompting Level 2 and Level 3 evacuation notices due to ongoing slope instability and life-safety concerns. Flood impacts also closed State Route (SR) 530, further isolating the community and complicating response and re-entry. Burpee Hill Road remains closed, and residents below the slide area remain under Level 2 evacuation status while temporary access measures and long-term stabilization options are evaluated.

On December 11, 2025, the Skagit River crested at levels exceeding all previously recorded benchmarks. Elevated river levels corresponded with widespread residential inundation, roadway submergence, and sustained isolation in multiple locations. In Burlington's Gages Slough neighborhood, backwater effects overtopped drainage infrastructure and flooded multiple contiguous residential blocks, submerging roadways and forcing evacuations in an area that had not previously experienced flooding. In Sedro-Woolley and Mount Vernon, elevated river levels and backwater effects drove flooding into residential areas, including neighborhoods outside protected areas contributing to displacement and housing recovery needs in population centers where affordable rental housing is limited.

In Hamilton, rapidly rising floodwater inundated residential areas and isolated the community, prompting near-total evacuation and requiring lifesaving swiftwater rescue for an individual who became surrounded by floodwater. Across rural Skagit County, particularly in low-lying floodplain corridors including the Cape Horn area, homes were surrounded by water and access routes remained submerged for extended periods, delaying re-entry for emergency home repair.

*Figure 14: Aerial image of Cape Horn flooding in Skagit County WA.*3

Many residents experienced extended displacement and loss of income during the recovery period, further increasing household financial hardship.

The Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (JPDA) identifies 784 homes impacted countywide, including 106 with major or destroyed levels of damage. Across impacted areas of Skagit County, floodwater and sediment intruded into main living areas and basements, damaging personal property, drywall, insulation, appliances, siding, foundations, and staircases. Prolonged moisture exposure and debris deposits contributed to mold growth and contamination concerns that delayed re-occupancy and increased repair costs. Many households have damage requiring professional remediation beyond the homeowner's financial capacity. Damage to heating and electrical systems combined with cold winter temperatures affected habitability, causing extended displacement of affected households.

Numerous residents were displaced due to unsafe living conditions, loss of non-traditional housing such as recreational vehicles (RVs) and camping trailers, or damage to vehicles used as a primary residence. Limited availability of affordable rental housing severely constrains re-housing options, increasing the likelihood of prolonged displacement and reliance on external assistance. Impacted households include individuals with medical and functional needs who rely on consistent access to healthcare services. Damage to housing and vehicles disrupted access to medical care and transportation for many. Many residents lacked adequate insurance coverage or faced policy exclusions—particularly for home-based businesses, agricultural operations, and non-traditional dwellings—leaving critical repair and recovery needs unmet.

Figure 15: Mold growing on walls in residence.

Flooding disrupted household incomes due to business evacuations, road closures, and safety concerns. Local businesses were forced to close for multiple days during a critical holiday period, resulting in lost wages for employees and reduced household income at a time when many residents were simultaneously facing housing damage and displacement. Continued access challenges and uncertainty regarding insurance coverage have prolonged financial stress and delayed recovery for affected households. Income disruption during displacement increases unmet needs for temporary housing, essential repairs, and replacement of damaged personal property.

Disaster Assistance Centers (DACs) in Skagit County served as a critical access point for impacted residents seeking recovery support. Approximately 300 individuals sought in-person assistance over the first four days of DAC operations, reflecting sustained demand for housing, financial, and recovery assistance. Of those served, 106 individuals enrolled in Disaster Case Management through The Salvation Army, indicating significant ongoing unmet needs requiring longer-term recovery support.

DAC utilization does not represent the full scope of impacted households. Barriers to accessing assistance, such as displacement, transportation limitations, medical vulnerability, language access needs, and work obligations, prevent many residents from attending DACs in person. While DAC utilization provides an indicator of the level of need, barriers to access suggest additional unmet needs among harder-to-reach households.

The cumulative effects of record river levels, widespread residential inundation, prolonged isolation in rural corridors, recurring road closure, and winter-related habitability loss created significant displacement and unmet household needs across Skagit County. These conditions support the need for federal assistance to stabilize housing, make essential repairs, address personal property losses, and assist displaced households during recovery.

Figure 16: Residential structure adjacent to active slope failure along South Skagit Highway, where flooding and slope instability resulted in evacuation orders and unsafe-to-occupy conditions. This home is located between Hamilton and Sedro-Woolley, Skagit County, WA.

Snohomish County

Beginning on December 5, 2025, Snohomish County experienced a series of severe storm systems that brought heavy precipitation, flooding, and high winds, resulting in significant residential impacts, displacement, and repeated life-safety incidents. River levels rose to record-setting stages on the Snohomish River, exceeding all previously recorded flood levels and contributing to rapid inundation and prolonged access constraints in low-lying areas. These impacts resulted in extensive displacement, loss of power, loss of safe access, disruptions to safe drinking water, and significant unmet household needs, particularly among low-income residents and those in manufactured housing.

As river levels rose and flood risk escalated, Snohomish County Diking District #1 requested U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) flood-fight assistance on December 9, 2025, to stabilize a levee along the Snohomish River and prevent overtopping or a potential breach. USACE was also called in to perform emergency repairs on levees in the city of Gold Bar and unincorporated Snohomish County. An estimated 790 residents were urged to evacuate due to the flooding, and dozens of homes were destroyed or suffered major damage. Some rural areas along the Snohomish River are still underwater at the time of submission. Ongoing inundation continues to delay re-entry and emergency repairs, contributing to extended displacement.

Transportation corridors were severely disrupted. On December 10, 2025, U.S. Highway 2 was closed between Index and Coles Corner (mileposts 35–85), spanning Snohomish, King, and Chelan Counties, due to multiple washouts and mudslides that rendered the roadway impassable. This closure constrained emergency access and delayed the movement of supplies and services needed to support displaced residents and stabilize damaged homes, while also limiting access to fuel, food, and medical services for communities in this corridor. The closure was expanded on December 11, 2025, to include Tumwater Canyon east of Stevens Pass (milepost 99), further isolating communities and significantly disrupting travel, commerce, and emergency response access. Local businesses dependent on winter travel experienced substantial disruption during the peak holiday period, contributing to household income loss at the same time residents faced housing damage and displacement.

Figure 17: The Three Rivers Mobile Home Park in Snohomish County, WA on December 11, 2025.

Evacuation operations were conducted across the county to protect life and safety. On December 10, 2025, approximately 100 residents were directed to evacuate from Ebey Island, as were residents from a mobile home park in Monroe and the Three Rivers Mobile Home Park. As river levels continued to rise, evacuations were implemented throughout the 100-year floodplain, including the Tualco Valley and portions of downtown Sultan, with an estimated 790 residents subject to evacuation orders. Not all residents heeded evacuation orders or road closure signs, resulting in one fatality, as well as water rescues of 68 people and 19 pets. On December 12, 2025, the Snohomish River crested at the major flood stage, exceeding previous recorded flood levels and causing widespread inundation. The Snohomish County Fairgrounds in Monroe

hosted a shelter for displaced residents and activated the emergency livestock stabling plan, which sheltered more than 500 animals.

Impacts to manufactured housing communities increased displacement and unmet needs. More than a dozen homes in the Three Rivers Mobile Home Park had significant water in the living spaces of their units. After the flood waters receded, many residents were unable to return to their homes due to extensive damage to furniture and other personal property. A local nonprofit donated beds to families. Many residents lack the financial capacity to replace other necessities.

Figure 18: Tree impacts to a residence in Granite Falls, Snohomish County, WA.

Residents of the Tualco Valley faced compounded impacts. Homes were flooded and sustained inundation-related losses, including damaged or destroyed equipment and buildings, lost feed and hay, and debris-strewn fields that in some cases will remain flooded until waters recede in spring. Prolonged inundation and road closures delayed re-entry and emergency repairs, contributing to extended displacement and increased unmet needs. Recovery will be challenging for many, as these families face difficult tradeoffs between using their limited financial means to restore their homes and recovering the farms which provide their incomes. Household income disruption during displacement has increased unmet needs for temporary housing and essential home repairs.

Mountain communities were left isolated by washouts and landslides on mountain roads. Homes in Reece's Hideout, a small community inside Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, were cut off by a landslide on their only year-round access road and remained isolated for at least four days before county staff and volunteers worked through the snow to temporarily clear an alternate route. Isolation limited residents' access to food, medication, and emergency services and delayed damage assessment and recovery support. Year-round residents were advised to stock up for the winter or secure temporary housing before additional winter weather conditions made the alternate route impassable.

Damage to public utilities compounded the emergency. On December 12, 2025, the Snohomish County Public Utility District reported numerous customers without power, with response crews facing access challenges due to flooded roadways. By December 15, 2025, power outages had expanded to affect 10,554 customers, with several homes and businesses inundated by floodwater. On December 17, 2025, high winds further escalated impacts, knocking out power to approximately 63,000 customers across the county and creating additional hazards to public safety and emergency response operations. These impacts required the Snohomish County Public Utility District to issue a Major Storm Declaration on December 17, 2025, allowing them to call in mutual aid and extend crew work hours to reestablish power. The sodden soil contributed to trees falling due to wind, damaging additional homes and expanding residential damage beyond flood-affected areas. Prolonged power outages and cold temperatures increased risks for medically dependent residents and households without backup power and reduced the ability to maintain safe indoor temperatures and preserve medications and food.

Figure 19: Impacted farms outside of the city of Snohomish, Snohomish County, WA.

These conditions produced sustained displacement and unmet household needs across Snohomish County, including uninhabitable housing, prolonged power outages, and road closures that delayed re-entry and recovery. Impacts were concentrated among residents in manufactured housing and low-income households with limited ability to recover on their own. These difficulties were compounded by disrupted livelihoods in rural areas and extended isolation in mountain communities. The scope and duration of unmet needs—including

temporary housing, essential repairs, replacement of basic personal property, and support to medically dependent residents affected by prolonged outages—exceeded local and county capacity and support the need for federal Individual Assistance.

King County

Beginning on December 5, 2025, King County experienced severe weather impacts associated with a series of strong storm systems that produced heavy rainfall, rapid snowmelt, and saturated soils resulting in widespread flooding, mudslides, and high winds. These conditions caused residential impacts, evacuations, life-safety incidents, and disruptions to essential services that exceeded local capacity in multiple communities. River levels rose steadily throughout the week, with the Green, White, Cedar, Snoqualmie, and Tolt Rivers all approaching or exceeding major flood stages. The Cedar River reached levels that surpassed recorded benchmarks. The South Fork Skykomish River also reached Phase 3 flood conditions, indicating moderate flooding, while Issaquah Creek entered Phase 1 as defined by the *King County Flood Management Plan* and continued rising, prompting increased monitoring and early protective actions.

By December 10, 2025, flooding and soil saturation triggered multiple mudslides and slope failures across urban, rural, and unincorporated areas, including debris slides along West

Figure 20: Flooded neighborhood in Enumclaw, King County, WA.

Snoqualmie River Road NE, SE Middle Fork Road near North Bend, and Issaquah-Hobart Road SE near Tiger Mountain.

Incorporated cities experienced impacts including street flooding in Carnation and Duvall, stormwater system overloads in Auburn, and tree-related roadway blockages in Bellevue and Issaquah. Road closures and debris blockages intermittently isolated neighborhoods, limiting access for emergency services and delaying safe re-entry.

During this same period, conditions along the U.S. Highway 2 corridor deteriorated rapidly as repeated washouts, mudslides, and debris flows forced the full closure of the highway between Skykomish and Stevens Pass. Multiple miles of roadway sustained significant damage, and the corridor remained closed beyond the pass due to extensive slope failures and unstable terrain. The closure isolated upper-corridor communities of Skykomish, Index, and surrounding unincorporated areas, severely limiting residents' access to essential goods, medical services, and fuel. Compounding these impacts, widespread power outages affected the entire corridor for a week, creating prolonged displacement pressure and unsafe living conditions for households without reliable heat or communications. Local businesses, particularly those dependent on winter recreation traffic, reported substantial economic disruption, resulting in lost wages for affected residents.

As river flows increased, the South Fork Skykomish River experienced significant debris accumulation. On December 11, 2025, a large log struck the Baring Bridge, causing structural damage to the bridge deck and railings and prompting immediate closure for safety inspections. This closure cut off a community, limiting access to large vehicles including emergency services vehicles and trucks carrying propane that residents rely on for heating and cooking, directly affecting household safety and habitability during winter conditions. Concurrently, the Cedar River Water and Sewer District experienced a major water main break caused by flooding-related erosion and ground movement along the Cedar River. This failure prompted the issuance of a boil water advisory and disrupted drinking water service, creating public health concerns and increasing unmet household needs.

Flooding conditions continued to worsen, and on December 13, 2025, State Route 167 was closed in both the city of Kent and the city of Auburn due to roadway inundation, significantly affecting commuter travel and freight movement throughout the Green River Valley. Local streets in Kent, Auburn, and Pacific also experienced widespread flooding, with stormwater systems overwhelmed and several industrial-area roadways rendered impassable. These impacts disrupted access to homes and essential services and delayed delivery of supplies and recovery resources into affected neighborhoods. The widespread flooding also compromised farms and agricultural land.

As river levels continued to rise, floodwaters overtopped and strained levee systems across the county. On December 15, 2025, the National Weather Service Seattle Weather Forecast Office issued a Flash Flood Warning for portions of the cities of Tukwila, Renton, and Kent following a levee breach along the Green River near Tukwila. King County's Office of Emergency Management activated emergency alerting systems, including Wireless Emergency Alerts and reverse-911 notifications, to warn residents of conditions threatening life-safety. Levee breach and overtopping conditions increased the likelihood of rapid-onset residential inundation and substantial household displacement. Cities along the Green River, including Kent, Auburn, and Pacific, implemented protective measures and closed additional streets due to rising water and concerns that water would overtop the levee.

Figure 21: White River levee breach and flood inundation in the city of Pacific in King County, WA.

In the early morning hours of December 16, 2025, at approximately 1:39 a.m., an additional Flash Flood Warning was issued after a separate levee breach along the White River. This incident prompted a Level 3 - "Go Now" evacuation notice for affected residents and businesses. In the city of Pacific, more than 200 households were impacted by flooding along the White River, resulting in emergency overnight evacuation of more than 600 residents from their homes and overwhelming local sheltering capacity. King County, Auburn, Pacific, and partner

jurisdictions coordinated with the American Red Cross to open several emergency shelters and warming centers to support displaced individuals.

Figure 22: Flooding in the city of Auburn in King County, WA.

Flooding and erosion also caused significant damage to county-owned and maintained roads. Cumberland Kanaskat Road SE, SE Green River Gorge Road, Neal Road SE, Upper Preston Road SE, and West Snoqualmie River Road NE all sustained shoulder loss, embankment erosion, culvert overtopping, and slope instability. Additional flooding and debris flows affected SE Middle Fork Road, Novelty Hill Road, and other rural corridors, further limiting mobility in unincorporated communities. Incorporated cities also reported infrastructure impacts, including stormwater system failures in Renton and Maple Valley, debris blockages of roadways in Issaquah and Bellevue, and repeated closures of SR 203 affecting access to Carnation and Duvall. These access issues limited residents' ability to obtain essential supplies and services.

On December 17, 2025, high winds further compounded emergency conditions across King County, with gusts exceeding 80 miles per hour in some areas. These winds caused widespread treefalls, power outages, and additional hazards. Cities including Bellevue, Redmond, Shoreline, SeaTac, and Federal Way experienced significant tree damage and utility outages, while downed power lines contributed to additional road closures across the region, preventing residents from accessing essential services.

Throughout the incident, King County emergency management, public works, and flood control staff maintained continuous 24-hour monitoring of river levels, levees, and flood control infrastructure to assess evolving risks and respond to emergent threats. The King County Sheriff's Office, local police, and local fire and rescue department, with support from FEMA urban search-and-rescue resources, conducted dozens of water rescues and used drones and helicopters to survey conditions and support alerting. Intensive rescue operations were required due to direct life-safety threats to residents and limited ability to shelter in place in rapidly changing flood conditions. Sustained operations involving repeated field inspections, sandbagging operations, debris clearance, and real-time coordination with state and federal partners significantly strained local personnel and resources over multiple weeks, requiring support from the Washington National Guard.

Flood damage also caused a portion of State Route 410 between the city of Enumclaw and town of Greenwater to fail, with sections of the roadway collapsing into Boise Creek. This segment of SR 410 was closed for an extended period, further impacting mobility and access for these communities.

The cumulative impacts of these severe weather events resulted in hundreds of homes damaged across King County, evacuations associated with levee breaches, prolonged difficulty gaining access to isolated areas, widespread utilities disruptions, and repeated life-safety incidents requiring rescue operations. These impacts included rapid onset flooding in densely populated river valleys and prolonged isolation in the U.S. Highway 2 corridor, where extended closures and outages limited residents' access to heat, fuel, food, medical services, and reliable communication. The Cedar River water main failure and resulting boil water advisory further affected household habitability and increased public health concerns. The magnitude and duration of residential impacts, combined with displacement pressures and constraints on safe re-entry and recovery logistics, exceeded local capacity, requiring federal Individual Assistance to properly address unmet household needs.

Lewis County

Beginning on December 8, 2025, Lewis County experienced a prolonged and escalating storm sequence that produced severe and repeated flooding, extensive infrastructure damage, and sustained life-safety threats. The incident created widespread damage to homes, preventing safe occupancy and causing displacement and unmet household needs, particularly in remote areas where blocked road delayed assistance and limited safe re-entry. Major river systems—including the Cowlitz River, Chehalis River, Skookumchuck River, and Newaukum River—all crested, or were forecast to crest, within overlapping operational periods. In addition to these mainstem rivers, numerous small creeks and tributaries experienced rapid flooding, overtopping banks, damaging roadways, and impacting residences with little to no warning. Rivers and creeks in eastern Lewis County ultimately crested three separate times before the weather system concluded. In several locations, floodwaters caused significant channel migration and avulsion, undermining foundations, damaging and destroying homes, altering access routes, and in some cases eliminating properties altogether, leaving parcels no longer buildable or recognizable from pre-event conditions. The repeated crests and channel shifts extended the amount of time that

roads and neighborhoods were inundated, delayed recovery actions, and left residents and responders operating under hazardous conditions for a protracted period.

As flooding intensified, flooded or inaccessible roads rapidly isolated communities. Prolonged inundation and debris flows forced repeated closures of U.S. Highway 12, the sole access route serving eastern Lewis County. In total, more than 93 county roads were closed, and 11 communities became fully isolated for multiple days, without power, reliable communications, or access to safe drinking water. This contributed to displacement and prolonged unsafe living conditions for impacted households. For many residents, isolation prevented timely access to emergency services and essential needs, creating life-threatening conditions.

Figure 23: Exit 72, Interstate 5 in Lewis County, WA.

The impacts to eastern Lewis County occurred in extremely rural areas, where many residents live as far as 70 to 90 miles from alternative housing options, major grocery stores, pharmacies, and medical services. When transportation corridors failed, residents had no reasonable alternative routes to obtain essential goods or services. This rural isolation increased unmet needs for food, water, medical support and temporary housing, and reduced residents' ability to relocate on their own or finance repairs without assistance. This geographic reality significantly magnified the human consequences of the disaster and limited residents' ability to self-recover.

Much of Eastern Lewis County relies on private wells and septic systems, both of which were compromised by floodwater. Small community water systems serving neighborhood associations were also impacted, disrupting potable water and sanitation. As main roads became unusable, residents were left without potable water, sanitation, or the ability to obtain food and medical supplies. Loss of potable water and sanitation created immediate public health concerns. Under

Figure 24: Flooding on the Cowlitz River cutting off access to homes and farms in Randle, Lewis County, WA.

these conditions, ferrying necessities across flooded rivers became essential to sustaining isolated populations. These operations were conducted under hazardous and rapidly changing conditions, often while water levels were still rising.

Life-safety incidents during this event were widespread, rapidly evolving, and severe. Flood behavior was described by locals as unprecedented in speed and volatility. During peak conditions, a local fire chief observed the Cowlitz River rise approximately 1.5 feet within a single hour, leaving residents with little to no warning and severely limiting evacuation windows. Many had to leave without their belongings, critical documents, medications, and personal vehicles, increasing the likelihood of long-term displacement and unmet needs.

Figure 25: Cascades Peaks in Randle, Lewis County, WA.

Figures 26 and 27: RVs and Conex boxes being swept away by the Cowlitz River in Cowlitz County, WA.

As floodwater rose with extraordinary speed, Lewis County responders conducted more than 35 swiftwater rescues—many occurring at night, in fast-moving water, and amid significant floating debris, including vehicles, RV remnants, and structural materials. While a designated swift-water rescue team conducted water rescue operations, overall response efforts were significantly challenged by the rural nature of local fire districts, where approximately 90 percent of fire department personnel are volunteers. These volunteer responders continued to answer medical and fire calls (including for one structure fire), throughout the incident under conditions of extended response times, constrained access, limited staffing, and, in some cases, responder isolation due to road closures and power outages. Limited responder capacity and prolonged road closures contributed to delayed assistance and increased hardship for affected households.

In Randle, conditions became severe enough that the Randle Fire Department prepared for potential evacuation of its fire station as floodwater rose to within approximately one foot of entering the facility. While the main station structure was narrowly spared, multiple outbuildings were impacted, further stressing emergency response capacity during the incident. This occurred while widespread residential impacts and repeated crests increased demand for life-safety operations and sheltering support.

Several rescues illustrate the immediacy and danger faced by residents:

- In one incident, a family was affected by floodwaters that rapidly overtook their home. The father recognized the severity of the situation when he observed his own boat floating past the second story of the residence, indicating that floodwater had risen beyond all expected levels. With water continuing to rise, the family escaped through a second-story window, and with use of their own boat, they were then rescued by emergency responders.

- In another rescue, an individual attempting to flee floodwater drove around a bend near one of the river islands and was suddenly met by a wall of water, caused by rapidly changing river dynamics and backflow. The individual was overtaken and required immediate swiftwater rescue. First responders later reported that conditions in this area changed with little to no warning, leaving virtually no margin for error for residents attempting to evacuate.

These incidents were representative of broader conditions across eastern Lewis County, where rapid river rise, limited visibility, debris-choked currents, and road closures combined to necessitate repeated rescue scenarios. These accounts demonstrate limited evacuation time, loss of personal property, and acute displacement pressures consistent with significant unmet household needs. The speed at which water levels increased significantly reduced residents' ability to self-evacuate safely and placed extraordinary strain on emergency response resources already limited by rural staffing models.

Residential impacts were extensive and disproportionately affected vulnerable populations. More than 30 RVs, many serving as primary residences, were destroyed by floodwater. These losses represent not only physical damage, but complete displacement for residents who often lack insurance, savings, or alternative housing options. The destruction of RVs created immediate humanitarian needs and long-term housing instability in areas already facing limited housing availability.

Debris from destroyed residences and infrastructure created additional hazards. Several RVs and multiple vehicles were swept into the Cowlitz River, and at least three Connex storage containers were identified in the Cowlitz and Tilton rivers. These large debris items pose serious environmental risks, navigation hazards, cultural impacts, and complex removal challenges. Their recovery exceeds local technical and financial capacity and will require specialized equipment, environmental oversight, and interagency coordination.

Figure 28: Water rescue from Hamilton Road in Napavine, Lewis County, WA.

Sheltering operations were required as residents were displaced or cut off from essential services. Two emergency shelters were established, one in Chehalis and one in Packwood. The Packwood shelter's experience highlights the extraordinary nature of this disaster. Early in the operations, the shelter was initiated and operated by a local community member and his family, reflecting the rural culture of residents who typically "handle their own" until conditions make that

impossible. Lewis County Emergency Management and The Salvation Army provided initial support with sheltering supplies, food, and water, until the American Red Cross was able to access the community several days later. This grassroots response underscores both the resilience of the community and the severity of the flooding experienced.

Figure 29: Flooding in the city of Chehalis, only two blocks from the Lewis County Department of Emergency Management.

A significant windstorm moved through Lewis County during this same time, resulting in widespread power outages. For already isolated communities, the loss of electricity further limited residents' ability to heat homes, preserve food, communicate with emergency services, or receive situational updates. Prolonged power outages combined with cold temperatures disproportionately impacted older adults, medical device dependent residents, and low-income households with limited backup power options. These overlapping hazards intensified physical and emotional stress on affected individuals and families.

Recovery operations began while life-safety response was still ongoing. Damage assessments, debris management, sheltering, water distribution, and emergency access operations occurred simultaneously, quickly exceeding local staffing, logistical, and financial capacity. The repeated nature of the flooding events prolonged displacement, delayed repairs, and eroded residents' ability to recover between impacts.

Figure 30: Damaged home off Cowlitz River in Packwood, Lewis County, WA.

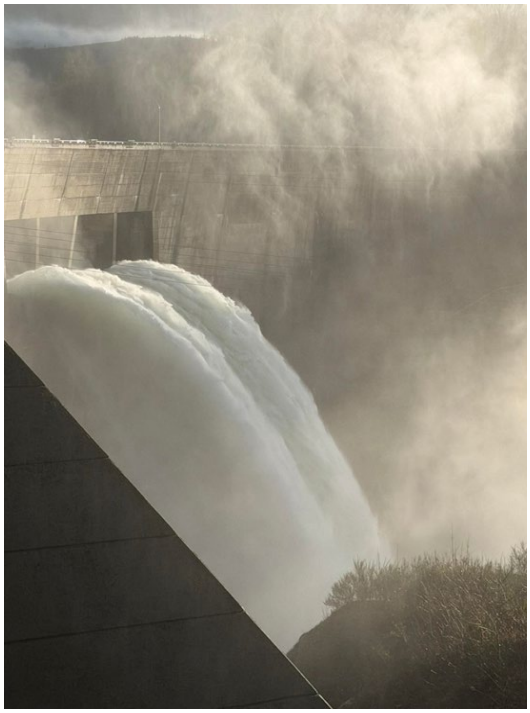

Figure 31: Mossyrock Dam in Lewis County, WA, increased outflow.

Finally, the impacts to major transportation routes in Lewis County created regional consequences beyond county boundaries. Closures along U.S. Highway 12 and other critical corridors disrupted not only local access but also freight movement, emergency response, and travel across Washington and the broader Pacific Northwest. For impacted households, these closures also prevented access, slowed delivery of food, water, and medical supplies, and complicated temporary housing and repair logistics. These routes serve as vital east–west connections, and their loss placed strain on neighboring jurisdictions, supply chains, and statewide response coordination.

The cumulative effects of this incident in Lewis County were driven not only by flooding severity, but by repeated crests and channel shifts that prolonged inundation, damaged or eliminated critical roads, and in some locations undermined or eliminated properties altogether. These conditions produced extended displacement and led to the loss of safe access, power, potable water, and sanitation across isolated communities. Rapid river rise and limited evacuation time increased the significant personal property loss and created immediate life-safety threats requiring rescue operations, while the destruction of RVs and other non-traditional primary residences intensified housing instability for under-resourced households. Shelter operations, emergency distribution, and continued access constraints reflect sustained unmet needs and limited local capacity to support recovery at this scale, requiring federal Individual Assistance.

Pierce County

Beginning on December 10, 2025, and continuing for multiple days, urban flooding, riverine flooding, and landslides caused significant damage and impacts to residential and business areas in Pierce County, including to multiple mobile home and RV parks. More than 50 households, identified as low-income and having access and functional needs, were affected by floodwater and related hazards. Multiple homes were rendered unsafe or uninhabitable, necessitating evacuations and emergency assistance for displaced residents. In the town of South Prairie and the town of Wilkeson, road washouts caused by floodwater and landslides delayed safe evacuations, re-entry, and access to essential services. Pierce County officials issued Level 3 evacuations to 549 residents and Level 2 evacuation orders to 1,507 residents during the incident.

Figure 32: Puyallup River Flooding December 2025 - Alderton Area of Pierce County, WA.

As conditions worsened, Pierce County officials conducted approximately 100 rescues and facilitated dozens of evacuations by December 17, 2025. Rapidly evolving conditions resulted in limited time for safe evacuation, requiring large-scale rescue operations. Emergency operations included providing food, clothing, and shelter to impacted residents, as well as the delivery of more than 10,000 sandbags to protect homes, critical infrastructure, and essential facilities from further flood damage. These sustained response efforts required significant personnel, specialized equipment, and logistical coordination, placing substantial demands on local emergency response resources.

On December 17, 2025, severe weather and high winds further compounded emergency conditions across Pierce County. At the height of the incident, more than 90,000 customers were without electrical service after four electrical substations and nine transmission lines were taken offline. The widespread power outages disrupted homes, businesses, and critical facilities and increased risks for households during periods of cold temperatures, particularly for residents with limited resources or functional needs.

As recovery began, debris removal needs were significant. The Pierce County Solid Waste Division managed debris removal through vouchers for residences and businesses to dispose of damaged household goods at three transfer stations. Debris volumes and disposal activity indicate widespread damage to household contents and added recovery costs which can be difficult for low-income households to absorb without assistance.

Figure 33: Wilkeson Creek flooding causing landslide impacting Johns Road E., Pierce County, WA.

As of early January 2026, the Pierce County Damage and Impact Center had collected 131 reports of damages and impacts from 122 residents and 9 businesses, with more than 40 reports of destroyed structures. These reports represent documented impacts to date and show that residential damages, displacement needs, and personal property losses are concentrated among low-income households, residents with access and functional needs, and mobile home/RV park residents. These conditions indicate substantial unmet household need and support the need for federal Individual Assistance to address displacement, restore safe and habitable living conditions, and assist affected households during recovery.

Chelan County

Beginning on December 10, 2025, Chelan County experienced severe and destructive flooding, landslides, and high winds that caused catastrophic damage to residential communities, prolonged loss of essential services, and significant life-safety incidents that exceeded the local capacity to respond. Impacts included uninhabitable housing conditions, evacuations, isolation of remote communities, extended utility outages during periods of cold temperatures, and reduced access to food, medical care, and other necessities, creating substantial unmet needs among affected households.

On December 10, 2025, a significant section of U.S. Highway 2 washed out in Tumwater Canyon, severing a primary east–west transportation corridor across the Cascade Mountains and completely cutting off travel between eastern and western Washington along this route. The loss of this critical highway constrained emergency response operations and complicated residents' ability to evacuate safely, return to damaged homes, and access essential goods and services. The washout also delayed the movement of response resources into the impacted areas, hindering timely assessment and stabilization activities and prolonging displacement and habitability challenges for households in the most affected locations.

As conditions rapidly deteriorated, swiftwater rescues became widespread throughout the county. On December 12, 2025, Chelan County SAR teams rescued 32 individuals from 17 residences. On December 13, 2025, an additional 37 individuals were rescued from 21 residences, including multiple high-risk rescues conducted by helicopter due to impassable roadways, fast-moving floodwaters, debris, and unstable terrain. These rescues were a result of impacts to occupied residences, immediate threats to life and safety, and the inability of households to safely shelter in place. These life-saving operations placed extraordinary demands on emergency responders operating in hazardous conditions.

Widespread power outages further compounded the impacts of the disaster. Approximately 5,000 customers across Chelan County lost electrical service, limiting residents' ability maintain safe living conditions during periods of cold temperatures, refrigerate medications, and power medical devices. The outage and access constraints also affected residents' ability to return home, conduct emergency repairs, and obtain necessities.

The prolonged outage contributed to the closure of the Christmastown Festival in downtown Leavenworth from December 11-14, 2025. The festival, which features more than half a million lights and serves as a major seasonal economic driver for the community, was forced to close due to extensive damage to residential neighborhoods, parking areas, and power infrastructure. Concurrent closures of city streets, county roads, and state highways restricted access for public works crews, significantly delaying debris removal and recovery operations and increasing public safety risks. During this same period, the city of Leavenworth Drinking Water Treatment Plant was offline from December 11, 2025, through December 25, 2025, and the wastewater treatment plant operated in bypass mode for an extended duration. Extended loss of potable water and wastewater treatment increased public health concerns and directly affected household habitability.

Figure 34: Large washout from December 12, 2025, of US 2, west of Leavenworth, Chelan County, WA.

The community of Stehekin experienced some of the most severe impacts in the county. Critical infrastructure was extensively damaged, and evacuations were in effect from December 13-17, 2025. The area had previously been impacted by the 2024 Pioneer Fire, leaving unstable slopes that failed during the storm and triggered multiple landslides throughout the community. A National Park Service water treatment plant was destroyed, leaving residents without potable water. Roads sustained extensive damage, approximately 12 power poles were knocked down, and the Stehekin Landing was destroyed. Damage to these lifelines created acute unmet needs and prolonged barriers to safe re-entry and recovery. As members of a remote community accessible only by foot or a multi-hour ferry ride, Stehekin residents rely entirely on functional infrastructure for basic access to food, water, medical care, and emergency services.

Figure 35: Damage to the wastewater treatment facility in Stehekin, WA.

High winds across Chelan County caused additional widespread disruptions. On December 12, 2025, schools in the towns of Leavenworth, Peshastin, and Beaver Valley were closed due to hazardous conditions and power outages. Cascade Medical Center lost power, and the Mountain Meadows long-term care facility was forced to operate on generator power for an extended period. While emergency power maintained minimal operations, the facility was unable to heat the building, placing medically vulnerable residents at risk during periods of cold temperatures. This illustrates the disproportionate impacts of prolonged outages on at-risk populations and underscores the need for assistance to stabilize household conditions.

Figure 36: Wenatchee River flooding at Riverbend Park in Dryden, Chelan County, WA.

To support displaced residents and protect animal welfare, the Cashmere Fairgrounds opened to provide animal sheltering, and the American Red Cross established a shelter at the Christian Center Church. These facilities operated continuously from December 10 to December 17, 2025, providing critical sheltering services during the peak of the incident. Shelter operations during this period indicate sustained displacement and housing instability among impacted households.

The cumulative impacts of this multi-day event resulted in substantial damage to homes, isolation of communities, prolonged power outages, and severe damage to essential infrastructure throughout Chelan County. The magnitude, duration, and complexity of the incident far exceeded local response and recovery capabilities, necessitating sustained state and federal coordination and assistance to protect life, property, public health, and community stability.

Grays Harbor

From December 5 to December 22, 2025, Grays Harbor County experienced significant impacts from astronomically high tides combined with excessive rainfall over a 48-hour period, resulting in widespread flooding, localized erosion, countywide road closures, landslides, and power outages across the county. Extreme weather conditions also compromised the stability of Lake Sylvia Dam, prompting the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission to declare a Level 3 emergency pursuant to the dam Emergency Action Plan and prompting the county to activate its EOC to support both the Lake Sylvia Dam emergency and the broader flooding impacts.

On December 17, 2025, a severe windstorm with gusts reaching up to 70 miles per hour caused widespread power outages, affecting approximately 22,000 customers. During the incident, floodwaters overtopped roadways leading to the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, rendering the area inaccessible and isolating residents from critical community lifelines, including schools and hospitals. Continued flooding also prompted the county to request emergency flood response assistance from the USACE to stabilize riverbank erosion

Figure 37: Isolated home in Grays Harbor County, WA.

along the Chehalis River, which threatened the Grays Harbor Juvenile Detention Center, reflecting the severity and persistence of hazards impacting public safety and community stability.

Pacific County

From December 2-18, 2025, Pacific County experienced multiple consecutive atmospheric river events, combined with astronomically high tides and strong winds, resulting in extensive flooding and significant impacts to community lifelines. The Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment indicated 89 households were impacted during the incident period. The county prepared and staged approximately 2,500 sandbags for protective operations. Flooding and debris accumulation affected critical transportation infrastructure, including repeated log jams at the Nemah River Bridge on December 10, 2025, and December 17, 2025, that required removal to maintain access. The Camp Road Bridge also experienced scour and debris accumulation, further compromising roadway safety and access. On December 17, 2025, flood damage was identified at an apartment complex in Raymond, necessitating the evacuation of the structure and the provision of emergency sheltering for all 17 residents.

Figure 38: A flooded neighborhood in Benton County, WA, viewing SR 224 from above.

Thurston County

On December 17, 2025, Thurston County experienced high winds combined with unstable ground conditions due to saturated soils that caused widespread treefall and significant damage to electrical infrastructure across the county. More than 25,000 customers lost electrical service, nine transmission lines were taken offline, and equipment was damaged by tree strikes. The

JPDA confirmed 118 primary residences were impacted by the incident. The hazardous conditions and damaged transmission infrastructure delayed access for utility crews and prolonged outages affecting residents, businesses, and critical facilities during an already prolonged incident period.

Additional County Impacts

Benton County

From December 5 to December 22, 2025, Benton County experienced a series of back-to-back atmospheric river events that brought heavy precipitation and high winds. On December 12, 2025, Benton County issued a Declaration of County Emergency in response to the flooding. These severe weather conditions resulted in widespread flooding and evacuation activity with river levels reaching the major flood stage on December 13, 2025. Local assessments estimate 30 to 50 homes damaged, evacuations of entire RV parks, and disruptions to water and wastewater services. From December 13-15, 2025, the county's wastewater treatment plant was inaccessible due to flooded and damaged roadways leading to the facility, complicating operations during peak flood conditions. In Benton City, flooding shut down the municipal sewer system and coincided with a power outage, affecting a wastewater treatment plant that serves approximately 5,600 residents.

A Red Cross shelter operated from December 12 through December 21, 2025, to support displaced residents, including individuals from the Beach RV Park, where widespread flooding prevented access to the lower portion of the park.

Cowlitz County

From December 5-22, 2025, Cowlitz County experienced widespread flooding and property damage from consecutive atmospheric river events. On December 8, 2025, the county declared a local emergency, and state personnel were deployed to support response operations. On December 9, 2025, approximately 40 residents were evacuated, with damage reported to four commercial structures and three residential structures. Meanwhile, 49 individuals were displaced, and an emergency shelter was opened to support impacted residents. Numerous road closures from flooding and landslides limited access for residents and emergency responders and complicated delivery of essential services. Critical water and wastewater infrastructure was also impacted. The city of Kalama water treatment plant, which serves approximately 7,000 residents, was shut down from December 16-20, 2025, due to high turbidity. On December 11, 2025, the Castle Rock Wastewater Treatment Plant operated in bypass mode after Woodbrook Stream overtopped its banks and flooded a nearby lagoon, preventing access to the facility. These disruptions increased public health concerns and added hardship for households managing flooded homes, evacuations, and limited access to basic necessities.

Jefferson County

From December 5-22, 2025, Jefferson County experienced consecutive atmospheric river events with heavy precipitation and high winds, resulting in widespread transportation disruptions and impacts to essential services. On December 15, 2025, high winds forced the closure of the Hood Canal Bridge, a critical transportation corridor connecting the Olympic Peninsula to the central

Puget Sound region, significantly increasing travel times and limiting access to employment, medical care, and essential supplies. On December 17, 2025, continued high winds and hazardous marine conditions resulted in the cancellation of multiple Washington State Ferry routes, further restricting regional mobility for residents and businesses. Storm impacts also prompted boil water advisories, including for the Kalaloch Campground area on December 18, 2025, and for the Moa Tel Water System serving portions of the city of Port Townsend on December 23, 2025, after distribution failures and line breaks caused loss of system pressure.

Kittitas County

During the week of December 5, 2025, Kittitas County experienced heavy rainfall that resulted in flooding, road damage, and wind-related impacts. Multiple landslides occurred along SR 10, disrupting a key transportation corridor and creating hazardous travel conditions. Flooding and transportation impacts affected at least 240 residences, with road washouts and closures, water overtopping roadways, and floodwaters encroaching on residential properties. Red Bridge Road was closed after floodwater overtopped the roadway, and multiple search and rescue operations were conducted to assist residents who became stranded as conditions rapidly deteriorated. High winds caused intermittent power outages across the county, further complicating response operations and impacting residents and businesses.

Figure 39: Mudslide in Kittitas County, WA.

Yakima County

From December 2-10, 2025, Yakima County experienced multiple back-to-back atmospheric river events that brought heavy precipitation and high winds, resulting in widespread flooding, infrastructure damage, and life-safety impacts. On December 9, 2025, Yakima County declared a local emergency and requested 2,000 sandbags (20–40 lbs. each) from the SEOC to support emergency protective actions.

Life-safety impacts included search and rescue operations that rescued 19 individuals stranded on an island in the Yakima River as water levels rose, with the U.S. Army Yakima Training Center providing two helicopters to support the rescue. Flooding caused the complete destruction of the Rattlesnake Bridge on Nile Road across Rattlesnake Creek and damage to Bridge #1396 on Nile Road. Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) closed a section of U.S. Highway 12 at the east entrance to Naches after the Naches River eroded and washed out sections of roadway. The highway remains closed and repairs are underway.

The storms also affected critical water and wastewater infrastructure. On December 10, 2025, the city of Yakima's Naches Drinking Water Treatment Plant was taken offline due to flooding impacts. This potable water system serves approximately 112,450 residents, and its closure required close monitoring of available stored water supplies. The wastewater treatment plant also operated in bypass mode. Additional reported impacts included inundation of regulated systems, livestock sheltering at State Fair Park on December 15, 2025, for animals displaced by flooding, and delivery of potable water to residents whose private wells were contaminated or rendered inoperable. Flood-related evacuations were lifted by December 17, 2025, while power restoration continued, with approximately 4,000 customers without power on December 18, 2025.

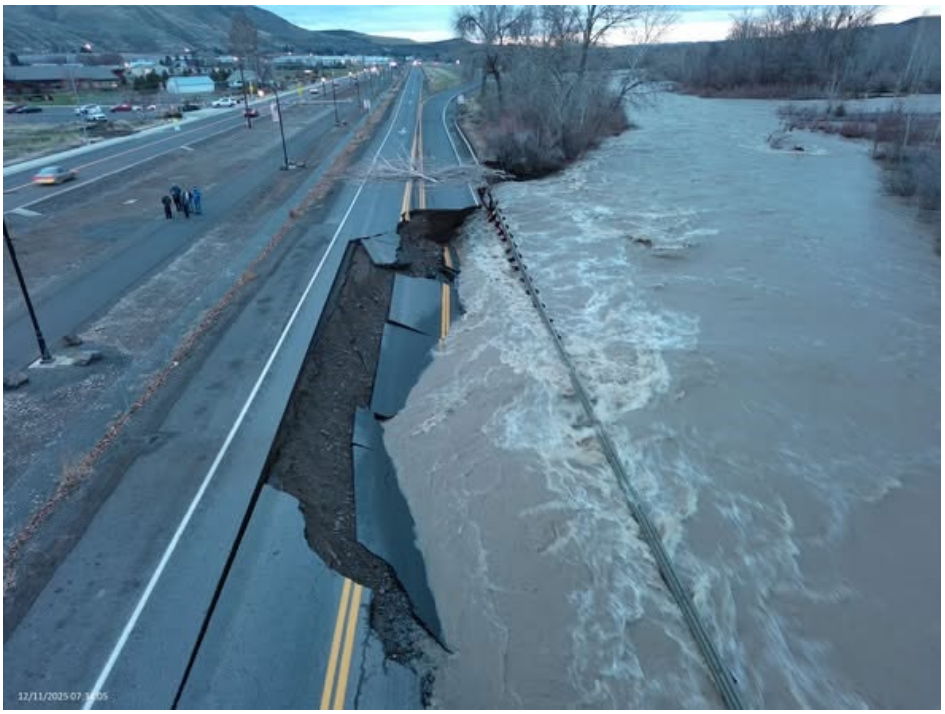

Figure 40: A section of US Highway 12 destroyed in Naches, Yakima County, WA.

Significant impacts were also reported at the Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District, where intense runoff from previously burned hillsides increased hydrostatic pressure on aging canal infrastructure. The affected system is 119 years old and had already sustained damage during a prior wildfire in 2024. Initial response efforts to deploy pumps and relieve pooled water behind the canal were hindered by falling trees and hazardous access conditions.

State Impact and Response Overview

Emergency Support Function 1 – Transportation

In response to the December 2025 atmospheric river and winter weather incident, the SEOC activated Emergency Support Function (ESF) 1 – Transportation, led by WSDOT. This activation was necessitated by widespread, multi-region impacts to the state transportation system, including damage to interstates, U.S. highways, state routes, bridges, embankments, shoulders, culverts, and associated drainage infrastructure.

Figure 41: U.S. Highway 2 at Stevens Point, King County, WA.

Beginning December 5, 2025, and continuing through December 22, 2025, repeated atmospheric rivers delivered extreme precipitation, saturated soils, and high river flows, triggering landslides, debris flows, slope failures, roadway washouts, culvert failures, bank erosion, and bridge scour across nearly every WSDOT region and numerous local jurisdictions. Major transportation

corridors impacted included Interstate 90, Interstate 5, U.S. Highway 2, U.S. Highway 12, U.S. Highway 101, SR 410, SR 542, SR 20, SR 167, and multiple critical county and city roadways.

The severity of impacts resulted in full roadway closures, single-lane restrictions, detours, and extended monitoring operations, in many cases cutting off entire communities for days or weeks. Mountain passes and river corridors were particularly affected, with large debris flows and washouts occurring in the Cascade Mountain Range, Olympic Peninsula, and river valleys statewide. Several incidents involved catastrophic slope failures and roadway losses, including complete loss of travel lanes, undermined embankments, and exposed or failed culverts, requiring emergency stabilization to protect life safety and prevent further infrastructure loss.

Figure 42: Transportation infrastructure impacted at Ebey Slough in Snohomish County, WA.

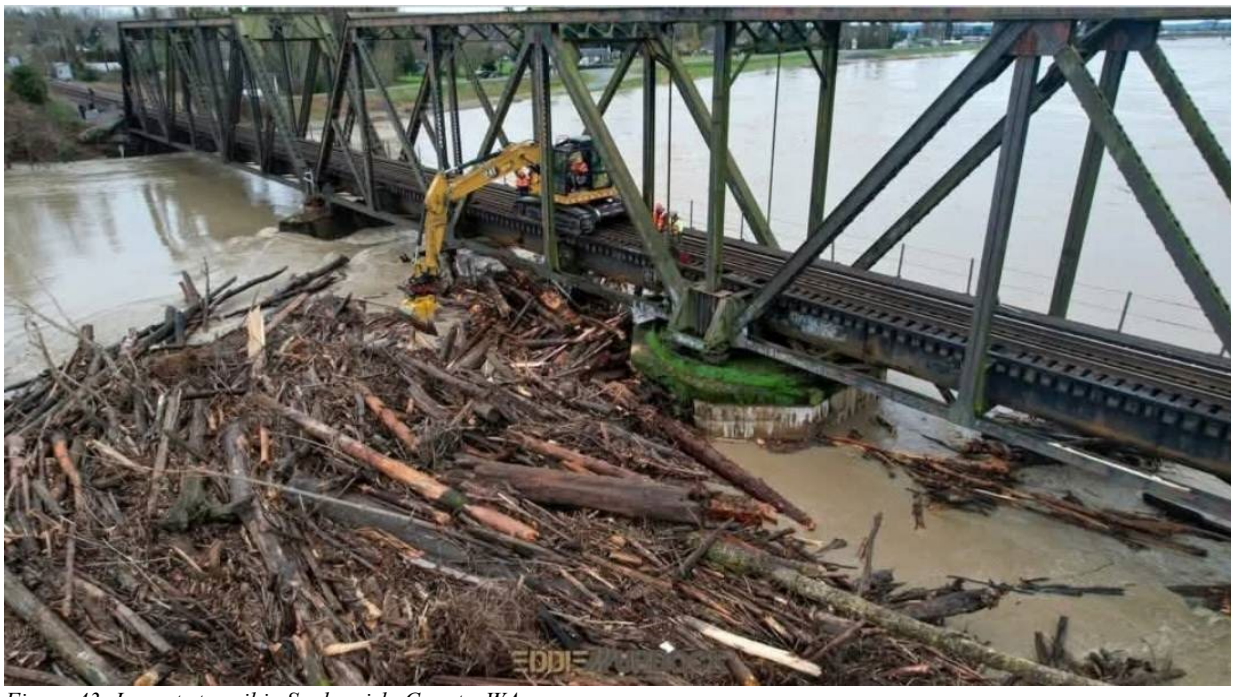

Figure 43: Impacts to rail in Snohomish, County, WA.

Emergency repair activities included debris and sediment removal, slope stabilization, temporary revetment construction, ditch and culvert clearing, emergency traffic control, and bridge protection measures. In many locations, WSDOT and local public works crews operated under

24-hour monitoring conditions due to unstable slopes, rising rivers, and ongoing weather threats. Despite these efforts, permanent repairs will require extensive engineering, environmental review, and reconstruction due to the magnitude of damage.

Based on current damage assessments, emergency repair costs are estimated at $12,500,232, with permanent repair costs estimated at $18,846,351, for a total estimated transportation damage of $31,346,583 statewide. These figures include damage to both state-owned and locally owned transportation infrastructure. The estimated state pro-rata share, based on a 13.5 percent match, is approximately $2,544,257, with remaining costs anticipated to be eligible for federal Public Assistance pending a major disaster declaration.

Figure 44: Mudslide across U.S. Highway 12, Lewis County, WA.

The cumulative impacts to the transportation system significantly disrupted emergency response operations, freight movement, commuter travel, access to medical services, agricultural supply chains, local economies, and communities.

Figure 45: Roadway washout on U.S. Highway 20 Skagit County, WA.

In multiple cases, transportation failures isolated rural communities, Tribal lands, and mountain towns, requiring alternative access routes, air support, or prolonged shelter-in-place conditions.

The scale, geographic breadth, and cost of transportation infrastructure damage far exceed the capacity of state and local agencies to absorb without federal assistance. Activation of ESF 1 and sustained coordination through the SEOC were essential to stabilizing critical routes, protecting life safety, and initiating recovery planning. These severe transportation system impacts have left affected communities vulnerable to future extreme weather events and challenged household and community recovery efforts.

Emergency Support Function 2 – Communications

During the incident, ESF 2 – Communications, led by Washington EMD, coordinated statewide situational awareness and response activities related to communications infrastructure disruptions caused by flooding, landslides, power outages, and access constraints. ESF 2 maintained close coordination with telecommunications providers, utilities, Washington Technology Solutions (WaTech), WSDOT, and local partners to support restoration of 911 services, public safety communications, and carrier networks.

911 service outages occurred in the Crystal Mountain area (King and Pierce County), where fiber damage, mudslides, river crossings, and limited access delayed restoration. Restoration efforts required specialized equipment and were weather-dependent, resulting in multi-day degradation of emergency calling capabilities in the affected area.

Statewide impacts on wireless communications included 22 FirstNet/AT&T sites initially offline, with 18 restored during the incident period and 4 sites remaining out of service for extended durations due to power loss, access constraints, and damaged microwave or fiber backhaul. Verizon and T-Mobile sites also experienced outages, particularly along the Everett–Mount Vernon corridor, Whidbey Island, south King County, Skamania County, and mountain pass areas.

Multiple communications facilities operated on generator power, including central office facilities serving fewer than 100 customers, and restoration timelines were dependent on utility power restoration and safe access. Flooding and erosion along Highway 410 and other corridors significantly delayed repair crews' access to critical communications sites.

Additional impacts included temporary Emergency Services IP network (ESInet) call-routing failures caused by a misconfigured route change, which reduced redundancy and temporarily rendered call-handling systems non-operational until corrected. Downed fiber infrastructure also disrupted 911 services in Skamania County, requiring priority restoration through Telecommunications Service Priority (TSP) designated providers.

Although most services were restored during the response period, communications reliability and redundancy were degraded for multiple days in rural, mountainous, Tribal, and flood-isolated communities, directly affecting public warning, emergency calling, and responder communications during peak life-safety operations.

Emergency Support Function 3 – Public Works & Engineering

In response to the December 2025 atmospheric river and winter weather incident, the SEOC activated ESF 3 – Public Works and Engineering, led by the Washington State Department of Ecology (ECY) and Washington Department of Health (DOH). This activation was driven by widespread impacts to water, wastewater, and solid waste infrastructure as floodwaters inundated or compromised critical systems, particularly in low-lying, rural, and flood-prone communities. As systems failed or operated outside normal parameters, communities faced the immediate challenge of protecting public health while sustaining essential services with limited local capacity.

Flooding disrupted wastewater treatment facilities, drinking water systems, solid waste operations, and private septic systems, increasing the risk of contamination to rivers, groundwater, and floodplains relied on for drinking water, agriculture, fisheries, and recreation. In multiple counties, floodwaters carried debris, sediment, fuel residues, agricultural runoff, and household hazardous materials, creating environmental and public health risks that extended well beyond the initial inundation areas. Local jurisdictions were simultaneously managing evacuations, road closures, power outages, and sheltering operations, leaving them unable to independently assess or mitigate these complex environmental threats.

As part of the state's response to drinking water impacts, DOH documented extensive damage and service disruptions statewide. A total of 125 drinking water systems, serving approximately 852,000 customers, were impacted by the December 2025 winter weather event. Of these, 47 systems operated under abnormal conditions due to power outages, evacuated facilities, or logistical constraints, while 78 systems operated under emergency conditions, including reliance on alternative water sources, use of stored water, implementation of conservation measures, automated equipment failures, or treatment challenges. Additionally, two drinking water utilities serving approximately 250 people became inoperable. The incident also made three wastewater treatment plants serving approximately 45,126 people inoperable, along with one large onsite sewage system serving approximately 100 people. Eighteen drinking water utilities issued boil water advisories affecting approximately 151,400 people due to potential bacterial contamination.

Statewide, the estimated cost for laboratory testing to ensure drinking water safety is $400,000, with an additional $600,000 estimated for providing alternative water supplies to affected communities. One water treatment plant sustained damage severe enough to require full replacement, with an estimated reconstruction cost of $1,200,000.

The Washington Department of Ecology's engagement during the incident provided critical environmental monitoring, technical expertise, and coordination support to local responders. This assistance helped identify emerging contamination risks, prioritize protective actions, and prevent longer-term environmental damage that would have further delayed community recovery. Flooding also exposed vulnerabilities in aging or undersized infrastructure that had functioned under normal conditions but failed under sustained flood stress. Temporary repairs and emergency operating measures were required to maintain service continuity, often at significant cost and with constrained staffing. While these actions stabilized systems during the

response phase, they revealed the scale of physical damage, and the financial gap local governments now face in restoring infrastructure to safe and resilient conditions.

Beyond built infrastructure, flooding caused extensive damage to farmland, shorelines, and floodplain areas. Erosion, sediment deposition, and debris accumulation altered landscapes that support agricultural production and local economies. In agricultural communities, soil contamination and physical damage to fields threaten livelihoods and delay planting and recovery timelines. The Department of Ecology's coordination of debris management and environmental assessments helped communities identify priority cleanup needs; however, many jurisdictions lack the resources to complete full restoration without federal assistance. Additional environmental concerns include assessments of underground storage tanks and hazardous chemical storage at impacted commercial and private facilities, where flood exposure increased the risk of releases.

For residents, the environmental consequences of flooding compounded personal losses. Contaminated floodwaters affected homes, private wells, and septic systems, creating uncertainty about when it was safe to return, rebuild, or reoccupy properties. The Department of Ecology's technical input supported local health officials and emergency managers in evaluating habitability, environmental risk, and long-term exposure concerns. These assessments were essential for informed decision-making, but underscored the prolonged recovery needs facing affected households.

The winter flooding incident demonstrates that environmental impacts are inseparable from community recovery. The Department of Ecology's actions during the response were not standalone regulatory activities; they were direct interventions addressing system failures, environmental hazards, and public health risks that exceeded local capacity. The need for additional federal Individual Assistance is underscored by the cumulative burden on communities where infrastructure damage, environmental contamination, and economic disruption intersect to slow recovery well beyond the recession of floodwaters. Federal support is essential to transition communities from stabilization to recovery, restore critical water and environmental infrastructure, remediate contaminated areas, and rebuild in ways that reduce vulnerability to future flooding events.

Emergency Support Function 6 – Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Temporary Housing, and Human Services

During the response, ESF 6 – Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Temporary Housing, and Human Services, led by Washington EMD, coordinated statewide mass care and human services operations in partnership with Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOADs), nonprofit organizations, and community-based partners.

A total of 31 shelters were opened statewide, providing 3,078 overnight stays for 267 individuals and 43 pets. Food assistance operations were sustained throughout the incident, with 27,580 meals and snacks distributed, including 7,971 shelf-stable meals. Emergency supply distribution supported immediate recovery needs, with 9,440 cleanup kits and related items delivered to approximately 1,750 households across affected communities.

Financial assistance efforts were rapidly mobilized to address urgent household impacts. The American Red Cross identified 144 homes with major damage or destruction and anticipates providing $183,412 in immediate financial assistance. United Way raised $1,200,000 to support individual assistance for flood survivors in Washington and Oregon, with $19,300 already distributed to households in Pierce, Lewis, and Chelan counties. Tzu Chi supported 46 families with $25,700 in gift cards and essential supplies. United Methodist Committee on Relief awarded a $10,000 solidarity grant to the Pacific Northwest Conference and distributed 312 cleaning kits, along with additional hygiene kits, to impacted communities in the Concrete and Hamilton areas.

Temporary housing options were expanded through partnerships with Airbnb, which donated emergency lodging. Airbnb worked with 211 and United Way to connect displaced residents with available accommodations.

Field operations continued across multiple volunteer and nonprofit organizations. Crisis Cleanup supported 37 debris-cleanup cases, while Team Rubicon assisted 52 homes with debris removal and recovery activities. Cleaning kits were distributed throughout affected areas, and sandbagging operations received sustained logistical support. To ensure continued access to information and assistance, 211 extended its operating hours throughout the response period.

Emergency Support Function 7 – Logistics Management and Resource Support

ESF 7 – Logistics Management and Resource Support was activated by the SEOC and led by the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services (DES) to support statewide response operations during the incident. ESF 7 provided logistics coordination, procurement expertise, and resource sourcing assistance to state agencies and local jurisdictions experiencing significant operational demands and supply constraints.

Through these efforts, ESF 7 supported a range of critical resource needs. This included sourcing more than 200 wooden pallets to support sandbagging operations at the Skagit County EOC, facilitating the procurement of a trash pump for Lake Sylvia State Park in support of Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife operations, and providing Whatcom County with debris removal contractor information to assist with debris management planning. ESF 7 also coordinated the establishment of a staging area for search and rescue resources through an existing Pacific Railways contract, at a cost of $1,100 per day, which was utilized from December 16-22, 2025. Additionally, ESF 7 supported the deployment of one potable water truck and one gray water truck to assist Skagit County EOC operations from December 14-23, 2025.

Costs associated with ESF 7 activities primarily encompass state personnel time, including work performed both during and outside of normal business hours. During the activation period, 23 staff from DES Contracts and Procurement supported ESF 7 operations, collectively accounting for more than 200 staff hours currently tracked. These efforts included identifying available

vendors, coordinating procurement options, providing technical support to agencies regarding contracting pathways, and supporting fulfillment and delivery timelines. Cost reconciliation is ongoing, and additional staff hours are anticipated as documentation and follow-on support activities continue.

In many instances, ESF 7 served in a facilitation and advisory role, identifying sourcing options and contract mechanisms while the requesting agencies placed orders and paid vendors directly. As a result, some vendor costs are not reflected in state expenditure totals but represent essential response-related activities enabled through ESF 7 coordination.

Overall, ESF 7 activities enabled timely access to critical logistical resources, supported sustained response operations, and reduced procurement delays during a period of high demand and limited availability. While many direct vendor costs were incurred by requesting agencies, the coordination, contracting expertise, and logistical support provided by ESF 7 were essential to maintaining operational continuity and supporting life-safety and property-protection missions throughout the incident.

Emergency Support Function-8 – Public Health, Medical, and Mortuary Services

ESF 8 – Public Health, Medical, and Mortuary Services, led by the Washington State DOH Office of Resiliency and Health Security (ORHS), provided statewide coordination of public health and medical system response activities during the incident. ESF 8's efforts focused on maintaining continuity of healthcare delivery, monitoring impacts to medical and public health infrastructure, coordinating emergency medical services, supporting environmental public health functions, and delivering timely public information and risk communication to protect public health.

In partnership with the Northwest Healthcare Response Network (NWHRN), ESF 8 monitored and assessed flood-related impacts to healthcare facilities, emergency medical services, patient transportation systems, governmental public health agencies, and supporting infrastructure across the state. Through continuous coordination with healthcare coalitions and affected jurisdictions, ESF 8 maintained situational awareness of system capacity, access constraints, and emerging medical needs to support timely response actions.

ESF 8 worked closely with the Washington State Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS) and the Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) to support continuity of operations for skilled nursing facilities, adult family homes, behavioral and mental health facilities, and substance use disorder treatment providers impacted or at risk due to flooding. Coordination activities included monitoring facility operational status, staffing challenges, access limitations, and utility disruptions to ensure residents and patients continued to receive care safely throughout the incident.

To prepare for potential medical surge requirements, ORHS coordinated the receipt, storage, and pre-positioning of a 250-bed Federal Medical Station (FMS) from the Strategic National

Stockpile at the State Medical Logistics Center. In addition, the Department of Health collaborated with the Governor's Office, HCA, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services to initiate a request for a federal Public Health Emergency declaration in support of an 1135 Waiver, providing regulatory flexibility to healthcare providers responding to the emergency.

Throughout the incident, ESF 8 provided regular situational updates to the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) regarding storm- and flood-related impacts to healthcare facilities and health systems. Facility-specific monitoring identified temporary power disruptions and operational challenges, including a short-term generator-supported operation and patient diversion at Dayton General Hospital in Columbia County, and a loss of primary well power at Western State Hospital, which required generator support until full service was restored within 24 hours.

Environmental Public Health staff conducted additional monitoring related to shellfish safety and recreational water systems, including assessments of shellfish growing areas for flood-related contamination risks. Documentation and reporting on drinking water system impacts were coordinated and submitted under ESF 3.

Public information and risk communication were key components of the ESF 8 response to support individuals and communities. The DOH communications team developed and disseminated flood safety messaging to reduce injury and illness risks. Messaging addressed personal safety during flooding, avoidance of floodwaters, road and travel safety, power outage preparedness, and post-flood cleanup precautions, with an emphasis on reducing exposure to contaminated water and protecting health during and after flood conditions. Information was distributed through multiple communication channels to support statewide situational awareness and reinforce public health guidance for affected and at-risk communities.

Estimated ESF 8 expenditures to date total $74,853.53, reflecting full-time equivalent staff hours dedicated to response coordination and operational support. Cost reconciliation is ongoing.

Emergency Support Function 9 – Search and Rescue

ESF 9 – Search and Rescue, co-led by Washington EMD and WSDOT Aviation Emergency Services, supported statewide search and rescue operations and damage assessment activities in response to widespread flooding and swiftwater conditions during the incident. The scale of life-safety threats required surge staffing and mutual aid across multiple jurisdictions, including the deployment of multiple swiftwater and urban SAR teams from in-state, out-of-state, and federal partners. Ultimately, at least 383 rescues, over 1,000 assisted evacuations, and one recovery were performed during this response by state, local, and federal resources. These rescue operations reflect direct impacts to occupied residences and communities facing rapid inundation, isolation, and limited time to self-evacuation conditions that drive displacement and unmet household needs central to an Individual Assistance request. ESF 9 response operations required the deployment of in-state, out-of-state, and federal resources to meet life-safety and rescue demands.

Current cost estimates received for deployed resources include $198,780 for Clackamas County, Oregon Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) support; $188,719 for Marin County, California EMAC support; and $537,460 for Washington Task Force 1. Federal Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) resources included FEMA California Task Force 4, with a state share of $550,001 representing 25 percent of the total $2,200,002 mission cost after application of the federal cost share, and FEMA California Task Force 7, with a state share of $467,500, representing 25 percent of the total $1,870,001 mission cost. Additionally, during response operations in Skagit County, a swiftwater response vehicle sustained significant damage due to high water exposure. Estimated repair costs for the damaged vehicle range from $4,000 to $15,000. Based on current documentation, total confirmed ESF 9 response costs are $1,942,460.

Figure 46: In Burlington, WA, swift water rescuers from Spokane help a man whose car was stuck in the waters of the Skagit River, Skagit County, WA.

Additional response costs have been identified but are not yet fully accounted for. These anticipated costs include Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) response operations in Skagit County involving 12 responders over six days, with a preliminary estimate of $100,000, where personnel costs are covered by the WDFW and operational costs are covered by the Emergency Management Division. Additional anticipated costs include WDFW standby operations in King County involving six responders for six days, estimated at $50,000; Skagit County All-Hazards mobilizations involving six teams over varying operational periods, with a preliminary estimate of $1,128,000; and King County All-Hazards standby mobilizations

involving multiple teams over two- and six-day operational periods, estimated at $376,000. The preliminary total of these anticipated but not yet finalized costs is $1,654,000.

Based on current estimates and anticipated costs, the total preliminary estimated cost of ESF 9 response operations is $3,596,460. This figure will continue to be refined as actual costs are finalized and reflect applicable federal cost-share provisions, including the 75 percent federal cost share for FEMA USAR deployments.

Figure 47: USAR team conducting operations in a neighborhood in Snohomish County, WA.

Emergency Support Function 11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources

In response to the event, ESF 11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources, led by the Washington Department of Agriculture (WSDA), was activated. Flooding caused significant losses for many farmers, including eroded land, livestock mortalities, saturated fields, damaged crops, equipment loss, barn damage and damage to employee housing and primary dwellings. In low-lying areas, standing water prevented farmers from fully accessing their land to assess the extent of the damage. Livestock producers encountered limited access to pastures, disruptions to feed supplies, and the need to move animals to higher ground or relocate to alternate facilities. Flooding severely impacted farmland, shorelines and aquaculture areas, where erosion altered farmland critical to local economies and vital to Washington's agricultural landscape. Multiple factors affected the extent of damage suffered by individual farms and agriculture businesses, including altitude, location, crop type, and general access to preparedness resources. For much of the agricultural sector, the devastation from this disaster is presently incalculable.

Figure 48: Cows impacted by flooded pastureland in Snohomish County, WA.

As the transition into recovery progresses, farmers will continue to encounter new and ongoing challenges. In agricultural communities, flood-driven contamination and soil damage jeopardize livelihoods and delay planting or recovery timelines. The people who work to feed our state and country will continue to feel this event long after floodwaters recede. WSDA is anticipating

immediate and lingering economic challenge in this sector that will not primarily be addressed through limited U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Service Agency disaster relief resources. The mounting burden on agricultural communities, where environmental damage, infrastructure failure, and economic disruption compound the speed and effectiveness of immediate and long-term recovery, establishes the need for additional federal Individual Assistance and Public Assistance funding. Federal support is essential to help these communities move from stabilization to recovery, restore critical agricultural infrastructure, remediate contaminated areas, and rebuild in a manner that reduces vulnerability to future flooding events.

Food Assistance

WSDA works with emergency food providers (food banks, food pantries, and meal programs) in every county across the state. On December 16, 2025, WSDA received approval from the USDA for a TEFAP Disaster Household Distribution (DHD) in response to the severe winter weather affected counties in Washington state. DHD provides TEFAP USDA foods to households affected by flooding when a disaster is declared.

Washington state DHD activities to date have resulted in the distribution of 2,935 cases of TEFAP USDA foods to 988 households in Skagit County. WSDA continues to monitor DHD activities in affected counties. WSDA will continue to ensure food is directed to emergency food providers as DHD and flood-related need arises in affected communities through the end of the approved DHD period.

WSDA partner organization food distribution points have not been damaged or closed on account of flooding. Costs have been directly related to the distribution of DHD foods to affected communities. WSDA does not know what the timeline is for reimbursement of TEFAP USDA Foods by the federal government used in the DHD distribution to affected households. WSDA estimates the value of food used in DHD to be $100,000.

As shelters wind down, and people return to their homes, emergency food providers will continue to see downstream impacts from households affected by the floods. Emergency food providers in these communities anticipate continued demand as other resources cease. Demand will likely not be as strong as the first few weeks of distribution.

Crop Production Loss

Crop production loss in the upcoming year will be the largest and most universal impact across agriculture in the flooded areas, with economic impacts varying. WSDA estimated the impacts on crops across all affected counties and generated the crop value within the flood extent and estimated total loss. Estimated acres of potentially impacted crop fields were calculated by clipping WSDA crop field layer to geospatial flood extent modeling.

These assumptions were used:

Crop	Estimated Annual Value Per Acre	Estimated Losses Within Flood Extent
Blueberry	$4,427	25%
Field Corn	$1,250	10%
Grass Hay	$1,000	50%
Pasture	$350	50%
Potatoes	$7,056	10%

	Estimated Crop Value Within Flood Extent	Estimated Loss
State Totals	$92,900,000	$29,700,000

Grass Hay Case Study

Grass hay is the top crop by acreage in the impacted area, and grass hay is likely also one of the most impacted crops. At dairies, for example, this will be the case for perennial grass silage fields due to flood debris deposited on fields, and/or erosion or damage to fields preventing planting and harvest. For perennial grass fields, the flooding will have a greater impact. Some producers will clean debris out of fields ahead of the 2026 season where possible with light equipment. Others will require heavy equipment to clear or grade land and will therefore require replanting. Other fields will not be cleaned, and will suffer decreased harvestability, yield, and equipment repair costs as a result. For perennial grass fields in the inundation areas, we can expect an estimated average revenue loss of 50 percent. WSDA estimates the grass hay production within the impacted area to be between $28,400,000 - $37,700,000.

Blueberry and Raspberry Case Study

Blueberries are one of the top ten crops in the area and most negatively impacted by flooding. Blueberries are shallow-rooted, with the entire root system within the top 12 to 18 inches of soil. Both raspberries and blueberries are sensitive to flooding, relying on oxygen moving through the soil to the root zone. When a field floods and stays flooded for weeks, oxygen is depleted and plants are destroyed.

Plants that survive the initial submersion face secondary damage, including shoots exposed to water for extended periods and developing dead sections in new growth. Floral buds that produce next year's fruit may turn brown with dead vascular tissue throughout, and other plants may develop root rot, blight, and other plant disease infections that thrive in waterlogged conditions.

In 2024, Skagit County had 4,800 acres of blueberries under cultivation, making it the third-largest crop in the county, behind field crops and potatoes. Washington state produces 26 percent of the nation's blueberries with $205,000,000 in annual revenue. Most of that production happens in Skagit and Whatcom counties. Whatcom County is the national center of raspberry production, responsible for 85 percent of the nation's crop. The value of blueberry production within the impacted area is estimated to be about $13,800,000. It is too early to determine if

flood damaged production areas will recover after remedial actions following extreme flooding. Full productivity may never return, and replanting may be the only option for most growers. Replanting costs range in the thousands to tens of thousands and full recovery or a return to normal production rates may occur five to seven years after the start of replanting.

Livestock Welfare and Animal Feed Supply Chain Disruption

EPL Feed in Sumas, near the Canadian border, and the BNSF Railway track from Sumas to Burlington in Skagit County were closed temporarily. While EPL Feed was operational within a week after being inundated by flood waters, the feed mill faced distribution constraints due to the closed BNSF Sumas Subdivision and sourced feed from Oregon to curb supply chain disruption for critical feed needs in the region. The plant was able to distribute its products by motorway, significantly increasing transportation costs to distribute feed for dairy cows, as well as for poultry. EPL Feed implemented emergency measures by creating a generic feed mix instead of the customized blends livestock producers typically depend on and worked with farms to help client ration existing feed until new supplies could be delivered.

Figure 49: Impacts to farm equipment in Whatcom County, WA.

EPL Feed is a regionally significant feed mill, producing approximately thousands of tons of feed per week servicing dairies and livestock producers across multiple counties including Whatcom, Skagit, and Snohomish. A major feed mill going offline for more than a week creates production stress across thousands of cattle. Several farms moved cattle to emergency locations, a logistically complicated effort and especially stressful for dairy cows. Moving lactating dairy cows requires finding a facility with sufficient milking equipment for the herd size. The operation results in transporting animals under stress and disrupting the milking schedule. A deviation from a milking schedule leads to stress, reduced milk production, and metabolic challenges in lactating cows. Approximately 27 dairies were inundated by flooding and any dairy with a flooded barn will have decreased milk production for several days due to animal stress. Assuming a 50 percent production loss for three days, this loss is expected to be around $600,000 for the dairies in the area impacted. For dairy, the second most significant damage will be in loss of stored feed. Assuming a potential average 50 percent loss of stored feed for the 27 flooded dairy farms, and based on their silage production acreage, the loss is estimated to be around $1,300,000 total.

Compounded by the need for out-of-state sourcing of supplemental feed to offset the loss of local feed production, higher feed prices resulting from damaged fields and destroyed stored feed, and other flood-related costs, significant downstream impacts are expected for livestock and dairy industries.

Irrigation Damage

Damaged levees and dikes will need repair before the next rainy season and drainage systems designed to handle regular seasonal flooding have been overwhelmed and damaged. Irrigation systems remain submerged and some irrigation infrastructure was destroyed entirely. Irrigation and water system repairs will exceed thousands of dollars per farm.

Shellfish Production

Impacts are still being determined. Initial reports indicate that most growers may have been able to containerize products during shellfish harvest closures such that it could be pulled out once reopened for harvest, missing a 1–2-week window for harvest and not losing any crop.

Food Safety

WSDA and Food and Drug Administration (FDA) identified and contacted more than 240 FDA-regulated business owners (food, feed, produce, eggs, pharmaceuticals) to assess impacts and provide guidance. There is one report of significant damage from a milk distributor located south of Kent. The firm suffered six feet of flood water resulting in damage to trucks, pallets, and other equipment. There are no other reports of major food supply infrastructure damage, and the FDA timeline is undetermined for the completion of food safety checks at firms within the impacted areas.

Emergency Support Function 12 – Energy

ESF 12 – Energy, led by the Washington Department of Commerce (COM) Energy Division, supported statewide coordination related to energy system impacts during the December 2025 atmospheric river and winter weather incident. While COM did not sustain direct damage to its own facilities or incur repair costs, ESF 12 played a coordination and information-sharing role to support impacted electric utilities and downstream critical infrastructure.

Early on December 17, 2025, Washington experienced more than 300,000 electrical outages statewide because of high winds, falling trees, and debris. By the end of the day, outages had been reduced to approximately 100,000 customers, though some isolated areas continued to experience power disruptions for up to two additional days. Extended outages were primarily attributable to damage to transmission lines and substations, as well as access limitations caused by debris, transportation route damage, and ongoing life-safety concerns.

All utility repair and restoration costs are being documented and submitted by electric utilities through county EOC reporting processes.

Figure 50: Linemen working under challenging circumstances to restore power to impacted community in Duvall, King County, WA.

Power outages resulted in significant downstream impacts across multiple sectors. Prolonged loss of electricity affected the operations of water and wastewater systems, telecommunications infrastructure, medical and residential care facilities, businesses, and households. In some locations, facilities relied on generator power for multiple days before electrical service could be restored, increasing operational strain and complicating response and recovery activities.

For most affected areas, electrical restoration work was completed within 24 to 48 hours of outage onset. However, restoration timelines varied in areas where transmission or substation damage was more extensive or where access was restricted due to hazardous conditions or damaged transportation infrastructure.

During the incident, ESF 12 focused on supporting electrical utilities through coordination of outage information and situational reporting to inform SEOC leadership and partner agencies.

Emergency Support Function 13 – Public Safety, Law Enforcement & Security

Figure 51: Downed powerlines in Duvall, King, County, WA.

During the incident, ESF 13 – Public Safety, Law Enforcement & Security, led by Washington State Patrol (WSP), prepared multiple locations in anticipation of flooding impacts.

ESF 13 response costs to date are driven primarily by personnel time supporting emergency operations and partner requests. Current salary estimates include $60,069.64 for commissioned staff who responded to emergencies and assisted state and local entities, and $1,380.82 for communications staff supporting response activities and coordination. These figures do not include costs associated with WSP All-Hazards Mobilization. An additional salary audit will be completed next month and may increase the current personnel cost estimates.

Throughout the incident period, ESF 13 maintained operational readiness and sustained coordination with state, Tribal, and local partners. ESF 13 ensured 24/7 availability to support WebEOC assignments and partner requests, maintained a presence in requested Emergency Operations Centers, and participated consistently in coordination and operational calls to support shared situational awareness. ESF 13 also supported field operations as needed, including assistance with road closures, facilitating alternate routing when flooding and roadway failures restricted travel, and contributing to life-safety operations where requested.

Emergency Support Function 14 – Cross-Sector Business and Infrastructure

During the response, ESF 14 – Cross-Sector Business and Infrastructure, led by Washington EMD, focused on monitoring private sector impacts, maintaining situational awareness of critical supply chains, and coordinating with recovery partners to support economic stabilization efforts. Small businesses that contacted the state for assistance were referred to ESF 21 – Recovery for economic recovery coordination.

The cost of response for the private sector was substantial, as large corporations activated internal incident management, continuity of operations, and facility protection measures to stabilize operations during the event. Reported impacts included those for the Coles Corner Diner, which experienced revenue loss due to the closure of Tumwater Canyon, and a Kampgrounds of America (KOA) campground in Ellensburg that reported flood damage to facilities estimated at approximately $200,000. These examples reflect broader economic

impacts associated with access disruptions, prolonged road closures, and localized flooding across affected communities.

Downstream economic impacts were anticipated to be most significant for small businesses experiencing direct damage or indirect economic harm due to flooding, infrastructure failures, and reduced customer access. To support assessment of these impacts, ESF 14 provided ESF 21 with contact information for economic development centers, chambers of commerce, and trade associations to facilitate outreach and damage assessment efforts. This work was coordinated with Small Business Administration (SBA) recovery planning and supplemented by information collected by county emergency management organizations.

Throughout the incident, ESF 14 monitored key supply chain nodes and major economic drivers, including the Kent industrial area, distribution centers near the White River levee breach, and high-volume grocery and retail locations in Mount Vernon and Burlington.

Department of Commerce

The Washington State Department of Commerce (COM) supports multiple ESFs and Recovery Support Functions (RSFs), including ESF 6 (Mass Care), ESF 12 (Energy), ESF 14 (Cross-Sector Business and Infrastructure), ESF 21 (Recovery), and the Housing and Economic Recovery Support Functions.

COM incurred costs associated with participation in SEOC activation and statewide coordination activities. These costs reflect staff time dedicated to response coordination, interagency communication, information sharing, and recovery planning support. Expenditures to date include $59,700 from Fund 001-1, with an additional $129,892 in projected expenditures from Fund 532-1, for a total anticipated cost of $189,592. These figures reflect SEOC activation-related costs and do not include additional program staff time or GIS resources that supported recovery planning efforts, including mapping and analysis to assist housing recovery coordination.

Although COM did not sustain direct physical damage, the agency continues to monitor and assess downstream impacts affecting housing stability, economic recovery, and energy systems across impacted jurisdictions. In its role supporting ESF 12, COM is tracking energy-related disruptions and recovery considerations, while also coordinating with local jurisdictions and partner agencies to understand cascading impacts to housing availability, business continuity, and community recovery.

As the state transitions from response to recovery, COM’s coordination and communication responsibilities remain ongoing. COM serves as the primary or coordinating agency for the Housing RSF, which is currently activated, and for the Economic RSF, which may be activated following completion of damage assessments. Current lines of effort focus on ensuring the Housing RSF is adequately staffed, coordinated, and focused on addressing housing needs within state capacity, while also planning for a potential major disaster declaration that would enable access to additional federal recovery resources for affected households.

COM will continue to engage in long-term recovery efforts regardless of whether the Economic RSF is formally activated. This includes leveraging available state funding programs to support public works and infrastructure repair, coordinating with the business community to assess recovery needs, and facilitating connections to federal assistance programs, including the Small Business Administration, as they become available through a major disaster declaration or other federal mechanisms.

State Parks and Recreation Commission

As of January 6, 2026, the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks) reported storm-related impacts at 26 of its 124 State Parks across all three regions of the state, as well as more than 20 locations along the Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail, which is a 251-mile cross-state trail. Damage was primarily caused by flooding, resulting in landslides and mudslides, culvert washouts, erosion, and damage to park infrastructure and facilities due to floodwater intrusion.

Long-Distance Trails

The Palouse to Cascades State Park Trail experienced impacts at more than 20 locations, with the most significant damage occurring in King and Kittitas counties. One of the most severe impacts occurred approximately two miles east of the Hyak Trailhead, where a significant culvert and roadway washout occurred. This location serves as a major access route for winter recreation and has experienced repeated failures in recent years. Emergency repairs were completed due to the potential loss of agency-generated revenue associated with winter recreation access.

Eastern Washington Region – Lake Wenatchee State Park

The park was evacuated and closed on December 11, 2025, at approximately 10:45 a.m. due to storm impacts and loss of utilities. Power was restored on December 12, 2025, but landline and internet services remained unavailable. The park continued to operate without sewer utilities, as a sewer line serving the park was destroyed and remained under evaluation by local crews. Extensive damage to U.S. Highway 2, along with significant impacts to the Plain and Leavenworth areas, further complicated access to and from the park.

Northwest Washington Region – Deception Pass State Park

Severe coastal and storm impacts resulted in the loss of approximately 100–150 feet of the Sand Dunes ADA Trail. Additional damage extended from the West Beach Shelter to the first interpretive panel toward the old-growth Douglas fir area. Large sections of asphalt were displaced and deposited on the beach at low tide. The main drainpipe associated with the old concrete valve for Cranberry Lake was left nearly fully exposed, and shoreline erosion reduced the distance between the beach and the West Beach Shelter to approximately 40 feet.

Southwest Washington Region – Lake Sylvia State Park

The park entrance was closed due to a landslide and mudslide with debris, though no immediate structural damage to park facilities was reported. During the event, Lake Sylvia Dam reached Emergency Action Level 3 (Imminent Failure) under the dam safety plan due to extraordinarily high lake levels and debris obstructing the spillway. This condition prompted a well-coordinated

response involving State Parks, Grays Harbor County, and local first responders. A public town hall meeting was conducted on December 11, 2025, at 6 p.m.

By December 15, 2025, the dam condition was reduced to Emergency Action Level 2, and the park deployed two diesel-powered pumps to assist with lowering lake levels. The lake elevation reached 100.42 feet, compared to 93 feet prior to the storm. On December 17, 2025, additional storm impacts were identified, including multiple downed trees throughout the park, trees falling across the new bridge and damaging guardrails, and extensive tree damage within the group camp area, which serves as vehicle access to the dam. The railroad trestle near the dam shifted, with multiple boards popping nails along the south side of the structure.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Beginning December 5, 2025, USACE Water Management initiated flood operations by drawing down reservoir levels in advance of exceptionally high inflows associated with forecast atmospheric river events. During the peak precipitation period of December 9–11, 2025, both Howard A. Hanson Dam and Mud Mountain Dam reached approximately 75 percent of storage capacity, with Howard A. Hanson Dam reaching its pool of record. Although precipitation largely ended between December 18–20, 2025, elevated downstream flows persisted as reservoirs were safely and rapidly drawn down to reduce risk to dam safety and downstream communities.

Figure 52: Tumwater Dam output in Chelan County, WA.

The USACE Seattle District EOC activated on December 3, 2025, escalated to partial activation on December 8, 2025, and to full activation with overnight operations on December 10, 2025. In total, the district completed 16 Direct Assistance actions across Washington, Idaho, and Montana, with the majority occurring in Washington. Direct Assistance activities focused on emergency levee repairs, temporary shoreline protection to prevent inundation of critical infrastructure, and restoration of road access to isolated communities.

Across the incident, USACE provided substantial material and equipment support, including 265,000 sandbags, 12,700 linear feet of gabion baskets, and more than 3,700 super sacks. The District also deployed two sandbag machines and nine pumps to support flood-fight and unwatering operations. Overnight EOC operations concluded prior to December 25, 2025, with

continued mission-assigned unwatering work in Sumas, and technical assistance in Montana. The district remained activated following the event and transitioned to a Monitoring posture on January 6, 2026.

In Washington, Direct Assistance actions were completed at the 12 locations listed below, including multiple levee systems in Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, King, and Grays Harbor counties. These actions were critical in preventing levee overtopping or failure, protecting residential areas, public facilities, and critical infrastructure, and reducing life-safety risks during peak flood conditions. One site in the city of Pacific (King County) remained under active operations through January 9, 2026.

- Hovander Levee (Whatcom County)
- Sande-Williams Levee (Whatcom County)
- Cannery Levee (Snohomish County)
- Mount Baker Rim Levee (Whatcom County)
- Glacier Creek Levee (Whatcom County)
- Cockreham Island Levee (Skagit County)
- Skagit Dike Diking District #22 Levee (Skagit County)
- Skagit County Diking District #3 Levee (Skagit County)
- City of Pacific (King County)
- Snohomish County Diking District #1 Ebey Island Levee (Snohomish County)
- Grays Harbor Juvenile Detention Center (Grays Harbor County)
- Twin View Levee (Nooksack River, Whatcom County)

The scale and duration of reservoir management operations, sustained flood-fight activities, and widespread Direct Assistance efforts reflected the extraordinary hydrologic conditions experienced during this incident and were essential in mitigating downstream impacts, stabilizing levee systems, and supporting state and local response capabilities.

Washington State Recent Disasters

Washington state has experienced a number of disasters over the past two years, resulting in four Presidential Major Disaster Declarations. These previous major incidents impacting our state left Washington more vulnerable and exacerbated the damage caused by the current disaster for which I am requesting federal support. The impacts from the series of record-breaking and fatal severe storms, high winds, flooding, landslides, and mudslides caused by the multiple atmospheric rivers that hit our state in December 2025 must be considered in the larger context of the dozens of declared and undeclared disasters that have impacted our state in recent history.

Over the past two years, the state of Washington has had four Presidential Major Disaster Declarations, one FEMA Emergency Declaration, 10 Small Business Administration (SBA) Declarations, and six FEMA Fire Management Assistance (FMAG) Declarations. Additionally, the Office of the Governor has signed 18 gubernatorial emergency proclamations 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 a number of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Emergency Relief declarations and USACE-Seattle District and USACE-Walla Walla District PL84-99 Emergency Flood-fighting and Advance Measures operations, which continue to be tallied from this latest disaster. 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 and tribal jurisdictions.

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

2025 Disasters

Atmospheric River Storm Damage

Beginning February 2025, Washington state experienced a powerful atmospheric river that brought severe weather, including straight-line winds, heavy rainfall, and above-average temperatures leading to snow and ice melt, flooding, downed trees, landslides, and rockslides, causing extensive widespread damage in Chelan, Douglas, Franklin, Garfield, Klickitat, Lincoln, Pacific, Pierce, Spokane, Wahkiakum and Whitman Counties. The excessive rain and ice melt caused failures in road infrastructure, as well as extensive debris removal caused by downed trees, mud, and rockslides blocking critical roadways. WSDOT took emergency measures to repair and clear the roadways. WSDOT estimated the cost to repair the damage exceeded $6,800,000. On April 3, 2025, I issued Governor's Proclamation 25-02, proclaiming a State of Emergency in Chelan, Douglas, Franklin, Garfield, Klickitat, Lincoln, Pacific, Pierce, Spokane, Wahkiakum, and Whitman Counties. Proclamation 25-02 directed that the *Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan* (CEMP) be implemented and that state resources be utilized to assist in response with repair and recovery efforts for affected jurisdictions.

2025 Wildfires

The 2025 wildfire season began early amid prolonged hot and dry spring conditions. More than 205,992 acres burned across the state. The 2025 wildfire season consisted of 27 state fire mobilizations. Under these mobilizations, the state shouldered a significant portion of the financial burden for fire suppression. The exact state expenditures resulting from the 2025 wildfire season are still being totaled at this time for agencies supporting wildfire efforts that were conducted by Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Direct costs for firefighting efforts in 2025 were $299,499,418.86 including costs of prepositioning resources. Due to the high level of threat and extreme fire behavior, FEMA approved two FMAG declarations in 2025.

Date	2025 State Mobilizations	Impacted County
5/28/25	Highway 261 Fire	Columbia
6/10/25	Red Bridge Fire	Kittitas
6/12/25	Vansycle Fire	Walla Walla
6/23/25	Barstow Road Fire	Walla Walla

Date	2025 State Mobilizations	Impacted County
7/2/25	Siegel Fire	Spokane
7/2/25	Apple Acres Fire	Chelan
7/8/25	Hope Fire	Stevens
7/8/25	Toonerville Fire	Mason
7/9/25	Evans Road	Asotin
7/9/25	Western Pines Fire	Lincoln
7/15/25	Morocco Fire	Jefferson
7/14/25	Greenacres Fire	Okanogan
7/18/25	Burdoin Fire (FMAG approved)	Klickitat
7/19/25	Lake Spokane Fire	Stevens
7/26/25	Harting Grade Fire	Columbia
7/28/25	Highway 12 Fire	Garfield
7/29/25	Scenic Fire	Walla Walla
8/1/25	Bear Gulch Fire	Mason
8/1/25	Stud Horse Fire	Okanogan
8/4/25	Brooks Tract Fire	Okanogan
8/13/25	Central Ferry Fire	Whitman
8/13/25	Crescent Road	Spokane/Lincoln
8/18/25	Sun County	Kittitas
8/29/25	Crown Creek/Black Hawk Mountain/Johnson Grade Fire	Stevens
9/4/25	Sugarloaf	Chelan
9/8/25	Wooden Road	Walla Walla
9/26/25	Sugarloaf – Remobilization (FMAG Approved)	Chelan
9/27/25	Labor Mountain	Chelan/Kittitas
12/11/25	Winter Weather	Multiple
12/14/25	Winter Weather	King

White River Bridge Damage

On August 18, 2025, the White River Bridge on SR 410 between Buckley and Enumclaw was severely damaged after being struck by a semi-truck in multiple locations along the bridge at milepost 22, which borders King and Pierce Counties. The damage sustained to the bridge on SR 410 impacted all seven of the horizontal and vertical components of the bridge. WSDOT took emergency measures, immediately closing all travel lanes across the bridge. King County further authorized the use of the Foothills Trail Bridge for emergency response vehicles, while damage assessments were conducted. WSDOT made temporary repairs to stabilize the bridge and entered an emergency contract for permanent repairs to quickly open this critical roadway. WSDOT initially estimated that the cost to repair the damage from the collision could exceed $2,000,000. On August 27, 2025, I issued Governor's Proclamation 25-03, proclaiming a State of Emergency in King and Pierce Counties. Later estimates once damage assessments were completed and temporary repairs made increased the cost estimate of repairs to $6,000,000. The SBA activated

its Economic Injury Disaster Loan program to support businesses experiencing lost revenue due to the bridge outage.

State Route 167/Bridge 102 Damage

On September 23, 2025, Bridge 102 on SR 167 in King County was severely damaged when a vehicle with an over-height load struck the overpass from below. The damage sustained to Bridge 102 will require replacement of a concrete beam. WSDOT took emergency measures, closing travel lanes to restrict traffic from traveling over the damaged girder. WSDOT estimated the cost to repair the damage from the collision at over $2,500,000. On September 30, 2025, I issued Governor's Proclamation 25-04, proclaiming a State of Emergency in King County.

Interstate 90/Bullfrog Road Overpass Damage

On October 21, 2025, the Bullfrog Road Overpass, Bridge 90/133 spanning Interstate 90 in Kittitas County, was severely damaged when a vehicle with an over-height load struck the overpass from below. The damage sustained to the overpass resulted in the overpass being demolished and required replacement with a new bridge. Construction began on January 6, 2026, and is anticipated to be complete by the end of the month. WSDOT took emergency measures to revise travel lanes, resulting in the closure of all westbound travel lanes on Interstate 90, the primary east–west highway for the state, beneath the girders damaged by the collision. WSDOT estimated the cost to repair the damage from the collision at over $8,000,000. On October 23, 2025, I issued Governor's Proclamation 25-05, proclaiming a State of Emergency in Kittitas County.

Olympic Pipeline Shutdown

On November 11, 2025, the Olympic Pipeline was shut down following the discovery of a fuel release in Snohomish County to the east of Everett, resulting in the cessation of normal fuel pipeline operations throughout western Washington. The discovery of the fuel release prompted the response of both state and federal partners, including COM, Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC), ECY, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to coordinate investigation of the spill. This event significantly impacted the state of Washington, creating potential ramifications throughout the U.S. due to impacts affecting Seattle-Tacoma International Airport, which relies directly on Olympic Pipeline deliveries. Seattle-Tacoma International Airport indicated a significant impact to operations if pipeline deliveries did not resume by November 22, 2025. On November 19, 2025, I issued Governor's Proclamation 25-06, proclaiming a State of Emergency in Washington state and authorizing a waiver related to 49 CFR Parts 390 through 399, including driver hours of service rules in 49 CFR 395, for 14 days.

2024 Disasters

January Winter Storms

From the period of January 5, 2024 through January 24, 2024, Washington state experienced a series of atmospheric rivers producing straight-line winds, ice, extreme cold temperatures, and heavy rainfall coupled with extreme tidal and wave actions along coastal shorelines, resulting in

coastal flooding, saturated soils, and landslides in Chelan, Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Douglas, Ferry, Grays Harbor, King, Klickitat, Lewis, Lincoln, Mason, Okanogan, Pacific, Pend Oreille, Skamania, and Wahkiakum Counties. This storm system caused significant coastal flooding to homes and businesses, extensive road closures and damage, and extensive damage to public infrastructure and utilities due to the extreme cold weather. Initial damage assessment costs were estimated at $31,593,416. A Presidential Major Disaster Declaration was issued on April 24, 2024, for 16 counties in the state and one Tribal Nation. Estimated final costs for this disaster have risen to over $40,000,000, with projects still in development.

Spongy Moth Infestation

In May 2024, an imminent danger of an infestation of the spongy moth, a non-native plant pest, was identified in the Steamboat Island Road and U.S. Highway 101 area of Thurston County and near the town of Concrete in Skagit County. This infestation continues to significantly endanger the agricultural and horticultural industries of the state of Washington, seriously threatening the economic well-being and quality of life of Washingtonians. On May 8, 2024, Governor Inslee issued Proclamation 24-03, proclaiming a State of Emergency and authorizing WSDA to use emergency measures as necessary within Skagit and Thurston counties to eradicate the spongy moth.

Lewis County Bridge Damage

On June 26, 2024, the Koontz Road overpass spanning Interstate 5 was severely damaged when a vehicle with an over-height load struck the overpass where it crosses Interstate 5 near milepost 69 in Lewis County. The damage sustained to the Koontz Road overpass required the replacement of one overpass girder. WSDOT took emergency measures, closing travel lanes to restrict traffic from traveling over the damaged girder. WSDOT estimated the cost to repair the damage from the collision at $1,000,000. On September 26, 2024, Governor Inslee issued Proclamation 24-06, proclaiming a State of Emergency in Lewis County.

2024 Wildfires

Starting in June 2024, Washington state began experiencing abnormally dry weather conditions accompanied by periods of exceptionally high temperatures throughout the state, creating high-risk fuel conditions in many areas. As a result, numerous new and ongoing wildfires ignited statewide. The prolonged hot and dry climate, combined with wind and receptive fuels, created an active fire environment that strained the availability of already limited firefighting resources throughout the region. The large number of fires in the Pacific Northwest caused a large-scale fuel supply shortage for firefighting activities in the western United States, requiring fuel to be resupplied over greater distances and from throughout the region. On August 2, 2024, Governor Inslee issued Proclamation 24-04, proclaiming a State of Emergency throughout Washington and exempting drivers from the application of the drivers' hours of service rules in 49 CFR 395 until August 16, 2024. On August 16, 2024, Governor Inslee issued Proclamation 24-05, proclaiming a State of Emergency in Ferry, Klickitat, Skagit, and Yakima Counties due to extensive and prolonged wildfires and related response activities causing damage to transportation infrastructure. WSDOT approved necessary state highway route closures. WSDOT limited access to affected roadways for a significant period while coordinating resources and response to

clear and repair roadways. This had an estimated cost of repair over $3,500,000, with an expectation that costs would further increase due to predicted continuation of fire activities through September and October.

The 2024 wildfire season was exceptionally busy and resulted in 28 state fire mobilizations. Due to the high level of threat and extreme fire behavior, FEMA approved four FMAG declarations in 2024. Three of the FMAGs in 2024 were on Federally Recognized Tribal Land, with the tribes requiring assistance with firefighting efforts due to limited resources and firefighting capabilities within tribal lands. DNR confirmed costs of $220,274,733.37 for the fire season for 2024. These costs include the cost of pre-positioned resources to more quickly react to changing conditions and response to fires. The estimates for the 2024 costs are double what was incurred for the 2020 season, which was one of the most expensive years in Washington history. 2024 will be among the costliest fire years in the history of Washington state thus far.

Date	**2024 State Fire Mobilizations**	**Impacted County / Tribe**
4/21/24	Bowels Fire	Benton
5/16/24	Tidyman Road Fire	Klickitat
6/14/24	Nisqually Fire	Whitman
6/15/24	Beam Road/Camas Road Fire Complex	Yakima
6/15/24	Neff Road Fire	Walla Walla
6/21/24	Keys Road Fire	Yakima
6/22/24	Slide Ranch Fire (FMAG Approved)	Yakama Nation
7/4/24	Road 11 Fire	Douglas
7/5/24	Balsam Root – Horse Lake Road Fire	Chelan
7/5/24	Thorp Road Fire	Yakima
7/9/24	Pre-Staging of Resources	Kittitas/Yakima/Klickitat
7/16/24	Wallace Walker Fire	Franklin
7/17/24	Pre-Staging of Resources	Kittitas
7/19/24	Road R Fire	Grant
7/20/24	Pioneer Fire	Chelan
7/21/24	Davin Road Fire	Franklin
7/22/24	Big Horn Fire	Klickitat
7/23/24	Wenas Fire	Yakima
7/23/24	Black Canyon Fire	Yakima
7/23/24	Retreat Fire (FMAG Approved)	Yakima
7/27/24	South Columbia Basin Fire	Spokane
7/27/24	Upper Cemetery Hills Fire	Spokane
7/29/24	Lower Granite – Deadman Fire	Garfield
8/10/24	Road 9 Fire	Douglas
8/15/24	2620 Road Fire	Jefferson
8/21/24	Stayman Fire	Chelan

Date	2024 State Fire Mobilizations	Impacted County / Tribe
8/27/24	Bauer Coulee Fire	Adams
9/26/24	Long Hollow Fire	Whitman
9/26/24	Goosmus Fire	Ferry
10/14/24	Squilchuck Road Fire	Chelan

Walla Walla County Bridge Damage

On September 1, 2024, the Deputy Michael Estes Overpass spanning SR 124 was severely damaged when a vehicle with an over-height load struck the overpass where it crosses US 12 near milepost 0.00 in Walla Walla County. The damage sustained to the overpass over SR 124 required the replacement of one overpass girder. WSDOT took emergency measures, closing travel lanes to restrict traffic from traveling over the damaged girder. WSDOT estimated the cost to repair the damage from the collision would be $3,325,000. On September 26, 2024, Governor Inslee issued Proclamation 24-07, proclaiming a State of Emergency in Walla Walla County.

November Bomb Cyclone

From November 17, 2024 through November 25, 2024, the state of Washington experienced a significant weather event in the form of a "bomb cyclone" which caused widespread damage from straight-line winds, heavy rainfall, flooding, landslides, and mudslides in Clallam, Grays Harbor, Island, King, Pacific, Snohomish, Wahkiakum, Walla Walla, and Whatcom Counties, resulting in substantial damage to infrastructure. This included power outages that affected hundreds of thousands of residents and disrupted transportation networks, with certain regions experiencing hazardous conditions. This disaster caused damage to over 600 homes and businesses as well as to public infrastructure. Preliminary damage assessment estimated the costs to repair public infrastructure would exceed $34,000,000. Due to the significant effects on homes and businesses, Governor Inslee issued Proclamation 25-01 on January 7, 2025, proclaiming a State of Emergency in Clallam, Grays Harbor, Island, King, Pacific, Snohomish, Wahkiakum, Walla Walla, and Whatcom Counties, activating the Washington state Individual Assistance Program, and directing COM to transfer $1,000,000 in funding to the program to assist eligible individuals affected by this event. On March 13, 2025, Governor Inslee issued amended Proclamation 25-01.1 to add Chelan and Jefferson Counties to this disaster event. As a result of the impacts from the extreme weather bomb cyclone event, the state requested federal assistance under a public assistance declaration, but was denied.

Other Disasters

Additional disasters that have adversely impacted our state over the past five years include historic wildfires, landslides, severe weather, drought, flooding, agricultural disasters, and major public health emergencies. The February 2025 Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza outbreak in King and Snohomish Counties involved 14 cases of humans and domesticated pets testing positive for H5N1 bird flu. This came on the heels of separate outbreaks of H5N1 in Benton and Franklin Counties in October 2024. February 2025 also saw a measles outbreak in King and Snohomish Counties.

Washington state has been hit repeatedly since 2020 with multiple flooding events not listed above, including declared disasters DR 4539 and 4593 (2020), 4635 (2021), 4650 and 4682 (both in 2022), and 4775 (2023); wildfires, declared disasters DR 4584 (2020) and 4759 (2023), that are still in the recovery process; and the COVID–19 outbreak (DR 4481), which caused delays in the repairs and response to disasters and has long lasting effects that we are still feeling today. While most of these incidents did not individually qualify for Major Disaster Declarations, Public Assistance, or Individual Assistance, their cumulative impact continues to strain the state's resources, with hundreds of millions of dollars needed in response and recovery costs.

Below is a list of the federally declared disasters and other undeclared incidents for the state during the past two years:

FEMA Declared Major Disasters & Emergencies 2024-Present	
Declaration Date	**Event**
February 2024	Washington Wildfires (DR 4759)
April 2024	Washington Severe Winter Storms, Straight-line Winds, Flooding, landslides, and Mudslides (DR 4775)
September 2024	Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation Wildfires (DR 4823)
November 2024	Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation Wildfires (DR 4889)
December 2025	Washington Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Flooding, Landslides and Mudslides (EM-3629)

Undeclared (and other Federal Agency declared) Emergencies and Disasters 2024-Present	
Incident Date	**Event**
February 2024	2023 Spokane Wildfires (SBA Declaration)
March 2024	2023 Excessive Heat (SBA Declaration)
April 2024	Severe Winter Storms, Flooding, Landslides and Mudslides (SBA Declaration)
May 2024	Spongy Moth Infestation (Agricultural State of Emergency)
July 2024	Drought (SBA Declaration)
August 2024	2024 Wildfires (State of Emergency)
September 2024	Yakama Nation Wildfires
September 2024	Lewis County Bridge Damage (Koontz Road Overpass Damage)
September 2024	Walla Walla County Bridge Damage (Deputy Michael Estes Overpass)
January 2025	Bomb cyclone (State of Emergency) (State Individual Assistance Program activation. SBA Declaration, Public Assistance Declaration denied)
April 2025	Atmospheric River Storm Damage (State of Emergency)
July 2025	Natural Disaster Areas (Drought) (USDA Emergency Designation 3 Counties & SBA Declaration)
July 2025	Confederated Tribes of the Colville reservation Private nonprofit organizations affected by wildfires (SBA Declaration)

Undeclared (and other Federal Agency declared) Emergencies and Disasters 2024-Present	
Incident Date	**Event**
August 2025	Natural Disaster Areas (Drought) (USDA Emergency Designation 8 Counties)
August 2025	White River Bridge Damage (State of Emergency & SBA Declaration)
September 2025	State Route 167/Bridge 102 Damage
September 2025	Natural Disaster Areas (Drought) (USDA Emergency Designation for 28 counties & SBA Declaration)
October 2025	Interstate 90/Bullfrog Road Overpass Damage (Bridge 90/133)
November 2025	Olympic Pipeline Shutdown
November 2025	Drought (USDA and SBA declaration)
December 2025	Public Health Emergency as a result of Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds and Flooding (US Health Department)

Fisheries Disasters

Fisheries in western Washington have experienced continued large decreases in fish stock biomass over the past several 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 for 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, multiple Commercial Fisheries Disasters have been declared or requested 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 Commercial Fishery Disaster Declarations include the following:

Fisheries Disaster	Impacted Tribe(s) / Region	Approval Date
Washington Fraser River Sockeye and Puget Sound Fall Chum Salmon Fisheries (2020)	Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe	2/28/2024
Puget Sound Coho and Fall Chum Salmon Fisheries (2021)	Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe	4/8/2024
Washington Fraser River Sockeye Salmon Fisheries (2023)	Makah Tribe	Pending
Washington Fraser River Sockeye Salmon fisheries (2021, 2020, 2019)	Makah Tribe	Pending
Washington Ocean Treaty Troll Fishery (2020 and 2021)	Makah Tribe	Pending
West Coast Pacific Albacore Troll/Hook and Line Fishery (2023)	Washington, Oregon and California	Pending
Washington Fish and Shellfish Fisheries (2020-2023)	Lummi Nation	Pending
Washington Fraser River Sockeye Salmon Fisheries (2023)	Makah Tribe	Pending

Federal Assistance

Washington state has received substantial federal assistance for disasters from 2024 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 2024 includes the following:

Federal Assistance Provided to Washington State Since 2024		
Federal Amount	**State Amount**	**Qualifying Event / Federal Assistance**
$9,490,569	$1,989,511	Washington Wildfires (DR-4759)
$40,737,003	$7,511,893	Washington Severe Winter Storms, Straight-line Winds, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides (DR-4775)
$19,428,158	$3,553,451	Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Estimated Expenditures for Emergency Relief, not including recent disaster
$99,692,100	N/A	U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) (estimated)
$19,205,000	$3,841,000	United States Army Corps of Engineers PL84-99 Emergency Flood Fighting Measures / Emergency Operations – Seattle District & Walla Wall District (Estimated 2023-2025)
$2,661,331,712	$47,058,038	Total Federal Funding Provided to Date (estimated)

Individual Assistance

In a 2023 wildfire disaster impacting Spokane County, the magnitude of residential loss and displacement supported significant Individual Assistance needs. A total of 369 primary residences were destroyed, and 447 primary residences sustained damage, creating widespread habitability loss and prolonged housing instability for affected households. Insurance coverage limitations further increased unmet needs, with Spokane County homeowners' insurance coverage estimated at only 50.22 percent. This wildfire disaster resulted in one fatality and multiple injuries, and caused significant disruptions to lifesaving, life-sustaining, and essential community services.

During the operational period, patients and staff at a state-operated 367-bed inpatient psychiatric hospital and a residential rehabilitation center were forced to shelter in place for five days with limited power, highlighting the heightened vulnerability of medically and functionally dependent populations during prolonged emergencies. Hundreds of individuals were evacuated for more than 96 hours, and congregate sheltering demand peaked with at least 227 people staying in shelters. The fires burned more than 20,000 acres and produced substantial secondary impacts, including an estimated reduction in property value of more than $150,000,000 across 759 impacted parcels in Spokane County. Collectively, these impacts demonstrate the severity of

wildfire-related residential loss, displacement, service disruption, and insurance-related unmet needs that Washington has experienced in prior IA-relevant disasters.

* * *

Based on the information provided above, I am requesting a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration for Individual Assistance for the period of December 5 through December 22, 2025. This major disaster is the latest in a series of significant disasters that have adversely impacted state, local, and Tribal governments. The back-to-back severe storms in December 2025 caused record-breaking flooding combined with high winds on already saturated soils, causing extensive damage to local jurisdictions and Tribal nations. These storms follow a difficult fire season which increased vulnerability in extensive areas with large burn scars. The impacts of this disaster are particularly complex because many of the affected areas were still recovering from previous disasters dating from 2020 through 2024. The cumulative fiscal and social impacts of these past disasters have limited the ability of affected jurisdictions, including the state, to adequately recover from this latest disaster. Washington requires federal assistance to address the unmet needs of the nearly 4,000 households affected by the disaster.

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.

Sincerely,

Bob Ferguson
Governor

Enclosures (6)

A: Estimated Stafford Act Requirements for Individual Assistance and Preliminary Damage Assessment Cost Estimate Worksheet
B: Estimated Assistance from Other Federal Agency Programs
C: OMB No. 1660-0009/FEMA Form 010-0-13
D: NWS-Seattle Weather Statement
E: State Emergency Proclamations
F: FEMA-3629- EM - Emergency Declaration (12.12.2025)

ENCLOSURE A TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Estimated Stafford Act Requirements for Individual Assistance and Preliminary Damage Assessment Cost Estimate Worksheet

Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDA) - Individuals and Households Program (IHP) Cost Calculator - FY26

STATE/TERRITORY:	Washington	Enter State/Territory	Region	State
TRIBE:		If Applicable	10	WA
INCIDENT START DATE:	12/5/2025	Enter as MM/DD/YYYY		
INCIDENT END DATE:	12/22/2025	Enter as MM/DD/YYYY		
INCIDENT TYPE:	Flood	Select from List		

						Source Justification	Source Justification	Source Justification		
						ACS data		NFIP data		
County Name	Destroyed	Major	Minor	Affected	Total	% Owner	% Insured	% Flood Insurance	Monthly HUD FMR for 2 Bedroom (Link)	
Chelan County	-	11	14	12	**37**	41.60%		13.64%	$	1,500.00
Grays Harbor County	-	13	13	141	**167**	64.80%		4.68%	$	1,216.00
King County	-	24	54	655	**733**	63.90%		15.47%	$	2,501.00
Lewis County	6	16	15	164	**201**	67.50%		15.25%	$	1,279.00
Pacific County	2	22	13	52	**89**	58.50%		1.45%	$	1,134.00
Pierce County	9	8	8	30	**55**	58.50%		1.45%	$	1,971.00
Skagit County	5	101	81	597	**784**	71.80%		8.70%	$	1,720.00
Snohomish County	2	59	96	302	**459**	64.70%		11.99%	$	2,501.00
Thurston County	-	3	34	81	**118**	70.90%		9.40%	$	1,960.00
Whatcom County	9	150	204	885	**1,248**	64.80%		21.89%	$	1,794.00
TOTAL/AVERAGE	**33**	**407**	**532**	**2,919**	**3,891**	**62.7%**		**10.4%**	**$**	**1,757.60**

Category	National Average	Region/Hazard Adjustment	Region Adjustment	Hazard Adjustment
Affected	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -
Minor Repair and Replace	$ 3,981.38	$ 3,900.74	$ 3,922.68	$ 4,080.76
Major Repair and Replace	$17,565.91	$ 17,611.74	$ 17,590.70	$ 17,676.28
Destroyed	$44,800.00	$ 44,800.00	$ 44,800.00	$ 44,800.00
Other Needs Assistance	$ 3,001.52	$ 3,854.87	$ 5,864.62	$ 3,159.85

Averages and Adjustments

Calculations default to the National Average. Adjustments may still be accepted with justification. Users can opt for adjustments based on Region and/or Hazard Type by selecting the drop-down on the **Cost_Estimates_Summary** tab.

These alternatives have been calculated using a robust statistical method, but should only be considered for disasters with substantial deviations.

STATE/TRIBE/TERRITORY:	Washington	REGION:	Region 10
INCIDENT START DATE:	12/5/2025	ADJUSTMENT OPTION:	National Average
INCIDENT TYPE:	Flood	EXPECTED MONTHS OF RENTAL ASSISTANCE	2

ESTIMATED HOUSING ASSISTANCE (HA)	NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS (Uninsured)	TOTAL COST	CATEGORY TOTAL COST
TEMPORARY HOUSING			**$ 3,681,578.00**
Rental Assistance (2 months)	972	$ 3,681,578.00	
REPAIR ASSISTANCE			**$ 5,218,647.78**
Repair Costs (Minor)	296	$ 1,178,488.48	
Repair Costs (Major)	230	$ 4,040,159.30	
REPLACEMENT ASSISTANCE			**$ 806,400.00**
Replacement Cost (Destroyed)	18	$ 806,400.00	
Total Estimated Housing Assistance (HA)		**$ 9,706,625.78**	**$ 9,706,625.78**

ESTIMATED OTHER NEEDS ASSISTANCE (ONA)	NUMBER (Uninsured)	TOTAL COST	CATEGORY TOTAL COST
Total Estimated Other Needs Assistance (ONA)	**3,891**	**$ 11,678,914.32**	**$ 11,678,914.32**
Total Estimated Federal Share (75%)	0.75	$ 8,759,185.74	
Total Estimated State Share (25%)	0.25	$ 2,919,728.58	

Total Estimated HA and ONA (75% Federal Share)	**$**	**18,465,811.52**
Total Estimated HA and ONA (100% Costs)	**$**	**21,385,540.10**

		IHP Cost Estimate		
		Less Than $1.5M	Between $1.5M and $7.5M	Greater Than $7.5M
ICC Ratio	Less Than 10			
	Between 10 and 25			
	Greater Than 25			X

State	6	Estimated Costs	$ 21,385,540.10
State TTR	$ 840.50	ICC Ratio	25.4

ICC Matrix Result			
Cost to Reach Grey	$ 7,500,000.01	Cost Remaining to Reach Grey	$ -
Cost to Reach Green	$ 8,405,000.00	Cost Remaining to Reach Green	$ -

ENCLOSURE B 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
Chelan	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Grays Harbor	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
King	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Lewis	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Pacific	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Pierce	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Skagit	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Snohomish	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Thurston	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Whatcom	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD
Totals	**TBD**	**TBD**	**TBD**	**TBD**	**TBD**	**TBD**	**TBD**	**TBD**

Note: Extent of other federal assistance is not known at this time

ENCLOSURE C TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

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 Jan 20, 2026

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.	2b. Population (as reported by 2020 Census) or estimated population of Indian tribal government's damaged area(s).
Washington State	7,705,281

3. Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Name	4. Designation of State or Tribal Coordinating Officer upon declaration (if available) and phone number
Governor Bob Ferguson	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 Dec 5, 2025 End Date Dec 22, 2025 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 (rain, high water, wind-driven, rain, hail, lightning) ☐ Snowstorm (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.
A series of atmospheric rivers impacted Washington state from Dec. 5-22, 2025, bringing widespread heavy rain, gusty winds, and flooding statewide. The state's three largest rivers exceeded historic levels, and 30 other rivers also flooded, leading to significant river, urban, and small stream flooding. Extensive damages were caused by this series of severe atmospheric rivers and related flooding, landslides, high winds, and mudslides. Statewide, 3891 homes were damaged or destroyed, thousands of residents were displaced, approximately 383 rescues were conducted, and over 1,000 individuals were assisted through evacuations affecting over 100,000 people. This historic disaster 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.

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 the storm system continued to inundate the state, I issued Emergency Proclamation 25-07 on Dec. 10, 2025, proclaiming a State of Emergency throughout the state and directing the plans and procedures in the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan to be implemented. I also activated the National Guard and the State Guard. I signed amended Emergency Proclamation 25-07.1 on Dec. 16, 2025, to add a statutory waiver, allowing for individuals to receive additional assistance from the state Family Emergency Assistance Program and authorizing the state Disaster Cash Assistance Program, administered by the state Department of Social and Health Services. To further support recovery efforts, I allocated $2.5 million of the Governor's Emergency Assistance Fund to the state Emergency Management Division to deliver the state's Individual Assistance program and provided $1 million to the state Department of Social and Health Services for the state Disaster Cash assistance program.

10. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment*

☒ Individual Assistance Dates Performed **Requested** Dec 12, 2025 **Start** Dec 15, 2025 **End** Jan 7, 2026

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

☐ Public Assistance Dates Performed **Requested** _____ **Start** _____ **End** _____

Public Assistance Accessibility Problems (Areas that could not be accessed, and why)
On January 6th, the state of Washington requested a thirty day extension to request a major disaster declaration as a result of severe storms and flooding that affecting Washington from 5-22 December 2025. On January 15th, FEMA approved the extension until February 18th, 2025.

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).
Chelan, Grays Harbor, King, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, and Whatcom Counties.

For States, identify Federally-recognized Tribes in the requested counties (if applicable).
Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, Lummi Nation, Muckleshoot Indian Tribe, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Nooksack Indian Tribe, Puyallup Tribe, Quinault Indian Nation, Samish Indian Nation, Sauk-Suiattle Indian Tribe, Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe, Snoqualmie Indian Tribe, Squaxin Island Tribe, Stillaguamish Tribe of Indians, Swinomish Indian Tribal Community, Tulalip Tribes and Upper Skagit Indian Tribe.

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.

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

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:
Federal Voluntary Agency Liaison support.

b. List of reasons why State and local or Indian tribal government cannot perform, or contract for, required work and services.
State, local, and tribal governments have fully used all available resources and capabilities to respond to this event and can no longer perform or contract for the 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 September 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 Dec 10, 2025 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 Proclamation, NWS-NOAA Executive Weather Statement, Emergency Dec.

Governor's or Tribal Chief Executive's Signature

1/20/2026
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*

ENCLOSURE D TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

Executive Weather Summary

Flooding, Landslides, Mudslides, Winter Storms, and High Winds

5 December 2025 - 22 December 2025

For FEMA Region X Preliminary Damage Assessment - Washington

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

National Weather Service, Seattle, Washington

Arin Peters, Western Region Hydrology Program Manager

National Weather Service, Western Region Headquarters

Event Synopsis

From December 5-19 a strong and persistent area of high pressure developed over the southwest coast of the United States directing the storm track directly at Washington State. This pattern also resulted in much warmer than normal temperatures, high snow levels, and multiple strong back-to-back atmospheric river events that brought overlapping impacts including record-breaking flooding, landslides, mudslides, high winds, coastal flooding, and winter storms to Washington state which persisted through December 22. Between December 6-19 many river basins across Washington State experienced between 20 to 30 inches of precipitation (**Figure 1**) which is 300-600% of normal precipitation in what is typically a very wet time of year in Washington State. (**Figure 2**). According to National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) SNOTEL precipitation data, the vast majority (87.5%) of sites with at least 20 years of data recorded their

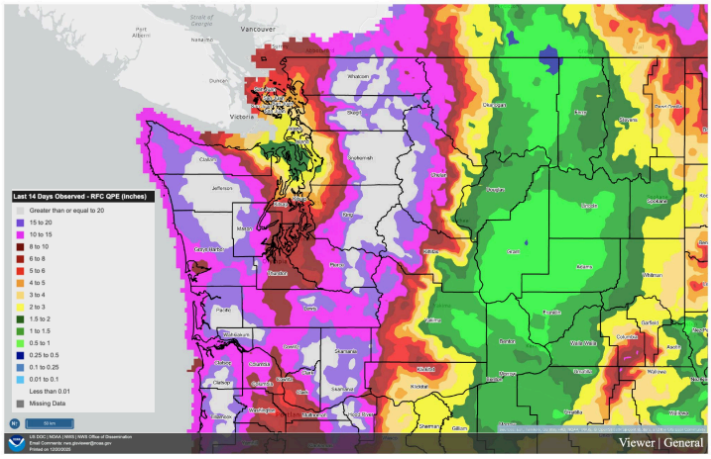

Figure 1: Observed precipitation DEC 6-19 based on NWS River Forecast Center Quantitative Precipitation Estimate analysis. Widespread rainfall totals between 20-30 inches were observed across the mountains of western Washington State. Not shown are that several locations received 30-40 inches of rain during this period.

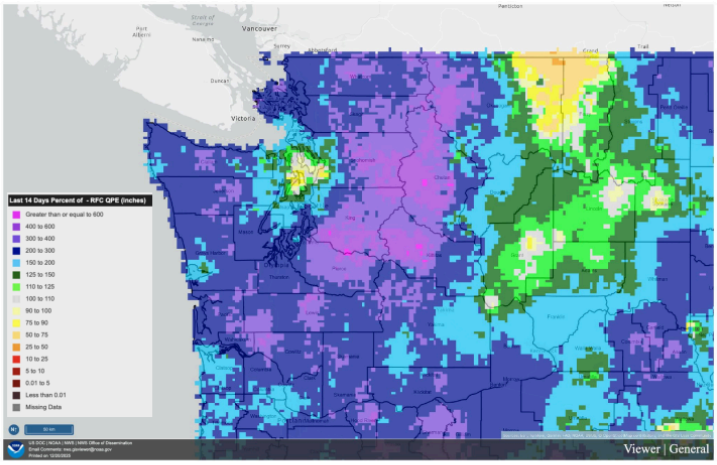

Figure 2: Percent of normal precipitation 14-day precipitation between DEC 6-19 based on NWS River Forecast Center Quantitative Precipitation Estimate analysis. Nearly all of western Washington State experienced more than 200% of normal precipitation. Between 300-600% of normal precipitation was observed across much of the central and northern Cascades.

highest 14-day precipitation totals on record for December 6-19, while the remaining (12.5%) recorded their second highest observations on record (**Figure 3**).

Water vapor transport into Washington State associated with this event averaged 280-360% of normal during the period from January 2nd through 13th (**Figure 4**). This highly anomalous and persistent feed of moisture was a direct result of the persistent high-pressure system over Northern California directing back-to-back atmospheric rivers into Washington State.

While this pattern was relatively stable throughout the duration of this period, a minor shift on December 16 significantly contributed to the complexity of this event (**Figure 5**). Between December 5-15, high pressure over northern California and weak low pressure over southwest Canada resulted in atmospheric river activity that brought extreme precipitation to Washington State. On December 16, the low pressure just off the British Columbia coast strengthened, bringing very strong winds to the region. The combination of saturated soils and winds resulted in significant damage to trees and above-ground power infrastructure as well as causing widespread power outages and hampering flood response efforts

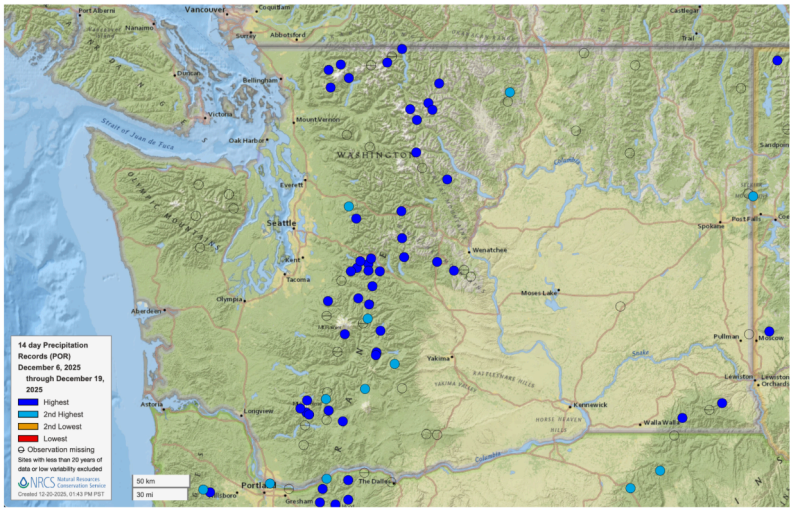

Figure 3: 14-Day observed precipitation rank for NRCS observation sites. The majority of observation sites recorded their highest 14-day precipitation totals on record for the period DEC 6-19, 2025. Data courtesy National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

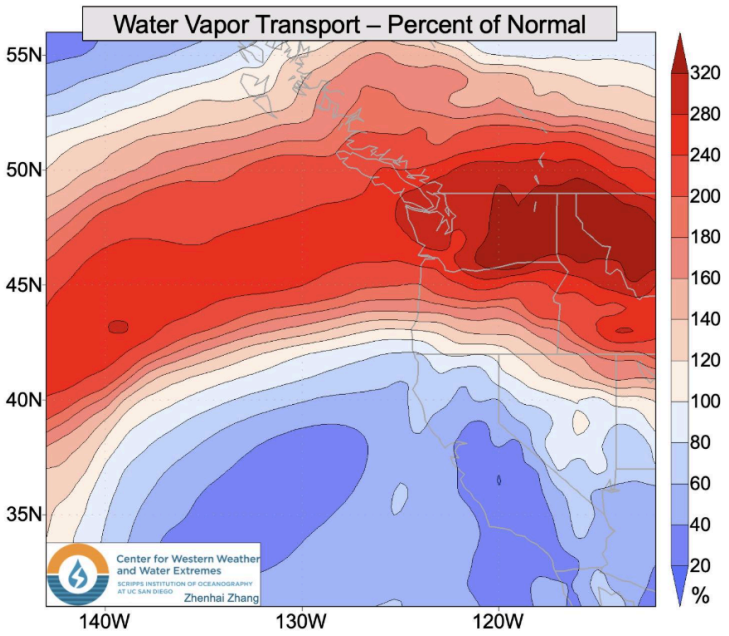

Figure 4: Average water vapor transport as a percentage of normal conditions (1979–2024) during 8–12 December 2025 (UTC), based on NCEP CFSv2 analysis data. Image courtesy of the Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes (CW3E)

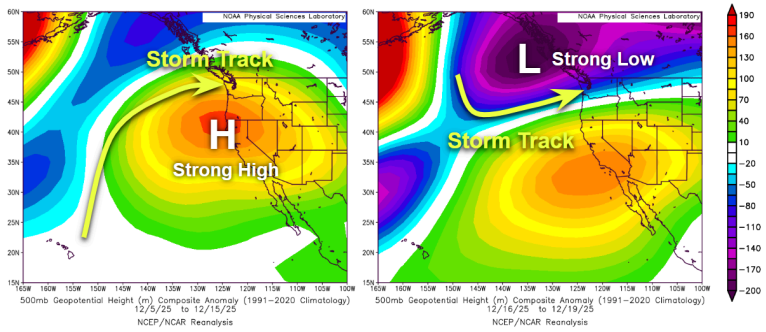

Figure 5: Upper level (500mb) Weather Pattern Anomalies between DEC 5 - 15 and DEC 16-19 based on the NCEP North American Regional Analysis. A strong and persistent area of high pressure over northern California directed atmospheric river moisture towards Washington state through DEC 15. Beginning DEC 16 a Gulf of Alaska low strengthened and resulted in a significant increase in winds across the region.

across the state.

During this 18-day period, continuous significant weather-related impacts were experienced across Washington State due to river and coastal flooding, winds, winter precipitation. Across Washington State, 33 separate rivers exceeded flood stage with 18 of those exceeding major flood stage and 3 of the largest rivers reaching record levels (**Figure 6**).

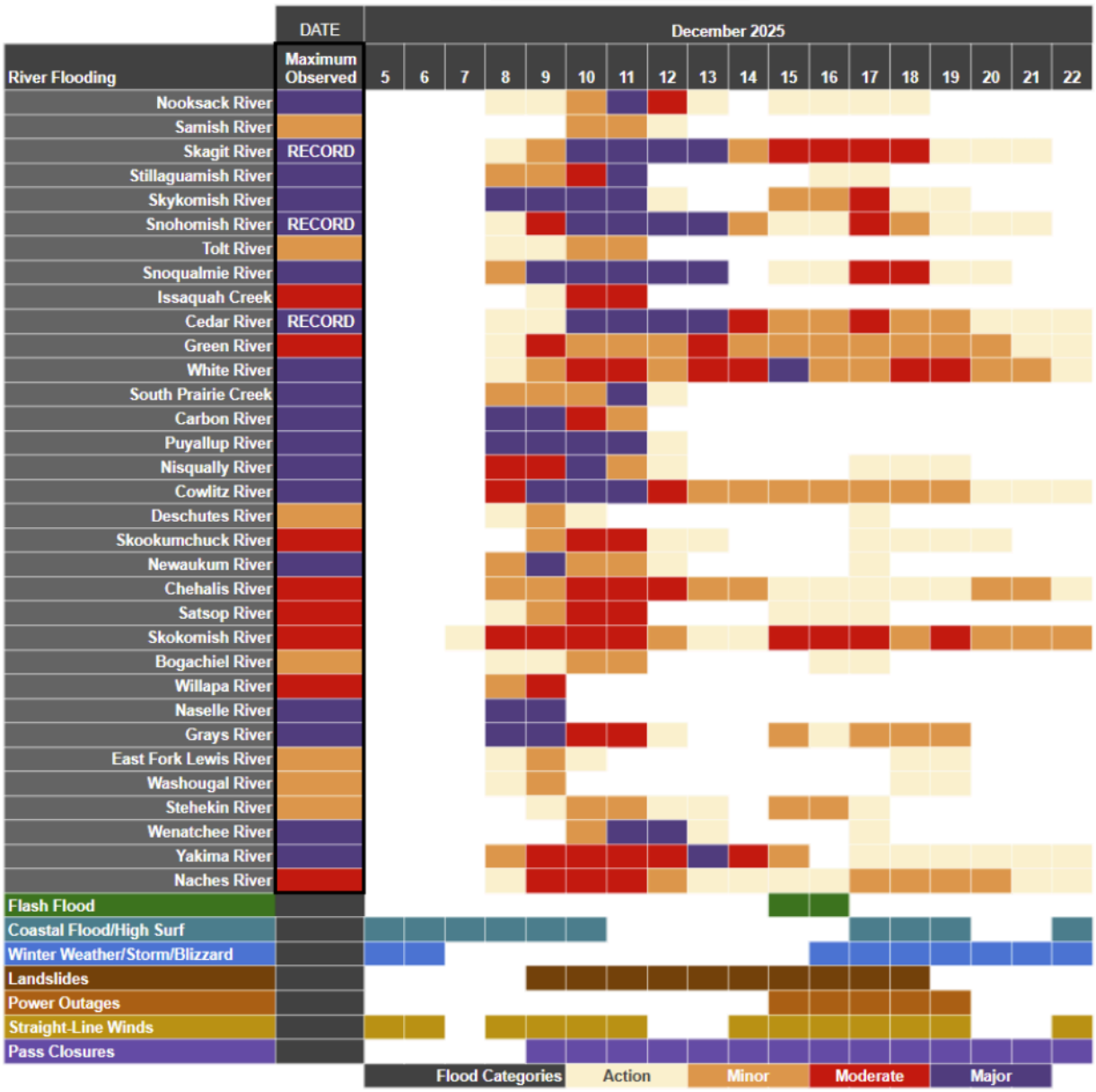

Figure 6: Timeline of flooding, landslides, high winds, power outages, winter weather, and pass closures across Washington State between DEC 5-22, 2025.

A total of 19 Counties across Washington state saw flooding impacts due to surging rivers and streams. (**Figure 7)** outlines the county-level flooding information, provides the highest NWS Flood Category reached by County, and the associated water bodies.

County	River	River Gage Flood Level
Asotin		No flooding
Benton	Yakima	Major
Chelan	Wenatchee	Major
Clark	East Fork Lewis	Minor
Clark	Washougal	Minor
Clallam	Bogachiel	Minor
Cowlitz	Cowlitz	Minor
Grays Harbor	Chehalis	Minor
Island		No flooding
Jefferson	Hoh	Road/Bridge Damage due to Flooding
King	Cedar	Major
King	Snowqualmie	Major
Kittitas	Yakima	Moderate
Lewis	Cowlitz	Major
Mason	Skokomish	Moderate
Okanagan		No flooding
Pacific	Naselle	Major
Pierce	Nisqually	Major
Pierce	Puyallup	Major
Skagit	Skagit	Major
Skamania		No flooding
Snohomish	Skykomish	Major
Snohomish	Snohomish	Major
Snohomish	Stillaguamish	Major
Thurston	Chehalis	Moderate
Wahkiakum	Grays	Major
Whatcom	Nooksack	Major
Yakima	Yakima	Moderate
Yakima	Naches	Moderate

Figure 7: County-level flooding information including highest NWS flood stage level reached and associated rivers.

Meteorological Timeline & Impacts - December 5-7

High pressure began to develop over northern California between December 5-7 directing the first of multiple atmospheric rivers towards Washington State. This first round of moisture resulted in 3-6 inches of precipitation across the Cascades and Olympics, increasing the base flows on rivers across the state, setting the stage for amplified impacts from the upcoming precipitation (**Figure 8**). In addition, strong winds of 45-55 mph were seen across western Washington and 45-65 mph were recorded in eastern Washington.

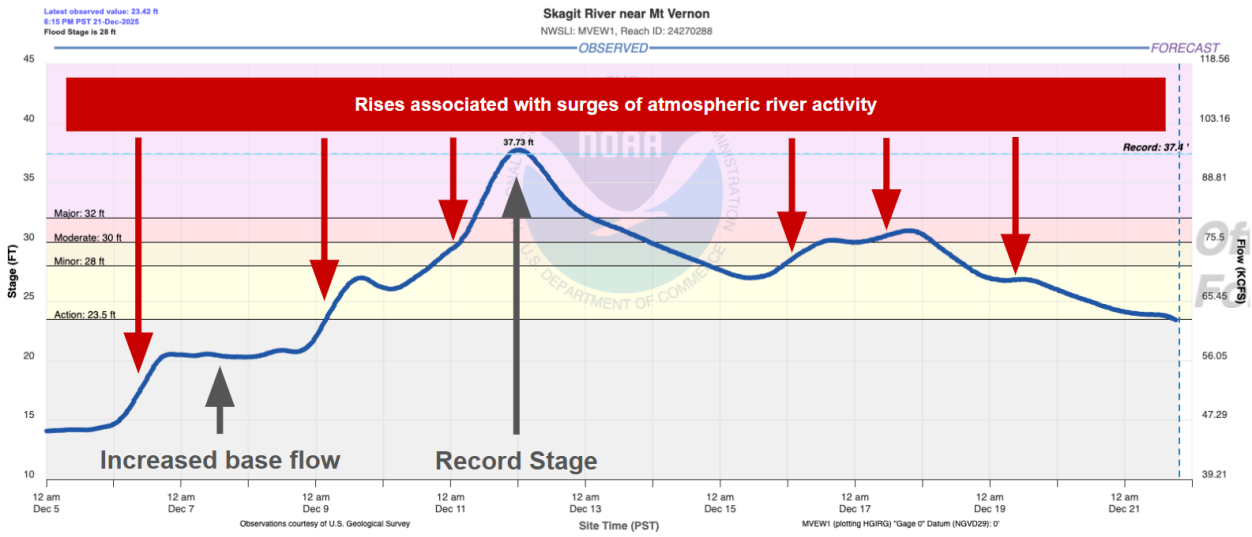

Figure 8: Observed river stage for the Skagit River near Mount Vernon, WA from DEC 5-21, 2025. Observations at this site indicate rises associated with at least 6 surges in atmospheric river activity. Furthermore, this clearly illustrates the increased base flow associated with atmospheric river activity between DEC 5-7 which contributed to the record setting flood stage reached early on the morning of DEC 12.

Meteorological Timeline & Impacts - December 8-15

Beginning December 8, multiple rounds of extreme precipitation impacted Washington State as multiple strong atmospheric rivers pounded the state. With river levels already elevated from the December 5-7 events, rivers rapidly rose above flood stage across the state. Beginning December 8, atmospheric river activity was focused across the central and southern Cascades and the most sensitive rivers in these areas such as the Skykomish, Carbon, Puyallup, Naselle, and Grays rivers rapidly exceeded major flood stage by December 8. Atmospheric river activity then spread north December 9-10 resulting in a rapidly increasing number of large rivers reaching major flood stage between December 9-12, including the Nooksack, Skagit, Stillaguamish, Snohomish, Snoqualmie, Cedar, Nisqually, and Cowlitz rivers. The Skagit, Snohomish, and Cedar rivers all exceeded their record stages in this time frame, resulting in unprecedented flooding. Further north, the Nooksack River in Whatcom county began to overflow its banks near Everson, WA sending water north well out of the typical path causing major flooding in Sumas, WA north into British Columbia.

Along and east of the Cascade crest, extreme precipitation and flooding resulted in significant damage to two of the three major wintertime east-west routes across the state. US Highway 2 and US Highway 12 both sustained significant damage, with US Highway 2 closing indefinitely.

Atmospheric river activity continued into December 15. During this timeframe, dam regulated rivers began to show increasing flooding as reservoirs filled and water was forced to be released. This extended period of high flows resulted in an increased strain on these river systems where levees became saturated under the immense pressure. Several levee and dike breaches occurred across Washington state during this period with two notable examples being a breach along the Green River in Tukwila on December 15 resulting in flooding in industrial areas of Tukila, Kent, and Renton and another breach along the White River in Pacific resulting in rapid residential flooding in the city early in the morning of December 16.

Peak Winds (mph)
DEC 16-17, 2025

Location	mph	Location	mph
White Pass	114	Smith Island	66
Alpental Ski Area	112	Greenwater	63
Rattlesnake Mtn	85	Moses Lake	60
Snoqualmie Pass	82	Wenatchee	60
Pullman	81	Freeland	60
Mission Ridge	80	Toke Point	59
Union Gap	76	Walla Walla	59
Spokane	75	Kapowsin	59
Whidbey Is. NAS	71	Graham	59
Paradise	71	Hoquiam	58
Colton	70	Possession Sound	58
Hanford	69	Port Townsend	56
Centerville	69	Ellensburg	56
Sequim	69	Arlington	55
Easton	68	North Bend	53
Tumwater Mtn	67	Tacoma	52
Westport	67	Ferndale	51
Tri-Cities	66	Seattle	51
Dallesport	66	Renton	51

Figure 9: Selected observed peak wind speeds in miles per hour (mph) for DEC 16-17, 2025.

Meteorological Timeline & Impacts - December 16-19

Beginning December 16, the high pressure across California weakened and shifted south while a strong low pressure developed off the coast of Washington. This directed a vigorous storm track and strong winds across the region, peaking December 16-17. Widespread winds in excess of 50 mph were experienced across the state with many locations exceeding 60 and even 70 mph (**Figure 9**). The combination of these high winds along with already saturated soils resulted in widespread tree and power infrastructure damage with statewide power outages exceeding 378,000 customers at the peak of the event.

Meanwhile, heavy rainfall continued during this period resulting in another increase in river levels across the state.

Meteorological Timeline & Impacts - December 20-22

Between December 20-22, though slowly receding, river flooding from prior events continued across the state. Cooler temperatures began to limit additional flooding, but brought heavy snowfall to the mountains as well as occasional strong winds.

ENCLOSURE E TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR BOB FERGUSON

EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR

25-07

December Atmospheric River and Winter Weather Event, Emergency Assistance, and Truck Driver Hours Waiver

WHEREAS, a significant atmospheric river and winter weather event began on December 2, 2025, producing high winds, heavy snowfall, ice accumulation, and extreme rainfall resulting in major coastal, river, and localized flooding, saturated soils, landslides, stream bank and slope erosion, fallen trees and tree limbs, and flying debris, which have caused impacts across Washington state resulting in hazardous conditions affecting the people of Washington, homes, property, businesses, agriculture, transportation systems, and the state economy; and

WHEREAS, the extreme winter weather pattern that began on December 2, 2025, is expected to continue for several days, and the expected continued rain and snow at mountain elevations will exacerbate flooding conditions; and

WHEREAS, the flooding, landslides, mudslides, bank erosion, and wind damage have necessitated road closures, the establishment of alternate transportation routes, and evacuations, have impacted local utility services including significant power outages, and have damaged homes and other public and private property and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the impacts of the extreme weather event are causing and are anticipated to cause injuries to the people of Washington and to severely impact agriculture, supply chains, transportation infrastructure, and the economy throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, road closures and other impacts from the extreme weather event have increased transportation distances and times for essential intrastate collection and delivery of agricultural feed and dairy farm products and supplies by motor carriers and drivers of commercial motor vehicles to and from production, processing, and distribution facilities; and

WHEREAS, commercial drivers cannot complete deliveries or provide services within the time limits prescribed by commercial motor vehicle driver hours of service rules, and available trucks cannot be dispatched because commercial drivers have exhausted current hour limitations, leading to current and expected impacts on livestock feed and dairy farm product and supply delivery; and

WHEREAS, the current and expected effects from this extreme weather event 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 requiring the use of search and rescue assets to save lives; and

WHEREAS, state agencies and local jurisdictions are coordinating resources to address damaged property and infrastructure, assess damage caused by the storms, and implement repairs;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Ferguson, Governor of the state of Washington, as a result of the above-noted situation and under Chapters 38.52 and 43.06 RCW, do hereby proclaim that a State of Emergency exists throughout the entire state of Washington, and direct that the plans and procedures in the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan be implemented. State agencies and departments are directed to utilize state resources in accordance with the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and to do everything reasonably possible to assist affected political subdivisions in an effort to respond to and recover from this extreme weather event.

FURTHERMORE, under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220, to preserve and maintain life, health, property or the public peace, I also find, based on the above situation, that motor carriers and drivers of commercial motor vehicles delivering livestock feed products and dairy farm products and supplies are providing emergency relief during an emergency under 49 CFR § 390.23. Pursuant to 49 CFR § 390.23(b), they are therefore exempt, for fourteen (14) days from the date of this Proclamation, from the application of the driver hours of service rules in 49 CFR § 395, as adopted into Washington law by RCW 46.32.020 and WAC 446-65-010.

I also hereby prohibit motor carriers and drivers of commercial motor vehicles identified above from applying the waiver and suspension of driver hours of service rules as follows:

1. Motor carriers are prohibited from operating under the terms of this exemption if either of the following conditions exist:
    a. They have an out-of-service order in effect; or
    b. They do not possess a current safety rating of "Satisfactory" or better assigned by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration or the state in which the motor carrier has its principal place of business.

2. Motor carriers I have not prohibited from operating under the terms of this exemption are prohibited from:
    a. Requiring or permitting a fatigued or ill driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle; and
    b. Requiring or permitting a driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle after the driver has informed the carrier (verbally or in writing) that he or she needs immediate rest, unless the driver has first received at least ten consecutive hours off-duty documented in writing by the motor carrier; and
    c. Requiring or permitting a driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle after the driver has been on duty for more than 96 hours in any 8 consecutive days, unless the driver has first received at least 34 consecutive hours off-duty documented in writing by the motor carrier.

I ask motor carriers for livestock feed and dairy farm products and supplies to use their best judgment in operating under this exemption in a manner that ensures public health and safety.

ADDITIONALLY, as a result of this extreme weather event, pursuant to RCW 38.08.040, I also hereby authorize members of the Washington National Guard and Washington State Guard to serve on temporary state active duty as needed to protect life, health, property, or the public peace from the hazards discussed above, from December 9, 2025, through December 31, 2025, as may be necessary and deemed appropriate in the opinion of The Adjutant General, to perform such duties as directed by competent authority of the Washington Military Department in addressing this situation.

Unless earlier rescinded, superseded, or extended as allowed by law, the waivers, suspensions, and prohibitions in this Proclamation shall remain in effect for fourteen (14) days after its issuance.

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington this 10th day of December A.D., two thousand and twenty-five at Olympia, Washington.

By:

/s/
Bob Ferguson
Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR

/s/
Secretary of State

STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR BOB FERGUSON

EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR
AMENDING PROCLAMATION 25-07

25-07.1

December Atmospheric River and Winter Weather Event, Emergency Assistance, and Truck Driver Hours Waiver

WHEREAS, a significant atmospheric river and winter weather event began on December 2, 2025, producing high winds, heavy snowfall, ice accumulation, and extreme rainfall resulting in major coastal, river, and localized flooding, saturated soils, landslides, stream bank and slope erosion, fallen trees and tree limbs, and flying debris, which have caused impacts across Washington state resulting in hazardous conditions affecting the people of Washington, homes, property, businesses, agriculture, transportation systems, and the state economy, with impacts most severe in Benton, Chelan, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, King, Kittitas, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, Yakima, and Whatcom counties; and

WHEREAS, the extreme winter weather pattern that began on December 2, 2025, is expected to continue for several days, and the expected continued rain and snow at mountain elevations will exacerbate flooding conditions; and

WHEREAS, the flooding, landslides, mudslides, bank erosion, and wind damage have necessitated road closures, the establishment of alternate transportation routes, and evacuations, have impacted local utility services including significant power outages, and have damaged homes, businesses, and other public and private property and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the impacts of the extreme weather event are causing and are anticipated to cause injuries to the people of Washington and to severely impact agriculture, supply chains, transportation infrastructure, and the economy throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, road closures and other impacts from the extreme weather event have increased transportation distances and times for essential intrastate collection and delivery of agricultural feed and dairy farm products and supplies by motor carriers and drivers of commercial motor vehicles to and from production, processing, and distribution facilities; and

WHEREAS, commercial drivers cannot complete deliveries or provide services within the time limits prescribed by commercial motor vehicle driver hours of service rules, and available trucks cannot be dispatched because commercial drivers have exhausted current hour limitations, leading to current and expected impacts on livestock feed and dairy farm product and supply delivery; and

WHEREAS, the current and expected effects from this extreme weather event 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 requiring the use of search and rescue assets to save lives; and

WHEREAS, state agencies and local jurisdictions are coordinating resources to address damaged property and infrastructure, assess damage caused by the storms, and implement repairs; and

WHEREAS, Washington state individuals and families, including families with and without children, are suffering significant economic hardship from the flooding and other impacts of this event and require assistance; and

WHEREAS, individuals and families without children normally are not eligible to receive benefits under the Family Emergency Assistance Program (FEAP), but RCW 74.04.660(6) gives the Governor authority, "during a state of emergency and pursuant to an order from the governor under this subsection," to extend Family Emergency Assistance Program (FEAP) benefits to individuals and families without children, which authority is separate from, and in addition to, the Governor's emergency authority established in RCW 43.06.220; and

WHEREAS, funding for Washington State's Disaster Cash Assistance Program (DCAP) is available through January 15, 2026;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Ferguson, Governor of the state of Washington, as a result of the above-noted situation and under Chapters 38.52 and 43.06 RCW, do hereby proclaim that a State of Emergency exists throughout the entire state of Washington, and direct that the plans and procedures in the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan be implemented. State agencies and departments are directed to utilize state resources in accordance with the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and to do everything reasonably possible to assist affected political subdivisions in an effort to respond to and recover from this extreme weather event.

FURTHERMORE, under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220, to preserve and maintain life, health, property or the public peace, I also find, based on the above situation, that motor carriers and drivers of commercial motor vehicles delivering livestock feed products and dairy farm products and supplies are providing emergency relief during an emergency under 49 CFR § 390.23. Pursuant to 49 CFR § 390.23(b), they are therefore exempt, for fourteen (14) days from the date of the initial Proclamation 25-07, from the application of the driver hours of service rules in 49 CFR § 395, as adopted into Washington law by RCW 46.32.020 and WAC 446-65-010.

I also hereby prohibit motor carriers and drivers of commercial motor vehicles identified above from applying the waiver and suspension of driver hours of service rules as follows:

1. Motor carriers are prohibited from operating under the terms of this exemption if either of the following conditions exist:
    a. They have an out-of-service order in effect; or

b. They do not possess a current safety rating of "Satisfactory" or better assigned by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration or the state in which the motor carrier has its principal place of business.

2. Motor carriers I have not prohibited from operating under the terms of this exemption are prohibited from:
    a. Requiring or permitting a fatigued or ill driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle; and
    b. Requiring or permitting a driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle after the driver has informed the carrier (verbally or in writing) that he or she needs immediate rest, unless the driver has first received at least ten consecutive hours off-duty documented in writing by the motor carrier; and
    c. Requiring or permitting a driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle after the driver has been on duty for more than 96 hours in any 8 consecutive days, unless the driver has first received at least 34 consecutive hours off-duty documented in writing by the motor carrier.

I ask motor carriers for livestock feed and dairy farm products and supplies to use their best judgment in operating under this exemption in a manner that ensures public health and safety.

ADDITIONALLY, as a result of this extreme weather event, pursuant to RCW 38.08.040, I also hereby authorize members of the Washington National Guard and Washington State Guard to serve on temporary state active duty as needed to protect life, health, property, or the public peace from the hazards discussed above, from December 9, 2025, through December 31, 2025, as may be necessary and deemed appropriate in the opinion of The Adjutant General, to perform such duties as directed by competent authority of the Washington Military Department in addressing this situation.

ADDITIONALLY, as a result of this event and the circumstances outlined above, and under the provisions of RCW 38.52.030(9) and in accordance with WAC 118-11-050, I am activating the implementation of the Washington State Disaster Individual Assistance Program through the Military Department, for Benton, Chelan, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, King, Kittitas, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, Yakima, and Whatcom counties. Counties and tribes must still meet program criteria, as outlined in WAC Chapter 118-11. The purpose of this activation is to provide recovery assistance and support to impacted individuals and households, subject to the availability and allocation of funding to and by the Military Department for specific assistance programs.

ADDITIONALLY, I hereby direct, order and authorize the Secretary of the Department of Social and Health Services to extend FEAP benefits to individuals and families without children in Benton, Chelan, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, King, Kittitas, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, Yakima, and Whatcom counties. I further order the Secretary to extend emergency assistance benefits, including DCAP, to individuals and families who apply for and are eligible to receive benefits. This authorization and order for expansion is effective from December 16, 2025, until January 15, 2026.

Unless otherwise provided herein or by operation of law, this Proclamation shall remain in effect until rescinded, superseded, or extended as allowed by law.

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington this 16th day of December A.D., two thousand and twenty-five, at Seattle, Washington.

By:

/s/
Bob Ferguson
Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR

/s/
Secretary of State

STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF GOVERNOR BOB FERGUSON

EMERGENCY PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR
AMENDING PROCLAMATION 25-07, et seq.

25-07.2

December Atmospheric River and Winter Weather Event, Emergency Assistance, and Truck Driver Hours Waiver

WHEREAS, a significant atmospheric river and winter weather event began on December 2, 2025, producing high winds, heavy snowfall, ice accumulation, and extreme rainfall resulting in major coastal, river, and localized flooding, saturated soils, landslides, stream bank and slope erosion, fallen trees and tree limbs, and flying debris, which have caused impacts across Washington state resulting in hazardous conditions affecting the people of Washington, homes, property, businesses, agriculture, transportation systems, and the state economy, with impacts most severe in Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Franklin, Ferry, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kittitas, Lewis, Mason, Okanogan, Pacific, Pierce, Pend Oreille, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Spokane, Stevens, Thurston, Wahkiakum, Whatcom, and Yakima counties; and

WHEREAS, the extreme winter weather pattern that began on December 2, 2025, is expected to continue for several days, and the expected continued rain and snow at mountain elevations will exacerbate flooding conditions; and

WHEREAS, the flooding, landslides, mudslides, bank erosion, and wind damage have necessitated road closures, the establishment of alternate transportation routes, and evacuations, have impacted local utility services including significant power outages, and have damaged homes, businesses, and other public and private property and infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the impacts of the extreme weather event are causing and are anticipated to cause injuries to the people of Washington and to severely impact agriculture, supply chains, transportation infrastructure, and the economy throughout the state; and

WHEREAS, road closures and other impacts from the extreme weather event have increased transportation distances and times for essential intrastate collection and delivery of agricultural feed and dairy farm products and supplies by motor carriers and drivers of commercial motor vehicles to and from production, processing, and distribution facilities; and

WHEREAS, emergency debris-hauling activities essential to the response to the floods and weather event are now ongoing and are time-sensitive. Refuse haulers must act quickly and continuously, as debris removal efforts are essential to mitigating immediate threats to public health and safety and to delivery of essential services; and

WHEREAS, commercial drivers cannot complete deliveries or provide services within the time limits prescribed by commercial motor vehicle driver hours of service rules, and available trucks cannot be dispatched because commercial drivers have exhausted current hour limitations, leading to current and expected impacts on livestock feed and dairy farm product and supply delivery; and

WHEREAS, the current and expected effects from this extreme weather event 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 requiring the use of search and rescue assets to save lives; and

WHEREAS, state agencies and local jurisdictions are coordinating resources to address damaged property and infrastructure, assess damage caused by the storms, and implement repairs; and

WHEREAS, Washington state individuals and families, including families with and without children, are suffering significant economic hardship from the flooding and other impacts of this event and require assistance; and

WHEREAS, the funding directed by Proclamation 25-07.1 to be used to extend Family Emergency Assistance Program (FEAP) and Disaster Cash Assistance Program (DCAP) benefits has now been exhausted;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Bob Ferguson, Governor of the state of Washington, as a result of the above-noted situation and under Chapters 38.52 and 43.06 RCW, do hereby proclaim that a State of Emergency continues to exist throughout the entire state of Washington, and direct that the plans and procedures in the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan be implemented. State agencies and departments are directed to utilize state resources in accordance with the Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and to do everything reasonably possible to assist affected political subdivisions in an effort to respond to and recover from this extreme weather event.

FURTHERMORE, under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220, to preserve and maintain life, health, property or the public peace, I also continue to find, based on the above situation, that motor carriers and drivers of commercial motor vehicles delivering livestock feed products and dairy farm products and supplies are providing emergency relief during an emergency under 49 CFR § 390.23. Pursuant to 49 CFR § 390.23(b), they therefore continue to be exempt from the application of the driver hours-of-service rules in 49 CFR § 395, as adopted into Washington law by RCW 46.32.020 and WAC 446-65-010, until the later of fourteen (14) days from the date of Proclamation 25-07 initially enacting the exemption or the expiration of the period of regulatory relief from the application of the driver hours-of-service rules in 49 CFR Part 395 provided by the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA).

FURTHERMORE, under the provisions of RCW 43.06.220, to preserve and maintain life, health, property or the public peace, I also find, based on the above situation, that motor carriers

and drivers hauling debris related to the weather event are providing emergency relief during an emergency under 49 CFR § 390.23. Pursuant to 49 CFR § 390.23(b), they are therefore exempt from the application of the driver hours-of-service rules in 49 CFR § 395, as adopted into Washington law by RCW 46.32.020 and WAC 446-65- 010, until the later of fourteen (14) days from the date of this Proclamation 25-07.2 or the expiration of the period of regulatory relief from the application of the driver hours-of-service rules in 49 CFR Part 395 provided by FMCSA.

I also hereby prohibit motor carriers and drivers of commercial motor vehicles identified above from applying the waiver and suspension of driver hours of service rules as follows:

1. Motor carriers are prohibited from operating under the terms of this exemption if either of the following conditions exist:
    a. They have an out-of-service order in effect; or
    b. They do not possess a current safety rating of "Satisfactory" or better assigned by FMCSA or the state in which the motor carrier has its principal place of business.

2. Motor carriers I have not prohibited from operating under the terms of this exemption are prohibited from:
    a. Requiring or permitting a fatigued or ill driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle; and
    b. Requiring or permitting a driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle after the driver has informed the carrier (verbally or in writing) that he or she needs immediate rest, unless the driver has first received at least ten consecutive hours off-duty documented in writing by the motor carrier; and
    c. Requiring or permitting a driver to operate a commercial motor vehicle after the driver has been on duty for more than 96 hours in any 8 consecutive days, unless the driver has first received at least 34 consecutive hours off-duty documented in writing by the motor carrier.

I ask motor carriers covered by this Proclamation to use their best judgment in operating under this waiver and suspension in a manner that ensures public health and safety.

ADDITIONALLY, as a result of this extreme weather event, pursuant to RCW 38.08.040, I also hereby continue to authorize members of the Washington National Guard and Washington State Guard to serve on temporary state active duty as needed to protect life, health, property, or the public peace from the hazards discussed above, from December 9, 2025, through December 31, 2025, as may be necessary and deemed appropriate in the opinion of The Adjutant General, to perform such duties as directed by competent authority of the Washington Military Department in addressing this situation.

ADDITIONALLY, as a result of this event and the circumstances outlined above, and under the provisions of RCW 38.52.030(9) and in accordance with WAC 118-11-050, I am activating the implementation of the Washington State Disaster Individual Assistance Program through the Military Department, for Asotin, Benton, Chelan, Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Franklin, Ferry, Grays Harbor, Island, Jefferson, King, Kittitas, Lewis, Mason, Okanogan, Pacific, Pierce, Pend

Oreille, Skagit, Skamania, Snohomish, Spokane, Stevens, Thurston, Wahkiakum, Whatcom, and Yakima counties. Counties and tribes must still meet program criteria, as outlined in WAC Chapter 118-11. The purpose of this activation is to provide recovery assistance and support to impacted individuals and households, subject to the availability and allocation of funding to and by the Military Department for specific assistance programs.

Unless otherwise provided herein or by operation of law, this Proclamation shall remain in effect until rescinded, superseded, or extended as allowed by law.

Signed and sealed with the official seal of the state of Washington this 23rd day of December A.D., two thousand and twenty-five, at Olympia, Washington.

By:

/s/
Bob Ferguson
Governor

BY THE GOVERNOR

/s/
Secretary of State

ENCLOSURE F TO MAJOR DISASTER REQUEST

DECLARED DECEMBER 12, 2025

SUMMARY

STATE: Washington

NUMBER: FEMA-3629-EM

INCIDENT: Severe Storms, Straight-line Winds, Flooding, Landslides, and Mudslides

INCIDENT PERIOD: December 9, 2025, and continuing

DATE REQUESTED BY GOVERNOR: December 10, 2025

FEDERAL COORDINATING OFFICER: John Harrison
National FCO Program

DESIGNATIONS AND TYPES OF ASSISTANCE:

The Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), is authorized to provide appropriate assistance for required emergency measures, authorized under Title V of the Stafford Act, to save lives and to protect property and public health and safety, or to lessen or avert the threat of a catastrophe in the designated areas. Specifically, FEMA is authorized to provide emergency protective measures (Category B), limited to direct federal assistance, under the Public Assistance program at 75 percent federal funding.

This assistance is for Benton, Chelan, Clallam, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, King, Kittitas, Lewis, Mason, Pierce, Skagit, Snohomish, Thurston, Wahkiakum, Whatcom, and Yakima Counties, the Samish Indian Nation, and all Tribal Nations within the specified jurisdictions.

OTHER: Additional designations may be made at a later date if requested by the state and warranted by the results of further evaluation.

Note: This is an emergency declaration.