



VULNERABILITY	Low	LOW-MED	Med	Med-High	High	Very High
PRIORITY	Low	Low-Med	Med	Med-High	High	VERY HIGH
IMPORTANCE	POTENTIAL IMPACTS		ACTIONS			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture • Natural Resources • Economy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Habitat Destruction • Infrastructure Damage • Wellness and Safety 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor Changes • Manage Forest • Fire Resistant Buildings • Emergency Plans 			

WHY WILDFIRE IS IMPORTANT

Forests are an integral part of traditional culture on the Olympic Peninsula; providing resources ranging from cedar trees, berries, and medicinal plants, to large animals such as deer and bear. Large wildfires can alter the ecological structure of a forested area, create sediment susceptible to slides and erosion, and cause respiratory and cardiovascular distress and infection through exposure to smoke.

Much of the Jamestown S’Klallam tribal land is located in the rain shadow of the Olympic Mountains, one of the driest areas in Washington State west of the Cascades. Wildfire impacts to tribal residences, rental property, tribal infrastructure, and traditional use areas are a key concern for the Tribe.



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POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Increasing average temperatures, heat waves, and decreased summer precipitation will likely contribute to an overall drying of the northeast Olympic Peninsula, leading to increased wildfire risk. Climate change has already amplified the number and extent of wildfires in the past half century. By mid century, the annual likelihood of a very large fire in the Pacific Northwest will increase from a 5% chance of occurrence to a 50% chance of occurrence. Though fire on the Olympic Peninsula has historically played an important role in the forest ecosystem, an increasingly dry and fire prone forest is less resilient and more susceptible to disease and insect attack.

- Higher Wildfire Risk
- Potential for Larger Fires
- Decreased Overall Forest Health
- Damage to Tribal Infrastructure

ACTIONS TO INCREASE RESILIENCE

The avoidance of wildfire impacts depends on both prevention efforts and rapid response to fires.

NEXT STEPS

- Thin forests to reduce susceptibility to drought, insect attack, and wildfire conditions.
- Identify areas highly susceptible to wildfire through monitoring.
- Promote wildfire protection methods such as the use of fire resistant building materials and creating defensible space around homes and critical facilities.
- Establish a community evacuation plan and public health and safety code relevant to the emerging wildfire risk.
- Develop plans and gather equipment to treat smoke inhalation. Enhance outreach and educate those with existing respiratory problems.



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INCREASED WILDFIRE POLLUTION

Map shows the projection of increased emissions of wildfire smoke (tons of PM_{2.5}) in the American West in the decade 2045–2054 (right panel) compared to the 1990s (left panel) (McKenzie, 2010). Wildfire smoke is harmful to human health.

