



**ATNI Annual 2025 Convention
Suquamish, Washington**

RESOLUTION # 2025 – 52

**“SUPPORT FOR WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL
RESOURCES (DNR) SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING REQUEST FOR
WILDFIRE AND FOREST RESILIENCE”**

PREAMBLE

We, the members of the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians of the United States, invoking the divine blessing of the Creator upon our efforts and purposes, in order to preserve for ourselves and our descendants rights secured under Indian Treaties and benefits to which we are entitled under the laws and Constitution of the United States and several states, to enlighten the public toward a better understanding of the Indian people, to preserve Indian cultural values, and otherwise promote the welfare of the Indian people, do hereby establish and submit the following Resolution:

WHEREAS, the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) are the representatives and advocates for national, regional, and specific tribal concerns; and

WHEREAS, the ATNI is a regional organization comprised of American Indians/Alaska Natives and Indian tribal governments in the states of Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana, Nevada, Northern California, and Alaska; and

WHEREAS, the health, safety, welfare, education, economic and employment opportunity, and preservation of cultural and natural resources are primary goals and objectives of ATNI; and

WHEREAS, the Washington State legislature passed House Bill 1168 in 2021 committing to allocate \$125 million per biennium to fund the Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration & Community Resilience account in each biennium over eight years in critical wildfire resilience efforts; and

WHEREAS, the funding received from HB 1168 has allowed Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to add firefighting resources, including crews, heavy equipment, and air assets. Those ground and air assets have been strategically pre-positioned to reduce our reliance on federal assistance in Washington State. HB 1168 investments have also improved early wildfire detection systems. Together these assets have helped keep 95% of all wildfires contained to less than ten acres since 2021 and ensuring our firefighters can act quickly to keep small fires from becoming catastrophic; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, over 2.7 million acres of Washington forests were identified as in critical need of restoration. Nearly 1 million acres of forests restoration has been completed with mechanical thinning and prescribed fire to boost resilience and better buffer communities across wildfire-prone landscapes under the Washington State 20-year Forest Health Strategic Plan since the plans passing in 2014; and

WHEREAS, Community Resilience funding has improved 300 communities preparedness for wildfires, with over 1,000 Washington residents receiving training as Wildfire Preparedness Leaders; and

WHEREAS, the Department of the Interior is reorganizing wildfire suppression within the Department into one U.S. Wildland Fire Service (USWFS), with an implementation date of January 2026. Based on the current structure the consolidation will take over the fire suppression functions historically managed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. It is uncertain how P.L. 93-638 contracted/compacted fire function and programs will be incorporated; now

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that ATNI urges Washington State to retain a highly trained wildland fire workforce capable of managing wildland fire within the state to protect the communities, infrastructure, and tribal resources of importance to the Tribes and State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that continued forest restoration and community resilience work are critical to building communities and landscapes capable of managing and suppressing wildfire with minimal impacts on life, property, and resources; and

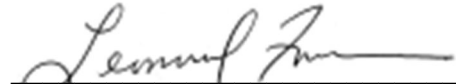
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the resources funded with prior HB 1168 appropriations should continue to be supported to ensure Washington State has adequate suppression assets to protect Tribal communities and resources, particularly with the current reductions and reorganization of the federal firefighting workforce; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that ATNI strongly urges the Washington State Public Lands Commissioner, Washington State Governor, and the Washington State legislature to appropriate an additional \$60 million to the Wildfire Response, Forest Restoration & Community Resilience account for fiscal year 2026-2027 within the State's 2025-2027 biennium budget; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this will be the policy of ATNI until it is withdrawn or modified by subsequent resolutions.

CERTIFICATION

The foregoing Resolution was adopted at the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians 2025 Annual Convention held at the Suquamish Clearwater Casino Resort in Suquamish, Washington on October 12-16, 2025, with a quorum present.



Leonard Forsman, President



Norma Jean Louie, Secretary