

JAY INSLEE
Governor



STATE OF WASHINGTON
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

P.O. Box 40002 • Olympia, Washington 98504-0002 • (360) 902-4111 • www.governor.wa.gov

August 19, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Through: Regional Administrator Ken Murphy
FEMA Region Ten
Bothell, WA 98102

Dear Mr. President:

Under the provisions of Section Emergency citation (501) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. §§ 5121-5207 (Stafford Act), and implemented by 44 CFR § Emergency citation (206.35) I request that you declare an emergency for *Washington State* as a result of the *2015 Washington Fires to include Asotin County, Chelan County, Douglas County, Ferry County, Klickitat County, Okanogan County, Pend Oreille County, Spokane County, Stevens County, Skamania County, and Yakima County*. Combined these counties are responding to over 40 fires with the likely potential for more fire starts in the near future. The state is requesting specialized resources to assist with potential life-saving and property protection activities to lessen the threat of further wildfire impacts.

To date there have been 14 confirmed incident/event related injuries and one death associated with these 2015 Washington Fires.

The American Red Cross is operating seven shelters in Chelan, Douglas, Ferry, Okanogan, and Stevens Counties and continues high daily activity for feeding and supplies at these locations. Additional locally operated shelters are open and in use.

On June 26, 2015, I issued a State of Emergency for the State of Washington for all 39 counties due to extraordinary heat and drought conditions across the state. These conditions have continue to worsen and exacerbated the threats posed by high fire danger weather conditions.

On August 13, 2015 a low pressure settled over central and eastern Washington that generated several hundred lightning strikes in a 6 hour period setting off numerous fires. This weather system remained in effect thru Saturday August 15, 2015. Gusty winds



The Honorable Barack Obama
August 19, 2015
Page 2

continue to effect these regions. Another similar system is moving into the region in the next 2 days with extreme high fire danger weather predicted.

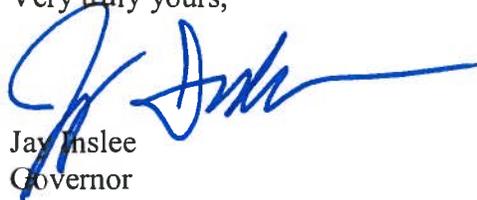
There have been five Fire Management Assistance Grant declarations in the span of 36 hours with two additional approved Washington State Fire Mobilizations for Black Canyon/McFarland Creek Fires in Okanogan County and Renner Lake Fire in Stevens and Ferry Counties. Currently 11 counties and 4 tribes are affected or threatened by fires with 39 confirmed residences and 60 other structures destroyed with over 235,000 acres burned. Over 3600 homes remain threatened, and these numbers are increasing each day as the largest fires remain uncontained. The National Weather Service has predicted an incoming weather pattern which will bring increased winds and low humidity, further increasing dangerous fire conditions. We expect this to dramatically increase the number of threatened homes and communities.

Additionally, 200 Title 10 federal forces are being deployed to the fires on Friday, August 21. Given the continuing high fire threat, additional requests for assistance may be made as further information is obtained from the local jurisdictions on the fire lines.

Washington State had a major disaster declaration on August 11, 2014 for the Washington Wildfires (DR-4188) in Okanogan County from the Carlton Complex Fire. The impacts of this current event are likely to exacerbate the ongoing housing and economic recovery efforts from the declared disaster last year.

We look forward to a favorable response to this request.

Very truly yours,



Jay Inslee
Governor

Enclosures (3)

SCO Designation Letter
State and Local Response for 2015 Fires
FEMA Form 010-0-13 Presidential Declaration Request