



State of Washington
Squad Boss, Wildland Fire Management Lead (WFML)

SALARY	\$3,477.00 - \$4,632.00 Monthly \$41,724.00 - \$55,584.00 Annually	LOCATION	Stevens County – Other, WA
JOB TYPE	Full Time - Permanent	JOB NUMBER	2026-3-A047/A048-02213
DEPARTMENT	Dept. of Natural Resources	OPENING DATE	03/12/2026
CLOSING DATE	3/22/2026 11:59 PM Pacific	SALARY INFORMATION	The high end of the salary range, Step M is typically a longevity step

Description



Squad Boss, Wildland Fire Management Lead (WFML)
Recruitment #2026-3-A047/A048
Full-time, Permanent, Represented position (WPEA)
Location: Northeast Region- Chewelah, WA

Work Hours flexibility may be available and considered
Salary: \$3,477.00 - \$4,632.00 Monthly

Review of applications is ongoing. We reserve the right to make a hiring decision or close this recruitment at any time after 3/19/26. It is in your best interest to submit materials as soon as possible.

Want to join something GREAT and make a difference?

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has an exciting opportunity within our Northeast Region as a **Squad Boss (Wildland Fire Management Lead)** with the North Columbia 20-person hand crew. We are currently recruiting for two Squad Bosses to join our North Columbia 20-person hand crew.

The Northeast Region is the most active fire program in the state of Washington, featuring high-density urban interface fuels and a complex jurisdiction. If you love working outdoors, appreciate a remote natural environment, enjoy providing assistance to the public, with proven ability to work as part of a small team, then this opportunity might be for you!

The Squad Boss positions will support the agency's mission by providing wildland fire suppression services to, and on behalf of, the public. This critical service protects public resources, natural resources, and public safety. As a Squad Boss of the North Columbia Hand Crew, you will perform pre-suppression and suppression-related activities. You must be willing and capable of performing strenuous outdoor work in all weather conditions, safely and productively. Top candidates for this position are competent in understanding and following the chain of command and are demonstrably the most responsible citizens in the communities they serve. Working as a Squad Boss for the North Columbia Hand Crew is rewarding yet hard work and requires long hours and time away from home.

These positions will allow the successful candidates the opportunity to collaborate with other fire professionals, including area fire districts, federal and other state partners, giving them exposure to a variety of learning opportunities, agency operations, and the ability to build cohesive relationships across the state of Washington. You will experience a different level of collaboration within the DNR that will offer a lifetime worth of skills for your future career path.

Once this position from this recruitment announcement is filled, this recruitment may be used to establish a qualified pool of candidates for Wildland Fire Management Lead-Squad Boss vacancies in the next sixty (60) days.

Duties

Responsibilities:

- Provide direct fire line supervision of hand crew members who respond to grass, brush, and forest fires and are available for district, regional, statewide, and/or interagency dispatch.
- Provides interagency fire suppression activities for initial attack, extended attack, mop-up, patrol, and rehabilitation. During initial attack fires, may perform ICS functions as Incident Commander Type 4 or 5, or other duties as needed.
- Plans and implements training for seasonal crew members
- Prescribed Fire Support – Leads crew to conduct site fuels and fire effects data collection, unit preparation, assist with burn plan writing, community outreach, and Rx burn implementation support to include firing, holding, burn boss, etc.
- Work in remote areas away from vehicles for long periods of time.
- Work in extremely rugged terrain.
- Travel for extended periods of time (for multiple weeks): outside of your home unit to assist on fires within the region, to other regions and/or states for large fires.
- Build strong team cohesion within the 20-person crew on a day-to-day basis.
- Prepare for fire duty, maintain assigned equipment and vehicles for fire readiness.
- Community Resilience - Leads crew to conduct home ignition zone assessments as part of Wildfire Ready Neighbors or independent requests from landowners and/or communities. In addition to Home Ignition Zone assessments, crew members may participate in community education days, plan and participate in community outreach and prevention events, and participate with local cooperators on community outreach projects.
- Forest Health Treatment – Leads crew to conduct non-commercial thinning and slash abatement, project layout, and compliance in coordination with State Lands and Landowner Assistance staff. Supports forest health project layout, tree marking, road brushing, and GPS data collection surveys. Assists with timber sales, layout, marking, forest cruising, and road maintenance.
- Complete fire reports and other paperwork as assigned on time.

Qualifications

Required Qualifications:

- Certified as a NWCG Firefighter Type 1.
- Must annually pass the work capacity test at the arduous level as required by NWCG.

Required Competencies:

- Skills in building/maintaining cooperative relationships.
- Ability to lead teams.
- Skills in employee empowerment.

- Knowledge of wildland fire suppression tactics and fire behavior recognition.
- Commitment to fostering and supporting an environment that honors diversity, equity, inclusion, and environmental justice practices.
- Perform assigned duties in a manner consistent with applicable laws, regulations, and public records retention and requests are followed.
- DNR Core Competencies:
 - Personal Accountability
 - Value Others
 - Compassionate Communication
 - Inspire Others
 - Commitment to Excellence

Special Requirements and Conditions of Employment:

- Position assigned duty station is Colville, Washington. Work is performed in the office setting (30%) of the time, and in unimproved natural areas of the state (70%). Incumbent must be able to traverse steep, uneven, and hazardous terrain in all weather conditions, while leading other firefighters. The outside environment varies from hot, dry, heat relate illness type conditions in summer, to cold, wet, hypothermic-type conditions closer to wintertime. Field duties will require carrying a fire line-rated pack and involve work requiring physical performance, calling for above-average endurance and superior conditioning.
- Position requires a large amount of travel (50%). This includes travel alone between fires, work centers, proposed work sites, and ongoing supervisory tasks, as well as meeting with partners and cooperators. This includes driving in snowy, icy conditions with poor to little visibility, to driving in conditions while surrounded by smoke and fire. This position requires both night and overnight travel.
- A valid driver's license and two years of driving experience. Additionally, DNR requires state drivers to possess a license that is not suspended, revoked, or restricted (for example, Occupational/Restricted Driver Licenses or requiring ignition interlock devices). This position requires driving as an essential function. Finalists and/or interview candidates will be asked to provide a driving record from all states in which they have held a license during the past three years.

Desired Qualifications:

- A Bachelor's in Fire Science, Natural Resource, or related field; or some higher education that required coursework in Fire Sciences and/or Silviculture.
- Certified as a NWCG qualification level of Single Resource Boss-Crew Boss, or higher.
- Certified as a NWCG Incident Commander Type 4 or higher.

- Knowledge of employment rules and regulations as they apply to permanent, seasonal career, and seasonal DNR employees.
- Skills in evaluating others' abilities and assessing training needs.

Don't let doubts stop you from applying for this position. At DNR, we value diversity and inclusion in our organization, and we are looking for the best person for the job. We are invested in acquiring the best and most innovative candidate for the job, and that candidate may be one from a less traditional background. It is important you consider and clearly communicate within your application materials how your education, volunteer work, life skills, and experience transfer to this position and the qualifications. If you have any questions about the qualifications, please contact us at DNRrecruiting@dnr.wa.gov. Don't hesitate to apply!

Supplemental Information

Application Requirements: Failure to provide the listed documents may result in disqualification. If you have questions or difficulty attaching these documents, please contact DNRrecruiting@dnr.wa.gov.

- **Apply online:** at www.careers.wa.gov (Click on the APPLY button above).
- **Letter of interest:** describing your specific qualifications for the position and the position required, desired, and special requirements.
- **Resume:** that details your experience and qualifications.
- **References:** References are optional at the time your application is submitted. Finalists will be asked to provide a list of at least 3 professional references with current telephone numbers, including your current or most recent supervisor.
- **Important:** Do not attach any documents that include photos or private information (Social Security number, year of birth, etc.).
- **Complete all supplemental questions.**
- Candidates who move forward in the recruitment process may be contacted via email at info@governmentjobs.com with interview information/scheduling instructions. Please monitor the email listed in your application materials and check your junk email folder to ensure you receive those communications.

Questions? Please contact Cole Pake at cole.pake@dnr.wa.gov/509-563-9000 or email us at DNRrecruiting@dnr.wa.gov.

Persons needing accommodation in the application/testing process or this job announcement in an alternative format may call (360) 522-2500 or email DNRrecruiting@dnr.wa.gov. Applicants who are deaf or hard of hearing may call through the [Washington Relay Service](#) by dialing 7-1-1 or 1-800-833-6384.

About the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

At DNR, we approach our work through the lens of making Washington a better place environmentally and are dedicated to serving Washington's lands and communities through diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Our Vision – Our actions ensure a future where Washington's lands, waters, and communities thrive.

Our Mission – Manage, sustain, and protect the health and productivity of Washington's lands and waters to meet the needs of present and future generations.

Our Core Values:

- Safety and Well-Being —Our top priority is the safety of the public and our employees.
- Public Service —We value and respect the public we serve, and we value and respect the people of the Department of Natural Resources who step up to serve.
- Innovation and Creative Problem-Solving — We solve our state's most pressing challenges through innovative thinking, dedication, and bold and creative vision.
- Leadership and Teamwork —We are committed to building leaders at all levels and building teams for success.

DNR provides excellent benefits, a few of which include:

- Commitment to organizational health and wellness
- Work/life balance
- DNR Employee Resource Groups (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council, Women's Employee Resource Group, Veterans Employee Resource Group, etc.)
- Statewide Employee Business Resource Groups, [visit here to learn more](#)
- Leadership that empowers and supports employees
- Professional development opportunities
- Educational and career development aid
- Public Service Loan Forgiveness Eligibility
- Opportunities to participate in wildland fire suppression assignments
- A comprehensive benefits package includes employer contributions toward health insurance, paid holidays, retirement plans, sick leave, and vacation days. Visit <http://careers.wa.gov/benefits.html> for more information.

Additional Information:

This recruitment may be extended and used to fill future similar vacancies for up to sixty (60) days.

DNR does not use the E-Verify system. For more information, please visit www.uscis.gov.

Veterans wishing to claim Veteran's preference, please attach a copy of your DD-214, NGB-22, or other verification of military service. Please black out your Social Security number before attaching it. We thank you and are grateful for your service!

Equal Opportunity Employer: The Washington State Department of Natural Resources is an equal opportunity employer. We strive to create a working environment that includes and respects cultural, racial, ethnic, sexual orientation, and gender identity diversity. Women, racial and ethnic minorities, persons with disability, persons over 40 years of age, veterans, military spouses or people with military status, and people of all sexual orientations and gender identities are encouraged to apply.

Once you submit your online application, you can check your status by logging into your account. If you experience technical difficulties creating, accessing, or completing your application, call 360-664-1960 or 1-877-664-1960 or email CareersHelp@des.wa.gov.

Check us out on: [DNR's website](#) | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [YouTube](#) | [WordPress](#)

Benefits

More than Just a Paycheck!

Employee benefits are not just about the kind of services you get, they are also about how much you may have to pay out of pocket. Washington State offers one of the most competitive benefits packages in the nation.

We understand that your life revolves around more than just your career. Like everyone, your first priority is ensuring that you and your family will maintain health and financial security. That's why choice is a key component of our benefits package. We have a selection of health and retirement plans, paid leave, staff training and other compensation benefits that you can mix and match to meet your current and future needs.

Read about our benefits:

The following information describes typical benefits available for full-time employees who are expected to work more than six months. Actual benefits may vary by appointment type or be prorated for other than full-time work (e.g. part-time); view the job posting for benefits details for job types other than full-time.

Note: *If the position offers benefits which differ from the following, the job posting should include the specific benefits.*

Insurance Benefits

Employees and their families are covered by medical (including vision), dental and basic life insurance. There are multiple medical plans with affordable monthly premiums that offer coverage throughout the state.

Staff are eligible to enroll each year in a medical flexible spending account which enables them to use tax-deferred dollars toward their health care expenses. Employees are also covered by basic life and long-term disability insurance, with the option to purchase additional coverage amounts.

To view premium rates, coverage choice in your area and how to enroll, please visit the [Public Employees Benefits Board \(PEBB\) website](#). The [Washington Wellness](#) program from the Health Care Authority works with PEBB to support our workplace [wellness programs](#).

[Dependent care assistance](#) allows the employee to save pre-tax dollars for a child or elder care expenses.

Other insurance coverage for auto, boat, home, and renter insurance is available through payroll deduction.

The [Washington State Employee Assistance Program](#) promotes the health and well-being of employees.

Retirement and Deferred Compensation

State Employees are members of the Washington Public Employees' Retirement System (PERS). New employees have the option of two employer contributed retirement programs. For additional information, check out the [Department of Retirement Systems'](#) web site.

Employees also have the ability to participate in the [Deferred Compensation Program](#) (DCP). This is a supplemental retirement savings program (similar to an IRA) that allows you control over the amount of pre-tax salary dollars you defer as well as the flexibility to choose between multiple investment options.

Social Security

All state employees are covered by the federal [Social Security](#) and Medicare systems. The state and the employee pay an equal amount into the system.

Public Service Loan Forgiveness

If you are employed by a government or not-for-profit organization, and meet the qualifying criteria, you may be eligible to receive student loan forgiveness under the [Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program](#).

Holidays

Full-time and part-time employees are entitled to paid holidays and one paid personal holiday per calendar year.

Note: Employees who are members of certain Unions may be entitled to additional personal leave day(s), please refer to position specific [Collective Bargaining Agreements](#) for more information.

Full-time employees who work full monthly schedules qualify for holiday compensation if they are employed before the holiday and are in pay status for at least 80 nonovertime hours during the month of the holiday; or for the entire work shift preceding the holiday.

Part-time employees who are in pay status during the month of the holiday qualify for the holiday on a pro-rata basis. Compensation for holidays (including personal holiday) will be proportionate to the number of hours in pay status in the month to that required for full-time employment, excluding all holiday hours. Pay status includes hours worked and time on paid leave.

Sick Leave

Full-time employees earn eight hours of sick leave per month. Overtime eligible employees who are in pay status for less than 80 hours per month, earn a monthly proportionate to the number of hours in pay status, in the month to that required for full-time employment. Overtime exempt employees who are in pay status for less than 80 hours per month do not earn a monthly accrual of sick leave.

Sick leave accruals for part-time employees will be proportionate to the number of hours in pay status, in the month to that required for full-time employment. Pay status includes hours worked, time on paid leave and paid holiday.

Vacation (Annual Leave)

Full-time employees accrue vacation leave at the rates specified in [WAC 357-31-165\(1\)](#) or the applicable collective bargaining agreement (CBA). Full-time employees who are in pay status for less than 80 nonovertime hours in a month do not earn a monthly accrual of vacation leave.

Part-time employees accrue vacation leave hours in accordance with [WAC 357-31-165\(1\)](#) or the applicable collective bargaining agreement (CBA) on a pro rata basis. Vacation leave accrual will be proportionate to the number of hours in pay status, in the month to that required for full-time employment.

Pay status includes hours worked, time on paid leave and paid holiday.

As provided in [WAC 357-58-175](#), an employer may authorize a lump-sum accrual of vacation leave or accelerate the vacation leave accrual rate to support the recruitment and/or retention of a candidate or employee for a Washington Management Service position. Vacation leave accrual rates may only be accelerated using the rates established WAC 357-31-165.

Note: Most agencies follow the civil service rules covering leave and holidays for **exempt** employees even though there is no requirement for them to do so. However, agencies are required to adhere to the applicable RCWs pertaining holidays and leave.

Military Leave

Washington State supports members of the armed forces with 21 days paid military leave per year.

Bereavement Leave

Most employees whose family member or household member dies, or for loss of pregnancy, are entitled to five (5) days of paid bereavement leave. In addition, the employer may approve other available leave types for the purpose of bereavement leave.

Additional Leave

[Leave Sharing](#)

[Parental Leave](#)

[Family and Medical Leave Act \(FMLA\)](#)

[Leave Without Pay](#)

Please visit the [State HR Website](#) for more detailed information regarding benefits.

Updated 01-07-2026

Employer

State of Washington

Address

[View Job Posting for Agency Information](#)

[View Job Posting for Location, Washington, 98504](#)

Website

<http://www.careers.wa.gov>

Squad Boss, Wildland Fire Management Lead (WFML) Supplemental Questionnaire

***QUESTION 1**

Please describe what interests you about the Department of Natural Resources.

***QUESTION 2**

Please describe what a work environment based on diversity, equity, inclusivity and belonging means to you.

***QUESTION 3**

Are you certified as a NWCG Firefighter Type 1?

- Yes
 No

***QUESTION 4**

Do you have a valid driver's license and at least two years of driving experience?

- Yes
 No

***QUESTION 5**

Do you now, or will you in the future, require sponsorship for employment visa status (e.g., H-1B visa status, etc.) to work legally for our agency in the United States?

- Yes
 No
 Unsure

***QUESTION 6**

Where did you originally hear about this job posting?

- www.dnr.wa.gov
 www.careers.wa.gov
 WA WorkSource office or WorkSourceWA.com

- Governmentjobs.com
- Monster
- Indeed
- LinkedIn
- Twitter
- College/university website/career fair
- Handshake
- Newspaper
- Direct Email Notification
- Statewide Employee Business Resource Groups (BRG)
- Professional/Personal Network
- Job Board
- Job Fair
- Zip Recruiter
- Diversity Jobs
- Facebook
- Other (please specify below)

QUESTION 7

If you answered "other" to the previous question, please specify where you originally learned of this employment opportunity in the space below.

* Required Question