



## DEB | Decatur Emergency Brigade Community Communication | March 2024

Hello Decatur Island Community,

This communication is robust - thank you for taking the time to read, engage and take the survey located at the bottom.

As most of you may be aware of, there was a grass fire on Island on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. An extraordinary synergy of community support, education, and equipment played a pivotal role in an effective community response. It demonstrated our ability to swiftly mobilize our trucks and volunteers from their winterized state, achieving significant results. This incident offers a wealth of learning opportunities.

DEB has several key points to debrief and actions to consider for enhancing our future readiness that we are assessing and taking action upon.

Despite it still being winter, with conditions that had responders ankle-deep in mud, the occurrence of a grass fire was a stark wake-up call. Please stay vigilant and take necessary precautions.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone for your collective efforts!



## TRAINING

We have scheduled further **community training with Jordan Pollock on June 8<sup>th</sup>**, which will serve as an opportunity for those who have not attended training before to participate plus a session for previous trained responders- both a review and a reinforcement of our preparedness.

The recent fire serves as a critical reminder of the importance of continuous training and engagement in DEB activities. If you have not attended training, you can communicate your interest in the survey.

We extend our gratitude to **EVERYONE** involved for the past handful of years. Your dedication and hard work is evident and greatly appreciated.



## DNR GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

We're excited to announce increased funding and resources from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for Western Washington, with a focus on San Juan County (SJC) this year. Collaborating with the Decatur Emergency Brigade, DNR has made these resources available to our community and will soon publicly announce various programs.

Decatur property owners have a chance to receive direct grant benefits from various DNR funding streams. Your active participation is crucial to maximize these benefits. Please take two minutes to fill out the linked survey if you're interested in these programs. Your timely response will greatly aid our planning and engagement with DNR.

**ARE YOU  
PREPARED FOR  
WILDFIRE?**



## **SURVEY**

The Decatur Emergency Brigade seeks quantifiable data from our community on:

1. Level of Community Interest.
2. Commitments from Individuals to Volunteer in support of these projects.

**Please share your voice and interest by completing the survey.**

[SURVEY LINK HERE](#)

or click on button below

**TAKE THE SURVEY**

## **MORE INFO ABOUT DNR INITIATIVES**

We're highlighting three major initiatives from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources focused on Community Wildfire Resilience and Preparedness:

- Wildfire Ready Neighbors provides practical measures for individuals, independent of community coordination. DNR is introducing it in SJC, with special focus on Decatur. The survey assesses interest and support for island-wide adoption, often a precursor to becoming a Firewise community. [Learn more.](#)

- Firewise USA: This program focuses on creating defensible spaces around structures to enhance fire safety. The Decatur Northwest Community Association, for example, has been a part of Firewise USA and has been accredited since 2009. [Learn more.](#)

- San Juan County's 2012 CWPP is outdated and not on DNR's site, but an archived copy is available [here](#). The SJC Conservation District is updating it, with DEB's involvement, especially advocating for outer islands. DNR supports DEB's USDA grant application for an island-specific CWPP, but the award's uncertainty due to grant criteria. [Learn more.](#)

Additionally, beyond wildfire resilience and preparedness, there is:

- Forest Resilience: This involves stewardship planning and practices aimed at improving the health of non-industrial forest lands and enhancing wildfire resilience. [Learn more.](#)

We encourage your participation and look forward to your responses. Your involvement is crucial in shaping a safer and more resilient Decatur Island.

Warm regards,

DEB (Decatur Emergency Brigade)

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[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)