

Agricultural Burning

The Washington State Department of Ecology requires a permit for all types of Agricultural Burning with the following exceptions:

- Orchard prunings;
- Organic debris along fence lines or irrigation or drainage ditches;
- or Organic debris blown by the wind.



To help reduce smoke-related environmental and health concerns, the Department of Ecology's Eastern Washington Burn Team makes daily burn/no-burn decisions called the "**burn call**" for agricultural permit holders. The burn call provides daily current and forecasted air quality conditions and burn decisions to citizens. You can get burn call information from the following sources:

- [Internet](#)
- Call 1-800-406-5322 for a recorded message

Burn Zone Maps

To find out what zone you are in, click on a link below to view the map.

- [Eastern Washington Burn Zones](#)
- [Walla Walla County Burn Zones](#)
- [Columbia County Burn Zones](#)
- [Franklin County Burn Zones](#)
- [Grant County Burn Zones](#)
- [Whitman County Burn Zones](#)

Getting an Agricultural Burn Permit

This section has links to the different agricultural burn permit applications. Only **complete applications** will be processed.

Incomplete applications will be denied. Complete applications will include:

- A completed permit application;
- A map of the area to be burned; and
- A fee.

If you wish to obtain an agricultural burn permit for burning to take place in Asotin, Garfield, Columbia, Walla Walla, Franklin, Adams, Grant, or Whitman, Counties, send the application to your local permitting authority. The addresses for **Local Permitting Authorities** can be found [here](#).

If you wish to burn:

- In Western Washington, or in Benton, Yakima, or Spokane counties, contact your **local air agency**.
- On an Indian Reservation, contact your tribal government.
- In all other counties, send your completed burn permit application to:

Washington State Department of Ecology
Cashiering Unit
PO Box 47611
Olympia, WA 98504-7611

Applications

Ecology recently adopted a new rule regarding agricultural burning and permit fees. For more information, read "[Rule Adoption Notice: Agricultural Burning, Chapter 173-430 WAC.](#)"

- Burning Permit Application - [Agricultural Field Burning](#)
- Burning Permit Application - [Pile Burning \(including Orchard Tear-Out\)](#)
- Burning Permit Application - [Spot Burning](#)
- Burning Permit Application - [Baled Agricultural Residue Burning](#)
- Burning Permit Application - [CRP Grower Support Document](#)

NOTE:

Applicants must use Best Management Practices to complete their application.

Best Management Practices (BMPs):

Agricultural burning is allowed when it is reasonably necessary to carry out the enterprise. A farmer can show burning is reasonably necessary when it meets the criteria of the BMPs and no practical alternative exists. BMPs are one of the ways to demonstrate the need to burn. Growers not using BMPs must establish that their proposed burn is reasonably necessary and that no practical alternative is available. The burden of proof is on the grower, and the demonstration must satisfy the Department of Ecology and the local delegated permitting authority, if there is a local permitting authority.

[BMP Page Link](#)

[Related Agricultural Links](#)

[Contact for these counties:](#) Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Stevens, Walla Walla, and Whitman counties

[Contact for these counties:](#) Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat and Okanogan counties. [Other Counties](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

How do I get publications?

You can download them off the internet or [contact](#) The Department of Ecology. [Select this](#) to go to Ecology's online publication index.

What is my alternative to burning, and is Ecology doing anything to promote alternatives?

For [Local Recycling Facilities, select here](#).

For information on agricultural burning [Grants and Research, select here](#).

Who do I contact about a possible air quality problem?

Visit our [smoke complaint page](#).

Why is there a fee for agricultural burning permits?

When members of the Washington State Legislature passed the Clean Air Washington Act in 1991, they included specific references to agricultural burning and fees that would be charged to farmers who burn on their land. Specifically, the law says:

- The fee will cover the costs of the permitting program.
- The fee will provide funds for research into burning alternatives.
- The fee will include an allowance for inflation.

Who administers the agricultural burning permit program?

The law identifies parameters for delegating authority for agricultural burning programs to [local county offices](#). They include conservation districts, counties, fire protection authorities, Ecology and [Local Clean Air Agencies](#).

Who sets the permit fee amount?

The Agricultural Burning Practices and Research Task Force is charged with setting the fee. The fee is based on a three-part equation: a portion dedicated to [research](#), a state oversight portion and a local permit administration portion. The equation was based on actual costs.

Where does the fee go?

Currently, Ecology has awarded almost \$400,000 of grant and research monies to various projects. All this funding was acquired from permit fees. For a list of grant proposals, go to [Ecology's grants page](#).

What if I just have a small spot to burn?

If you are requesting to burn small spots on your farm, you need to complete a Spot Burn Permit Application and pay a \$30.00 fee for up to 10 acres of small spots per year.

What is the current fee for field burning?

Field burning - \$30 for the first 10 acres and \$3 for each additional acre.

Who is the Asotin County permitting authority and how do I reach them?

The Asotin County Conservation District Office is located at 720 Sixth Street, Suite B, Clarkston, WA 99403.

The contact for Ag Burn information and assistance with applications and permits is Casey Scott.

Telephone: 509-758-8012

caseyaccd@cableone.net

What is Township, Section, Range?

The US Public Land Survey (USPLS) was used to survey and subdivide lands starting in the 1800's. A standard "Township" is a 6 mile x 6 mile square composed of 36 one mile square sections. The "Township" is defined by a north or south Township number and an east or west Range number from a set reference line. Note that "Township" refers both to the north/south descriptor and the 6x6 unit described by a pair of Township and Range descriptors. Due to original survey errors it is not uncommon to have sections and Townships that are odd-shaped or not quite standard size. If you are unfamiliar with the USPLS you may contact your county Assessor's Office with your parcel number (see your property tax statement) and they will be able to tell you what your section, Township & Range description is.

Other Resources

- [Burn Location - How to Describe Yours](#)
- [Alternatives to Burning](#)
- [Environmental Permit Handbook](#)
- [Air Quality](#)
- [Washington State Fire Information](#)