

Gluesenkamp Perez seeks \$40M for 20 projects

U.S. Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (WA-03) recently announced she has requested Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27) funding for 20 vital community improvement projects in all seven counties across Washington's Third District. Some of the projects have already passed the House Appropriations Committee – and all projects, including the pending requests, total \$41,148,427 in potential federal tax revenue coming back to South-west Washington.

This spring, Gluesenkamp Perez opened her Community Project Funding (CPF) application and selected projects based on eligibility and community support and impact. Members of the House can submit 20 CPF requests to the House Appropriations Committee. As a member of



Gluesenkamp Perez Media courtesy photo | Skamania County Pioneer

U.S. Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez visits with students at Stevenson High School in an undated photo.

the House Appropriations Committee, Gluesenkamp Perez will continue advo-

ating for the projects.

"I've met with a wide range of people and local

government leaders across the district. Listening to and learning from the folks who

are on the ground is an essential part of this process and it helps make sure that federal dollars are being spent on worthwhile projects that will make a tangible improvement in the quality of life for the people I represent," Gluesenkamp Perez said in a press statement. "From economic development and public health to public safety and improved communications, all of these investments are bringing tax dollars home to the people who sent me to Congress."

The following is a complete list of all Rep. Gluesenkamp Perez's FY27 requests:

Clark County

- \$480,000 for Community Center upgrades for

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Safety is paramount when outdoor burning is part of social gatherings

Summer in Washington brings opportunities to enjoy outdoor activities like barbecuing, gathering around fire pits and roasting marshmallows over campfires. However, as seasonal conditions become increasingly dry, it is essential to always remain vigilant and practice fire safety.

In 2025, Washington state fire agencies reported approximately 2,101 fire incidents in outdoor areas. When recreational burning is allowed in an area, it is critical to continue to follow proper precautions to reduce the risk of accidental fires. Be sure to regularly check for current burn bans and local fire restrictions, which may change based on weather and fire danger levels.

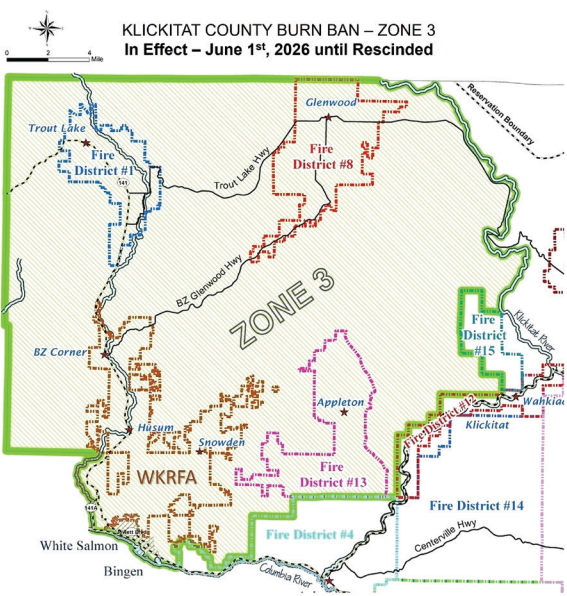
To help prevent wildfires and ensure safe enjoyment of outdoor fire activities, please follow these safety guidelines:

- Check for current burn bans before engaging in any open flame activity.
- Clean your grill thoroughly before use to prevent grease fires.
- Keep all flammable materials at least three feet away from grills and heat sources.
- Position fire pits at least 10 feet from homes, decks and other combustible structures.
- Place campfires at least 25 feet away from tents, vegetation or anything that can catch fire.
- Never leave a fire unattended under any circumstances.
- Keep a water source or fire extinguisher nearby and ready for immediate use.
- Fully extinguish all fires before leaving the area – douse with water and stir until cool.
- Check weather conditions prior to igniting any fire, especially during windy or dry periods.
- Have an alternative plan in case fire restrictions or weather conditions make burning unsafe.

Visit the Washington Department of Natural Resources Burn Portal for the latest updates on fire restrictions and burn bans in the county. For additional information on outdoor burn safety, contact the State Fire Marshal's Office at 360-596-3904.

Source: Washington State Fire Marshal's Office

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Klickitat County courtesy illustration | Skamania County Pioneer
Klickitat County Zone Three outdoor burn ban will be in effect beginning June 1.

Klickitat County Zone Three ban on outdoor burning from June 1 until the ban is rescinded

Klickitat County is establishing a ban on open outdoor burning for Klickitat County Burn Ban Zone Three defined as lands between the western boundaries of Klickitat County Fire District Nos. 4, 12 and 15 then north on the Klickitat River to the north county line, to the west county line, to include but not limited to Klickitat County Fire District Nos. 1, 8 and 13; and the West Klickitat Regional Fire Authority (WKRFA); outside the corporate limits of any city or town; the jurisdiction of the Yakama Indian Nation; jurisdiction of the Washington State Department of Natural Resources, and the jurisdiction of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission and prohibiting the issuance of burning permits except for authorized agricultural burning. Residential barbecues will be allowed.

At the discretion of the Fire Chief, Fire Protection Districts are exempt from this ban for the purposes of live fire training activities. Said ban on open outdoor burning shall be in full force and effect from Monday, June 1, until rescinded. The

public is directed to check with the appropriate authorities concerning burning restrictions within the corporate limits of any city or town.

In 2018 Klickitat County Department of Emergency Management (KCDEM) in cooperation with the Klickitat County Interagency Fire Association (KCIFA) created new County Burn Ban Zone designations for establishing County open outdoor burn bans. This consists of three zones across the county starting in the east with Zone One then Zone Two covering the central area and Zone Three covering the west end of the county. For clarity, the zone boundaries follow fire district boundaries as much as possible. Maps detailing the zone boundaries have been created and are available to view and download on the KCDEM webpage online at www.klickitatcounty.org/1242/Burn-Bans-Zones-and-Notices

Klickitat County Burn Ban Zones One and Two went into effect on May 18.

Source: Klickitat County Department of Emergency Management

What to do when you've got proliferating invasive weeds

It's a beautiful spring day and you're out tending to your lawn. You're mowing a large patch of shiny, clover-looking plants. These plants have been here for a while, but they seem to be spreading farther and farther onto your property. On a whim, you take a picture with a plant ID app that your friend recommended. The app tells you that it's Geranium lucidum, shiny geranium, and that it is invasive.

So, you've got a noxious weed in your yard. Now what?

How do you control it? Do you legally have to remove it? Who do you ask?

Never fear: your local Noxious Weed Program is here!

The Skamania County Noxious Weed Control Program (or Skamania County NWCP) is Skamania's legal authority when it comes to controlling invasive vegetation. The NWCP is guided by the Skamania County Weed Board, which meets monthly to discuss the program's work. The board and the program also strive to empower Skamania residents to control noxious weeds found on their property.

Say you contact the Skamania County NWCP about the shiny geranium

you have on your property. How might we help you tackle this issue?

First, we may conduct a site visit. These are completely free – and give us an idea of what you're working with. This also allows us to notice any other invasives that may be lurking around your property. We'll provide you with information on the weeds we find, such as how to identify them, as well as what your legal responsibilities are as outlined by Washington's noxious weed law (RCW 17.10).

From there we can help you develop a management plan. This might include techniques to control the weeds, the best time(s) to control them, equipment recommendations and information on partner programs. We'll also highlight activities that may increase the spread of these weeds. For example: mowing shiny geranium is NOT recommended, as it moves the seeds around. All that time you spent trying to remove it from your lawn, you may have accidentally been helping it to spread.

But wait: say the app didn't tell you if the plant is invasive or not. How do you find out what's a noxious weed and what isn't?

The Washington State

Weed Board is the legal body that designates certain non-native plants as noxious weeds. They review the list of noxious weeds annually and determine if any additions or changes should be made. This list governs the species that landowners are legally required to eradicate or control per RCW 17.10. County weed boards also create weed lists that are specific to their county.

The Skamania County Weed Board approved the 2026 county weed list in February. Some of the notable plants on this list include Scotch broom, meadow knapweed, shiny geranium and tansy ragwort – all of which are designated for control in Skamania. This means that, at a minimum, landowners need to prevent these plants on their property from spreading further.

The NWCP website includes the county weed list, state weed list and treatment recommendations for some of the most stubborn weeds found in the county. For more in-depth information, or to contact NWCP, you can reach out to the phone or email listed below. You can also send pictures or drop by the office with a specimen to identify – just make sure it's fresh,

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Gabriel Spencer announces campaign for sixth term as Skamania County Assessor

Skamania County Assessor Gabriel Spencer officially announced his campaign for a sixth term in office, emphasizing the importance of professional experience, technical expertise and maintaining a fully working Assessor's Office that serves taxpayers efficiently and responsibly.

Spencer, who began his career more than 24 years ago as an appraiser trainee and cadastral draftsman for five years, has since served Skamania County for five



Gabe Spencer

consecutive four-year terms. Gabe also brings more than 23 years of that experience as an accredited appraiser for the State of

Washington. He said those qualifications are essential for ensuring accurate property assessments, reliable mapping records and fair taxation throughout the county.

"The work of the Assessor's Office directly impacts every property owner in Skamania County," Spencer said in a press statement. "This position requires specific technical knowledge, years of real-world experience and a

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Arts fundraiser

Support the arts by attending the Community Art Studio of Skamania (CASS) inaugural fundraiser, 5 to 7 p.m., Saturday, May 30, at 198th SW 2nd St., Sevenson.

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This day in history

1703	St. Petersburg founded by Peter the Great
1937	Golden Gate Bridge opens
1939	Ship carrying Jewish refugees, fleeing Nazi Germany, is turned away in Cuba.
1941	British navy sinks the German battleship Bismarck.
1963	Dylan's breakthrough album, "The Freewheelin' Bob Dylan," is released