Agriculture and Natural Resources

Emergency Support Function (ESF) 11

Coordinating Agency (Provides leadership, coordination, and oversight for the Emergency Support Function-ESF)	
Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA)	
Primary Agencies (Has significant authorities, roles, resources, or capabilities for the ESF)	
Washington State Department of Agriculture	Department of Ecology (ECY)
Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)	Department of Health (DOH)
Department of Natural Resources (DNR)	Department of Social and Health Services (DSHS)
Supporting Agencies (Has specific capabilities or resources that support the coordinating and primary agency)	
Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP)	Department of Commerce (COM)
Department of Enterprise Services (DES)	Department of Labor and Industries (L&I)
Department of Transportation (WSDOT)	Military Department, Emergency Management Division (EMD)
Office of Financial Management (OFM)	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)
Office of the Attorney General (AG)	Office of the Governor (GOV)
Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)/ Washington Invasive Species Council (WISC)	State Conservation Commission (SCC)
Utilities and Transportation Commission (UTC)	Washington State Parks (PARKS)
Washington State University (WSU)	

Purpose

ESF 11 provides effective state coordination for the protection of agriculture and food systems and natural and cultural resources affected by an emergency or disaster. ESF 11 establishes the roles and responsibilities of state entities to provide food and nutrition assistance, respond to animal and agriculture issues, address threats posed by invasive aquatic species, ensure safety and defense of the state's food and feed supply, and safeguard natural and cultural resources and historic properties under the primary Core Capability of Environmental Response/Health and Safety. Additionally, ESF 11 supports the following Core Capabilities based on intersecting activities with other ESFs: Natural and Cultural Resources; Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Medical Services; Mass Care Services; Economic Recovery; Public Information and Warning; Planning; Infrastructure Systems; Operational Coordination; Logistics and Supply Chain Management; and Situational Assessment.

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Emergency Support Function (ESF) 11

Primary Response Core Capability	
Environmental Response / Health and Safety	Identify, assess, and mitigate health and safety risks associated with environmental hazards during incidents. Activities include conducting rapid assessments of environmental health risks and implementing measures to protect responders and the public from environmental hazards.

Support Response Core Capabilities	
Natural and Cultural Resources	Identify, evaluate, and implement measures to prevent and minimize impacts to the environment, natural and cultural resources, and historic properties from all-hazard emergencies and response operations.
Public Health, Healthcare, and Emergency Medical Services	Prevent and control animal and plant disease outbreaks that could impact public health. Activities include monitoring and responding to animal and plant disease incidents, coordinating veterinary services to ensure the safety of the food supply, and managing the public health implications of zoonotic diseases and plant pests.
Mass Care Services	Coordinate nutritional assistance programs to provide food to affected individuals and communities. Activities include supporting emergency feeding operations and the distribution of food supplies, as well as ensuring the provision of safe and adequate nutrition in shelters and community feeding sites.
Economic Recovery	Support the recovery of agriculture sector industries and natural resource sectors affected by disasters. Activities include providing technical assistance for agriculture and natural resources sectors recovery efforts and assisting with the supply chain restoration and market stability.
Public Information and Warning	Disseminate information and warnings related to food safety, agriculture and natural resource protection. Activities include providing timely and accurate information to the public and stakeholders and issuing guidance and updates on the food and agriculture sector during emergencies.
Planning	Develop and implement plans to address food and agriculture and nature resources sectors needs during emergencies. Activities include creating and updating response plans that incorporate agriculture and natural resources sectors considerations and integrating ESF 11 activities into broader emergency response plans.

Support Response Core Capabilities	
Infrastructure Systems	Protect and restore critical infrastructure related to agriculture and food supply. Activities include assessing and repairing damage to agriculture sector infrastructure and ensuring the functionality of systems that support food production and distribution.
Operational Coordination	Facilitate effective coordination among local, state, Tribal, territorial, and federal agencies. Activities include establishing communication and collaboration mechanisms with stakeholders and coordinating the integration of ESF 11 activities into the overall response framework.
Logistics and Supply Chain Management	Manage logistics and supply chains for agriculture and natural resources products during incidents. Activities include coordinating the sourcing and distribution of critical resources and supporting the transportation and delivery of essential supplies.
Situational Assessment	Provide all decision makers with decision-relevant information regarding the nature and extent of the hazard, any cascading effects, and the status of the response.

Scope

The ESF 11 plan encompasses a comprehensive strategy for coordinating and supporting the protection of agriculture and food systems, as well as natural and cultural resources, in Washington State during emergencies or disasters. This plan outlines the roles and responsibilities of various state entities as coordinating, primary, or supporting agencies in performing functions of managing agriculture and natural resources and ensuring the integrity of the food supply chain for the state.

This document and associated appendices are a supporting annex of the Washington State Comprehensive Management Plan (CEMP) and operate in conjunction with all plan annexes. ESF 11 integrates with other ESFs to ensure a holistic and effective response to emergencies affecting agriculture and natural resources.

The provision of state support for agriculture and natural resources sectors include:

- Disseminating coordinated sector specific information during emergencies.
- Participating in coordinated response activities among partners at the local, state, Tribal, territorial, and federal levels.

- Coordinating the use of state infrastructure in support of the flow of sector resources in the disaster area for the movement of response supplies, personnel, and equipment.
- Participating in the statewide prioritization of sector needs with the Unified Coordination Group (UCG) and Policy Group, in direct support of requests for assistance.
- Coordinating with public and private sector and commercial providers concerning significant interruptions of sector services (supply chain resiliency).
- Performing damage assessments to sector infrastructure.
- Coordinating the restoration and recovery of sector infrastructure.

These activities ensure that ESF 11 can effectively manage and support agriculture and natural resources during emergencies, facilitating a comprehensive and coordinated response effort.

Limitations

Resource Constraints: The availability of resources, including personnel, equipment, and funding, may limit the ability to fully implement the ESF 11 plan during large-scale or multiple simultaneous emergencies.

Interagency Coordination: Effective coordination among local, state, Tribal, territorial, and federal agencies is crucial. Any breakdown in communication or cooperation can hinder the response efforts outlined in the ESF 11 plan.

Access and Logistics: Geographic isolation, severe weather conditions, and infrastructure damage may impede access to affected areas, complicating the delivery of services and supplies.

Regulatory and Legal Boundaries: The authority and jurisdiction of various agencies may limit the scope of actions that can be taken under the ESF 11 plan, particularly when dealing with federal or inter-state issues.

Public Compliance: The effectiveness of the ESF 11 plan depends on the cooperation and compliance of the public and private sectors, which can be unpredictable and variable.

Evolving Threats: The nature of threats, such as emerging diseases, bioterrorism, and climate change, can evolve rapidly, potentially outpacing the preparedness measures and response capabilities outlined in the ESF 11 plan.

Technological Dependence: Reliance on technological systems for communication, data analysis, and information dissemination can be a vulnerability if these systems fail or are compromised during an emergency.

Training and Preparedness: The level of training and preparedness of personnel involved in ESF 11 activities may vary, affecting the efficiency and effectiveness of the response.

Public Health and Safety: Ensuring the health and safety of responders and the public is paramount, but it can be challenging to manage during widespread or severe incidents, limiting the scope of activities that can be safely conducted.

Authorities and Policies

State actions taken during an animal or agriculture emergency, or a disaster or hazardous incident that affects agriculture and natural, cultural, and historic resources are informed by state and federal authorities, policies, and statutes and guided by an existing primary agency's plans and procedures.

Federal Authorities

Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative (Title 7 USC Chapter 64) is a comprehensive set of programs and activities designed to protect the nation's food supply from contamination or disruption. This initiative is essential for ensuring the continuous availability of safe food, which is a critical component of emergency response. It directly aligns with ESF 11's goal of securing the nation's food supply during emergencies.

Plant Protection Act (Title 7 USC Chapter 104) grants authority to the Secretary of Agriculture to control and eradicate plant pests and diseases. Protecting plant health and ensuring the stability of agriculture production are critical aspects of this act, which is a key component of ESF 11's mandate to safeguard agriculture and natural resources.

Animal Health Protection Act (Title 7 USC Chapter 109) provides the authority to control and eradicate diseases and pests of livestock, including poultry. This act is vital for preventing and controlling animal diseases that could disrupt food supply chains, thereby supporting ESF 11's focus on protecting the food and agriculture sector during emergencies.

Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002 (Title 7 USC Chapter 110) requires the registration of facilities that possess, use, or transfer biological agents and toxins that could

pose a severe threat to animal or plant health or to animal or plant products. This act enhances the monitoring and control of biological threats, which is crucial for ESF 11's role in protecting agriculture and natural resources from bioterrorism.

Endangered Species Act (Title 16 USC Chapter 35**)** provides protection for species that are listed as endangered or threatened, including many aquatic species.

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Title 16 USC Chapter 38) governs marine fisheries management in U.S. federal waters, aiming to prevent overfishing, rebuild overfished stocks, and ensure the sustainable management of marine fisheries.

National Invasive Species Act (NISA) (Title 16 USC Chapter 67) addresses the introduction and spread of invasive aquatic species, particularly through ballast water discharges.

Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (FDCA) (Title 21 USC Chapter 9) governs the safety of food, drugs, and cosmetics in the U.S. Enforced by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), the FDCA ensures the safety and security of the nation's food supply. This regulatory framework is essential for maintaining food safety, directly supporting ESF 11's mission to safeguard food resources during emergencies.

Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) (Title 21 USC Chapter 27) aims to ensure the U.S. food supply is safe by shifting the focus from responding to contamination to preventing it. By strengthening preventive measures, the FSMA aligns with ESF 11's objective to prevent food-related emergencies and enhance the overall safety of the food supply.

Clean Water Act (Title 33 USC Chapter 26) plays a critical role in protecting aquatic habitats by regulating discharges of pollutants into U.S. waters and setting water quality standards.

Public Health Security and Bioterrorism Preparedness and Response Act of 2002 (Title 42 USC Chapter 6A) aims to improve the ability of the United States to prevent, prepare for, and respond to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies. By enhancing readiness for biological threats that could impact food and agriculture, this act is crucial for the protective measures outlined in ESF 11.

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Guidance provides direction on public health aspects of disaster response, including foodborne illness outbreaks and zoonotic diseases. Integrating public health considerations into food safety and agriculture protection efforts is essential for ESF 11's holistic approach to managing emergencies.

Federal Select Agent Program oversees the possession, use, and transfer of select agents and toxins that pose a threat to public, animal, or plant health.

National Agricultural Biosecurity Center (NABC) Guidelines provides information, best practices, and resources for biosecurity in agriculture. These guidelines offer crucial biosecurity measures to protect agricultural assets, which are integral to ESF 11's strategy for safeguarding food and agriculture infrastructure during emergencies.

National Institutes of Health (NIH) Guidelines for Research Involving Recombinant or Synthetic Nucleic Acid Molecules specify the biosafety practices and containment principles for constructing and handling: (i) recombinant nucleic acid molecules, (ii) synthetic nucleic acid molecules, including those that are chemically or otherwise modified but can base pair with naturally occurring nucleic acid molecules, and (iii) cells, organisms, and viruses containing such molecules.

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Regulations and Guidance provides numerous guidelines and regulations related to animal and plant health, food safety, and emergency response. These comprehensive regulatory supports ensure the resilience of the food and agriculture sectors, directly supporting ESF 11's mission to maintain and protect the nation's food and agriculture infrastructure.

State Authorities

Revised Code of Washington (RCW)

The RCW is a compilation of all permanent laws currently in force in Washington State. It does not include temporary laws such as appropriations acts. The online version of the RCW is updated twice a year. Relevant sections are hyperlinked below:

Chapter 16.36 Animal Health includes requirements for transporting animals, vehicle inspections, and unlawful actions related to animal importation. Additionally, it defines “animal” and outlines exceptions for noncaptive wildlife. Provisions of this chapter would require assistance from WSP (and ESF 13 if activated) if enforcement action is needed to support ESF 11 actions including establishment and enforcement of food control areas.

Chapter 38.52 Emergency Management establishes the framework for emergency management in Washington State, including the roles and responsibilities of state and local

agencies during emergencies. This chapter is crucial for coordinating the response efforts of various agencies, which is essential for effective ESF 11 actions.

Chapter 43.19 Department of Enterprise Services establishes that the department will provide products and services to support state agencies and may enter into agreements with any other governmental entity or a public benefit nonprofit organization, in compliance with RCW 39.34.055, to furnish such products and services as deemed appropriate by both parties. This includes managing statewide contracts, developing procurement policies, providing engineering services and contracts for state facilities, real estate services, and managing the state fleet vehicle rentals to support the goals of ESF 11.

Chapter 43.20A Department of Social and Health Services creates the Department of Social and Health Services, providing social services and healthcare support. This department ensures that vulnerable populations receive necessary support and services, which is important for maintaining community resilience and stability in emergencies, complementing ESF 11's efforts.

Chapter 43.21A Department of Ecology creates the Department of Ecology, responsible for protecting, preserving, and enhancing Washington's environment. This department plays a key role in managing environmental resources and mitigating environmental impacts, which is essential for the sustainability of agriculture and natural resources in line with ESF 11 objectives.

Chapter 43.23 Department of Agriculture establishes the Washington State Department of Agriculture, overseeing agriculture sector activities and ensuring food safety. This department is crucial for managing the state's agriculture sector ensuring food security, and maintaining food safety standards, which align with ESF 11's mission to safeguard the food supply during emergencies.

Chapter 43.30 Department of Natural Resources defines the Department of Natural Resources, managing state-owned lands, forests, and resources. This department is responsible for the stewardship of natural resources, which includes managing forest health and preventing wildfires, directly supporting ESF 11's efforts to protect agriculture and natural resources sectors.

Chapter 43.70 Department of Health establishes the Department of Health, focusing on public health, disease prevention, and health regulations. This department's role in preventing and managing public health issues, including foodborne illnesses and zoonotic diseases, is vital for ESF 11's comprehensive approach to food safety and public health during emergencies.

Chapter 43.330 Department of Commerce supports economic development and community resilience. This department's efforts to strengthen communities and economies are important for recovery and resilience following emergencies, complementing ESF 11's broader goals.

Chapter 43.334 Department Archeology and Historic Preservation defines the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, protecting and preserving the state's archaeological and historic resources. This department's work in preserving cultural and historic resources ensures that significant sites are safeguarded, contributing to the broader emergency management and recovery efforts supported by ESF 11.

Chapter 46.44 Size, Weight, Load defines legal weights and weight limits for transport loads operating on state public highways. The establishment of permit requirements for oversized loads in this chapter is vital to the support of ESF 11's efforts during response.

Chapter 49.17 Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act establishes provisions to create, maintain, continue, and enhance the industrial safety and health program of the state to ensure safe and healthy working conditions for every person working in the state of Washington, including those working in support of ESF 11.

Chapter 70.95 Solid Waste Management governs the management of solid waste, including recycling and disposal practices. Proper waste management is important for maintaining public health and environmental quality during emergencies, which supports the goals of ESF 11.

Chapter 70.102 Toxics Control Act regulates the use and disposal of toxic substances. Ensuring that toxic substances are managed properly is essential for protecting public health and the environment, which aligns with the protective measures of ESF 11.

Chapter 70.105 Hazardous Waste Management establishes regulations for the management of hazardous waste. This chapter ensures that hazardous waste is handled safely and responsibly, which is critical for protecting public health and the environment during emergency situations.

Chapter 77.04 Department of Fish and Wildlife governs the Department of Fish and Wildlife, managing the state's fish and wildlife resources. This department ensures the conservation and management of fish and wildlife, which is important for maintaining ecological balance and supporting the agriculture and natural resources sectors as outlined in ESF 11.

Chapter 89.08 Conservation Districts governs the Conservation Commission and Conservation Districts responsible for the non-regulatory conservation of natural resources and supporting agriculture in the state of Washington.

Chapter 90.56 Oil and Hazardous Substance Spill Prevention and Response provides the authority for preventing and responding to oil and hazardous substance spills. Effective spill response is vital for protecting natural resources and public health, aligning with ESF 11's focus on safeguarding the environment and agriculture and natural resources sectors.

Washington Administrative Code (WAC)

The WAC is the codification of state regulations arranged by subject and agency. Current regulations in the WAC are best accessed via the web site, as the online version of the Administrative Code is updated twice a month. The following relevant sections of the WAC can be searched from there:

Titles 16, 24, 60, and 142 - Department of Agriculture cover regulations and statutes related to agriculture sector activities, marketing, livestock, and pesticide management in Washington.

Title 25 - Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation provides regulations for the preservation and protection of archaeological sites and historic places in Washington.

Titles 173, 197, 372, and 508 - Department of Ecology include regulations for water quality, air quality, environmental policy, and shoreline management.

Titles 220, 232 - Department of Fish and Wildlife encompasses laws and regulations for the conservation, protection, and management of the state's fish and wildlife resources.

Titles 222, 237, 332 - Department of Natural Resources governs the management and conservation of state-owned lands, forestry practices, and natural resources.

Title 246 - Department of Health contains public health regulations, including health care facility standards, disease control, and health professions.

Titles 248, 275, 388, 440 - Department of Social and Health Services details the administration of social services, mental health services, developmental disabilities, assistance programs, and substance abuse programs.

Title 296 – Department of Labor and Industries details occupational health and safety regulations for Washington workers.

Situation Overview

Washington is a physically, agriculturally, and culturally diverse state with extensive regional, national, and international markets. With at least seven distinct geographic regions ranging from coastline to temperate rainforest to farmlands and desert, Washington State faces unique and varied challenges and considerations in managing emergencies in each region. Many regions of Washington are relatively isolated and rural, presenting difficulties regarding travel and access, especially during severe weather conditions. Washington's agriculture and natural resources sectors face increasing economic and animal health risks associated with pest and disease outbreaks, which have increased across the state in frequency and severity due in part to changing climate patterns that allow vectors and diseases to expand into new geographic areas. The effects of an agriculture or natural resources sector emergency could reach far beyond the state's borders or could be limited to a local event. General geographic conditions, growing practices, production methods, distribution networks, cultural issues, and existing plans and policies could impact the state's response to a natural or human-caused disaster.

As detailed in the Washington State Enhanced Hazard Mitigation Plan (2023), the most common natural hazard events in Washington are extreme weather, flooding, landslides, drought, and wildfires, given the severity of recent climate-related disasters and the increasing likelihood of future disasters related to climate change. Recent extreme weather events have resulted in catastrophic animal mortality and losses. Much of the northwest is livestock dense in specific regions which presents a significant challenge to industries and regulatory agencies for disposal options.

Washington also has a rich cultural history with deep and extensive Native American and Tribal roots across lands that have and continue to provide vital natural resources. Thus, it is imperative that these cultures continue to thrive and be preserved through the protection of the land, including historic properties.

Planning Assumptions

Detection and Reporting: It is assumed that early detection and reporting of threats to animal health threats will be critical for successful containment and eradication. Probable means of discovery may be by livestock operations, producers, private practice veterinarians, wildlife disease interdiction and control check station, trace information from an animal disease

investigation in another state. Effective surveillance systems and public awareness programs will lead to timely identification of animal health threats.

Resource Availability: Sufficient resources, including trained personnel, equipment, and funding, will be available and rapidly deployable to support the detection, containment, and eradication of animal health threats. However, in large-scale or simultaneous incidents, resource limitations may occur.

Interagency Coordination: Successful response to animal health threats will require coordinated efforts among multiple local, state, Tribal, and federal agencies, as well as non-governmental organizations and private sector partners. These agencies are expected to collaborate effectively, following pre-established protocols.

Public Compliance and Cooperation: Public compliance with regulations, such as animal disease reporting and import requirements, will be essential to prevent the spread of animal health threats. It is assumed that public outreach and education efforts will foster widespread cooperation.

Communications: Outside of natural disasters impacting Washington, interoperable communication systems will not be impacted.

Legal and Regulatory Support: The legal and regulatory framework, including RCW 16 and RCW 77 and related statutes, will support rapid response efforts. It is assumed that necessary legal actions, such as quarantine or animal movement restrictions, can be implemented swiftly when required.

Economic Impacts: Diagnosis of a highly contagious or emerging animal disease in Washington, the United States, or surrounding countries may significantly restrict the intrastate, interstate, and international movement of animals (especially livestock), animal products, or animal feed and other products. An agriculture incident may result in restrictions on international trade.

Environmental Conditions: The response to animal health threats will be influenced by environmental conditions such as weather and seasonal variations. These factors are assumed to impact the spread and management of animal diseases, requiring adaptive response strategies.

Impact on Infrastructure: It is assumed that animal health threats could burden critical infrastructure, such solid waste disposal sites. Protecting and maintaining these infrastructures will be a priority during response efforts.

Potential for Multiple Incidents: There is a possibility of multiple animal health threats with incidents occurring simultaneously or in rapid succession, which may strain response capabilities. The plan assumes that prioritization and resource allocation will be necessary in such cases.

Occurrence: An animal disease outbreak may occur through natural pathways or could be introduced as an act of terrorism.

Critical Incident Stress Management: Psychological counseling and support may need to be available to owners losing livestock or having to depopulate a herd in an animal disease emergency, or for persons responding to the situation.

Unified Messaging: Local, state, and federal agencies will coordinate clear, concise, and correct public message concerning the possible effects of animal disease.

Response Assumptions

Rapid Disease Spread: Animal diseases, particularly zoonotic or foreign diseases, may spread rapidly, requiring immediate containment and mitigation efforts.

Availability of Resources: Personnel, equipment, and funding may be limited during large-scale or concurrent emergencies, affecting response capabilities.

Interagency Cooperation: Effective coordination and cooperation between local, state, Tribal, federal agencies, NGOs, and private sector partners are critical for a successful response.

Public Compliance: Public compliance with movement restrictions, quarantine, and evacuation orders may vary, impacting containment and mitigation efforts.

Access and Infrastructure: Damaged infrastructure, such as roads and communication systems, may hinder access to affected areas, delaying resource deployment.

Communication Delays: Information sharing between response agencies and partners may face delays, particularly when working with external partners or in remote regions.

Delays in Diagnosis and Reporting: Timely identification, reporting, and diagnosis of animal diseases may be delayed, affecting response actions.

Environmental and Geographic Challenges: Washington State's rural and remote areas may pose logistical challenges for deploying response teams and equipment.

Legal and Regulatory Constraints: Response actions must comply with existing legal and regulatory frameworks, which could limit certain activities or require time for approvals.

Dependency on External Partners: The response will depend on the timely support of external partners, such as federal agencies and NGOs. Delays in their support may affect the overall response.

Unforeseen Incidents: Animal health emergencies may present unforeseen challenges, such as unfamiliar disease strains, requiring flexible and adaptive response strategies.

Financial Limitations: Long-term response and recovery efforts may be constrained by limited financial resources, particularly during prolonged emergencies.

Impact on Agriculture and Economy: Widespread animal disease outbreaks may have significant economic consequences, especially for the agricultural sector, requiring sustained recovery efforts.

Media and Public Perception: Media coverage and public perception may influence compliance, public behavior, and political support, and should be considered in the response strategy.

Concept of Operations

The primary focus of ESF 11 is to assist in the protection and restoration of agriculture and natural resources sectors functionality to support state objectives.

Coordination Efforts

WSDA coordinates with the other ESF 11 primary agencies for each of the five functional areas addressed below. Comprehensive strategies and guidelines for coordinated state responses for each functional area are detailed in corresponding appendices to the ESF 11 plan. The primary agencies coordinate the capabilities and resources of the state through the SEOC to facilitate

the delivery of services, technical assistance, expertise and other support for emergencies and disasters affecting the state.

Provide food and nutrition assistance: Includes working with affected jurisdictions and state agency partners to determine nutrition assistance needs, obtaining appropriate food supplies, and arranging for delivery of the supplies.

Respond to livestock and wildlife health emergencies: Includes implementing an integrated multiagency multijurisdictional response to an animal health emergency including zoonotic disease and mass animal carcass and remains removal and disposal, including on-site composting and transportation to landfills. For the purposes of this plan, animals include agricultural animals/livestock, wildlife, and other animals (including exotics, zoo animals, animals used in research, and livestock or wildlife housed in congregate settings, such as shelters, rescue organizations, breeders, and sanctuaries). Provision of technical support and response assistance for household pets, companion animals, and service and assistance animals are detailed in ESF 6 Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Temporary Housing, and Human Services.

Respond to plant diseases and pests: Includes implementing an integrated multiagency multijurisdictional response to an introduction or outbreak of a harmful or economically significant plant pest or disease.

Ensure the safety and defense of the state's food and feed supply: Includes implementing an integrated multiagency multijurisdictional response to food/feed safety emergencies including regulated products suspected of intentional adulteration. Provide technical support and response assistance to local jurisdictions for the safety and security of food supplies.

Protect Natural, Cultural, and Historic (NCH) resources: Includes appropriate response actions to preserve, conserve, rehabilitate, recover, and restore natural and cultural resources and historic properties.

Critical Tasks and Core Capabilities

To achieve its intended purpose and effectively support objectives, ESF 11 primary and supporting agencies and organizations work to accomplish Critical Tasks associated with each identified national Core Capability. These tasks support the response mission area and the successful execution of Core Capabilities. Critical Tasks are associated with the identified Core

Capabilities for ESF 11 based on FEMA doctrine and are divided into primary critical tasks and supporting critical tasks.

Primary Core Capabilities are response actions that play a major role in the response efforts for ESF 11. A Supporting Core Capability is an action or activity needed to support a Primary Core Capability.

The Primary Core Capability Critical Tasks are:

Environmental Response/Health & Safety		
Mission Area	Critical Tasks ID	Critical Tasks
Response	1	Assess and mitigate risks to agriculture, food systems, and natural resources posed by environmental hazards.
	2	Coordinate response efforts to address animal health issues, plant diseases, and invasive species that may threaten public health and safety.
	3	Ensure the safety and defense of the state's food supply, including inspecting facilities and monitoring food products.
	4	Deploy resources and personnel to manage environmental hazards impacting agriculture and food systems.

The Supporting Core Capability Critical Tasks are:

Natural and Cultural Resources		
Mission Area	**Critical Tasks ID**	**Critical Tasks**
Response	1	Identify and prioritize natural and cultural resources at risk during an emergency.
	2	Coordinate conservation and protection efforts for natural and cultural resources, including historic properties, during disasters.
	3	Engage stakeholders in the development and implementation of strategies to protect these resources.
	4	Facilitate recovery efforts for natural and cultural resources post-disaster.

Public Health, Healthcare & Emergency Medical Services		
Mission Area	**Critical Tasks ID**	**Critical Tasks**
Response	1	Collaborate with public health agencies to monitor and respond to zoonotic diseases and other health risks associated with agriculture.
	2	Coordinate the safety inspection of food and feed supplies to prevent contamination and ensure public health.
	3	Support veterinary medical services to manage the health and welfare of animals during emergencies.
	4	Implement biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of diseases affecting agriculture and public health.

Mass Care Services		
Mission Area	**Critical Tasks ID**	**Critical Tasks**
Response	1	Coordinate food and nutrition assistance to affected populations, ensuring the availability of safe and adequate food supplies.
	2	Manage the distribution of essential agricultural products to support mass care operations.
	3	Ensure the provision of safe drinking water and feed for animals impacted by the disaster.
	4	Support shelter operations by providing resources and expertise on the care of animals and food supplies.

Economic Recovery		
Mission Area	**Critical Tasks ID**	**Critical Tasks**
Response	1	Assess the economic impact of disasters on agriculture, food systems, and natural resources.
	2	Support recovery planning efforts to restore the economic stability of affected sectors.
	3	Facilitate access to financial assistance and resources for farmers, ranchers, and businesses in the agriculture sector.

Economic Recovery		
Mission Area	**Critical Tasks ID**	**Critical Tasks**
	4	Implement strategies to rebuild and diversify the agriculture sector economy post-disaster.

Public Information & Warning		
Mission Area	**Critical Tasks ID**	**Critical Tasks**
Response	1	Develop and disseminate accurate information about the status of food safety, agriculture, and natural resources during an emergency.
	2	Coordinate public messaging with relevant agencies to ensure consistent and clear communication.
	3	Utilize multiple communication channels to reach diverse audiences, including stakeholders in the agriculture and natural resources sectors.
	4	Monitor and counter misinformation that could impact public perception or response efforts.

Planning		
Mission Area	**Critical Tasks ID**	**Critical Tasks**
Response	1	Develop and maintain comprehensive plans for the protection and recovery of agriculture, food systems, and natural resources during emergencies.
	2	Engage stakeholders in planning efforts to ensure that all relevant entities are prepared and coordinated.
	3	Regularly update response and recovery plans to reflect new risks, vulnerabilities, and best practices.
	4	Conduct exercises and drills to test and refine plans for agriculture and natural resources emergencies.

Infrastructure Systems		
Mission Area	**Critical Tasks ID**	**Critical Tasks**
Response	1	Identify critical infrastructure related to agriculture, food systems, and natural resources that must be protected or restored during emergencies.
	2	Coordinate with relevant agencies to maintain and restore infrastructure critical to the production, processing, and distribution of food and agriculture sector products.
	3	Ensure redundancy and resilience in food supply chains to mitigate the impact of infrastructure disruptions.
	4	Deploy resources to repair or replace damaged infrastructure supporting agriculture and natural resources.

Operational Coordination		
Mission Area	**Critical Tasks ID**	**Critical Tasks**
Response	1	Establish and maintain a unified command structure to coordinate the response to agriculture and natural resources emergencies.
	2	Ensure communication and information-sharing between all entities involved in the emergency response.
	3	Coordinate resource allocation to ensure that all necessary personnel and materials are available to address the emergency.
	4	Monitor and adjust operations as needed to adapt to changing conditions during the emergency.

Logistics and Supply Chain Management		
Mission Area	**Critical Tasks ID**	**Critical Tasks**
Response	1	Ensure the availability and distribution of food, feed, and agriculture sector supplies during emergencies.
	2	Manage supply chain disruptions to prevent shortages or delays in critical agriculture sector products.

Logistics and Supply Chain Management		
Mission Area	**Critical Tasks ID**	**Critical Tasks**
	3	Coordinate transportation and **s**torage of agriculture sector products and resources during the emergency.
	4	Work with private sector partners to maintain and restore the flow of goods in the agriculture sector.

Situational Assessment		
Mission Area	**Critical Tasks ID**	**Critical Tasks**
Response	1	Collect and analyze data on the impact of emergencies on agriculture, food systems, and natural resources.
	2	Provide regular updates to decision-makers on the status of affected sectors.
	3	Develop and disseminate reports on the effectiveness of response and recovery efforts.
	4	Use assessment data to inform strategic decisions and resource allocation during the emergency.

Whole Community

"Whole Community" engagement involves coordinating with organizations and individuals including private sector, non-governmental, and other organizations with relevant missions, key assets, or significant interest in activities that fall under ESF 11. This ESF supports and coordinates with the Whole Community during emergency response and disaster recovery operations.

The Whole Community includes populations with Limited English Proficiency (LEP), individuals with disabilities, and Access and Functional Needs (AFN). As it relates to communicating with the public, ESF 11 representatives will make every effort to use effective communication methods as it relates to its utilization of all written, verbal, and electronic platforms.

The primary and supporting agencies of this ESF have established government-to-government relationships with Tribal nations, supported by the SEOC Tribal Liaison Officer position

responsible for assisting in developing and implementing state agency policies to promote effective communication and collaboration. The Tribal Liaison Officer in the SEOC serves as a contact person with Tribal governments, maintaining communication between the SEOC and affected Tribal governments during a response activation.

ESF 11 primary and supporting agencies are committed to providing equal access in delivery of programs, services, and activities in compliance with the following federal laws and Executive Orders, expanding the Title IV nondiscrimination mandate:

Civil Rights Restoration Act of 1987 clarifies the definition of "programs and activities" covered by the nondiscrimination provisions of civil rights statutes. The revised definition states that discrimination is prohibited throughout an entire agency or institution if any part of that agency receives federal financial assistance.

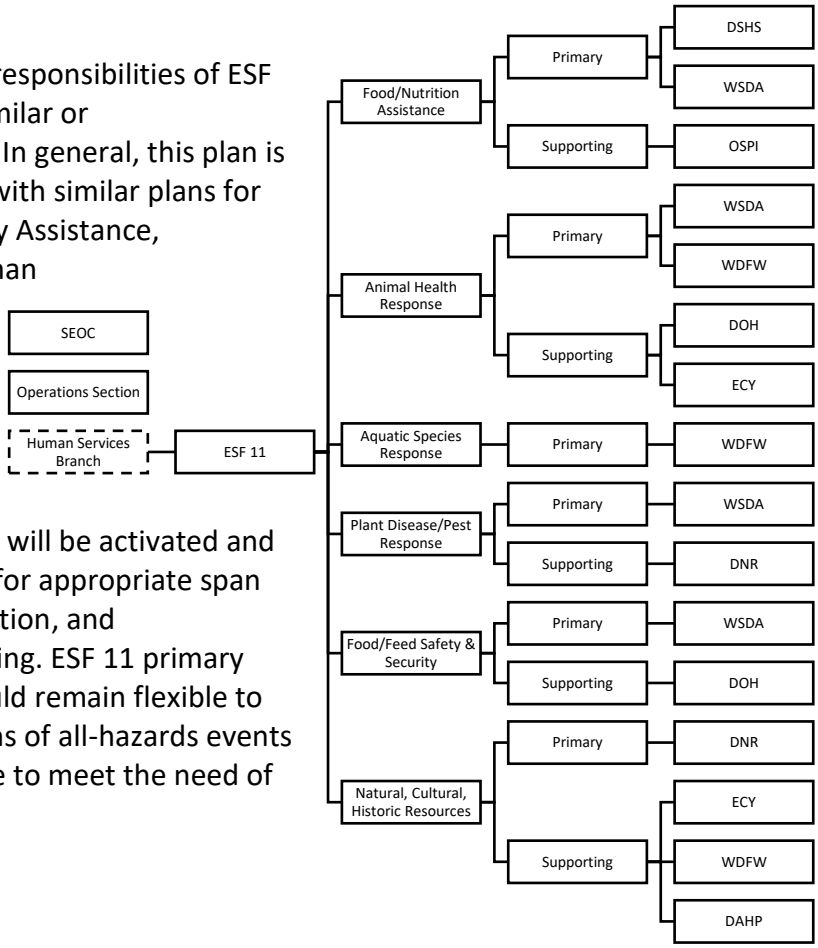
Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, school, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the public. The purpose of this law is to make sure people with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else. The ADA has five titles that relate to different areas of public life.

Organization

ESF 11 is a cooperative affiliation of many state agencies and organizations, primarily those that are identified in this plan. All incidents and hazards have the potential to put communities at risk and present the opportunity for loss of life beyond the initial impact of the hazard itself. State-led agriculture and natural resources operations rely heavily on coordination between other agencies, departments, non-profits, and the private sector, as well as federal resource support.

Structure

This annex defines roles and responsibilities of ESF 11 and compliments other similar or interdependent ESF annexes. In general, this plan is most likely to be considered with similar plans for ESF 6 – Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Temporary Housing, and Human Services and ESF 8 – Public Health, Medical, and Mortuary Services.



If the situation merits, a Human Services Branch under the Operations Section will be activated and will include ESFs 6, 8, and 11 for appropriate span of control, response coordination, and information/intelligence sharing. ESF 11 primary and supporting agencies should remain flexible to adapt to the unique conditions of all-hazards events and scale the ESF 11 structure to meet the need of the response.

Direction, Control, and Coordination

State employees at the ESF 11 desk at the SEOC work closely with partner agencies and organizations to anticipate, identify, and respond to the agriculture and natural resources needs of the incident. As an incident occurs and the SEOC activation level is increased, the ESF 11 coordinating agency will contact the ESF 11 primary organizations to share and gather information on their current operations with the impacted jurisdiction(s). This information will be shared with the SEOC and help guide decision-making for when to activate ESF 11 and anticipate potential resource requests before they are submitted.

Horizontal Integration

Horizontal integration describes the coordination of ESF 11 and this annex across other ESFs, state agencies, and Tribal neighbors. This integration enhances preparedness, response, and recovery efforts by leveraging the strengths and resources of all involved parties. Each agency is assigned roles and responsibilities listed in this plan and are organized as coordinating, primary, or supporting based on their capabilities and authorities. Specific plans exist within some of the agencies that align with agriculture and natural resources operations.

State Level

The following are either coordinating or primary agencies, with significant authorities, roles, resources, or capabilities to support ESF 11:

- **Department of Agriculture:** Supports ESF 11 as a primary agency, implementing and coordinating states roles and responsibilities related to agriculture and natural resources during and after disasters.
- **Department of Natural Resources**: Supports ESF 11 in the protection and restoration of natural resources during and after disasters.
- **Department of Health:** Supports ESF 11 in the management of public health implications **of food safety and disease outbreak** during and after disasters.
- **Department of Ecology:** Supports ESF 11 in addressing environmental impacts, such as contamination and solid waste management, that affect agriculture and natural resources during and after disasters.
- **Department of Fish and Wildlife:** Supports ESF 11 in protecting wildlife and their habitats during and after disasters.
- **Department of Social and Health Services:** Supports ESF 11 in providing food assistance including administering the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP).

DSHS is also the primary agency for ESF 6 – Mass Care, Emergency Assistance, Temporary Housing, and Human Services. DSHS deploys Mobile Community Service Offices (trucks) to disaster impacted locations to facilitate the delivery of DSHS services.

Private Sector

- **Agriculture Sector Businesses and Cooperatives:** Collaborate with state agencies to implement response and recovery actions, ensuring the continuity of agriculture sector operations and supply chains.
- **Food Processing and Distribution Companies:** Coordinate with state agencies to maintain the integrity and safety of the food supply chain during emergencies.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

- **Food Banks and Food Pantries:** Coordinate with state agencies in providing food and nutrition assistance to displaced populations, including those affected by disasters.

Tribal Nations

To ensure clear and consistent communication and collaboration with Tribal neighbors impacted by an incident, ESF 11 works with the Military Department's Tribal Liaisons. In coordination with the Governor's Office of Indian Affairs (GOIA), these efforts help to ensure proper considerations are made related to identifying various potential cultural impacts.

- **Tribal Emergency Management Agencies**: Coordinate with ESF 11 to ensure culturally appropriate response and recovery efforts that respect Tribal sovereignty and resources.
- **Tribal Agricultural Programs:** Work alongside state and federal agencies to protect Tribal agricultural interests and natural resources, ensuring that Tribal lands and resources are managed effectively during disasters.

Horizontal integration of ESF 11 ensures a comprehensive and coordinated approach to managing and protecting the agriculture and natural resources sectors. By fostering collaboration among state agencies, private sector partners, NGOs, and Tribal nations, ESF 11 leverages the diverse strengths and resources of all involved parties.

Vertical Integration

Vertical integration of ESF 11 involves the alignment and coordination of strategic goals, policies, and operational capabilities down from the federal level and up from the local level to the state to ensure an effective and unified response to disasters impacting agriculture and natural resources. This approach ensures that resources, information, and efforts are seamlessly integrated from the highest levels of government down to local jurisdictions. By aligning strategic goals and operational capabilities, vertical integration strengthens the overall emergency management framework, enhancing the resilience and recovery of agriculture and natural resources sectors in the face of disasters

Federal Level

- **Federal ESF 11 (Agriculture and Natural Resources):** The primary coordinating entity at the federal level, led by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), responsible for providing overall strategic guidance, resources, and policy direction for disasters impacting the agriculture and natural resources sectors.

Local Level

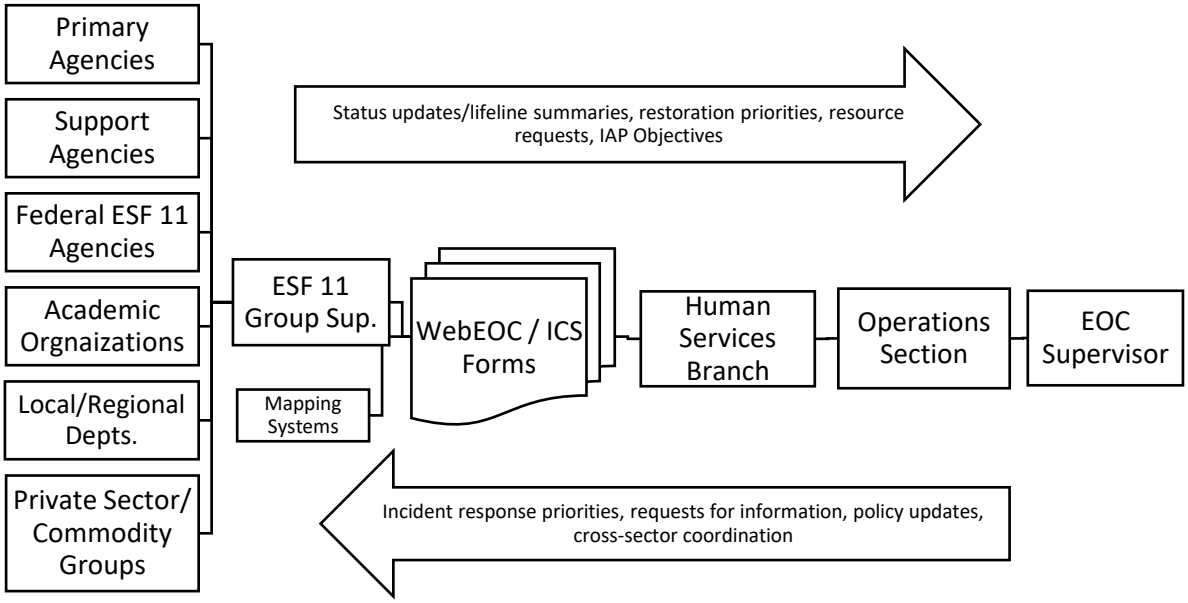
- **Local/County Emergency Management Agencies**: Responsible for implementing local emergency management plans in accordance with state CEMP guidelines. They focus on the protection and recovery of local sector resources, ensuring coordination with state and federal entities.
- **County Extension Offices:** Act as local points of contact for disseminating information and coordinating efforts with state and federal agencies. They play a crucial role in providing ground-level data and facilitating the implementation of response and recovery strategies.
- **Conservation Districts:** Act as local points of contact to support partners in response efforts, providing essential information and assistance in the execution of recovery plans. They work closely with state agencies to address immediate needs and long-term recovery goals.
- **Local Fire Departments and Hazardous Materials Teams:** Respond to incidents that impact agriculture and natural resources, such as decontamination of agricultural assets or other hazardous situations.

Information Collection, Analysis, & Dissemination

Agriculture and Natural Resources

Emergency Support Function (ESF) 11

ESF 11 coordinates with local, state, Tribal, federal agencies and non-profit and academic organizations to gather and disseminate information on the extent of damages, anticipated unmet needs, and other activities related to agriculture and natural resources. ESF 11 works to gather, synthesize, and distribute pertinent information to all response partners, especially those partners identified as primary agencies for ESF 11 or executors of ESF 11 core capabilities.



Requests for Information

The following processes are used to collect, analyze, and disseminate information:

A request for resources, capabilities, or information comes to the ESF 11 Group Supervisor. The ESF 11 Group Supervisor will evaluate the request.

1. If it is determined ESF 11 can fulfill the request, the request will be directed to the responding ESF 11 agencies.
    i. ESF 11 Group Supervisor will track the request using WebEOC.
2. If it is determined ESF 11 cannot fulfill the request, the request will be directed to the SEOC Operations Section Chief for further evaluation.

Information Collection

Upon activation, ESF 11 gathers information from its members (both primary and supporting), federal, state, and local ESF 11 and/or Natural Resources RSF counterparts, local and regional agriculture and natural resources organizations, commissions, boards and associations, conservation districts and other agriculture, natural resources, and environmental groups. In addition to the listed state entities comprising ESF 11, this ESF should remain flexible and scalable to account for additional state entities that may indirectly support this ESF (e.g., Office of Financial Management, Office of Superintendent and Public Instruction, State Treasurer's Office, Governor's Office of Indian Affairs, State Commissions, etc.). Information collected includes agriculture, food and nutrition, natural resource needs, requests for assistance, and available support programs.

Essential Elements of Information (EEI)

Essential Elements of Information (EEI) are identified focusing on key areas such as the presence of animal health threats, the effectiveness of containment and eradication efforts, the condition of critical infrastructure, and the environmental and economic impacts on affected areas. The following categories are a baseline list of facilities and systems that should be considered for information collection. They may not include all relevant EEIs as the impact of a given disaster may require unique information collection needs.

Food and Nutrition Essential Elements of Information (Appendix 1)		
Elements	**Description**	**Source**
Transportation	Conditions of transportation routes	• WSDOT
Population Needs	Needs of affected populations geographic areas sustaining damage; qualitative descriptions of types of damage; impacts to food systems that may affect public health, food supply, or community stability including impacts to culturally or subsistence-significant resources	• WSDA • DSHS • DOH • EMD
Storage Facilities	Status and capacity of food storage facilities	• WSDA
Food Banks	Impacts on food bank facilities and resource needs	• WSDA

Food Supplies	Availability of and access to existing food resources, storage, and distribution facilities	• WSDA
Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (D-SNAP)	Current distribution status of the D-SNAP to provide food assistance to eligible households	• DSHS
Disaster Household Distribution (DHD)	Current distribution status of the DHD to provide food assistance to eligible households	• WSDA
Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Nutrition Program	Current distribution status of the WIC Nutrition Program	• DOH
Animal Health Essential Elements of Information (Appendix 2)		
Elements	**Description**	**Source**
Veterinary Services	Information on the need and location for emergency veterinary services	• WSDA
Resource Needs	Status of immediate or pending needs to sustain health and safety of livestock and poultry populations	• WSDA
Mortality Management	Mortality management status, including the feasibility and requirements for proper disposal of animal carcasses	• WSDA • ECY
Environmental Monitoring	Information on ongoing environmental monitoring activities, including air and water quality assessments in agricultural regions	• ECY • DOH • WSDA
Transportation	Status of transportation infrastructure critical for animal production and supply chains	• WSDOT
Economic Impact	Data on the economic impact of the incident on the agriculture sectors, including losses and recovery costs	• WSDA • COM
Animal Disease Presence	Locations and types of animal diseases detected, including any zoonotic threats (diseases that can spread from animals to humans)	• WSDA
Containment and Eradication Efforts	Status and effectiveness of ongoing containment, quarantine, and eradication	• WSDA

	efforts for animal diseases or health threats	
Animal Health Diagnostics	Results from veterinary diagnostics, surveillance, and laboratory testing of livestock, poultry, and companion animals	• WSDA
Biosecurity Measures	Effectiveness of biosecurity measures implemented to prevent disease spread among animal populations	• WSDA
Environmental Impact on Agriculture	Assessments of ecological damage and potential long-term impacts on animal agriculture and surrounding ecosystems	• ECY • WSDA
Critical Agricultural Infrastructure	Status and operational capacity of critical agricultural infrastructure, including farms, processing plants, and transport systems affected by the emergency	• WSDA
Public Health and Safety	Potential impacts of animal health issues on public health, including risks from zoonotic diseases and food safety concerns	• WSDA • DOH
Resource Deployment	Availability and status of resources (personnel, equipment, veterinary supplies) deployed for animal health response efforts	• WSDA
Aquatic Resources Essential Elements of Information (Appendix 2 – Attachment)		
Elements	**Description**	**Source**
Aquatic Resource Threat Presence	Locations, type, and severity of detected threats, including invasive species, pathogens, pests, or toxic substances	• WDFW
Containment and Eradication Efforts	Status, effectiveness, and progress of ongoing containment, control and eradication operations	• WDFW
Water Quality	Chemical, physical, and biological conditions of water in affected areas	• WDFW • DNR • ECY
Critical Infrastructure	Status and operational capacity of key infrastructure including dams, navigational locks, water intakes, treatment facilities,	• WDFW • EMD

	irrigation systems, and aquaculture operations	
Environmental Impact	Assessments of ecological damage, habitat degradation, effects on endangered or threatened species, and potential long-term impacts on ecosystem health	• WDFW
Resource Deployment	Availability, location, and readiness of personnel, supplies, equipment, and response teams; coordination of interagency resources	• WDF • EMD
Public Health and Safety	Potential impacts on public health, including risks to drinking water, recreation, and exposure to pathogens or toxins	• DOH • WDFW
Economic Impact	Economic impacts including commercial and recreational fisheries, aquaculture, tourism, water-dependent industries, and agricultural operations	• WSDA • WDFW • RCO
Regulatory and Legal Compliance	Status of enforcement actions, permitting, and adherence to state and federal regulations	• WDFW
Public Awareness and Outreach	Effectiveness of public messaging, stakeholder engagement, and citizen reporting; identification of communities needing targeted communication	• WDFW
Research and Monitoring Needs	Emerging data gaps, surveillance priorities, and research requirements to inform adaptive management and long-term control strategies	• WDFW
Fire and Other Environmental Risks	Identification of situations where aquatic threats contribute to conditions that increase fire risk, impact fire suppression systems, or exacerbate other environmental hazards	• WDFW • DNR • EMD
Infrastructure Recovery Needs	Assessment of damage or risk to critical aquatic systems and facilities requiring restoration, repair, or reinforcement	• WDFW • EMD
Plant Health Essential Elements of Information (Appendix 3)		

Elements	Description	Source
Economic Impact	Data on the economic impact of the incident on the agriculture sectors, including losses and recovery costs	• WSDA • COM
Inspections	Status of ongoing inspection, testing and certification assessments of plant health in agricultural regions	• WSDA
Species Presence	Locations, types, and extent of detected plant pests/diseases and invasive species	• WSDA
Containment and Eradication Efforts	Status and effectiveness of ongoing containment, quarantine, and eradication measures for plant health threats	• WSDA
Plant Health Status	Current condition of affected plant species, crops, or forests	• WSDA • DNR
Critical Agricultural Infrastructure	Status and operational capacity of agricultural infrastructure (e.g., nurseries, farms)	• WSDA
Environmental Impact	Assessments of ecological damage to plant ecosystems and long-term impacts on native species and biodiversity	• WSDA
Resource Deployment	Availability and status of resources (personnel, equipment) for pest control and eradication efforts	• WSDA
Public Health and Safety	Potential impacts on public health, including risks associated with contaminated crops or plant products	• WSDA • DOH
Food and Feed Safety Essential Elements of Information (Appendix 4)		
Elements	**Description**	**Source**
Inspections	Operational status of food/produce/feed safety inspections during disaster response	• WSDA
Production	Status of local food production, including information on disruptions or damages to local farms and commercial food supply chain (processors, distributors, importers) in the affected area	• WSDA

Disposition Information	Data to assist in establishing an embargo on adulterated food and feed to protect public health	• WSDA • DOH
Transportation	Status of transportation infrastructure critical for food/feed/produce supply chains	• WSDOT
Public Health and Safety	Impacts to public health related to the safety of the food and feed supply, including hazard type, commodity and current recall status if applicable	• DOH • WSDA
Disposal Management	Status of management of disposal adulterated agricultural products. Including feasibility and requirements for proper disposal of contaminated food and feed	• WSDA • ECY • DOH
Economic Impact	Economic impact assessment of the incident on food and feed safety, including losses and recovery costs	• WSDA • COM
Food and Feed Safety Issues	Locations, types, and extent of food, feed, and produce contamination detected, including potential sources and distribution. Determination of interstate commerce products	• WSDA
Control Efforts	Status and effectiveness of ongoing control efforts for food and feed safety threats. Disposition of product by method and type of direction used and by name authority	• WSDA
Agricultural Impact	Assessments of damage to crops, livestock, food and feed manufacturing, egg production packing house, dairies, agricultural sectors, along with economic implications for food and feed supply	• WSDA
Critical Agricultural Infrastructure	Status and operational capacity of critical agricultural infrastructure (e.g., farms, food processing facilities, distribution networks)	• WSDA

Environmental Impact	Assessments of ecological damage to natural ecosystems and potential long-term effects on food and feed production, and produce growers and packers	• WSDA • ECY
Resource Deployment	Availability and status of resources (personnel, equipment) for food/feed/produce safety efforts	• WSDA • DOH
Natural, Cultural, Historical Resources Essential Elements of Information (Appendix 5)		
Elements	**Description**	**Source**
Presence and Extent of Damage – Cultural and Historic Resources	Impact assessments on cultural resources and historic properties	• DNR • DAHP • PARKS
Presence and Extent of Damage – Natural Resources	Impact assessments on sensitive natural habitats, wetlands, and protected species (threatened/endangered)	• WDFW • DNR • ECY • WDFW • PARKS
Environmental and Economic Impact Assessments	Evaluations of ecological damage and the economic effects on cultural tourism, local economies, and natural resource-dependent industries including losses and recovery costs	• DAHP • DNR • PARKS • COM • WDFW • WSDA
Condition of Critical Infrastructure	Status of critical infrastructure related to the protection and management of NCH resources (e.g., storage facilities, preservation equipment, water systems)	• ECY • DAHP • DNR • PARKS • WDFW
Resource Deployment	Availability and status of resources (personnel, equipment) for NCH protection efforts	• DAHP • DNR • PARKS • WDFW • EMD

		• ECY

Information Analysis & Information

ESF 11 uses available information, status reports, lifeline summaries, and resource requests to inform the SEOC Incident Action Plan (IAP). State partners also collectively use the information to guide resource prioritization and policy-making decisions. Using available information, entities provide impact assessment data, issues, and resource requests to inform ESF 11 response actions and, if applicable, the recovery support strategy or plan.

Information Dissemination

Information collected by the ESF 11 Group Supervisor is disseminated based on the type of information, priority of information, and audience. Information flows both vertically and horizontally through the ESF 11 Group Supervisor. A majority of the information sharing capabilities will be to and from WSDA headquarters, through the ESF 11 Group Supervisor to and from the SEOC.

Additionally, information is disseminated to the Operations Section Chief (OSC) or the Health and Human Services Branch Director, if activated, using WebEOC or the best available system given the circumstances. As appropriate, information is shared among partner entities, including local, state, Tribal, and federal agencies, and applicable sector organizations. It may be shared in writing, verbally, electronically, and/or graphically.

Information that needs to be disseminated to the public, will be passed through ESF 15 – External Affairs.

Roles and Responsibilities

Each mission area—prevention, protection, mitigation, response, and recovery—identifies core capabilities required to address common threats and hazards. This plan focuses on the roles and responsibilities of state agencies in support of ESF 11's purpose within the response mission area.

The response core capabilities are the activities that generally must be accomplished in incident response, regardless of which levels of government are involved. Using the core capabilities construct enables state agencies to focus on specific preparedness measures necessary to ensure that the capabilities are available when needed in support of ESF 11. The following actions and activities, divided by core capability, are those needed to respond quickly and meet immediate needs during and in the aftermath of a disaster across all functional areas of ESF 11.

Additional core capabilities and corresponding agency activities needed to comprehensively respond to and manage the immediate needs and long-term risks to the agriculture and natural resources sectors and food supply chain systems are further outlined in the five appendices to this annex:

- Appendix 1: State Nutrition and Food Assistance Plan
- Appendix 2: State Animal Health Response Plan
    - Attachment: State Aquatic Resources Response Plan
- Appendix 3: State Plant Health Response Plan
- Appendix 4: State Food and Feed Safety Response Plan
- Appendix 5: State Natural, Cultural and Historic Resources Response Plan

Response Mission Area			
Core Capability	**Critical Task I.D.**	**Activity/Action**	**State Agency / Organization**
Public Information and Warning	1	Disseminate information related to food safety, food and nutrition program availability, and agriculture and natural resource protection. Activities include providing timely and accurate information to the public and stakeholders and issuing guidance and updates on agriculture and natural resources sectors and food supply chain systems during emergencies.	WSDA, EMD, GOV
	4	Monitor and counter misinformation that could impact public perception or response efforts.	WSDA, EMD, GOV
	2	Coordinate public messaging with relevant agencies to ensure consistent and clear communication.	WSDA, EMD, GOV
Operational Coordination	1	Facilitate effective coordination among local, state, Tribal, territorial, and federal agencies. Activities include establishing communication and collaboration mechanisms with stakeholders and coordinating the integration of ESF 11 activities into the overall response framework.	WSDA, EMD
	4	Monitor and adjust operations as needed to adapt to changing conditions during the emergency.	WSDA, DSHS, DNR, WDFW, DOH, ECY
	3	Coordinate incident management and resource allocation to ensure that all necessary personnel and materials are available to address the emergency.	WSDA, DSHS, DNR, WDFW, DOH, ECY
Situational Assessment	1	Assess the impact of the disaster/hazard on agriculture and natural resource sectors, economic viability, food systems and public health, providing data to inform response efforts. Provide all decision	WSDA, DSHS, DNR, WDFW, DOH, ECY

		makers with decision-relevant information regarding the nature and extent of the hazard, any cascading effects, and the status of the response.	
Planning	1	Develop and implement plans to address food systems, public health, and agriculture and nature resources sectors needs during emergencies. Activities include creating and updating response plans that incorporate agriculture and natural resources sectors considerations and integrating ESF 11 activities into broader emergency response plans.	WSDA, DSHS, DNR, WDFW, DOH, ECY

Resource Requirements

Macro-Level

- **ESF 11 Activation.** In the event of an ESF 11 activation, it is essential to ensure that there is always an ESF 11 Group Supervisor supporting the SEOC, whether in person or remotely. This individual is crucial for supporting coordination, maintaining situational awareness, and ensuring unity of effort during the response.
- **Role of the ESF 11 Group Supervisor.** The ESF 11 Group Supervisor must possess the skills and knowledge necessary to act as the intermediary between state agriculture and natural resource entities that comprise ESF 11 and the SEOC. This role includes providing access to specialized subject matter experts within the agriculture and natural resources sectors and serving as a vital link for situational awareness between the primary and supporting agencies.
- **Coordination and Decision Making.** The ESF 11 Group Supervisor is responsible for facilitating access to and coordinating with decision-making authorities within the primary and supporting ESF 11 state agencies. This involves relaying critical information and sharing situational awareness. Although the ESF 11 Group Supervisor does not need to have policy decision-making authority themselves, they must have direct access to those within their agency who do hold that authority.
- **Continuity Plans.** It is imperative that the ESF 11 primary and supporting agencies have robust Continuity Plans in place to ensure the continuation of their business and mission-essential functions during disruptions to their state agency services. These Continuity Plans enable the ESF 11 Group Supervisor to prioritize their duties effectively, whether reporting

to the SEOC in person or remotely, thereby maintaining the function of ESF 11 even if state agency operations are compromised.

- **Strategic Coordination.** At a macro level, the ESF 11 Group Supervisor must also focus on strategic coordination with other ESFs and relevant stakeholders. This includes integrating efforts with federal agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and private sector partners to ensure a comprehensive and cohesive response. The ability to leverage a wide network of resources and expertise is critical for addressing complex and widespread emergencies impacting the agriculture and natural resources sectors.
- **Long-term Recovery and Resilience.** The ESF 11 Group Supervisor should also be involved in planning for long-term recovery and resilience. This involves working with state and local governments, as well as community organizations, to develop strategies for restoring agriculture and natural resource sectors post-disaster. Emphasizing sustainability and resilience in recovery efforts helps to mitigate future risks and enhance the state's overall preparedness.

These macro-level requirements ensure that ESF 11 can effectively coordinate and manage its responsibilities during emergencies, providing a comprehensive approach to agriculture and natural resource disaster response and recovery.

Micro-Level

This plan reflects actual existing capabilities and aligns with the FEMA *Emergency Support Function #11 – Agriculture and Natural Resources*, to the extent feasible. Much of the capability to respond to the six primary functions relies heavily on cooperation and partnership with USDA, FDA, private industry, non-governmental organizations, support from other states through the Emergency Management Assistance Compact, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

- **ESF 11 Workstation Requirements.** ESF 11 must have at least one individual with training and approval from WSDA leadership to execute the structures and coordination outlined in this annex as the ESF 11 Group Supervisor. Under ideal circumstances, ESF 11 will have at least two workstations within one of the pods on the SEOC floor, including all relevant office resources, information/communication technologies (access to WSDA intranet and email), and supporting personnel resources as determined appropriate by the CEMP and SEOC Supervisor.
- **WebEOC**. The ESF 11 Group Supervisor (activated) will need to have access to WebEOC, the state disaster management system, including access to the appropriate WebEOC boards, including internal WSDA WebEOC boards.

- **VPN Access Potential Requirements**. In a remote environment, the ESF 11 Group Supervisor may need a work laptop and Virtual Private Network (VPN) access. Access to the WSDA Intranet and Remote Desktop Connection Application can be done through VPN. If another state agency is primary for ESF 11, that agency may also need VPN to gain access to their agency's internal network.
- **GIS Potential Requirements.** The ESF 11 Group Supervisor may need the Remote Desktop Connection Application to access specific desktop computers within the WSDA HQ EOC or other locations. This might be useful if the ESF 11 Group Supervisor needs to access the internal WSDA Geodata Catalogue.

These requirements ensure that ESF 11 personnel have the necessary tools and access to perform their duties effectively during an emergency.

Training

The following are required training courses for personnel tasked with response under ESF 11, depending on individual roles, responsibilities, and current level of training:

- **SEOC Operations Training** involves training on the operations and management of the State Emergency Operations Center. This training ensures effective coordination and response during emergencies, which is crucial for ESF 11 operations.
- **EMD0001-SEOC Foundations Training** provides foundational training on the structure and functions of the SEOC. It provides essential knowledge for effective participation in SEOC activities, supporting ESF 11's role.
- **G0191 Emergency Operations Center/Incident Command System Interface** is a course on the interface between the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and ICS. It ensures seamless integration of ESF 11 activities between the EOC and field operations.
- **G2300 Intermediate Emergency Operations Center Functions** provides intermediate training on EOC functions and operations. This training enhances the ability of ESF 11 staff to perform more complex EOC tasks and coordination efforts.
- **ICS-300 Intermediate ICS** provides advanced training on the Incident Command System for complex incidents. It prepares ESF 11 personnel for leadership roles in managing more complex and large-scale incidents.
- **ICS-400 Advanced ICS** offers advanced ICS training for managing large-scale, multi-agency incidents. It equips ESF 11 leaders with the skills to manage significant incidents involving multiple agencies.

- **IS-100 Introduction to ICS** is an introductory course to the Incident Command System (ICS). It is fundamental for understanding the ICS structure, which is integral to ESF 11's emergency response.
- **IS-200 ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents** trains personnel on using ICS for managing single resources and initial action incidents. This training enhances the ability to manage initial ESF 11 response activities effectively.
- **IS-230 Fundamentals of Emergency Management** provides an overview of the principles and practices of emergency management. It offers a broad understanding of emergency management, essential for ESF 11 planning and coordination.
- **IS-700 Introduction to NIMS** introduces the National Incident Management System (NIMS). It ensures compatibility with national response protocols, facilitating ESF 11's integration into broader response efforts.
- **IS-800 National Response Framework** gives an overview of the National Response Framework (NRF). Aligning ESF 11 activities with national response strategies enhances coordination and effectiveness.
- **IS-2200 Basic Emergency Operations Center Functions** offers basic training on EOC functions and operations. It provides essential skills for ESF 11 personnel to operate effectively within the EOC.
- **Monthly ESF Lead Workdays** are regular workdays for ESF leads to coordinate and plan activities. These sessions promote collaboration and strategic planning among ESF 11 leads, improving response efficiency.
- **Monthly SEOC Workdays** are regular workdays focused on SEOC operations and activities. They maintain readiness and ensure continuous improvement of ESF 11's operational capabilities.
- **WebEOC Training** is training on the use of WebEOC, an online emergency management platform. It ensures ESF 11 personnel can effectively use WebEOC for information sharing and coordination during emergencies.

Recommended Training

- **FEMA provided position-specific training** equips personnel with tailored knowledge and skills for specific roles within emergency response operations. This training ensures that ESF 11 staff are prepared to effectively fulfill their responsibilities during emergencies.
- **AWR-160 WMD/Terrorism Awareness for Emergency Responders** provides awareness-level training on weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and terrorism. This training prepares ESF 11 personnel to recognize and respond to potential WMD or terrorist threats affecting the agriculture sector.

- **AWR-328 All Hazards Preparedness for Animals in Disaster** provides comprehensive training on preparedness measures for animals in disaster situations. This training is important for ESF 11 to effectively protect and manage animal populations during emergencies.
- **E0948: Situational Awareness and Common Operating Picture** provides training on maintaining situational awareness and creating a common operating picture during emergencies. This is crucial for ESF 11 to coordinate effectively and make informed decisions.
- **G0190 Incident Command System (ICS) for Executives/Senior Officials** provides a strategic overview of the Incident Command System tailored for executives and senior officials. This training ensures that senior leaders understand ICS principles and can support ESF 11 operations effectively.
- **IS-10.a Animals in Disasters: Awareness and Preparedness** focuses on raising awareness and preparedness for animal-related issues during disasters. This course is important for ESF 11 to integrate animal considerations into emergency planning and response.
- **IS-11.a Animals in Disasters: Community Planning** emphasizes community planning for animal-related disaster issues. This training helps ESF 11 collaborate with communities to ensure comprehensive planning that includes animal needs.
- **IS-111.a Livestock in Disasters** offers training on the management and care of livestock during disasters. This training is essential for ESF 11 to ensure the safety and well-being of livestock in emergency situations.
- **IS-120 An Introduction to Exercises** offers an introduction to designing and conducting emergency exercises. This training is important for ESF 11 to validate plans and improve preparedness through regular exercises.
- **IS-235 Emergency Planning** focuses on the principles and practices of emergency planning. This training is essential for ESF 11 to develop effective and comprehensive emergency plans.
- **IS-242.b Effective Communication** focuses on improving communication skills within the context of emergency management. Effective communication is critical for ensuring clear and concise information exchange during ESF 11 operations.
- **IS-244.b Developing and Managing Volunteers** offers training on developing and managing volunteer resources. Enhancing ESF 11's ability to effectively integrate and manage volunteers during emergencies is crucial for ensuring a robust and responsive volunteer network.
- **IS-405 Overview of Mass Care/Emergency Assistance** provides an overview of mass care and emergency assistance functions. This training supports ESF 11's role in ensuring the well-being of animals and agriculture sector communities during mass care operations.

- **IS-505 Religious and Cultural Literacy and Competency in Disaster** introduces concepts related to religious and cultural literacy and competency during disasters. Understanding and respecting diverse cultural and religious needs helps ESF 11 personnel improve community engagement and support.
- **IS-546 Continuity of Operations Awareness** introduces the concepts of continuity of operations planning. This training ensures that ESF 11 can maintain essential functions during disruptions.
- **IS-547 Introduction to Continuity of Operations** provides an introduction to continuity of operations planning. This training ensures that ESF 11 can sustain essential functions during and after emergencies.
- **IS-700.a National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction** provides an introduction to the National Incident Management System (NIMS). This training ensures alignment with national standards for incident management and enhances coordination with other ESFs.
- **IS-860.c The National Infrastructure Protection Plan (NIPP)** introduces the National Infrastructure Protection Plan. Awareness of infrastructure protection strategies is crucial for safeguarding the agriculture sector and food systems, making this training important for ESF 11 personnel.
- **IS-2001 Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA)** offers training on identifying and assessing threats and hazards. This is crucial for ESF 11 to conduct thorough risk assessments and develop appropriate response strategies.
- **IS-2900 National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF) Overview** provides an overview of the National Disaster Recovery Framework. This training helps ESF 11 understand and integrate recovery principles into their emergency response and recovery efforts.
- **MGT-448 All Hazards Planning for Animal, Agriculture & Food Related Disasters** focuses on planning for all-hazards incidents that impact animals, agriculture, and food. This training is crucial for ESF 11 to ensure preparedness and response strategies address the unique needs of these sectors.

Guidance Links

- Federal Emergency Management Agency: Mission Areas and Core Capabilities
- Washington Hospitality Association: State of the Industry
- Washington State Department of Agriculture
- Washington State Department of Commerce: Established Sectors
- Washington State Department of Revenue: Statistics and Reports
- Washington State Office of Financial Management: Department of Agriculture Recommendation Summaries
- Washington State Port Association

Reference Links

- 73-04-1 Protecting Washington State Parks' Natural Resources: A Comprehensive Natural Resource Management Policy
- Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- Extension Disaster Education Network (EDEN)
- Forest Practices Rules
- Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF)
- Initial State Response and Containment Management Plan for Low Pathogenic Avian Influenza and Emergency Poultry Diseases
- Multi-Agency Response to Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza Animal Emergency Plan
- National Alliance of State Animal and Agriculture Emergency Programs (NASAAEP)
- National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition (NARSC)
- National Assembly of State Animal Health Officers (NASAHO)
- National Association of State Directors of Agriculture (NASDA)
- USDA Foreign Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Plan
- USFW Threatened and Endangered Species Consultation
- Washington Food Emergency Response Plan
- Washington Food Emergency Response Resource Guide
- Washington Interagency Response Plan
- Washington Rapid Response Team Operations Manual
- Washington State National Veterinary Stockpile Plan
- WSDA Foreign Animal Disease Management Plan
- Zoo and Aquarium All Hazards Preparedness, Response, and Recovery (ZAHP) Fusion Center

Acronyms

AG	Office of the Attorney General
ADA	American Disabilities Act
ARC	American Red Cross
CEMP	Comprehensive Management Plan
CDC	Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
COM	Department of Commerce
DAHP	Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation
DES	Department of Enterprise Services
DOD	Department of Defense
DOH	Department of Health
DNR	Department of Natural Resources
DSHS	Department of Social and Health Services
D SNAP	Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
ECY	Department of Ecology
EDEN	Extension Disaster Education Network
EMAC	Emergency Management Assistance Compact
EMD	Military Department Emergency Management Division
EEI	Essential Elements of Information
ESF	Emergency Support Function
FDA	Food and Drug Administration
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FSIS	Food Safety and Inspection Service
GEO	Geospatial Open Data
GIS	Geographic Information System
GOV	Office of the Governor
HENTF	Heritage Emergency National Task Force
ICS	Incident Command System
JIC	Joint Information Center
L&I	Department of Labor and Industries
NABC	National Agricultural Biosecurity Center
NASAAEP	National Alliance of State Animal and Agriculture Emergency Programs
NARSC	National Animal Rescue and Sheltering Coalition
NASAHO	National Assembly of State Animal Health Officers
NASDA	National Association of State Directors of Agriculture
NCH	Natural Cultural and Historic

NDRF	National Disaster Recovery Framework
NIMS	National Incident Management System
NOAA	National Atmospheric Administration
NRF	National Response Framework
NR RSF	Natural Resources Recovery Support Function
OEM	Office of Emergency Management
OFM	Office of Financial Management
OSPI	Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction
PIO	Public Information Officer
RCW	Revised Code of Washington
RCO	Recreation and Conservation Office
RSF	Recovery Support Function
SAL	State Agency Liaison
SCC	State Conservation Commission
SEOC	State Emergency Operations Center
THIRA	Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
UTC	Utilities and Transportation Commission
VPN	Virtual Private Network
WAC	Washington Administrative Code
WANG	Washington Air National Guard
WDFW	Department of Fish and Wildlife
WISC	Washington Invasive Species Council
WSDA	Washington State Department of Agriculture
WSDOT	Department of Transportation
WSU	Washington State University

Terms and Definitions

Agricultural Biosecurity	Measures taken to protect against the introduction and spread of harmful organisms and diseases within agriculture.
Bio-hazardous Event	An incident involving biological substances that pose a threat to the health of living organisms, primarily humans and animals.
Natural Resources Recovery Support Function (NR RSF)	A function that provides coordinated federal assistance to support local, state, Tribal, and territorial recovery efforts related to natural resources.
Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA)	The state agency responsible for regulating and promoting agriculture in Washington.