



National Conference of State Legislatures

Incorporating and Maximizing Federal Funds in Times of Funding Volatility and Disaster Growth

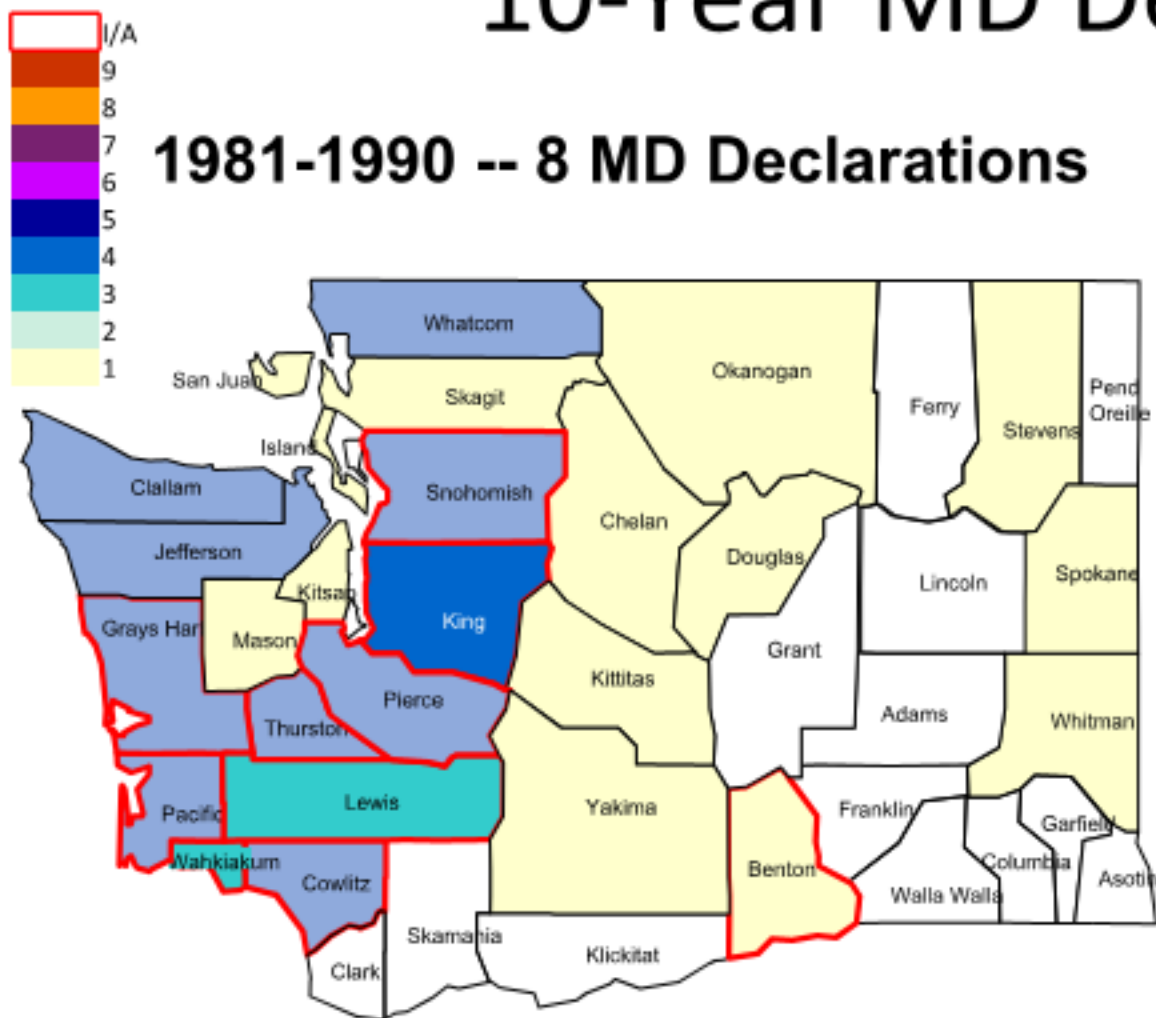
Sharon Wallace, Deputy Director
Washington Emergency Management

June 5, 2024

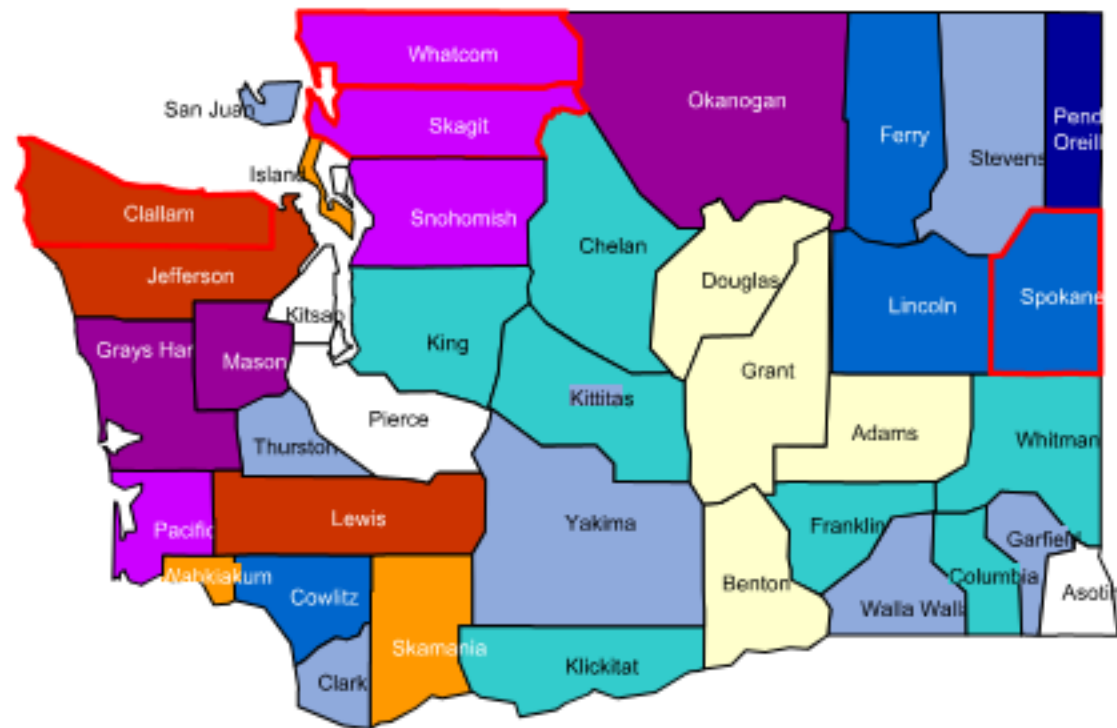


10-Year MD Declaration Frequency

1981-1990 -- 8 MD Declarations



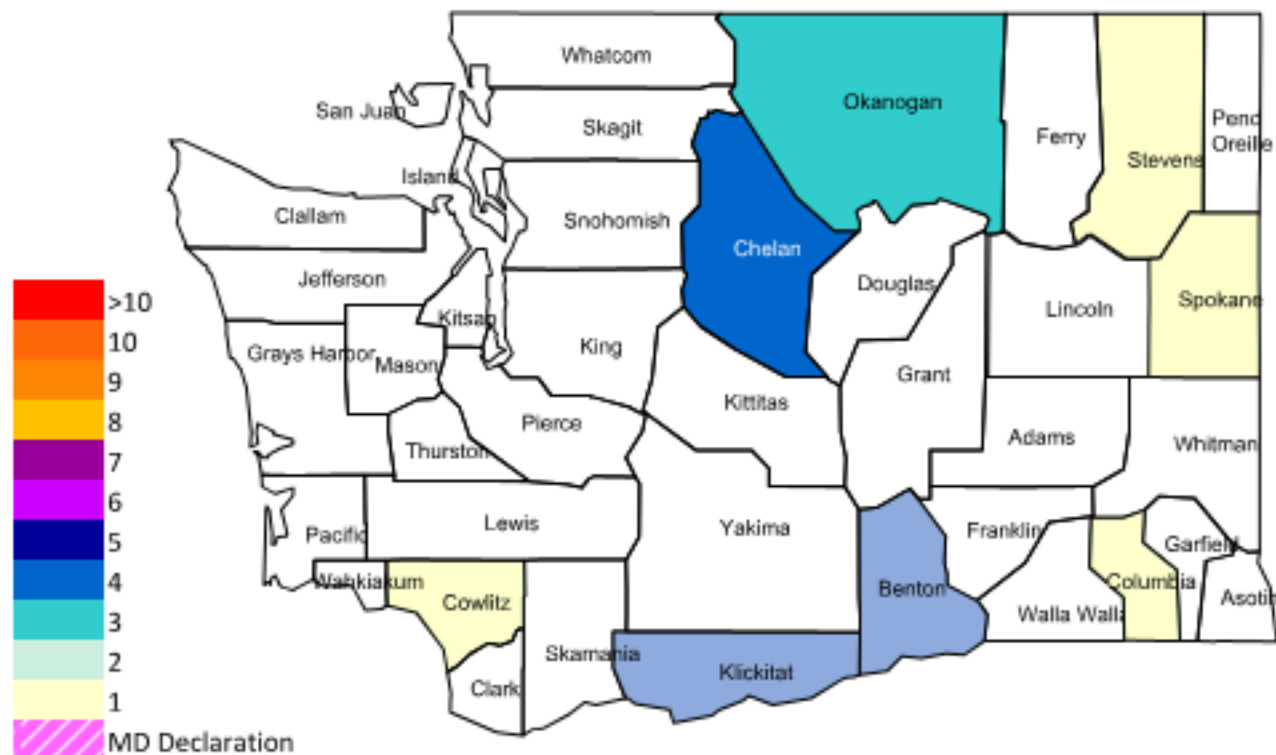
2015-2024 -- 15 MD Declarations



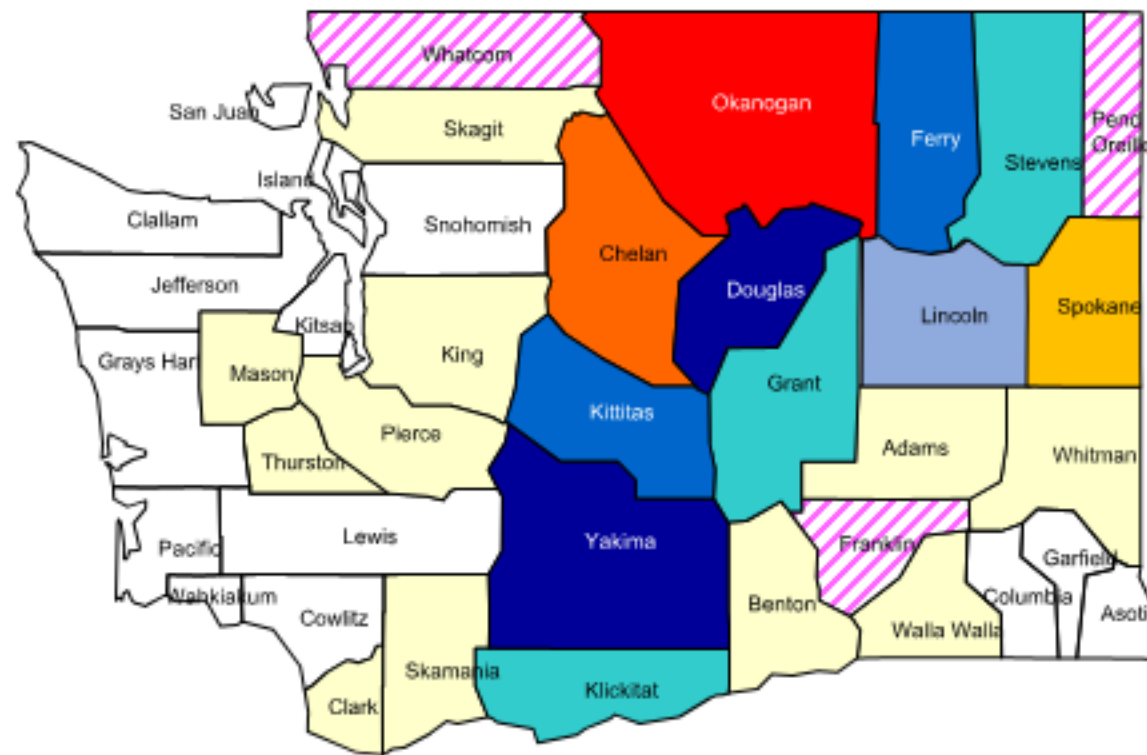


FMAG Declaration Frequency

FMAG 30-Year Frequency 1970-1999
14 FMAG Declarations (.5 Annually)



FMAG 10-Year Frequency 2014-2023
63 FMAG Declarations (6.3 Annually)





Washington Military Department Emergency Management Division



mauinews.com
Lahaina, Maui, 8/8/23



Spokesman Review, Colin Mulvaney
Gray Road Fire, Spokane County 8/18/23



Current Challenges

- **Increasing Frequency, Severity, and Complexity of Disasters:** Overlapping events, cascading effects, dis/mis/mal-information, social justice and equity, sea level rise, distrust of government, limited English proficiency, nontraditional roles of EM, changing expectations, geopolitics
- **Rising Costs:** Inflation and increased expenses for disaster mitigation, prevention, response, and recovery.
- **Economic Volatility:** Unpredictable economic and legislative conditions impacting funding and resources.



Importance of Federal Funds

- **Role in Crisis Management:** Essential for immediate response and recovery.
- **Support for Local Government:** Helps lighten the financial burden on local and state governments.
- **Sustainable Recovery:** Contributes to long-term rebuilding and resilience.



Key Non-FEMA Federal Funding Sources

- **HUD:** Community Development Block Grant for Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)
- **USDA:** Livestock forage assistance, indemnity, emergency assistance for livestock, honeybees, and farm-raised fish, livestock relief, crop losses, farm loans
- **SBA:** Economic injury disaster loans, physical damage loans, mitigation assistance



FEMA Disaster Assistance Funds

- **Public Assistance**

- Grants to state, tribal, territorial, and local governments, and certain types of private non-profits so communities can quickly respond to and recover from major disasters or emergencies.

- **Individual Assistance**

- Financial assistance and direct services to eligible individuals and households affected by a disaster, who have uninsured or underinsured necessary expenses and serious needs.



Key DHS/FEMA Preparedness Grants

Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP)

State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP)

Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)

Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP)

- Operation Stonegarden
- Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)
- State Homeland Security Program (SHSP)



Hazard Mitigation Grants

- Building Resilient Infrastructure & Communities (BRIC)
- Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)
- Disaster Specific
 - Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) [4585/4593]
 - HMGP Post Fire
 - HMGP [4481]
 - HMGP [4635]
 - HMGP [4650]
 - HMGP [4682]



Strategies for Incorporating Federal Funds

- **Early Planning and Preparedness:** Local jurisdictions should build potential federal funding into planning.
- **Collaboration and Partnerships:** Don't exchange business cards during a disaster. Build relationships now.
- **Grant Writing and Management:** Train staff in grant writing and grant management.
- **Leverage Data and Technology:** Use data to support funding requests. Pay attention to the 5th industrial revolution.

"If you don't know AI, you're going to fail. Period. End of Story."

Mark Cuban, business owner and investor,
and minority owner of the NBA's Dallas Mavericks



Strategies for Maximizing Federal Funds

- **Prioritize Projects:** Focus on high-impact projects that meet funding criteria. Don't skim the NOFO.
- **Efficiently Allocate:** Ensure funds are allocated efficiently and effectively. Embrace audits.
- **Ensure Strong Compliance and Reporting:** Maintain strict adherence to federal guidelines and reporting requirements.
- **Focus on Building Resilience:** Invest in projects that enhance long-term disaster resilience.



Challenges in Fund Management

- **Bureaucratic Hurdles:** Navigating complex federal requirements. Ask questions of your SMEs.
- **Resource Limitations/Changes:** Human resources and funding. Changing federal priorities and budgets. Limited staff and expertise in grant management.
- **Timely Distribution:** Ensuring funds are received, distributed, and used promptly. Have a reallocation contingency plan.



EMD 2025 Legislative Agenda

- Fund a study to identify best practices for a state individual assistance program.
- Fully fund the state public assistance program.
- Create a state incident management assistance team.
- Create a local emergency management capacity building grant.



Questions/Discussion