



## Enforcing the Wildland Urban Interface Codes Emergency Rule Affecting 19.27.560 (SB 6120)

[SB 6120](#) modified laws in Washington related to the Wildland Urban Interface Code (WUIC). SB 6120 included emergency provisions and will take effect upon the Governor's signature, which is expected to occur in mid-March 2024.

SB 6120 removes SBCC authority to modify the State WUI beyond what is included in RCW 19.27.560(1). Specifically, SB 6120 restricts the State WUIC requirements to Chapter 1 of the International WUIC and limited technical provisions (excluding defensible space). All counties, cities, and towns may adopt some or all of the International WUIC referenced in RCW 19.27560(2), if they wish to have defensible space and other provisions that will not be in the State WUIC. When adopting the International WUIC locally to meet local needs, jurisdictions may amend the code and may exceed the minimum performance standards of the International WUI.

In order to start or continue enforcing the WUIC after this emergency rule takes effect, local jurisdictions should be aware of the following.

### **Maps**

To enforce the WUI, jurisdictions must adopt a map per RCW 19.27.560 and chapter 3 of the I-WUIC. DNR has been directed to create new maps, but the timing has not been announced. Please note that the previous DNR map is no longer valid for State WUI enforcement but can be used in the interim if adopted locally. If you wish to continue WUI enforcement, we recommend you pursue this path.

- If your jurisdiction adopted a WUI map prior to SB 6120, you may continue using this map until six months after the DNR maps are released (new RCW 19.27.560(4)), after which time all local maps must use substantially similar criteria as the DNR map.
- Once the new DNR maps are created, local jurisdictions will no longer need to adopt their own maps and may instead use the DNR maps to enforce RCW 19.27.560.
- Once the new DNR maps are created, jurisdictions may continue to create their own maps, but the maps will need to align with the criteria used by DNR. See new RCW 19.27.560(4).

### **Code Provisions in Addition to RCW 19.27.560(1)**

If local jurisdictions wish to enforce elements of the WUI that are not in RCW 19.27.560(1), such as defensible space provisions available in the I-WUIC, local jurisdictions will need to adopt some or all of the I-WUIC.