

# Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group



## FACT SHEET

### Lands Group Members

- Senator Linda Evans Parlette
- American Farmland Trust
- City of Renton
- Douglas County
- Okanogan County
- Pacific Coast Joint Venture
- The Nature Conservancy
- Trust for Public Land
- Washington Association of Land Trusts
- Washington Forest Protection Association

### State Agency Members

- Conservation Commission
- Department of Ecology
- Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Department of Natural Resources
- Department of Transportation
- Puget Sound Partnership
- Recreation and Conservation Office
- State Parks and Recreation Commission

### Staff

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### Making State Land Purchases More Visible and Coordinated

State agencies buy land to protect important state resources and to provide outdoor recreation opportunities. As Washington's population increases, the need to conserve land—for recreation, for wildlife, and for habitat for threatened and endangered species—becomes greater.



To increase collaboration and better communicate with local governments and residents about state land purchases, the Legislature created the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group in 2007.

The lands group improves the visibility and coordination of state purchases and sales of land for habitat and recreation in the following ways:

#### Annual Forum

The Annual State Land Acquisition Forum brings people together to discuss policies and proposals for state land purchases and sales. Participants include state lawmakers, state agencies, local governments, non-governmental organizations, landowners, tribes, and citizens.

#### Biennial Forecast Report

The *Biennial State Land Acquisition Forecast Report* provides information about the state land purchases and sales that are planned for the next 2 years. The report is published online and includes the proposed number of acres, estimated cost, sources of funding, intended uses, project significance, and partners.

#### Biennial Performance Monitoring Report

The *Biennial State Land Acquisition Performance Monitoring Report* shows whether state agencies purchased the land they had planned. This report also is published online.

#### Public Meetings

The lands group holds quarterly meetings open to the public.

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## IMPROVING VISIBILITY AND COORDINATION

### What are Some Impacts of State Land Acquisitions?

Here are three sample acquisition projects and some of the recreational, economic, and ecosystem benefits they provide.

#### Heart of the Cascades

##### Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Located about 20 miles southwest of Ellensburg in central Washington, this acquisition allows coordinated land management across a biologically rich area of forests, rivers, and streams.

- Popular for recreation, activities include camping, hiking, riding off-road vehicles, bird watching, fishing, and hunting. Users contribute to the economy in Kittitas County.
- Planned forest restoration will provide jobs for loggers and foresters. Locally-sourced wood will supply mills and biomass businesses.
- Wildlife, including the endangered northern spotted owl and large herds of elk and deer, find unimpeded migration corridors, breeding sites, and foraging grounds.



#### Cape Disappointment Seaview Dunes

##### Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

On the Long Beach peninsula in southwestern Washington, tourists are drawn to one of the most spectacular views along the Washington coast. The park helps preserve the wild scenery on this valued Pacific Ocean shoreline.

- The wide sandy beach provides hiking, beachcombing, kite flying, clam digging, fishing, and sandcastle building to Washington residents and international tourists alike.
- Visitors supply economic support to the local community through tax revenues for hotel, motel, grocery, and gas businesses as well as the various specialty shops and museums.
- The beach and dunes include seashore habitat, stopover sites for migrating birds, and important wetlands.



#### Dabob Bay Natural Area

##### Washington Department of Natural Resources

One of the most intact estuarine bays remaining in Puget Sound, the deep clean water of Dabob Bay is surrounded by coastal bluffs, undeveloped shorelines, and natural sand spits.

- Mostly undeveloped, Dabob Bay provides the hardy recreationist with quiet and solitude for boating, kayaking, and wildlife viewing of seabirds, seals, and whales.
- The natural processes in the estuary improve growing conditions for nearby shellfish farmers.
- Ecosystem services—significant economic benefits provided at zero cost to taxpayers—include protecting water quality and buffering effects of climate change, as well as habitat for numerous endangered animals such as orca, marbled murrelet, and Chinook Salmon.

