



Strategy for State Recreation and Conservation Land Acquisition and Development

Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group
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In 2015, the Washington State Legislature directed the Recreation and Conservation Office to review the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program.¹ One of the recommendations of the review was for state agencies to develop a coordinated, statewide, conservation and outdoor recreation strategy that outlines state agency priorities for acquisitions and development. The Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group worked with the agencies to develop such a plan, which is presented below.

The state agencies primarily responsible for the acquisition and development of state lands for habitat conservation and outdoor recreation purposes are the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks), Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). Each of these agencies invests a significant amount of time and effort to look at the future and prioritize their portfolios of land and facilities to achieve their statutory missions. This plan consolidates the individual agency plans into a unified state strategy on land acquisition and development.

The land acquisition goals of the three natural resource agencies differ slightly in their focus, but all have overlapping elements (see Table 1). State Parks acquires lands that connect people to their natural and cultural heritage (people focus), DNR acquires lands to protect the finest ecosystems in our state, including rare or vulnerable plant and animal species, with low-impact recreation and environmental education opportunities (conservation, education, and research focuses), and WDFW acquires land to provide conservation value and outdoor recreation opportunities for all residents of the state (people and conservation focuses).

¹Washington Laws 2015 3rd Special Session PV C 3 § 3163

Table 1. State Agency Acquisition Priorities

WDFW	DNR	State Parks
<p>Recreation Lands</p> <p>Objective: Acquire property to provide fish and wildlife-related recreational opportunities for the public and provide for department administrative support.</p> <p>Criteria: Need, site suitability and design, diversity and compatibility, performance measures, public benefit, and population proximity.</p>	<p>Recreation Lands</p> <p>Objective: DNR does not buy land primarily for recreation purposes, but does provide for passive recreational opportunities.</p>	<p>Recreation Lands</p> <p>Objective: Acquire parkland for outdoor recreational opportunities for the public.</p> <p>Criteria: Significance, popularity, experiences, uniqueness, flora and fauna, scenery size, condition, and revenue</p>
<p>Wildlife Areas</p> <p>Objective: Focus on lands that are necessary to recover, maintain, or enhance the integrity of priority species, habitats, and ecosystems.</p> <p>Criteria: Priority species, habitat values, biodiversity, appropriate and accessible recreation, research and education, economics, fiscal accountability, stewardship, partnership, and citizen involvement.</p>	<p>Natural Resources Conservation Areas</p> <p>Objective: Areas with high priority for conservation, natural systems, wildlife, and low-impact public use values</p> <p>Criteria: Flora, fauna, geological, archaeological, scenic, or similar features; native ecological communities; connectivity between protected areas; protection of Natural Area Preserves core area; and opportunities for low impact public use</p>	<p>Classification and Management Planning (CAMP)</p> <p>Includes: Natural Area Preserves, Natural Areas, Natural Forest Areas, Resource Recreation Areas, Recreation Areas, and Heritage Areas.</p> <p>Objective: Protect a view shed or for stewardship of natural and cultural resources.</p> <p>Criteria: Significance, popularity, experiences, uniqueness, flora and fauna, scenery size, condition, and revenue.</p>
<p>Natural Area Preserves</p> <p>Objective: Protect representative examples of highest quality native ecosystems.</p> <p>Criteria: Populations of endangered, threatened, sensitive, rare, or diminishing animal species</p>	<p>Natural Area Preserves</p> <p>Objective: Protect representative examples of highest quality native ecosystems.</p> <p>Criteria: Rare or diminishing plant or animal populations</p>	<p>Natural Area Preserves</p> <p>Objective: Protect representative examples of highest quality native ecosystems.</p>

As a whole, the agencies make land acquisition decisions in order to make a variety of quality recreational environments and opportunities readily accessible and to protect the most important conservation values for the benefit of all Washington residents.

In addition to agency-specific goals and future land acquisition priorities, the following are unifying themes for land acquisition in the next 6 years:

- Recognize and strategically use state lands as amenities to make communities, counties, and the state a more desirable place to live, work, and visit.
- Continue to make investments in land acquisition and development that serve the needs of a growing population, an aging population, and an increasingly diverse population.
- To the greatest degree feasible, ensure that public lands are accessible to the people of the state and help to protect natural open spaces and resources.
- Complement existing infrastructure and acquisitions and other public investments and priorities and reduce long-term costs (e.g., prioritize the acquisition of inholdings).
- Continue efforts to dispose of properties that are no longer adding value to the citizens of the state.
- Place a high value on using voluntary approaches to conservation to prevent additional regulatory burdens.
- Develop reliable funding sources that allow each agency to properly steward the natural and cultural resources on newly acquired public lands.

Agency Mission and Strategic Goals for Acquisitions

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

Mission

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission cares for Washington's most treasured lands, waters, and historic places. State parks connect all Washingtonians to their diverse natural and cultural heritage and provide memorable recreational and educational experiences that enhance their lives.

Program Strategic Goals

Washington's state parks should be recognized as the collection of places and experiences that are distinctly Washington. To achieve that goal, the state park system should include:

- **Places to be:** Washington State Parks should seek to acquire and develop places that connect people with the state's iconic landscapes.
- **Stories to know:** Washington State Parks should seek to acquire and develop places that engage people in authentic Washington stories.
- **Things to do:** Washington State Parks should provide places for people to enjoy Washington's recreational mainstays.
- **Ways to grow:** Washington State Parks should provide opportunities for recreational novices to get outdoors, experience what Washington has to offer, and progress in their skills.
- **Something for everyone:** Washington State Parks should improve the quality of life for all Washingtonians.

In developing its strategy on future land acquisition, disposal, and development, State Parks makes the following assumptions:

- **Long-Term Park Boundaries:** Because the vast majority of State Parks land acquisitions occur within or adjacent to existing parks, long-term park boundaries adopted by the commission during a Classification and Management Planning (CAMP) process will remain the primary guidance for agency land acquisition and disposal. The CAMP process involves a tremendous amount of public outreach and input, opening lines of communication between State Parks, local governments, and adjacent landowners. The process and the product have been very successful, and the [Statewide Park Acquisition and Development Strategy](#) assumes that will not change.

- **Existing State Parks:** In the strategic planning effort leading up to the State Parks' centennial in 2013, the agency reviewed its land holdings park by park to determine whether each park was consistent with the agency vision. In cases where consistency with the vision was in question, State Parks considered transferring those parks to other public agencies. In almost every case, the public spoke out against such a transfer and against the notion that a park might be inconsistent with the State Parks' vision. The process proved to be divisive and created ill will and distrust among those living near the affected parks. In the end, very few parks or properties were transferred to other agencies.

This statewide acquisition and development strategy assumes that the positioning of existing whole, developed state parks is not being questioned. The CAMP process still will consider whether any properties associated with a park might be surplus to the park's purpose, but the agency is not seeking to divest of whole, developed state parks.

- **System Size:** To continue meeting the needs of all Washingtonians, this new parks strategy assumes that the size and scope of the state park system will continue to grow and evolve to help address the demands of a growing and changing population. The state population is projected to increase by more than 20 percent in 20 years, and those bigger populations will need more parkland.
- **Diversity:** This strategy assumes that the facilities and activities offered by state parks will need to adapt to meet the needs of evolving state demographics and values. Data show that different ethnic groups recreate in different ways. To serve all Washingtonians, state parks will need to provide facilities and activities that appeal to the diverse population of the state.

Initial Direction (2016-2019)

The first effort in the strategy will be to identify a property for new park development from among those being held for future development. Using the *Statewide Park Acquisition and Development Strategy* goals, State Parks narrowed down the list of candidate properties to its top three: Fisk State Park property near Spokane, Miller Peninsula State Park property near Sequim, and Nisqually State Park near Eatonville. State Parks included those three candidate properties in a 2017-2019 capital budget request for a predesign study. If funded, the predesign study will allow State Parks to complete a public process to further narrow down the candidates to one property, then identify programming, phasing, and cost estimates for park development.

State Parks has begun a similar effort to decide which existing state park should be targeted for a major park redevelopment. State Parks narrowed down the options to the top three candidates in November 2016: Dash Point State Park, Sun Lakes-Dry Falls State Park, and Twin Harbors State Park. The agency requested capital funding for a predesign report, and if funded, will use the *Statewide Park Acquisition and Development Strategy* goals and input from communities and the public to select a park in 2017 for redevelopment. State Parks then will

complete the predesign report, and request redevelopment funding for the 2019-2021 biennium.

The initial strategic direction also will focus on completing a gap analysis using this strategy's goals to determine the following:

- What State Parks has.
- Whether it has enough of it.
- What State Parks does not have.
- Whether another government or nonprofit has it.
- Whether another government or nonprofit should provide it instead of State Parks.

In the next 3 years, State Parks also will continue work designating long-term park boundaries through the public CAMP process. About 75 percent of the state parks have long-term boundaries, and completing this work will help significantly with land acquisition decisions for the rest of the parks.

Long-Term Direction (2018-)

The long-term strategy will be to complete a CAMP process for every park. State Parks-adopted long-term park boundaries will continue to be the primary guidance driving land acquisitions in or adjacent to existing state parks. State Parks also will continue assembling data to refine the initial gap analysis to target areas of interest to guide new park acquisitions. New park acquisitions will focus on properties that either satisfy several of this strategy's five goals or that satisfy one or two of them very well. For example, a property might be targeted if it were the best place in the state to tell an important Washington story. Although most new park acquisitions should stem from this strategy, State Parks will continue to remain open to acquiring new chance-of-a-lifetime properties if opportunities arise.

Another long-term goal is to continue using this strategy's goals to cyclically prioritize and select parks for development or redevelopment. This will allow State Parks to meet the needs of Washington's growing and shifting population. Finally, State Parks will use the refined gap analysis to measure the agency's progress toward its goal to be recognized as the collection of places and experiences that are distinctly Washington.

Washington Department of Natural Resources

Among its many authorities and responsibilities, DNR is authorized to acquire lands for conservation purposes by all means, except eminent domain, to establish natural area preserves² and natural resources conservation areas.³ The following text describes DNR's role in acquiring and managing lands under these two statutes.

Mission

"...to secure for the people of present and future generations the benefit of an enduring resource of natural areas by establishing a system of natural area preserves, and to provide for the protection of these natural areas."⁴ The natural areas system administered by the Washington State Department of Natural Resources protects outstanding examples of the state's extraordinary ecological diversity. These lands represent the finest natural, undisturbed ecosystems in state ownership, often protecting rare or vulnerable plant and animal species.

Program Strategic Goals

To help conserve significant examples of both common and rare ecosystems and rare species. Investments in natural areas are guided by the conservation priorities that are identified and established in the [State of Washington Natural Heritage Plan](#). Priorities are identified for both individual species and for ecosystem types. Factors influencing the conservation priorities for ecosystems include how well the type already is represented in the natural areas system, its overall rarity, and the degree to which the type is threatened. Factors for species include rarity, threats, and the potential for protection within a natural area.

Statutory Authority

The state legislature passed the Natural Area Preserves Act in 1972 "...to secure for the people of present and future generations the benefit of an enduring resource of natural areas by establishing a system of natural area preserves, and to provide for the protection of these natural areas."⁵ The statute directs DNR to cooperate with federal, state, and local agencies and private organizations and individuals in this effort. The natural area preserve system administered by DNR was intended, and designed, to protect outstanding examples of the state's extraordinary ecological diversity, to provide places and opportunities to conduct ecological research, and to provide outdoor classrooms for environmental education.

The Natural Area Preserves Act provides direction to DNR to develop and maintain a natural heritage plan that establishes statewide conservation priorities for the natural areas systems and

²Revised Code of Washington 79.70

³Revised Code of Washington 79.71

⁴Revised Code of Washington 79.70

⁵Revised Code of Washington 79.70

the criteria for selection and approval of natural areas. The act also directed DNR to develop and manage a program—the Natural Heritage Program—to provide an objective means of establishing the conservation priorities. The program continues to build and maintain a database with information about the state’s rare species and rare/high quality ecosystems; these data are used to set the Washington’s conservation priorities.

The Natural Resources Conservation Areas Act⁶ was passed in 1987. While Natural Resources Conservation Areas may provide ecological, research, and educational opportunities similar to Natural Area Preserves, they also are intended to provide opportunities for low-impact public use.

DNR’s Approach to Implementing the Acts

The State of Washington Natural Heritage Plan identifies priorities for conserving species and ecosystems that are native to the state. Each species and ecosystem that is of high conservation value is assigned to one of three categories: Priority 1, Priority 2, or Priority 3. Factors influencing the conservation priorities for species include rarity, threats, population trends, and the potential for protection within a natural area. Factors considered for establishing priorities for ecosystems include how well the ecosystem type already is represented in the natural areas system (including in natural areas managed by other state and federal agencies and private conservation organizations), its overall rarity, and the degree to which the ecosystem type is threatened.

The selection of Natural Area Preserves is guided by the conservation priorities that are identified and established in the *State of Washington Natural Heritage Plan*. The primary goal of this approach is to conserve rare plant and animal species and significant examples of both common and rare ecosystems. Identification and selection of Natural Resources Conservation Areas are informed by both conservation priorities in the *State of Washington Natural Heritage Plan*, and the potential to provide low-impact outdoor recreation opportunities within a largely natural landscape. The list of both species and ecosystems is maintained as part of the *State of Washington Natural Heritage Plan* is found on the DNR Web site:

www.dnr.wa.gov/NHPconservation

List of Priorities (2011)

- [Vascular Plants](#)
- [Extirpated Vascular Plants](#)
- [Nonvascular Plants](#)
- [Animals](#)

⁶Revised Code of Washington 79.71

- [Extirpated Animals](#)
- [Ecological Communities](#)

Identification of Potential Natural Areas

Natural Area Preserve and Natural Resources Conservation Area proposals generally are developed by DNR staff, although external partners can play a significant role, particularly in the case of Natural Resources Conservation Areas. Sites considered for status as Natural Area Preserves are evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Presence of one or more priority species or ecosystems
- Priority of the species and/or ecosystem
- Size of the area with conservation value
- Overall ecological condition
- Landscape context of the site (e.g. fragmentation of the landscape, surrounding land uses, management issues)

Potential new Natural Area Preserves must contain at least one Priority 1, 2, or 3 species or ecosystem. In practice, most areas proposed as a preserve contain multiple priority features.

Sites considered for Natural Resources Conservation Area status also are evaluated based on the presence of priority species and ecosystems. However, the measure of conservation value is not strictly limited to priorities identified in the *State of Washington Natural Heritage Plan*; other conservation values, such as the ability to act as a buffer for higher quality sites with Natural Area Preserve status, are often included. The ability to provide low-impact outdoor recreation opportunities is considered also.

Process for Approval and Designation of Natural Areas

Natural Area Preserve proposals require review and approval by the Natural Heritage Advisory Council, an external citizen advisory group appointed by the Commissioner of Public Lands. Although the council often reviews Natural Resources Conservation Area proposals, there is not a statutory requirement that it does so. Several natural area proposals presented to the council have resulted in a natural area that contains both Natural Area Preserve and Natural Resources Conservation Area designations.

DNR is required to hold a public hearing in the county in which a potential natural area, whether Natural Area Preserve or Natural Resources Conservation Area, is located. Input from the public hearing is provided to the Commissioner of Public Lands, who has the designation authority for both Natural Area Preserves and Natural Resources Conservation Areas. Such designations are documented with a Commissioner's Order and are accompanied by a map. The designation of a

boundary serves as authorization for DNR staff to pursue funding to acquire lands for inclusion in the natural area. Parcels within the delineated boundary on the map become part of the natural area if, and only if, DNR purchases the parcels from a willing seller.

Current Status of DNR Natural Areas

At present, the DNR-managed natural areas system is comprised of 93 natural areas, totaling almost 160,000 acres. [Natural Area Preserves](#) protect some of the best remaining examples of Washington's ecosystems and many of its rarest species. The preserve system presently includes more than 38,400 acres in 56 sites throughout the state. The system includes outstanding examples of arid land shrub-steppe, grasslands, vernal ponds, oak woodlands, subalpine meadows and forest, ponderosa pine forests, coastal estuaries, salt marshes, mounded prairies, sphagnum bogs and other freshwater wetlands, natural late-successional forests, grassland balds, and habitats for rare plant and animal species.

[Natural Resources Conservation Areas](#) protect outstanding examples of native ecosystems, habitat for endangered, threatened, and sensitive plants and animals, and scenic landscapes. Natural Resources Conservation Areas tend to be larger than Natural Area Preserves; more than 119,200 acres are conserved within 37 Natural Resources Conservation Areas. Several of the Natural Resources Conservation Areas have significant components of low-impact recreational use with well-developed trail systems and opportunities for low-impact camping. Natural Resources Conservation Areas also protect geologic, cultural, historical, and archeological sites.

Natural Areas Management

Once DNR acquires land for natural areas, sites are managed to maintain and/or improve the ecological health of the priority species and/or ecosystems present, i.e. to protect the investment in the conservation values of each site. Control of invasive species is a priority management activity at many sites. Habitat restoration needs across all sites are assessed and prioritized. Restoration projects are undertaken as capacity and funding allow. Many of the natural areas, particularly the Natural Resources Conservation Area, have developed public access for low-impact recreational use. Maintenance of these facilities is an on-going priority.

Although explicit goals for research and education have not been established, all natural areas are available for such use. Research conducted on natural areas has covered a range of topics, from rare plant species pollination to the hydrologic functioning of a bog system. Natural areas also are visited by school classes of all grades, as well as by a variety of organizations (e.g. adult natural history groups such as the Washington Native Plant Society).

A limited number of natural areas have site-specific management plans. Those plans have involved a public process and address ecological needs of the site, as well as research, education, public access, and recreation opportunities. A statewide management plan for Natural Resources Conservation Areas guides management of them without a site-specific plan.

Long-term Goals

The long-term goals for DNR's natural areas program include the following:

- Keeping habitats and ecosystems healthy through science-based management and restoration.
- Protecting Washington's native biodiversity and our most vulnerable plant and animal species and ecosystems.
- Strengthening public appreciation of nature by promoting environmental education, exploration, and scientific research on natural areas.
- Creating innovative ways to care for natural areas through community engagement and partnerships.

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

Mission

To preserve, protect, and perpetuate fish, wildlife, and ecosystems while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreational and commercial opportunities.

Strategic Land Acquisition Goals

WDFW owns and manages about 1 million acres statewide, encompassing 33 wildlife areas that include more than 200 individual parcels. The department's real estate portfolio also includes 700 boat launches and other water access sites that provide outdoor opportunities for millions of Washington residents and visitors. Washington is one of the most diverse natural environments in the world, and the department's portfolio is equally diverse.

WDFW uses land acquisition to promote conservation, recreation, and the vitality of communities whose economies are closely tied to fish- and wildlife-related recreation. This strategy has taken on added significance in the face of rapid population growth, the loss of historic habitat, threats to the viability of working lands, and the public's growing desire for recreational opportunities. In addition to traditional activities such as fishing and hunting, residents are increasingly adopting newer pursuits that require open spaces on water and land, such as paddle boarding and mountain biking.

Working closely with local communities and leaders, nonprofit organizations, corporations, and other partners, WDFW acquires and manages land to achieve the following goals:

- Conserve and restore the diversity of Washington's fish and wildlife species and their habitats.
- Provide sustainable fishing, hunting, and other wildlife-related recreational opportunities, which generate billions of dollars of tourism spending and are key to the state's quality of life.
- Enhance management of our current lands.
- Preserve working lands for agriculture, forestry, and other sectors of the outdoor economy, particularly in rural areas.

Evaluation of Lands for Potential Acquisition

Beginning with the department's first real estate purchase in 1939—80 acres of mule deer habitat in north-central Washington—WDFW has relied on a consistent set of values to build a real estate portfolio that benefits people, communities, fish, and wildlife.

For more than 10 years, WDFW has relied on the "[Lands 20/20](#)" process, updated in 2013, to describe (a) the values that underlie the department's real estate strategies, and (b) the criteria used to make decisions about acquiring new lands.

Many of the lands that benefit fish and wildlife already are protected by conscientious property owners, local and federal agencies, nonprofit conservation groups, and other WDFW partners.

Before considering the acquisition of private property, the department evaluates whether acquisition is the best approach to achieve the desired conservation result, or whether better alternatives exist, such as conservation easements, voluntary conservation actions by property owners, and donations.

In that context, the department seeks to be strategic and selective about expanding the state's conservation and recreation land base by doing the following:

- Focusing on landscape and habitat priorities that provide the greatest benefit to fish, wildlife, and communities.
- Prioritizing lands that provide long-term fish- and wildlife-related recreation opportunities that are limited on a local, regional, or statewide basis.
- Entering into voluntary agreements with property owners who want to actively manage their lands for conservation, recreation, or other fish- and wildlife-related values. Such agreements can allow the public to use private lands for hunting or fishing, or tailor conservation practices to the requirements of the federal Farm Bill or Endangered Species Act.
- Considering whether a different land manager would be more appropriate given the resources, conditions, and landscape context.
- Considering the landscape context to ensure that WDFW's properties are managed in coordination with surrounding land management in mind.
- Focusing on parcels facing risks that could compromise existing statewide fish and wildlife values, such as land uses or climate changes.
- Purchasing land or conservation easements only from willing sellers at fair market value.
- Soliciting community input and ensuring local support before making acquisition decisions.

Acquisition Priorities 2017-2023

The following acquisition priorities describe current areas of focus for WDFW land acquisition. Projects are evaluated based on these priorities and the department looks for projects that achieve multiple priorities.

1. Conserve and restore the diversity of Washington's fish and wildlife species and habitats.
 - Freshwater wetlands and marine "pocket estuaries" that contain unique or threatened/endangered species
 - Watersheds and uplands that connect critical habitats and promote wildlife movement
 - Old-growth forests in eastern and western Washington
 - Winter range for deer, elk, and other ungulates in eastern Washington
 - Spawning grounds and habitat used by species of salmon, steelhead, and bull trout that are protected under the federal Endangered Species Act
 - Habitat for Columbian white-tail deer, western gray squirrel, pygmy rabbits, prairie grouse, and nest sites of golden eagles and ferruginous hawks
 - Lands along energy and transportation corridors that support the movement of wildlife
2. Enhancing sustainable fishing, hunting, and other wildlife-related outdoor opportunities
 - Securing lands that provide quality hunting opportunities
 - Securing lands that enhance recreational access
 - Improving access to marine shorelines for fishing and shellfish harvest
 - Improved boating access, especially for the lower reaches of the Spokane and Columbia Rivers
3. Improving management of current lands
 - Providing or maintaining access to existing lands
 - Acquiring small parcels that support ecological connectivity and whose acquisition would help to improve management actions such as fire protection and firefighting
 - Securing access to lands needed to maintain hatchery intake structures or other necessary hatchery infrastructure

4. Preserve working lands for agriculture, forestry, and other sectors of the outdoor economy, particularly in rural areas
 - Maintaining working lands that can be managed consistent with maintenance of ecological integrity
 - Helping to prevent or reduce wildlife damage or conflicts on surrounding private lands
 - Preserving community character by maintaining open space in the face of development pressure

Agency Coordination

In addition to working toward their individual strategic acquisition goals, State Parks, DNR, and WDFW are committed to working together where their missions overlap to minimize inefficiencies and duplications of effort.

In 2007, the Washington State Legislature created the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group to improve the visibility and coordination of state habitat and recreation land purchases and disposals. The lands group members include representatives of state and local governments, private landowners, conservation organizations, State Parks, DNR, and WDFW.

The lands group meets quarterly, and has established a process for making state habitat and recreation land purchases more visible and coordinated. The lands group holds an annual land acquisition coordinating forum that brings together state agencies, local governments, non-governmental organizations, landowners, tribes, and residents to learn about and share ideas on proposals for state habitat and recreation land purchases and disposals. The lands group also develops biennial land acquisition forecast and performance monitoring reports to share information about planned state land purchases and whether they were completed. Looking toward the future, the land group hopes to promote higher levels of involvement from federal agencies, tribes, and nonprofits in order to provide a fuller picture of habitat and recreation land purchases in the state.

In addition to their work on the land group, State Parks, DNR, and WDFW hold a biennial meeting of the three agency directors and members of their respective policy commissions to discuss long-term acquisition plans and other shared strategies relating to land acquisitions. The results from this meeting are shared in a biennial *State of State Lands Report*.

Finally, the three agencies are committed to reducing government inefficiencies, and will be working together to identify lands owned by each agency that would be better managed by one of the other natural resources agencies. Beginning with the existing *Public Lands Inventory*, the three agencies will go over their existing land holdings. Where properties better serve one of the other agencies' missions, or where they are in closer management proximity to one of the other agencies, the agencies will consider bringing land transfer or exchange proposals to their respective commissions or boards for consideration.

The agencies believe these efforts will result in increased efficiency for both land acquisitions and state lands management. These efficiencies also are expected to allow each agency to better adhere to their individual missions and to better meet their individual strategic goals for land acquisition.

Implementation and Updates

Implementation of the agency's strategies on land acquisition and development are dependent on funds appropriated by the Washington State Legislature and federal government on a biennial and annual basis. Project implementation also may be impacted by local funds available.

It is the intent of the lands group to facilitate an update to this strategy every 6 years.

Contact

For more information on this report, as well on the [Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group](#), please contact Wendy Brown with the Recreation and Conservation Office at 360-902-3021 or wendy.brown@rco.wa.gov.