

**Agenda**  
**Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group**

February 20, 2019, 9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.  
Natural Resources Building, Room 175

**Wednesday, February 20th**

---

<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	<b>1. Welcome, Introductions and Review of Agenda</b>	<i>Wendy Brown</i>
<b>9:05 a.m.</b>	<b>2. Member Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Around the Table - Updates</li><li>• 2019 Legislative Session – Relevant Bills and Budget</li><li>• Update on the PILT, Community Forest bills</li></ul>	<i>All</i>
<b>10:00 a.m.</b>	<b>3. WDFW Lands Showcase Outreach and Communication and Lands 20/20 Projects</b>	<i>Cynthia Wilkerson</i>
<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>4. Update on Studies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public Lands Inventory Update</li><li>• Recreational Lands of Statewide Significance</li><li>• Hiking, Biking, Walking Health and Economic Benefits</li><li>• JLARC responses</li></ul>	<i>Wendy Brown</i>
<b>11:00 a.m.</b>	<b>ADJOURN</b>	

---

**Next Quarterly Meeting:**

*May 22, 2019*

# Habitat & Recreation Lands Coordinating Group

---

**Date:** February 20, 2019

**Time:** 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

**Location:** Natural Resources Building, Room 175A, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501

## **Attendees:**

John Gamon	Washington Department of Natural Resources
Josh Giuntoli	Washington State Conservation Commission
Jeff Parsons	Puget Sound Partnership
Cynthia Wilkerson	Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife

## **Guests and Presenters:**

Cynthia Wilkerson	Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
Adam Cole	Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
Nick Norton	Washington association of Land Trusts
Janet Gorrell	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

## **RCO Staff:**

Wendy Brown	Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
Kaleen Cottingham	Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
Wyatt Lundquist	Washington Recreation and Conservation Office

## **Item 1: Welcome, Introductions, and Review of Agenda**

Wendy Brown, Recreation and Conservation Office, welcomed the members of the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group (Lands group), reviewed the agenda and approved a time adjustment. The original meeting was scheduled from 9-12a.m.; it was revised by vote to 9-11a.m.

This was followed by individual introductions.

## **Item 2: Member Updates**

**Nick Norton, Washington Association of Land Trusts**, gave an update on forest legislation, one piece of legislation specifically. The objective of this bill and its companion (Senate Bill 5973 and House Bill 1946) is to create a competitive grant program for community forestry and open up opportunity for local community forests. There is talk that SB 5973 may be substituted for a pilot program to fund specific acquisitions around community forestry first before coming back in several years to potentially become law.

**Wendy Brown, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)**, expressed confidence in receiving a good WWRP budget but made sure the group new a lot can still happen. Wendy Brown is also tracking SB 5552, a new pollinator bill that includes implications on WWRP projects. RCO has expressed minor of concern around this and has proposed an amendment to adjust the language.

**Cynthia Wilkerson, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)**, provided an update on current department matters. Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) remains a big hurdle for WDFW. There is a new bill, HB 1662 that would help align WDFW with DNR regarding PILT payments. Currently WDFW get monies from GFS and uses it to pay counties. Counties have a choice to select PILT dollars or fish and wildlife collections on fines & fees for their counties. The new bill would send the GFS straight to the state treasurer who would now be responsible in sending it to the counties. The choice between PILT dollars

and fines & fees would also be removed. If counties chose to opt into the new payments, they would receive both PILT and WDFW fines & fees. Cynthia then moved to discuss the WDFW Budget shortfall that continues to be a large concern at the department, mentioning that they used their audit in 2017 to help create the current budget request. The DFW Lands portion includes eight additional FTE's for wildlife areas and an additional six officers; however, this was not included in the governor's budget. They also requested the funding for controlled burn programs to be carried forward.

**Josh Giuntoli, Washington State Conservation Commission**, first provided a brief update to the group on a few bills he is tracking, SB 5543 and HB 1733 bill, before moving to speak about the Farm Protection Acquisition Investment (Farm PAI). Josh informed the group that Farm PAI did not make it into the budget. Jeff Parsons, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP), requested a factsheet with more info for Farm PAI.

**John Gamon, Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR)**, share that although they did not receive monies in the governor's budget for their natural areas, their maintenance request for roughly 400k did. DNR is also tracking two bills in response to the proposed the Dewatto Acquisition through RCFB. This acquisition was pulled from the list sent the RCFB in October 2018. John Gamon also mentioned the stewardship needs for managed lands. DNR was asked to answer three questions about this and return the answers to JLARC. The three questions include status, where DNR wants to be, and what is the gap to getting there. John said this has been difficult to create and ultimately went back to JLARC staff for further details and to also receive an extension on the report. The report is now due in mid-march.

**Jeff Parsons, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP)**, provided an update regarding the Puget Sound Partnership's (PSP) budget. PSP is requesting monies to revise their plans regarding chinook recovery. This request did make it into the governor's budget but is not fully funded.

### **Item 3: WDFW Lands Showcase Outreach and Communication and Lands 20/20 Projects**

**Cynthia Wilkerson, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)**, presented the Lands Showcase Outreach and Communication and Lands 20/20 Projects.

### **Item 4: Update on Studies**

**Brent Hedden, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO)**, provided an update on the public land inventory. They have recruited a private contractor (ESRI) to help build this new data set. Agencies such as DNR and WDFW are working together to send ESRI the data that will need to be tracked. This new structure will have the ability to be updated later by the agencies and will limit private contractor costs in the future. They also plan to build the forecast report into the public lands inventory as its own layer. This project is due to be finalized by the end of June.

**Adam Cole, RCO**, provided an update on the Recreational Assets of Statewide Significance. Adam said the first thought was this was to be applied to the marque areas around the state but ultimately decided to divide it into two groups. The first group would be exceptional assets and the second group would be foundational assets. Exceptional assets would be the areas in our state that really stand out. This could be either a special area for things such as paragliding or a highly sought after destination such as an extremely popular hiking area. Foundational assets include the most popular activities in the state such as hiking, walking, biking, water access, etc. This would be the more basic recreational activities but express their importance in all communities and identify the communities lacking these basic opportunities.

**Wendy Brown, RCO**, briefed the group on the Hiking, Biking, Walking Health and Economic Benefits. This takes the basic activities and links them to health and economic benefits for people across the state. RCO

is working with UW to identify these health areas and working with EcoNorthwest to identify economic benefits.

**Ben Donatelle, RCO**, briefed the group on the JLARC responses. Ultimately, there were three options created and given to the legislature. The three options include: Changes to Project Information System (PRISM) reporting, a Public Lands Inventory Upgrade, and Ecological Monitoring.

**Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.**

**Next Quarterly Meeting:**

*May 22, 2019*