

Quarterly Meeting

Agenda

Room 175, Natural Resources Building
Capitol Campus, Olympia
January 30, 2013, 9:00am – 12:00pm

- 9:00 Welcome, introductions, agenda overview**
- 9:05 Potential member changes** – County representative, agricultural community representative, others?
- 9:10 Roundtable Updates**
- 9:40 Recap and discussion of the Annual Report and Charter** (attached)
- 9:50 2013 Annual State Land Acquisition Forum** – When? What to include? Format?
Potential dates: June 11, August 20, August 27, September 24
- 10:05 Project Coordination Workshop(s)** – Should we host one or more workshops this year? When? What to include?
Potential dates: July 16, 17, or 18; August 8, 15, 20, or 21
- 10:15 Break**
- 10:30 2nd State Land Acquisition Performance Monitoring Report** – Assign Workgroup. Review the previous report. Brainstorm what to do differently this time.
- 10:45 Discuss HB 5054** (attached)
- 11:15 Lands Group's role in emerging policy issues** – Ideas for an internet survey of members.
- 12:00 Adjourn**

Lands Group Next Steps

April 24, 2013

Quarterly Meeting

Quarterly Meeting Summary

Room 175, Natural Resources Building
Capitol Campus, Olympia
9:00am-12:00pm

Attendance

Mike Deller, Trust for Public Land
Tom Bugert, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition
Pene Speaks, Department of Natural Resources
Josh Giuntoli, State Conservation Commission
Leslie Betlach, City of Renton, Washington Recreation and Parks Association
Chris Hempleman, Department of Ecology
Leda Chahim, Washington Association of Land Trusts
Eric Beach, Washington Forest Protection Association
Bill Robinson, The Nature Conservancy
Mick Cope, Department of Fish and Wildlife
Steve Hahn, State Parks and Recreation
Dominga Soliz, Recreation and Conservation Office

Introductions

The group welcomed Mick Cope, Acting Lands Division Manager for the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Dominga Soliz reported that the county representative position on the group is vacant since Andrew Lampe is no longer an Okanogan County Commissioner. Recreation and Conservation Office Director, Kaleen Cottingham, contacted the Washington State Association of Counties to assign a representative to the group. She also invited Andrew Lampe to be a citizen member of the Lands Group and invited Dennis Canty, American Farmland Trust, to serve as a representative of the agricultural community.

Roundtable Updates

Lands Group members provided brief updates.

Steve Hahn said that State Parks is scheduled to come off of general fund this year and the State of State Parks report was published last fall. State Parks asked the legislature for \$27 million to fund non-revenue generating activities. The Governor's budget gave \$18 million to State Parks.

Steve reported that the State Parks and Recreation Commission recently approved re-pricing of state parks facilities and amenities. The re-pricing is based on supply and demand models, and is driven by market forces. It would apply the same prices statewide for similar facilities and amenities.

Mike Deller reported that Trust for Public Land is working on the Fudge Point project and several federally funded projects such as those funded by the Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI), which allows the Department of Defense to partner on land conservation to provide buffers and support compatible land use. Trust for Public Land is working on projects in the Wenatchee Foothills and Spokane, projects in partnership with Forterra, and several GIS visioning projects.

Tom Bugert said the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition is supporting funding for the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program at \$90 million. While the coalition supports funding for the Land and Water Conservation Funding program, work has not been as active with this federally funded program. The coalition is working on several issues this legislative session.

Leslie Betlach said that at from the local perspective, partnerships are increasingly important. She reported on an inter-local agreement that the City of Renton is finalizing with the school district. The process to reach common ground and find new ways of providing unique recreation opportunities has been difficult but rewarding to both the city and the school district. In this case, the project will use both city and school district property, but no real property rights will be transferred.

Leslie also reported that King County passed its third levy for maintenance and operation costs of parks. All general funds have been eliminated for maintenance and operations of county parks. However, a task force found that it is not sustainable to require the public to cover all the costs. There is a concern of voter fatigue; what happens if a levy fails?

Dominga Soliz told the group that the Recreation and Conservation Office is working on grants and hoping that the legislature provides \$90 million to the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program. The Recreation and Conservation Office is conducting several statewide recreation planning efforts, including the State Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), the State Trails Plan, and the Nonhighway and Off-road Vehicle Activities (NOVA) plan. Dominga reported that she contacted the State Conservation Commission to begin working on a review of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, Farmland Preservation Program. The review will occur in two phases over two years, with phase one focusing on a policy review to assess how the grant category is meeting its intent.

Pene Speaks said the Department of Natural Resources is doing recreation planning along the I-90 corridor where there are four Natural Resources Conservation Areas. The planning involves long-term visions and partnerships with local jurisdictions. For example, the Green Mountain & Tahuya State Forests Recreation Plan for DNR-managed lands on the Kitsap Peninsula is helping create well-planned recreation opportunities that are fun, safe, and sustainable. More and more people are visiting these areas, creating more pressure on the landscape.

Pene also reported that the Department of Natural Resources has completed the purchase of the 50th parcel in the Stavis Natural Resources Conservation Area, and that it is about to close on the state's first parcels with Readiness and Environmental Protection Initiative (REPI) funds at Dabob Bay, in partnership with the Navy and others. The Dabob Bay project ranked first nationwide for REPI funds. She reported progress on Woodard Bay shoreline restoration work, and on challenges the department is facing due to the Discover Pass shortfall.

Chris Hempleman said the results of the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation grant program, through the US Fish and Wildlife Service, awarded funding to Washington State for 8 of 9 projects that were submitted. In total, Washington State received 8 of 24 awards nationwide. The grant submittals were strong for many reasons, including the work of very good US Fish and Wildlife Service staff and because the projects build on very good projects such as those in Dabob Bay and Discovery Bay. Strong state funding, such as Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program funds, provided match to leverage these federal funds.

Leda Chahim said Forterra is looking at the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation program to identify how to improve leverage of federal Forest Legacy and Section 6 funds. They would like to improve partnerships with federal and local agencies. Forterra is supporting Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program funding at \$90 million and is tracking several bills this legislative session.

Eric Beach discussed fee-based recreation on privately owned timber lands. He told the group about Real Estate Investment Trusts (REIT) which are federal tax designations that allow corporations to reduce or eliminate corporate income taxes. REITs in most cases own and operate income-producing real estate, such as timberlands. A REIT pays 15% corporate tax as opposed to the 30% it would pay if it was a "C" class corporation. They contribute to more privatized recreation access. He provided examples of high recreation access fees on some private timber lands. Rayonier, for example, sells and auctions hunting permits ranging around \$225 and leases large tracts of land to hunting groups for exclusive hunting rights. A Rayonier auction can yield as much as \$4,000 a permit, depending on the number of acres available for access. The Department of Fish

and Wildlife is partnering with Weyerhaeuser and other companies to help manage access. Click [here](#) for a related article. Hancock Timber Resource Group may have the largest of the timberlands fee access programs in Washington, including the Kapowsin, White River and Snoqualmie Tree Farms in King and Pierce Counties.

Josh Giuntoli reported that the State Conservation Commission is working with conservation districts on conservation easements to preserve farmland. The Commission recently talked with a joint board that included Klickitat County about playing more of a role in using conservation easements.

Mick Cope told the group that the Department of Fish and Wildlife is working on acquisition projects funded by a variety of sources, including the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation grant program and the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program, and involving a variety of partners, including Columbia Land Trust. The department recently completed a 10 year land exchange with the Department of Natural Resources and is updating the Lands 20/20 strategy. Department of Fish and Wildlife is continuing with its ecological integrity planning process to assess the effectiveness of land management strategies and is working on a business plan for the discover pass with State Parks and the Department of Natural Resources.

Annual Report and Charter

The group discussed the annual report that was submitted to the Office of Financial Management in December 2012 and the charter that was approved by the group in October 2012. Dominga reported that the group's suggested edits were included in the report and that the Governor's staff requested moving the budget request for a GIS-based inventory of state land acquisitions to the section titled "2013 Action Plan."

Dominga will submit the final charter to the Recreation and Conservation Office Director for signature.

2013 Annual Forum and Coordination Workshops

Lands Group members discussed when to hold the 2013 Annual State Land Acquisition Forum and what should be presented at the forum. The group agreed that since the forum has drawn more legislative interest in recent years, the forum should be held in September rather than June, July, or August. The forum should focus on these areas:

- Performance monitoring data and information – Did agencies achieve their acquisition objectives for projects funded in 2009-2011?

- Outcomes of the 2013-2015 budget – What acquisition projects were approved for funding?

The group discussed asking local partners to participate in the forum and shifting the focus of the forum to the strategic planning, such as how local communities were engaged in the planning process and how the projects were prioritized for purchase, rather than the details of each project.

Members of the group noted that to increase efficiencies, state agencies should still coordinate about the details of the projects in a workshop setting. The group agreed to host workshops after the annual forum in which agency land purchasing staff, scientists and others can coordinate about projects.

2013 State Land Acquisition Performance Monitoring Report

Dominga reminded the group that the second State Land Acquisition Performance Monitoring Report is due by the end of this year. She asked to form a workgroup comprised of state land managing agency staff to help develop the report. State agency representatives agreed to provide names of staff to assist.

Discussion of SB 5054

Based on suggestion by a member, the group discussed Senate Bill 5054 which would require specific legislative approval of the purchase of habitat and recreation lands by the Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Natural Resources, and State Parks and Recreation Commission. The request for approval must include:

- The purpose and intended use of the property
- A plan for operation and maintenance (ongoing and one-time operation and maintenance actions, potential capital and operating costs, funding sources)
- PILT costs (funding sources to cover costs, availability of funds)

Dominga asked the group whether the Lands Group could provide the information that would be required for approval. Members of the group responded that the first item (purpose and intended use) is already provided as part of the Biennial Forecast of State Land Acquisitions.

The group said the second item (operation and maintenance costs) could be included in the capital budget instructions and reported by the agencies as part of the capital budget request. The data could then be included in the Lands Group's Biennial Forecast of State Land Acquisitions and the State Land Acquisitions Performance Monitoring

Report. Member Speaks noted that prior to 2009, state agencies were required to submit projected operation and maintenance costs to the Office of Financial Management using form C2A. Using the process now would allow the agencies to use consistent methodology with one another. Putting the operation and maintenance data in the lands group reports next to the other data about state land acquisitions (such as number of acres, cost, funding sources, intended uses, maps) would provide context for how the operation and maintenance cost fits within the project as a whole. It could also be rolled up regionally and statewide like the other lands group data.

The group thought the third item (PILT costs) was covered by other proposed legislation, such as House Bill 1073.

Dominga said that the Recreation and Conservation Office Director would use the group's suggestions to approach the prime sponsor of the bill.

The group briefly discussed Senate Bill 5057 which would require nonprofits to allow unrestricted public access for recreation on lands purchased with state funds and on lands transferred to them from state, federal, or tribal governments if the land was purchased with state funds.

Role of the Lands Group in Emerging Policy Issues

Dominga requested assistance from members in designing a member survey of the Lands Group's role in emerging policy issues. As several legislative proposals involve state habitat and recreation land acquisitions and as the group is getting more legislative attention, it is timely for members to evaluate its role.

Some members noted that it could be helpful for representatives to speak at hearings related to state land acquisitions. Others said the Lands Group should remain neutral on issues, but could speak to inform. The speaker does not need to be an official representative (such as chair). One member was concerned about potential speakers "going too far" in asserting a position of the Lands Group without a formal decision from the group. Another member expressed concern that the Lands Group could become a target if it began to take a formal position on issues, rather than remaining a neutral information-sharing body.

One member suggested a legislative work session on the Lands Group and creating a fact sheet about the group to inform legislators and others about the group. Dominga will develop a draft fact sheet for the group to review.

Dominga will ask the group to submit questions or topics to include in the web-based survey.

Next Steps

April 24, 2013, Natural Resources Building Room 172, 9:00-12:00	Lands Group quarterly meeting
July 24, 2013, Natural Resources Building Room 172, 9:00-12:00	Lands Group quarterly meeting
September 2013 (date TBD)	5 th State Land Acquisition Annual Forum
October 2013 (date TBD)	State agency coordination workshop
Due December 31, 2013	2 nd State Land Acquisition Performance Monitoring Report
Due December 31, 2013	Annual Progress Report to Office of Financial Management