

Public Lands Inventory



FACT SHEET

Timeline

January 2014

RCO delivered status report to state Legislature.

July 2014

Provide inventory database to the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee

July 1, 2014

RCO delivers final report to state Legislature.

December 1, 2014

The Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee delivers final report to State Legislature.

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Background

The Washington Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) was tasked by the Legislature to develop a centralized inventory of lands in Washington owned by federal, state, and local governments, and by Native American tribes (See the 2013-15 Capital Budget, Chapter 19, Laws of 2013, Section 3174, (ESSB 5035), <http://leap.leg.wa.gov/leap/budget/lbns/1315Cap5035-S.SL.pdf>).

While this budget proviso does not identify categories of public and tribal lands to include, the proviso asks RCO to update the previous inventory, which included natural resource lands. Therefore, this inventory update will include lands acquired by the Washington Departments of Natural Resources and Fish and Wildlife, and the State Parks and Recreation Commission. Including other state land ownership, such as transportation and higher education facilities, would require more time and funds than are available.

The inventory is a key component for a three-part review of public lands being done by the Joint Legislative Audit and Review Committee (JLARC), which is required in Capital Budget Proviso 1001.

Approach

RCO is relying on current data for the basis for the updated inventory. RCO is working with partners to develop the additional public land ownership attributes required by the Legislature for inclusion in the inventory.

Data Sources and Key Partners

- The Washington State Parcel Database, developed by the University of Washington's School of Environmental and Forest Sciences and others, is the source for county tax parcels, tribal trust lands, and federal ownership parcels (<http://depts.washington.edu/wagis/projects/parcels/index.php>).
- State agencies responsible for managing habitat and recreation lands are the source for state ownership parcels. These agencies operate with different policies for acquiring and disposing of lands.
 - The Department of Fish and Wildlife manages state wildlife refuges.
 - The Department of Natural Resources manages state forests, trust lands, aquatic lands, and natural area reserves, and publishes a map of major public lands.
 - The State Parks and Recreation Commission manages state parks.
- A contractor (GeoEngineers, selected competitively) is developing the Public Lands Inventory Database. It will include interactive maps, tabular reporting, roll-up functions, and Web pages. To support the work of the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group, the contractor will design and develop a State Land Acquisition Forecast Database.