

## Quarterly Meeting

### *Agenda*

Room 172, Natural Resources Building  
Capitol Campus, Olympia  
April 24, 2013, 9:00am – 12:00pm

- 9:00 Welcome, introductions, agenda overview**
- 9:05 Welcome new members**
- 9:10 Roundtable updates**
- 9:40 New fact sheet**
- 9:50 Legislative update** – Implications of SB 5054 and other bills
- 10:10 Review Lands Group member survey results**
- Should new members be added to the group?
  - Timing of quarterly meetings, value of “roundtable updates”
  - Improving the reports
  - Better outreach for the annual forum
  - Should there be coordination workshops? If so, how often?
  - Addressing policy issues (PILT, maintenance, public access, working lands, improving processes)
  - Lands Group legislative testimony?
- 10:30 Break**
- 10:40 Survey results (continued)**
- 11:10 2<sup>nd</sup> State Land Acquisition Performance Monitoring Report**  
Decide the format – Should we move to a web-based format or stick with PPT?  
Define the goals and scope (What should be monitored? Who is the audience?  
How will the data be used?) Identify workgroup members.
- 11:30 5<sup>th</sup> Annual State Land Acquisition Coordinating Forum**
- 12:00 Adjourn**

### Next steps

July 24, 2013                      Quarterly Meeting  
September 25, 2013      Annual Forum

## **Quarterly Meeting Summary**

Room 172, Natural Resources Building  
Capitol Campus, Olympia  
9:00am-12:00pm

### **Attendance**

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Sheilah Kennedy, Okanogan County Commissioner  
Dennis Canty, American Farmland Trust  
Tom Bugert, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition  
Pene Speaks, Department of Natural Resources  
Josh Giuntoli, State Conservation Commission  
Lora Leschner, Pacific Coast Joint Venture  
Chris Hempleman, Department of Ecology  
Bill Robinson, The Nature Conservancy  
Paul Dahmer, Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Steve Hahn, State Parks and Recreation  
Nona Snell, Recreation and Conservation Office  
Dominga Soliz, Recreation and Conservation Office

### **Introductions**

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The group welcomed new members Dennis Canty and Sheilah Kennedy. The group also agreed that Tom Bugert should be invited to participate as an official Lands Group member. By statute, the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) director must invite new members to the group.

### **Roundtable Updates and Group Discussion**

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Lands Group members provided brief updates and the group discussed issues related to state land purchases.

Dennis Canty said that American Farmland Trust is concerned about the conversion of farmlands to non-farm purposes when private lands are purchased for state habitat and recreation purposes.

Commissioner Kennedy said she wants to ensure that the long-term impacts of land management decisions are considered when lands are proposed for purchase by the state.

Nona Snell gave an update on SB 5054, which would have required legislative approval for habitat and recreation land purchase by DFW, DNR, and State Parks. The bill also would have required the agencies to provide projected costs of operation and maintenance and PILT payments for the purchases. The bill did not pass, but the group noted the need to improve communication with the Legislature about projected maintenance and PILT costs of the planned acquisition projects. Nona also gave updates on SB 5057, which would require public access on land purchases made with state-administered funds, and HB 1194, which would limit liability of landowners who allow a salmon habitat restoration project on their property.

The group discussed the Governor, Senate, and House budgets. Some members were concerned that the Senate budget deviates from the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) statutory funding framework and provided less funding for that program.

Tom Bugert discussed HB 2045, which would change all Department of Fish and Wildlife PILT payments at \$1.01 per acre in all counties. The bill would have a big impact in some counties, such as Okanogan County where the PILT compensation rate is almost \$6.00 per acre.

State land managing agency representatives reported that they are getting questions from the Legislature about potential transfers and purchases of habitat and recreation lands. The Legislature wants to know what the operating and maintenance impacts of the proposed purchases will be.

Nona Snell told the group about a potential JLARC study in the Senate capital budget that would study state land acquisitions. The study would go back 10 years and would include the elements in SB 5054, such as PILT payments and maintenance costs.

Steve Hahn said that State Parks is scheduled to come off of general fund this year and the agency is assessing the impacts of moving to a business model to become self-sufficient. (State Parks is also asking for GF-S funding to fill gaps in Discover Pass purchases.)

The group discussed how to improve partnerships for reaching farmland protection and habitat conservation objectives. There are some examples, such as in the Skagit River Valley, where there are coordinated investment strategies to meet both objectives.

The group also discussed how to improve long-term state land management to protect rare plants, such as by managing weeds and non-native plants.

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## Improving Outreach

The group reviewed the report on the member survey and discussed the role of the group. Several members said the group should do a better job of informing the Legislature and public about what the Lands Group does. One member suggested a legislative work session about the Lands Group. Many members thought the group should be informing the Legislature and the public about those items that JLARC would conduct the review on (e.g., land maintenance costs, compensation payments, and intended uses of the lands).

Dominga Soliz presented a draft fact sheet for the group that could be used as an outreach tool. Members provided several suggestions for improving the fact sheet. The Lands Group Coordinator will make the revisions and email a second draft to the group. Paul Dahmer agreed to send a few examples of DFW acquisition projects that resulted in multiple public benefits (such as working lands, habitat conservation, and recreation benefits).

Dominga showed the group a preview of the Habitat Work Schedule. The group agreed that a web-based tool would be helpful in informing the public and Legislature about proposed and completed state land acquisition projects.

### **Lands Group Member Survey Results**

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The group began reviewing the Lands Group Member Survey Report.

Representation - Suggestions for improving the group included inviting representatives from the Association of Realtors and the Washington Farm Bureau.

Quarterly Meetings - Some members said the quarterly meetings could be improved by moving them to a later start time to make them more accessible for travelers and by limiting the roundtable updates to state agencies only. Several members said the quarterly meetings could focus more on coordinating on the other items in the Lands Group statute and on the land transactions. The members agreed to help the Lands Group Coordinator by providing agenda items in advance of the meetings.

Forecast Report – Members agreed that the target audiences for the report are the state agencies, the Legislature, and the public. The main way to improve the report is to improve its distribution and publicity. One suggestion was that the state agency legislative liaisons actively distribute the report to legislators. Another suggestion was to create an executive summary for distribution.

The group ran out of time to review the entire survey. The review will continue at the next quarterly meeting.

**Next Steps**

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