

**HABITAT AND RECREATION LANDS COORDINATING GROUP  
JULY 28, 2010**

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**Quarterly Meeting**

*Agenda*

*9:00 p.m. to 12:00 p.m.*

Natural Resources Building, Rm. 175 A/B  
Capitol Campus, Olympia

<b>9:00</b>	<b><i>Welcome</i></b>
<b>9:10</b>	<b><i>Member updates</i></b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Recreation component – discussion. Is the lands group represented strongly enough by state agency recreation planners? What’s the role of local recreation planners in the lands group?</li></ul>
<b>9:20</b>	<b><i>Calendar 2011 quarterly meetings</i></b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Proposed dates (last Wednesday of the month):<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- January 26</li><li>- April 27</li><li>- July 27</li><li>- October 26</li></ul></li></ul>
<b>9:30</b>	<b><i>Review Biennial State Land Acquisition Forecast Report</i></b>
<b>10:00</b>	<b><i>Update on tasks</i></b>
<b>10:30</b>	<b><i>Break</i></b>
<b>10:45</b>	<b><i>Review Proposal re: Agency Transaction Plans and Policies</i></b>
<b>11:00</b>	<b><i>Review Proposal re: GIS Coordination</i></b>
<b>11:15</b>	<b><i>Preparing the final report to OFM - Discussion</i></b>
<b>12:00</b>	<b><i>Adjourn</i></b>

## Quarterly Meeting Summary

### *Attendance*

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Senator Linda Evans Parlette  
Andrew Lampe (Okanogan County Commissioner)  
Bill Robinson (The Nature Conservancy)  
Pene Speaks (Department of Natural Resources)  
Lora Leschner (Pacific Coast Joint Venture)  
Elizabeth Rodrick (Department of Fish and Wildlife)  
Steve Hahn (State Parks and Recreation Commission)  
Deb Wallace (State Parks and Recreation Commission)  
Jeanne Koenings (Department of Ecology)  
Dominga Soliz (Recreation and Conservation Office)  
Josh Giuntoli (State Conservation Commission)  
Eric Beach (Green Diamond Resources)  
Sarah Gage (Biodiversity Council)  
Sean Graham (Senator Parlette's Office)

### *Introductions, member updates*

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Deb Wallace attended for the first time. She is a new Program and Research Manager at the State Parks and Recreation Commission. Dominga noted that the representative from the Trust for Public Land has not been determined. TPL is working on hiring for the position.

### *2011 Quarterly Meetings*

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No one objected to the following proposed dates (last Wednesday of the month from 9:00-12:00)

January 26  
April 27  
July 27  
October 26

Rooms have been reserved. The code reviser will be notified.

### *Recreation representation on the lands group*

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Is the recreation perspective being adequately represented on the lands group?  
Members agreed to invite a representative from DNR's recreation side to participate.

What's the role of local recreation planners on the lands group? The focus of the lands group is to improve coordination of state agency acquisitions and disposals and to make acquisition plans more visible at the local level because of local tax implications. Local planners, including counties and cities, can benefit because the lands group helps make state plans more visible and this assists local planners. A statewide view of acquisitions and disposals is an important tool for local planners and the interaction between local and state planners through the lands group coordination process facilitates important communication. For example, State Parks is in the process of transferring 2 developed parks to local governments. State Parks' process is to ask state agencies, local agencies, and tribes if they would like to purchase surplus lands. If not, they put the land up for auction. Local planners who participate in the coordination process might become aware of properties they might want to buy from state agencies, or of agencies they should partner with on acquisitions.

The lands group should reach out more (earlier and more often) to local government planners. Perhaps future biennial acquisition forecast reports can include a local acquisition/disposal piece. Regularly engaging the Department of Commerce in the coordination process will help connect local communities to the lands group's work.

### ***Review Biennial State Land Acquisition Forecast Report***

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Dominga gave a PowerPoint presentation reviewing the report that was published in June 2010 on the Lands Group website. The report aims to meet the lands group statutory mandate to "produce an interagency, statewide biennial forecast of habitat and recreation land acquisition and disposal plans" and to "establish procedures for publishing the biennial forecast of acquisition and disposal plans on web sites or other centralized, easily accessible formats." Citizens and local government officials want to know what land the state is planning to acquire. The goal is to explain Washington state land acquisitions and to share updated information about proposed state acquisition projects for the 2011-13 biennium.

The report emphasizes throughout that the projects are for proposed acquisitions. Most will be unfunded. The information provided is only based on best estimates at the time of publishing. The report is intended as a planning tool and it is dated. It explains state agency processes to compensate local governments for acquisitions and describes major sources of funding for acquisitions, and how the funding works (federal, state, private, partnerships). It provides an overview of agency disposal processes and includes a statewide map and project info about 5 State Parks disposals.

The heart of the report includes maps and data about 60 proposed projects. Information includes statewide, county and project site maps, county summaries, photos, existing and intended uses, project description, estimated acres, estimated costs.

The report includes a section on DNR's Trust Land Transfer (TLT) program and approved projects, including a map and table of 2009-2011 projects approved for transfer. Another section gives an overview of DOT's Wetland Mitigation Program and

gives regional maps of current wetland mitigation needs and sites. A final section gives program and project information on the State Conservation Commission's proposed farmland preservation projects.

The report does not include projects that are proposed to be acquired by non-profits in the 2011-2013 biennium and will later be acquired by state agencies. These projects will be included in the forecast report for the biennium that the state agency proposes to purchase it. There could be more transparency around this issue - perhaps build it into future reports? It is important to provide more historical context for projects. For example, it might be important to show the funding history (including ranking) of projects. Also, the lands group should send the report to more people, especially local planners, due to staff turnover. The agencies should include links to it on their websites. It might be important to explain how the funding process works.

Can the report be updated? People want to get most recent and accurate project data. Rather than updating the report, it should be simple and helpful to develop a tracking spreadsheet that lives on the web. It can show updated info after projects are approved by the boards and the Legislature. Workgroup 1 will determine how to track the projects and how future reports can include more history and ranking data on projects.

The report should include agency contact info in case someone wants to discuss a project.

It should be even more clear next time that these are only proposed projects. Some people, including legislators, thought they were more than potential projects.

### *Update on lands group tasks*

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Dominga gave a PowerPoint presentation on the progress of the lands group mandates. There are 11 statutory tasks to complete by the sunset date of July 2012.

- ▶ Review agency acquisition and disposal plans and policies
- ▶ Produce biennial forecast of acquisitions and disposals
- ▶ Establish procedures for publishing biennial forecast
- ▶ Develop and convene annual coordinating forum
- ▶ Develop recommended method for interagency GIS documentation
- ▶ Develop recommendations for standardizing recordkeeping and identify process for centralizing data
- ▶ Develop approach for monitoring success of acquisitions
- ▶ Develop inventory of lands transferring into management status
- ▶ Review existing and proposed HCPs on a regular basis
- ▶ Revisit WWRP's planning requirements
- ▶ Develop options for centralizing federally funded acquisitions

Some mandates require the lands group to produce certain outcomes, most require recommendations. Final lands group recommendations will be submitted to the

Legislature by Dec 31, 2011. We can declare “Victory” on several of these tasks (highlighted above) that were aimed at establishing coordinating and visibility processes. Now, while those processes are functioning, we’re shifting gears to focus on developing and drafting the final recommendations to the Legislature on the remaining tasks. The recommendations will not be for the purpose of telling agencies what to do, but will recommend improvements to the coordination that is already happening. The final report will provide a historical perspective of Washington State acquisitions and show the value of coordinating and providing visibility by providing “before” and “after” illustrations from the local point of view.

Upcoming reports due:

- ▶ Annual report to OFM
  - ▶ December 31, 2010
- ▶ Monitoring Report
  - ▶ August 2011
- ▶ Final Recommendations to Leg.
  - ▶ December 31, 2011
- ▶ Biennial Acquisition Forecast
  - ▶ June 2012

### *Review of proposals*

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Dominga presented two proposals developed by workgroups for completing statutory tasks.

The first proposal involves the lands group mandate to “*review agency transaction plans and policies to help ensure statewide coordination of habitat and recreation land acquisition and disposals.*” The intent of the legislation is to compare the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), and the State Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks) acquisition and disposal plans and policies in order to identify opportunities for further coordination. To meet the intent, the lands group organized and hosted a State Land Acquisition Planning Work Session last year and it will develop recommendations for the Legislature based on a comparative analysis of agency transaction plans and policies. The agencies are comparing plans and policies and aims to present final recommendations to the lands group for review in January 2011. The lands group approved the proposal.

The second proposal involves the lands group mandate to “*develop a recommended method for interagency geographic information system-based documentation of habitat and recreation lands in cooperation with other state agencies using geographic information systems.*” The intent of the legislation is to recommend more coordinated and efficient ways of using GIS to document Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), and State Parks and Recreation Commission

(State Parks) habitat and recreation acquisitions and disposals, in cooperation with other state agencies that use GIS. To meet the intent, the agencies are comparing GIS policies and processes and aims to present final recommendations to the lands group for review in January 2011. The lands group approved the proposal.

### *Preparing Annual Report to OFM*

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The first draft is due in early September, before the lands group will meet again. Lands group members suggested the report list the statutory tasks and show which tasks have already been accomplished. A timeframe for completing the rest of the tasks should be included, as well as other tangible next steps for completing them.

### *Next Steps*

- Workgroup 1 will develop a tracking spreadsheet to post on the lands group website. The spreadsheet will track the projects that were included in the forecast report through funding process to show 1) ranking by evaluators 2) approval by the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board and the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, and 3) approval by the legislature. The statewide map of projects will be updated at these intervals as well.
- Workgroup 1 will develop draft recommendations regarding the “review agency transaction plans” task for the lands group to review in October
- Workgroup 2 will develop draft recommendations regarding the “GIS coordination” task for the lands group to review in October
- The annual report to OFM will be drafted for the lands group to review in October.
- Workgroups will continue to meet to accomplish the assigned tasks, such as;:
  - Workgroup 3 – develop and draft a report to “monitor the success of acquisitions.” The report will compare projects completed at the end of each biennium with the initial agency acquisition plans. Expected publishing date – August 2011.
  - Workgroup 5- develop options for centralizing federal funding of acquisitions. This group still needs to develop recommended processes for providing early communication to OFM about planned state agency acquisitions and establishing a federal funding tracking system.