

Agenda
Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group

May 22, 2019, 9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.
Natural Resources Building, Room 172

Wednesday, May 22nd

9:00 a.m.	1. Welcome, Introductions and Review of Agenda	<i>Wendy Brown</i>
9:05 a.m.	2. Member Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Around the Table - Updates• 2019 Legislative Session – Final Budgets	<i>All</i>
10:00 a.m.	3. Electronic Forecast Report – What’s in Our Future	<i>Brent Hedden</i>
10:15 a.m.	4. Stewardship Needs Discussion	<i>Betsy Robblee</i>
11:00 a.m.	ADJOURN	

Next Annual Acquisition Coordinating Forum and Quarterly Meeting:
October 16, 2019

Habitat & Recreation Lands Coordinating Group

Date: May 22, 2019

Time: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Location: Natural Resources Building, Room 172, 1111 Washington Street SE, Olympia, WA 98501

Attendees:

Kaleen Cottingham	Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
John Gamon	Washington Department of Natural Resources
Karen Edwards	Washington Parks and Recreation Commission
Josh Giuntoli	Washington State Conservation Commission
Jeff Parsons	Puget Sound Partnership
Heather Kapust	Washington Department of Ecology
Matt Ojala	Forterra
Andrea McNamara-Doyle	Office of the Chehalis Basin
David Patton	Trust for Public Lands
Scott Richardson	The Nature Conservancy
Nick Norton	Washington association of Land Trusts

Guests and Presenters:

Christine Mahler	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition
Besty Robblee	Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition
Jed Herman	Senate Ways and Means Committee Staff
Dan Jones	House Appropriations Committee Staff

RCO Staff:

Wendy Brown	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) and the Lands Group proceeded with individual introductions. This was followed by a review the agenda and approval of a time and monitoring forum adjustment. The original meeting was scheduled from 9-12a.m.; it was revised by vote to 9-11a.m. The monitoring forum was also moved to the October 2019 meeting.

Item 2: Member Updates

Andrea McNamara-Doyle, Office of the Chehalis Basin, updated the lands group on the budget for the Office of the Chehalis Basin. They ended up with the full requested amount of 73.2Million and then Ms. McNamara-Doyle spoke on land acquisitions.

Karen Edwards, Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission, briefed the board on the outcome of the State Parks budget. State parks also received full funding for their programs. Ms. Edwards then moved to discuss some programs and projects that will benefit as a result of full funding.

Matt Ojala, Forterra, gave a quick update on current happenings and funding received from the state.

Nick Norton, Washington Association of Land Trusts, gave an update on forest legislation that passed the legislature and provided a budget update.

Christine Mahler, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition (WWRC), gave an update regarding WWRC. Ms. Mahler spoke to the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Program (WWRP) funding received from the legislature and then mentioned that they plan to do a handful of legislative tours this summer (2019).

Heather Kapust, Washington Department of Ecology (DOE), spoke to the DOE budget and legislation. Overall DOE is pleased with the funding they received. DOE also received an additional 4.5 million dollars in grant funding for coastal projects.

John Gamon, Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), spoke to DNR's budget. DNR did not receive the full amount of their requests; however, they are still pleased with the funding levels. They saw an increase for needed maintenance on their natural areas throughout the state.

Josh Giuntoli, Washington State Conservation Commission, spoke to the Conservation Commission budget. Mr. Giuntoli mentioned a handful of regions and projects that will benefit from funding. One being a re-appropriation of unspent funds to allow local entities to receive funding for the Simcoe regional projects. Mr. Giuntoli also mentioned that the Farmland Protection Acquisition Investment (Farm PAI) is still alive but barely. Farm PAI has a lot of support in the land trust community but still needs some support from the housing finance commission. Mr. Giuntoli finalized his update by speaking on the recent retirement of the Conservation Commission Director and mentioned Carol Smith has started as the new Director as of May 1, 2019.

Jeff Parsons, Puget Sound Partnership (PSP), provided an update regarding the Puget Sound Partnership's (PSP) budget. PSP was very pleased with their budget. The Governor's Capital budget was approximately 42.5 million, The House Capital budget was approximately 43 million, The Senate Capital budget was approximately 45 million and ultimately they received 49 Million. Mr. Parson's was very appreciative that the legislature saw value in the projects that would be funded with those dollars. Mr. Parson's then finalized by speaking to State Operating Budget funding dollars they received, which they also saw an increases on. PSP also has selected a new director, Laura Blackmore

David Patton, Trust for Public Lands, mentioned that they were also pleased with the WWRP funding levels at approximately 85 million and then moved to speak on a few programs and projects that benefitted from funding.

Scott Richardson, The Nature Conservancy (TNC), started by mentioning why he was here. Tom Bugert, previous TNC designee, left TNC and went to work for DNR; Mr. Richardson is his replacement for today. TNC has hired Justin Allegro as Mr. Bugert's replacement, but they are still working on designee appointments. Mr. Richardson finalized by speaking to their funding they received and some of the projects that benefitted from that funding including a handful of storm water treatment areas on highway bridges throughout King County.

Item 3: Electronic Forecast Report – What's in Our Future

Brent Hedden, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), presented an update on the Electronic Forecast Report. This report provides one central location for the collection of project data relative to state land acquisitions. This will allow state agencies, the legislature and the general public to view proposed land acquisitions throughout the state for the coming biennium on select RCO funded projects. The Lands Group discussed the report briefly, asking some clarifying questions before moving on.

Item 4: Stewardship Needs Discussion

Betsy Robblee, Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), provided an update on Stewardship needs of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition. Ms. Robblee had a list of questions for the Lands Group (below) and then opened them up for discussion.

1. *What is each agency's strategy for addressing stewardship needs? How do recent developments like the 2019-21 biennium budget and the JLARC report affect those strategies?*
2. *Are there lessons learned in different agency approaches to addressing stewardship needs?*
3. *What is the best path forward to comprehensively address stewardship needs?*
 - a. *Seek budget increases?*
 - b. *Is there a way to institutionalize stewardship funding, i.e. tie new acquisitions to operating funds for O&M?*
 - c. *Are there ways the agencies can work together to address stewardship needs?*

The Lands Group ultimately decided to add this item back to the agenda for our October meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 10:57 a.m.

Next Quarterly Meeting:

October 16, 2019