

**HABITAT AND RECREATION LANDS COORDINATING GROUP  
OCTOBER 13, 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, Review agenda</i></b>
<b>9:10</b>	<b><i>Preview Acquisition Project Tracker</i></b>
<b>9:20</b>	<b><i>Draft Annual Progress Report to OFM</i></b>
<b>9:30</b>	<b><i>DNR's Draft Trust Land Transfer Package –Julie Sandberg</i></b>
<b>10:00</b>	<b><i>Draft Outline of Recommendations to the Legislature</i></b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Overall approach</i></li><li>• <i>Task A approach</i></li></ul>
<b>10:30</b>	<b><i>Break</i></b>
<b>10:45</b>	<b><i>Draft Outline of Recommendations to the Legislature (cont.)</i></b>
<b>11:45</b>	<b><i>GIS Coordination Update</i></b>
<b>12:00</b>	<b><i>Adjourn</i></b>

## **Quarterly Meeting Summary**

### ***Attendance***

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Senator Linda Evans Parlette  
Bill Robinson (The Nature Conservancy, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition)  
Julie Sandberg (Department of Natural Resources)  
Lora Leschner (Pacific Coast Joint Venture)  
Elizabeth Rodrick (Department of Fish and Wildlife)  
Steve Hahn (State Parks and Recreation Commission)  
Leslie Betlach (City of Renton Parks and Recreation, Washington Recreation and Parks Association)  
Jeanne Koenings (Department of Ecology)  
Dominga Soliz (Recreation and Conservation Office)  
Josh Giuntoli (State Conservation Commission)  
Bill Clark (Trust for Public Land)  
Sarah Gage (Biodiversity Council)  
Sean Graham (Senator Parlette's Office)

### ***Preview Acquisition Project Tracker***

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At the last quarterly meeting, some lands group members suggested the lands group develop a way to track proposed state agency acquisition projects through the funding cycle. People want to get the most recent and accurate project data and the biennial forecast report is only accurate for the time it is published. Rather than updating the report itself, there could be a simple tracking spreadsheet that lives on the lands group web site. Next year the lands group will publish the State Land Acquisition Monitoring Report which will compare the initial proposed projects with final project outcomes. Until the monitoring report is published, the lands group should post a table that tracks project information.

The group previewed a draft table that includes information about the proposed state agency acquisition projects that were described in the biennial forecast report. The table lists the projects in alphabetical order by county and gives the following data about each project: initial estimated acres, initial estimated total cost, proposing state agency, corresponding pages in the biennial forecast report, initial proposed funding source, evaluation ranking, and evaluation score. Only state grant evaluation rankings are included.

The group recommended taking out the column for the evaluation score, noting that the ranking is sufficient to let readers know how the project compared against other proposed projects.

Next steps: The evaluation score column will be removed and the table will be posted on the lands group website. It will be updated after the funding boards reviews the projects, and after the legislature approves funding.

### ***Draft Annual Report to the Office of Financial Management***

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The group reviewed the draft annual progress report that is due to OFM by December 31, 2010. The format is the same as last year's annual report. It uses an executive summary style and provides background information on the lands group, key 2010 highlights (Annual State Land Acquisition Coordinating Forum, Biennial State Land Acquisition Forecast Report, statewide map of proposed 2011-13 state land acquisition projects, Proposed Project Tracker), progress on statutory tasks, and an action plan for next steps.

Senator Parlette recommended that all reports put out by the lands group should strongly emphasize the transparency goal of the group. She reminded the group that one of the main purposes of the lands group's legislation is to daylight state land acquisition processes. Transparency language should be more clearly added up front in the report.

Other suggestions were to more clearly describe the outcomes of the 2010 highlights (such as number of people attending the forum, number of hits on the web site), to make it clear that the reader can find more information on the lands group web site (perhaps provide hyperlink), and to make sure the next steps are things the group will be able to complete by 2012.

Next Steps: The draft annual report will be revised based on comments and circulated to lands group members for comment.

### ***Review of the Department of Natural Resources' Draft Trust Land Transfer Package – Julie Sandberg, DNR***

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Earlier this year the lands group decided to include the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) trust lands for transfer in the lands group coordination and transparency process. The Trust Land Transfer (TLT) program is related to the lands group's task to "identify and commence a dialogue with key state and federal partners to develop an inventory of potential public lands for transfer into habitat and recreation land management status." DNR presented the list of 2009-2011 trust land transfer projects at the State Land Acquisition Coordinating Forum in February and in the Biennial State Land Acquisition Forecast Report in June. The projects proposed for transfer in 2011-13 were not included because the draft package was not complete by the time the report was published.

Julie Sandberg presented the proposed trust lands for transfer in 2011-13. A list of the proposed projects was provided along with a map. DNR trust lands earn revenue for the

Common School Construction Account through the management of forest and other properties. Some trust lands are identified as having low income producing potential (based on key factors such as high timber-value-to-land-value ratio). For those lands, the timber is harvested and the value of the timber deposited in the common school construction account. The land value is deposited into DNR's Real Property Replacement Account to purchase replacement working resource lands better suited for producing income for the common school construction account.

Julie described the process for developing the list. It's a long process that involves analyzing which lands are problematic for managing for trust revenue, and identifying the most appropriate uses for the lands that are being transferred out of trust land status. A strong justification must be made to the Commissioner of Public Lands before a transfer out of trust land management status will be approved. Many of the lands go to DNR or other state agencies to be managed as natural resource lands. Some go to counties, cities, public utility districts, or others.

The Trust Land Transfer program is important because it continually generates significant revenue for the Common School Construction Account without the state having to invest more money. It also protects important habitat and recreation lands and can leverage federal money that is used as match for those lands. It can provide revenue for counties because when trust lands are transferred into ownership as state natural resource lands, then the state agency owner may be required to compensate the county for land through a PILT (payment in lieu of taxes) or other compensation process.

The 2011-13 draft list is smaller than recent lists. DNR is requesting to transfer about half of what it has in recent years partly because the TLT program capacity is limited. Staff time is required to identify the opportunities for transfer. In addition, if lands will be transferred to DNR to be managed as a Natural Area Preserve, DNR first needs to identify a boundary for the natural area and establish a plan for maintaining the land before the transfer happens.

The 2011-13 draft list contains 14 proposed fee transfers and 6 proposed lease transfers. In recent years the Legislature has approved a growing number of lease transfers. Lease transfers can be problematic for the TLT Program because some transferees, such as municipalities, are less likely to accept leased land because it restricts their abilities to use it over time. Also, they can't use leased land to match federal funds. Another problem is that leasing out the land value prevents the land value from being deposited into the Replacement Property Account. This limits DNR from purchasing replacement land to generate revenue for the school construction account.

Some lands group members recommended the proposed transfer projects for the upcoming biennium be included in the lands group coordination forum and biennial forecast report. State natural resource acquisition projects are presented early in order to promote early transparency. Whether or not the draft package is complete or

finalized, it may be useful to provide similar transparency for proposed TLT projects. It will also help improve transparency about the trust lands that are being transferred to ownership by state agencies as natural resource lands.

Next Steps: The electronic booklet (including maps and other information) of proposed TLT projects for 2011-13 goes to the OFM in December. After that, the lands group will provide either the booklet or a link to the booklet on its website. The lands group will continue working with the TLT program to improve the transparency of proposed TLT projects through the lands group coordination and transparency process.

### ***Draft Final Recommendations to the Legislature***

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The group reviewed a draft outline of recommendations to submit to the Legislature by December 31, 2011. The draft outline uses an executive summary style. It includes an introductory section to explain why the lands group was created and what it does (improve transparency and coordination of state land acquisitions). A recommendations section is organized in order of the statutory tasks set forth in the enabling legislation. Appendices corresponding to the statutory tasks would provide more detail about the recommendations.

The group suggested the approach be changed to provide one basic recommendation to the Legislature that the lands group coordination and transparency process (annual forum, biennial forecast report, tracking mechanism, monitoring report) continue. The statutory tasks are all related to the coordination and transparency process and more detail about them can be included in appendices. The lands group does not need to make specific recommendations of how coordination and transparency can be improved and implemented beyond the established coordination and transparency process.

It's important that the executive summary explain the reasons the lands group was created and how the coordination and transparency process addresses those needs. It's important to educate people about how state land acquisitions work and to show that coordination between the agencies is already happening. The report should show why the lands group was created, what it has accomplished, and what is left to do. It should also make it clear up front that the lands group is not setting up something new. State land acquisitions are already happening and the lands group has no new authority for land acquisitions.

Next Steps: The draft outline will be revised and reviewed by the lands group at its next quarterly meeting (January 26, 2011).

### ***GIS Coordination Update***

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Dominga provided a brief update of progress toward completing the lands group task to "develop a recommended method for interagency GIS-based documentation of habitat and recreation lands in cooperation with other state agencies using GIS." State agency GIS experts have developed a matrix of state agency GIS processes and policies. The matrix will be used to compare similarities and differences in order to identify

opportunities for improvement. The lands group will review proposed recommendations at the next quarterly meeting.