

Fifth Annual State Land Acquisition Coordinating Forum

Agenda

John A. Cherberg Conference Room A, B, C
Capitol Campus, Olympia
October 30, 2013, 1:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Forum Objectives

The fifth Annual State Land Acquisition Coordinating Forum is a chance for state agencies to share information about acquisition projects that were recently funded and to coordinate plans for future purchases.

Participating agencies will present maps and other information about land acquisitions that received state and federal funding in 2013. Attendees are encouraged to ask questions and discuss the projects with the state agency staff to help identify opportunities for coordination about habitat and recreation land acquisitions and disposals.

1:00 Welcome, Introductions, Agenda Overview

Nona Snell, Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group Coordinator
Recreation and Conservation Office

1:05 Introductory Remarks

Kaleen Cottingham, Director, Recreation and Conservation Office

1:15 State Conservation Commission, Office of Farmland Preservation

Josh Giuntoli, Project Coordinator

1:45 Department of Fish and Wildlife Project Presentations

Clay Sprague, Land Manager

2:15 Department of Natural Resources Project Presentations

Pene Speaks, Assistant Division Manager, Conservation, Recreation and Transactions

2:45 Break

3:15 Department of Natural Resources, Trust Land Transfer Program

Julie Sandberg, Assistant Division Manager, Conservation, Recreation and Transactions

3:30 State Parks and Recreation Commission Project Presentations

Steve Hahn, Real Estate Program Manager

- 4:00 Department of Ecology, Wetland Stewardship Project Presentations**
Chris Hempleman, Grant Manager
- 4:30 Recreation and Conservation Office, Farmland Preservation**
Scott Robinson, Deputy Director
- 4:45 Recreation and Conservation Office, Salmon Recovery**
Tara Galuska, Salmon Recovery Section Manager
- 5:00 Adjourn**

Quarterly Meeting Summary

John A Cherberg, Conference Rooms A, B, C
Capitol Campus, Olympia
9:00 am-12:00 pm

Attendance

Eric Beach, Washington Forest Protection Association
Nick Bowman, Senate Democratic Caucus
Tom Bugert, Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition
Bill Clarke, Trust of Public Lands
Sarah Gage, Recreation and Conservation Office
Curt Gavigan, Senate Committee Services
Josh Giuntoli, State Conservation Commission
Michael Grayum, Puget Sound Partnership
Steve Hahn, State Parks and Recreation
Sheilah Kennedy, Okanogan County Commissioner
Lora Leschner, Pacific Coast Joint Venture
Linda Parlette, Washington State Senator
Pene Speaks, Department of Natural Resources
Clay Sprague, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Nona Snell, Recreation and Conservation Office
Sarah Thirtyacre, Recreation and Conservation Office
Paul Wagner, Washington State Department of Transportation

Introductions

The meeting was called to order, and overview of the agenda was presented.

Update on Public Land Inventory

A fact sheet on the public lands inventory was distributed, and an overview of the work plan was presented. The steering committee is made up of Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO), the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW), State Parks, and the Joint Legislative and Audit Review Committee.

The inventory will help the Lands Group complete its statutory requirements, and the project will include an acquisition forecast data layer that may be used for the forecast and the monitoring reports.

5th Annual State Land Acquisition Coordinating Forum

In odd-numbered years, the coordinating forum discusses plans for habitat and recreation land acquisitions funded in the current biennium. In even-numbered years, the forum discusses habitat and recreation land acquisitions that the agencies plan to apply for funding in the following biennium.

This year the forum is half-day instead of a full day, as in the past. Legislators, legislative staff, Governor's staff, Office of Financial Management staff, county commissioners (through Washington State Association of Counties) and others were invited to attend. The forum provides an opportunity for communication among agencies and others and a chance for people to ask agencies question about the acquisitions.

Tom Bugert said that he had followed up with people who were not able to attend the forum; they are interested in the presentations. It was also noted that this year the forum is later than usual because the Legislature passed the budget later.

Josh Giuntoli said that previous quarterly meetings had included a "roundtable" on the agenda, and he would like to see that at future meetings because he found it valuable.

State Land Acquisition Performance Monitoring Report

The existing template for the Monitoring Report was distributed. A discussion about changes from the last report layout, to streamline it, followed. After discussion about the merits of different components of the report, the group agreed that the report would include:

1. A state map indicating project locations
2. A county map for each county that includes a summary of all projects in the county with different symbols for different agencies
3. A parcel map
4. A thumbnail map of the county on the parcel map page, instead of thumbnail of the state map that appears in the last report.
5. An information page about each project. This will include some additional information:
 - a. Anticipated future costs
 - b. Anticipated revenue generation
 - c. Explanation on how acquisitions align with purpose of the program from which the project was funded

“Comments” will be relabeled “status” because it provides information about what actually happened with the project.

Whether to include the goal and progress toward meeting the goal in the project description was discussed. Agencies explained that this may be difficult because the goals are long term and would be difficult to summarize because there are multiple purposes. The Lands Group needs to do a better job of connecting the dots from the Forecast Report to the Monitoring Report. A suggestion was made to better articulate the statewide conservation strategies and how each project fits into those. The Habitat Conservation Plan model includes three types of monitoring: implementation monitoring, effectiveness monitoring, and validation monitoring. Ecological integrity monitoring assessment could be useful. Showing that land management efforts are meeting goals could help justify money for management beyond that timeline.

The DFW is heading toward linking existing information on the Web to projects, but it's still a few years out, and the DNR is working on linking to similar information also, including management plans for those natural areas that have them.

The deadline is for agencies to send information for the monitoring report to RCO is December 1, 2013. Along with adding project information to the template, the following will take place:

- State agencies will update their profiles for the report.
- Agencies will add information that is not in PRISM (e.g. federal sources) to a spreadsheet that RCO will send. The spreadsheet will include with the 2009-11 acquisitions that are in our PRISM system.
- RCO will roll up the acquisitions monitoring summary by county.
- RCO will delete the table specific to WWRP.

Work Plan

The 2012 Lands Group work plan was reviewed and the accomplishments were noted. Most of the items in the work plan have been completed. The group also considered items to work on in 2014. We decided on the following:

1. Estimating future costs and funding sources
2. Measuring the purpose of the acquisition
3. Reviewing of disposal policies and laws

RCO will draft the work plan for inclusion in the 2013 annual progress report.

A “wish list” of issues for the Lands Group to work on was considered in the past. RCO will find the list and bring it to the March quarterly meeting.

Annual Progress Report – 2013

The 2013 annual progress report will be modeled on the 2012 report and will include the same components and format. The due date for the annual report is not in statute. Nona will draft the annual report and distribute it for comment. It may or may not be complete by the end of December.

Okanogan County Presentation

Sheilah Kennedy shared two maps of Okanogan County: 1) map showing ownership and proposed ownership entities (state, federal, local, tribal, private, and 2) map showing water rights. She shared the following information:

- Forty percent of the DFW-owned lands in Okanogan are prime agriculture lands
- Easements do not require same level of agriculture use;
- Development rights sales effect small businesses;
- WRIA 48 only has 8 percent land that is privately owned; and
- Okanogan County’s tax base is getting smaller and it’s getting harder to provide essential services.

The group discussed various issues relating to water rights.

Next Steps

Monitoring Report Information to RCO	December 1, 2014
Monitoring Report -- Due to the Legislature	December 30, 2013
2013 Annual Progress Report	TBD
Quarterly Meeting	March 14, 2014 8:30 am – 10:00
2015-17 State Land Acquisition Coordinating Forum	March 14, 2014 10:30 am – 5:00 pm
Quarterly Meeting	June 19, 2014 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Quarterly Meeting	September 11, 2014 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
Quarterly Meeting	December 11, 2014 9:00 am – 12:00 pm
2014 Annual Progress Report	December 30, 2014