

Agenda
Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordinating Group

September 18, 2018, 9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.
Natural Resources Building, Room 172

Tuesday, September 18th

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• 2018 Legislative Session – Budget and Legislative Requests	<i>All</i>
10:00 a.m.	3. Response to JLARC Recommendation – Measuring Performance-Based Outcomes of Habitat Acquisition Projects	<i>Ben Donatelle, Wendy Brown</i>
10:30 a.m.	4. Impacts of HB 2382, Promoting the use of surplus public property for public benefit	<i>Steve Hahn</i>
10:45 a.m.	5. 2018 State of Washington Natural Heritage Plan Update	<i>John Gamon</i>
11:00 a.m.	ADJOURN	

Next Quarterly Meeting:
November 27, 2018

Habitat & Recreation Lands Coordinating Group

Date: September 18, 2018

Time: 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM

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

Attendees:

Dave Hayes	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
John Gamon	Washington Department of Natural Resources
Josh Giuntoli	Washington State Conservation Commission
Steve Hahn	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
Heather Kapust	Washington State Department of Ecology
Jeff Parsons	Puget Sound Partnership
David Patton	Trust for Public Lands

Guests and Presenters:

Julie Sandberg	Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
Steve Hahn	Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission
John Gamon	Washington Department of Natural Resources

RCO Staff:

Wendy Brown	Washington Recreation and Conservation Office
Kaleen Cottingham	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 reviewed the agenda. This was followed by individual introductions.

Item 2: Member Updates

Kaleen stated that RCO will have no agency-request legislation going forward this year, only budget requests. Kaleen then ran through the numbers of the operating and capital budget funding requests.

Dave Hayes, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), provided an update on current department matters. Currently they are working with the public affairs office to provide fun-facts about wildlife areas as outreach. Julie Sandberg, provided an update on the new Cowiche land purchase. Julie also touched base on the WDFW budget. WDFW is requesting \$30 million to cover their current budget shortfall (carry forward level into next biennium), as well as \$28 million in program and service enhancements. There will also be a 15% hunting and fishing license increase. Payment in lieu of taxes (PILT) is also still an unresolved issue, and they expect to see an approach to a solution this year. WDFW will continue to request funding for full PILT payments on their existing and future acquisitions.

Steve Hahn, Washing State Parks and Recreation Commission (State Parks), provided an update on the new state parks list. The next new state park is "Nisqually State Park" and after is "Westport State Park." Steve also mentioned his agency has no agency-request legislation for the 2019 legislative session.

Josh Giuntoli, State Conservation Commission, first provided a brief update to the group on the 2016 capital grant funded projects. Josh mentioned they are going smoothly, with no current hiccups. Josh also

stated that the Conservation Commission has no new legislative requests this year. Josh then moved to talk about the Farmland Acquisition Protection Investment (Farm-PI), which is a revolving loan for land trusts to acquire farms immediately and pay back the loan. The amount to loan is not very large, and currently the Farm-PI account is only at \$2.5 million available for loans.

Heather Kapust provided a brief update on behalf of the Washington Department of Ecology. Ms. Kapust gave an update on current requests that are going forward, including floodplains by design codification and some wood stove legislation. She also reported that Washington State submitted eight grant requests to the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant program, administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

John Gamon shared that the Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR) reviewed their WWRP grant application process to identify ways to improve and streamline their internal process. John also gave a quick update of a recent land acquisition on the Chehalis River, purchased from Weyerhaeuser. DNR also has a new Legislative Liaison/Coordinator, Joanna Eide. DNR is putting forward a maintenance request for acquired land, as they have not requested this in some time. DNR also has a capital budget request for natural areas somewhere between \$2-7 million and this money would go toward public access.

Jeff Parsons provided an update regarding the Puget Sound Partnership's (PSP) budget. They currently have several requests for next year related to: mobilizing funding from non-governmental sources, improving accountability for Puget Sound recovery (identified by JLARC), orca recovery, Puget Sound Ecosystem Monitoring Program, and an update to the PSP's data systems. PSP will also be supporting partner agencies on related bills, including: three ecology bills, one DOH bill, one DNR bill, and one WDFW bill. They will also be supporting agency budget requests as they related to Puget Sound recovery. Jeff finalized by mentioning the Orca Task Force will be releasing draft recommendations by September 24th.

Item 3: Response to JLARC Recommendation – Measuring Performance-Based Outcomes of Habitat Acquisition Projects

Ben Donatelle, Recreation and Conservation Office, provided an update on the response to Recommendation #1 in the JLARC report on measuring outcomes of land acquisitions and regulations. The recommendation calls for a joint plan from OFM and RCO to the legislature detailing actions, costs, and timelines needed to comply with the statutes. Ben reviewed the statutes with the group and proposed the three options RCO is considering to present to JLARC, which range in cost and time:

1. PRISM Enhancements
2. Compliance Monitoring
3. Ecological Integrity and Effectiveness Monitoring

RCO will meet with the agencies to RCO make a decision and submit to the Legislature by the end of December.

Item 4: Impacts of HB 2382, Promoting the Use of Surplus Public Property for Public Benefit

Steve Hahn, State Parks, briefed the group on HB 2382, promoting the use of surplus public property for public benefit, which passed in the 2018 Legislative Session. Steve said that HB 2382 would require State Parks, WSP, DNR, DSHS, Corrections and DES to create a list of surplus property or vacant property. This list of surplus property would then be given to the Department of Commerce, who would make recommendations to OFM and the Legislature on what properties would be best suited for affordable

housing development. Further, upon written request, the Department of Commerce will provide a copy of the inventory to parties interested in developing the sites for affordable housing. Steve said he needs further clarity on what "vacant" means in order to get a real grasp on how to make the list. Director Cottingham, RCO, reminded the group that property under RCO contract has rules, even if 'vacant.' Violation of the contract could result in a property conversion.

Item 5: 2018 State of Washington Natural Heritage Plan Update

John Gamon, Washington Department of Natural Resources (DNR), gave the group an update the 2018 State of Washington Natural Heritage Plan. This plan helps DNR become eligible for WWRP grant dollars and how DNR selects their natural areas. John then showed the group how to navigate DNR's website to find the heritage plan online. DNR Homepage – Natural Heritage Program – Conservation Planning – 2018 Heritage plan or <https://www.dnr.wa.gov/NHPconservation>.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

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