

On July 16, 2009 the lands group will host the first *State Lands Coordinating Forum* to coordinate state agencies' near-term acquisition and disposal plans. By sharing information, agencies hope to increase the efficiency, transparency, and coordination of land acquisitions and disposals, and identify opportunities for coordinating with other entities such as local governments and private organizations.

The lands group will hold *State Lands Coordinating Forum* annually.

- Odd-year forums will be held in early summer, after the legislature adjourns and the governor signs the budget. The discussion will focus on (1) near-term acquisition budget implementation and coordination and (2) long-term acquisition planning and priorities.
- Even-year forums, held in January, will help participants find opportunities to coordinate grant requests. The discussion will focus on (1) near-term WWRP application coordination and (2) long-term acquisition plans including providing opportunities for participating entities to share their land acquisition objectives.

Workgroup #2 is developing a mapping tool that shows all agencies' acquisitions and disposals as a basis for the forum discussion. Their database also would be available to local governments, non-government organizations, and the public. Information shared at the annual forum will help the lands group create a statewide biennial forecast of habitat and recreation land acquisitions and disposals.

Other workgroups are developing methods to monitor the success of acquisitions, develop an inventory system, coordinate federally funded acquisitions and disposals, and determine whether modifying WWRP planning requirements would improve coordination of transactions. The work product from these groups will contribute to the development of the database and provide more detail for strategic planning.

Next Steps

The lands group and its workgroups will continue their work to develop and refine methods for increasing coordination, transparency and efficiency in state land acquisitions and disposals. RCO staff will maintain the lands group information on the RCO website and will keep the Recreation and Conservation Funding Board informed of lands group progress.

The lands group will report its progress in its annual report to the Office of Financial Management, which is due in December.

Attachments

- A. Workgroup organization and action item assignments
- B. Updated member list

ATTACHMENT A: WORKGROUP ORGANIZATION AND ACTION ITEM ASSIGNMENTS

Workgroup Name	Action Items
<i>Workgroup 1</i> Acquisition Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review agency land acquisition and disposal plans and policies to help ensure statewide coordination of habitat and recreation land acquisitions and disposals. • Produce an interagency, statewide biennial forecast of habitat and recreation land acquisitions and disposal plans. • Establish procedures for publishing the biennial forecast on websites or other centralized, easily accessible formats. • Develop and convene an annual forum for agencies to coordinate their near-term acquisition and disposal plans. • Identify and commence a dialogue with key state and federal partners to develop an inventory of potential public lands for transfer to habitat and recreation land management status.
<i>Workgroup 2</i> Records and Documentation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a recommended method for interagency GIS-based documentation of habitat and recreation lands in cooperation with other state agencies using GIS systems. • Develop recommended standardization of acquisition and disposal recordkeeping, including identifying a preferred process for centralizing acquisition data.
<i>Workgroup 3</i> Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop an approach for monitoring the success of acquisitions. • Review existing and proposed habitat conservation plans on a regular basis to foster statewide coordination and save costs.
<i>Workgroup 4</i> WWRP Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revisit RCO's and WWRP's planning requirements to determine whether coordination of state agency habitat and recreation land acquisition and disposal could be improved by modifying those requirements.
<i>Workgroup 5</i> Federal Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop options for centralizing coordination of habitat and recreation land acquisition made with funds from federal grants, including developing options for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ requiring agencies to provide early communication on the status of federal grant applications to RCO, OFM, or directly to the legislature; and ○ establishing a centralized pass-through agency for federal funds, where individual agencies would be the primary applicants.
<i>Workgroup 6</i> Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Submit yearly progress reports to Office of Financial management. • Make a formal recommendation to the legislature as to whether the existence of the Habitat and Recreation Lands Coordination Group should be continued beyond July 31, 2012, and if so, whether any modifications to its enabling statute should be pursued.

Attachment B: Updated Member List

Affiliation / Organization	Members/Alternates
WA State Legislature	Senator Linda Parlette (R-12) Alternate: Erika Keech
Recreation and Conservation Office	Dominga Soliz Kammie Bunes
Washington Department of Natural Resources	Pene Speaks Alternate: Clay Sprague
State Parks and Recreation Commission	Steve Hahn Alternate: Shannon Stevens
Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife	Elizabeth Rodrick
Washington Biodiversity Council	Lynn Helbrecht
WA St. Conservation Commission	Ron Shultz
WA St. Department of Ecology	Jeanne Koenings Alternate: Kathy Taylor
WA St. Dept. of Transportation	Ken Risenhoover
County Governments / Okanogan County	Commissioner Andrew Lampe
City Government Park Planners / Washington Recreation and Parks Association	Leslie Betlach Alternate: Shelley Marelli
Western Washington Agricultural Association	Mike Rundlett
Pacific Coast Joint Ventures / Ducks Unlimited	Joe LaTourrette
The Nature Conservancy / WWRC	Bill Robinson
Green Diamond Resources	Eric Beach