



TRUST LAND TRANSFER ADVISORY COMMITTEE CRITERIA

Presentation to the
Board of Natural
Resources

July 2, 2024



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES

July 2, 2024, Board of Natural Resources Meeting

dnr.wa.gov

TRUST LAND TRANSFER PROGRAM HISTORY

A Special Program for Special Places

- Trust Land Transfer Program is designed to replace economically underperforming DNR-managed lands that provide other public benefits
- Program has conserved more than 125,000 acres since its creation, primarily within State Parks, local parks, and DNR Natural Areas
- Legislature began funding appropriations in 1989, codified program in 2023 session



TRUST LAND TRANSFER PROCESS

Application Guidelines and Timelines

- **Applications accepted until September 2023**
- **Proposals evaluated to determine whether they are in best interests of trusts**
- **Applications require approval from receiving agency to demonstrate capability to manage parcels in future**
- **Applications then presented to Trust Land Transfer Advisory Committee**



TRUST LAND TRANSFER ADVISORY COMMITTEE Evaluation and Ranking of Applications

- **Committee of 12 volunteers appointed by Commissioner of Public Lands will meet this summer to evaluate applications**
- **Proposals to be ranked on priority basis based on community support, ecological values, economic values, public benefit, and tribal support**
- **Ranked list to be submitted to Board of Natural Resources and, if approved, submitted as a decision package to the Legislature for next session**



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Evaluation and Ranking of Applications, continued

- **RCW 79.17.310, part of the 2023 bill that codified the TLT program, states that DNR “may submit parcels to an advisory committee that shall evaluate and prioritize nominated parcels according to criteria approved by the board, including social, ecological, economic, and other values.”**
- **Work group developed draft criteria in 2022, using them for pilot project**



PROPOSED SCORING CRITERIA FOR TRUST LAND TRANSFERS

Prioritization criteria let committee members compare unique applications and prioritize them for possible funding

Proposals are ranked on a 0-to-5 scale, and criteria are weighted with multipliers to reach a final score to generate a ranked list to provide to the Board of Natural Resources.

Each committee member scores the applications on his or her own and submits the scorings to DNR to compile.

- **Community Support:** 2x multiplier
- **Ecological Values:** 3x multiplier
- **Economic Values:** 1x multiplier
- **Public Benefits:** 3x multiplier
- **Tribal Support:** 3x multiplier



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Ranking Criteria: Community Support

- **Is there widespread community support for this transfer?**
- **Is there known opposition to this transfer? If so, how has that been addressed?**
- **What level of community outreach has been completed by applicant and/or recipient?**
- **Have there been specific efforts to reach overburdened communities or underserved and vulnerable populations?**



**The Blanchard
Trust Land
Transfer (2019)
drew community
support,
conserving the
popular Samish
Overlook and
Oyster Dome
recreation sites.**



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Ranking Criteria: Ecological Value

- What is the quality of the habitat, and what endangered, threatened, or sensitive species are present?
- Will the proposal create larger contiguous blocks of conservation that are more effective and easier to manage?
- Is the receiving agency suited to manage the parcel for conservation appropriate for the plants and wildlife present there?



**The Kitsap Forest
NAP Trust Land
Transfer (1998)
permanently
conserved 529
acres of old-
growth Douglas
fir and western
hemlock forests.**



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Ranking Criteria: Economic Values

- Will this proposal attract more visitors to the area?
- Will it provide protection for shorelines above aquatic resources?
- Will it affect agriculture or forestry operations nearby, or will it affect development plans?
- Will it affect the delivery of public services, such as communications towers or utility corridors?



**Trust Land
Transfers in 1991,
1998, 2000, and
2004 conserved
3,916 acres of the
West Tiger
Mountain NRCA in
King County,
including the
parasailing paradise
of Poo Poo Point.**



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Ranking Criteria: Public Benefits

- **What current public benefits does the parcel currently provide, and how would the proposal affect those benefits?**
- **Public benefits include recreation, parks and open space, distinctive geographic features, scientific research, outdoor education opportunities, and historical sites**
- **Are there plans in place that support the need for new public opportunities at the parcel?**



Seven Trust Land Transfers from 1990 to 2014 were used to create and expand the Mount Si NRCA, conserving lands around Mount Si, Little Si, Mount Teneriffe, and Green Mountain.



TRUST LAND TRANSFER ADVISORY COMMITTEE Ranking Criteria: Tribal Support

- DNR and receiving agency will contact affected Tribes regarding proposals
- Any proposal that receives opposition from at least one Tribe will score no points in this category



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Next Steps

- Applicants have opportunity to make brief presentations to committee
- Committee members will independently evaluate applications and submit them to DNR
- Final meeting will review the prioritization process results
- Results to be presented at September 2024 Board of Natural Resources meeting to allow time to write budget request for 2025 legislative session



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Request for Approval of Criteria

The Department requests that the Board of Natural Resources approve Resolution No. 1666 to adopt the evaluation criteria developed by the Trust Land Transfer Working Group to meet the requirements of RCW 79.17.310



