



WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF
Natural Resources

**Request for Nominations:
DNR Community Forest Trust**

The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is currently seeking nominations for lands to be included in the state Community Forest Trust for the 2017-2019 Biennium. The Community Forest Trust program provides DNR the policy and management tools to partner with local communities to acquire and manage working forests and lands at high risk of conversion to another land use.

The department will give priority consideration for lands that most closely satisfy the goals of the Community Forest Trust program, including: (a) protecting, in perpetuity, working forest lands that are at a significant risk of conversion to another land use; (b) securing financial and social viability through sound management plans and objectives that are consistent with the values of the local community; (c) maintaining the lands in a working status; (d) generating revenue at levels that are, at a minimum, capable of reimbursing the department for management costs and providing some reinvestment into the management objectives of the community forest; (e) providing for ongoing and sustainable public recreational access, local timber jobs, clean air and water, carbon storage, fish and wildlife habitat, and open space in a manner that is compatible with management plans and objectives adopted for the community forest; and (f) providing educational opportunities for local communities regarding the benefits that working forests provide to Washington's economy, communities, environment, and quality of life.

The department must, prior to acquiring lands for inclusion in a community forest, obtain from the local community a commitment to preserving land as a working forest. This local commitment must be demonstrated by a financial contribution from local community partners to the specific community forest of at least fifty percent of the difference between the parcel's appraised fair market value and the parcel's timber and forest land value.

Local nominations for lands to be included in the Community Forest Trust are to be submitted using the attached Community Forest Trust Nomination Form and requested attachments.

Proposals are due to the Department of Natural Resources by June 17, 2016. If you have questions about the requirements or would like to discuss potential nominations, please contact Laurie Benson at laurie.benson@dnr.wa.gov or (360)902-1120. More information on the Community Forest Trust Act can be found at this [link](#) or at www.dnr.wa.gov.

PLEASE SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- Signed nomination form (attached; no more than 20 pages total)
- Map of proposed community forest
- Aerial photo image of proposed community forest
- Letters of support (see Nomination Form Question No. 14)
- Letter(s) of financial commitment (see Nomination Form Question No. 17)

Nominations forms must be received by June 17, 2016.

Please submit by email to laurie.benson@dnr.wa.gov or by mail to: Laurie Benson, Washington Department of Natural Resources, 1111 Washington St SE, MS 47001, Olympia, WA 98504-7001

PROPOSED COMMUNITY FOREST TRUST PROGRAM TIMELINE

June 17, 2016	Community Forest nominations due to DNR
June – July 2016	DNR reviews nominations and finalizes list of proposed properties for approval by the Board of Natural Resources
October 2016	Board of Natural Resources approves project(s) to be forwarded to the legislature
November 2016	DNR submits capital budget proposal to the Governor's Office of Financial Management that includes a funding package for proposed Community Forest properties
November 2016 – March 2017	DNR and community partners pursue support for funding of the Community Forest Trust proposal in legislature
July 2017	Implementation of Community Forest Trust program begins (if funded by legislature)



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COMMUNITY FOREST TRUST NOMINATION FORM

CONTACT INFORMATION

1. Sponsoring Organization:
Main Contact:
Sponsor Mailing Address:
Sponsor Email address:
Sponsor Phone:

PROJECT NARRATIVE

2. Please provide a one page narrative describing your project. Explain why your community is nominating this project for the Community Forest Trust. This is your opportunity to provide DNR relevant information you deem important, but not necessarily contained in the answers to the below questions.

PROPERTY INFORMATION

Please provide map(s) and aerial photo(s) of the proposed community forest if you have them.

3. Property acreage:
4. County in which the property is located (city or municipality, if any):
5. Legal description (township range and section) or GPS coordinates of property location:
6. Parcel numbers for the property:
7. Current zoning for the property:
8. Legal owner of property:
9. Briefly describe the history of the property's management; include the current use and most likely future use of the property, if known:
10. Describe the current use and likely future use of properties surrounding the proposed community forest property, if known:
11. Timber age and site class (approximate), if known:
12. Estimated property value (land and timber) (Describe the source of the estimate and reason(s) for the value. If there are multiple estimates, provide information for each one.):

13. Provide evidence that the property is “at risk” of conversion to a non-forest use (e.g. highest and best use based on recent appraisal, recent changes to zoning, evidence of market activity in the vicinity):

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

The existence of broad community support and partnerships are central to the long-term success of a community forest. Demonstrating the strength and diversity of that community partnership is elemental to its success and therefore to the success of its nomination. Partnerships may include (but may not be limited to) land trusts, local municipalities, neighboring landowners, recreational user groups, conservation organizations, local businesses, and elected officials.

14. What community members or organizations support this proposal? Why? (Provide at least 3 letters from the supporting parties.)
15. What community members or organizations, if any, do not support this proposal? Why?
16. What are the anticipated sources for the community match of 50 percent of the non-timber development value?
17. Is there a timing limitation for the funding? Are there any constraints or conditions? (Provide a letter of financial commitment accounting for funding.)

COMMUNITY FOREST VALUES

The Community Forest Trust legislation requires that Community Forest properties be managed as working forests, and that objectives be established for the management of those lands that include a balance of community values and revenue production. These lands must support themselves financially in order for DNR to provide effective stewardship. Community partners are highly encouraged to reach some initial agreement on values they would like to see embodied by their proposed Community Forest and how those goals will be achieved through revenue-producing activities in that working forest.

18. What are the most important community values (e.g., environmental, aesthetic, recreational, and other social and economic) currently and/or anticipated to be provided by managing the property as a Community Forest?
19. What are the specific, if preliminary, proposed management objectives of the proposed community forest? Include a detailed discussion of likely revenue-producing activities for the property (i.e., timber harvest, recreational leases, ecosystem service payments, etc.).
20. How will the proposed revenue-producing activities cover the anticipated costs of management?
21. Please identify existing, approved land use plans with which your project is consistent or inconsistent (e.g., county comprehensive plan, shoreline management plan), and briefly explain that consistency.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

22. Is there any additional information DNR should know about the proposal that is not covered in detail above?

Signature of authority representing the sponsoring organization

Name (printed): _____

Title: _____

Date _____