

JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

AGENDA REQUEST

TO: Board of County Commissioners
Mark McCauley, County Administrator

FROM: Heidi Eisenhour, Commissioner

DATE: August 28, 2023

SUBJECT: DNR Trust Land Transfer program – project applications

STATEMENT OF ISSUE:

Trust Land Transfer (TLT) is a tool employed by DNR, which manages more than three million acres of state forest and rangeland. DNR has a dual mandate, and the land it manages must serve two purposes: 1. Generating revenue, and 2. Protecting wild spaces for conservation and recreation. TLT was established by the state of Washington in 1989 and provides a pathway for certain lands to serve solely the second purpose. In other words, those lands are protected for recreation, education, wildlife, and conservation.

On May 9, 2023, Governor Jay Inslee signed HB 1460, which addresses the Washington state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) land transactions, including the TLT Program. HB 1460 expanded nominating eligibility for TLT to any citizen, state and federal agencies, counties, cities, towns, federally recognized Indian tribes, nonprofit organizations, special purpose districts, public development authorities, and other political subdivisions of the state.

Jefferson County has been in conversation with DNR about some more difficult to manage parcels in Jefferson County and would like to nominate them for TLT to Jefferson County where they would be managed for combined uses of timber harvest, open space and passive recreation.

ANALYSIS:

This proposal is for Jefferson County to nominate for inclusion in the 2025-27 Trust Land Transfer project list the four parcels described below. All of these parcels are north of State HWY 104 in the more populated portions of East Jefferson County. In conversations with DNR they agree that Jefferson County management would be appropriate for these. They are:

DNR Sys#	Name	Acres	Trust
6349	Anderson Lake	582	Common School and Indemnity
6247	Beaver Valley	523	Common School and Indemnity (to SFT with InterX)
6519	Cape George	241	Common School and Indemnity (to SFT with InterX)
6354	West Jacob Miller	121	Common School and Indemnity (to SFT with InterX)

Nominations are due Sept 30, 2023 – and that is just the first hurdle to clear. After nomination DNR must perform an initial review to determine whether the transfer is in the best interest of the trust, and whether a public agency is willing to take ownership and manage the parcel. If the DNR determines through its initial review that transfer would be in the best interest of the trust, and a public agency is

able to take ownership and manage the land, the DNR must consult with potentially affected federally recognized Indian tribes to identify and address cultural resource issues.

After the DNR's initial review and tribal consultation, the DNR may submit parcels to an advisory committee that must evaluate and prioritize nominated parcels according to criteria approved by the Board of Natural Resources (Board), including social, ecological, economic, and other values.

The DNR, with approval of the Board, determines the final, prioritized list of trust land transfer parcels to submit to the Legislature. Transfers funded by legislative appropriation must be at fair market value, including the land value, timber, other valuable materials, and state-owned improvements. If an appropriation includes the full fair market value for the trust land transfer parcel, and the Board determines that the transfer is in the best interest of the trust for which the land is held, the DNR must complete the transfer.

Finally, the list of TLT properties submitted to the Board or the Legislature may not exceed \$30 million in total property value for each year the list is submitted.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Applications can be completed using capacity in our existing Chickadee Forestry contract.

RECOMMENDATION:

Support application to DNR for four projects to be considered for Trust Land Transfer.

REVIEWED BY:

 Date 8/24/23
Mark McCauley, County Administrator



Forestry Web Map

NCS Proposed



DNR Planned Timber Sales



Structurally Complex Older Forests



WNHP Rare and Imperiled Forests



County Owned Parcels



DNR Carbon Project



Proposed Management Plan



Community Forest/Co-Management

Dabob Natural Area Boundary



Current



Proposed

DNR Parcels



Administrative Site



Common School and Indemnity



Escheat



Natural Area Preserve



Natural Resources Conservation Area



State Forest Transfer

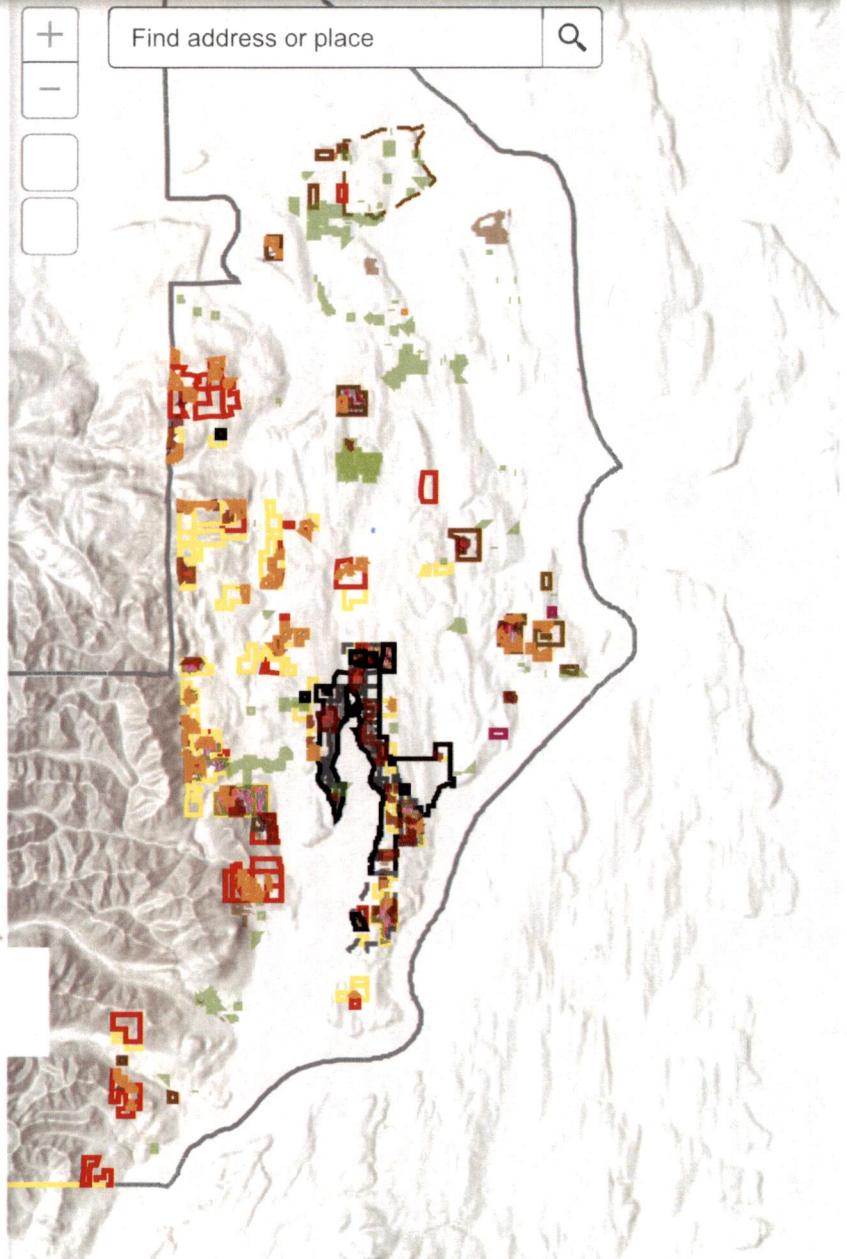


University - Original

City of Port Townsend



Jefferson County Boundary



6mi

-122.467 47.949 Degrees