Board Of Natural Resources

Community Forest Trust
2013-15 Capital Budget Proposal

October 2, 2012
Community Forest Trust

Purpose

Protect working forestlands with a high risk of conversion to non-forest uses, but that have important value to local communities

- Conversion of these forests represent a loss of important social and environmental services, and an erosion of timber and natural resource-based economies.

- DNR and local communities can partner to provide a tool to help protect working forestlands
Community Forest Trust Legislation

Overview

- Passed by 2011 Legislature as ESHB 1421
- Creates a discrete non-fiduciary forest land trust with lands managed by DNR
- Acquired forest lands can be private or trust lands
- Lands acquired jointly with local partner resources and state capital appropriations
Emphasis on self-sustaining, active forest management

Requires a community working forest management plan developed by DNR and local partners

Lands may be divested by Board if they do not perform
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How it works...

- List of candidate community forests presented to legislature
- Legislature appropriates capital funds to acquire land from private owner or state trust
- Local community contributes to acquisition
- If trust land, timber value distributed to beneficiaries and land value used to buy replacement trust lands
- Purchased lands go into Community Forest Trust ownership and must have revenue-producing activities to minimally offset management costs
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Board responsibilities

- Provide input on draft list of proposed properties before they are submitted to the legislature
- Approve all acquisitions of real property
- Divest in nonperforming community forest parcels, or for those for which DNR cannot reach agreement on a management plan
- Reimburse (at the Board’s discretion) the local entities’ and state’s financial contribution
  - If excess land management revenue is remaining after program and land management costs are covered
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2012 Program Launch

Request for Nominations

• Outreach-driven approach: invite interested stakeholders to participate in the early stages of program development
• Requested nominations for pilot projects to help develop and demonstrate the concept
• Presentations to land trusts, counties, landowners, and potential project proponents
• Received interest from proponents of four potential community forest projects
• One nomination: Jefferson County
Jefferson Co. Proposal budget request

- Proposed inclusion of up to 4 parcels of state trust lands in East Jefferson Co., totaling 1,297 ac
- Total project cost is $5.3 million, which includes property acquisition, development of management plan and basic program guidelines
- Staff working closely with proponents to finalize proposal
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FY 13-15 Proposal
Community Forest Trust
FY 13-15 Proposal

Jefferson Co. proposal (cont.)

• DNR staff working in partnership with local proponents to create a strong first community forest proposal to take to Legislature
• This pilot project should serve as a model
• Key elements:
  ✓ Secured local funding
  ✓ Strong and diverse local community support
  ✓ Agreement on community forest management principles
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Questions?