OFM

490 - Department of Natural Resources
Capital Project Request
2009-11 Biennium

Version: 01 Agency Requested
Report Number: CBS002
Date Run: 9/5/2008 11:10AM

Project Number: 20082004
Project Title: Community and Technical College Trust Land Acquisitions

Description

Starting Fiscal Year: 2008
Project Class: Program
Agency Priority: 25

Project Summary

This program acquired income-producing land for the community and technical college forest reserve trust.

Project Description

In 1990 the Legislature established this trust to provide a source of revenue for the long-term capital needs of the community and technical college system, as well as provide outdoor education and recreation experiences for organized groups. A third purpose is to maintain natural resource lands in areas threatened by population growth. The Legislature directed DNR to enhance the trust holdings by acquiring lands in urbanizing areas. Over three thousand acres have already been purchased. In order for the trust to provide significant future revenues for the community college system the land base needs to be increased. Not funding this request will slow the progress being made in adding land to this trust and delay reaching the point where revenues can be directed to the colleges.

One component of DNR’s mission is to manage the properties it holds in trust for various schools, colleges, universities and other public institutions for both conservation and fiduciary purposes. The Community & Technical College trust is one of the trusts for which DNR has a legal responsibility to continually enhance through land management activities and land acquisition.

POG goal: Improve the quality of Washington’s natural resources.

This is met by acquiring forest land in urbanizing areas to preserve working forests and to provide opportunities for recreation and outdoor education.

The requested appropriation will add at least one new property to the existing trust land base, thus increasing overall acres and productivity for the Community & Technical College trust.

The appropriation levels of this program typically allow acquisition of one or two properties for the trust each biennium. The properties are usually acquired as part of a larger purchase using other funds (such as the Real Property Replacement Account), so acquisition costs, including staffing, are minimal.

The long-term goal, once sufficient acres are acquired, is to provide revenue for community and technical colleges. Any revenue that can be produced by the trust lands will supplement funding now provided by tax dollars.

This program adds acres to the overall land base maintained by the DNR, but the Community College properties are typically added to existing blocks of state land, so the incremental cost of managing the new acres is small and is incorporated into the operating budget for the Forest Development Account.

This program is based on requirements laid out in RCW 79.02.420. DNR could potentially choose to not continue acquiring land for the Community & Technical College trust, but that would be contrary to statute and the agency's duty as trustee.

Currently, the funding source for land acquisition and land management is revenue generated from timber harvest or other forest product sales on these properties. The trust is essentially self-supporting.

This is an ongoing program that involves only land, not facilities. It is not tied to any operating budget decision package. The program is one minor part of DNR’s larger mission to conserve state natural resources and create a future funding source for the community and technical colleges of the state.
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Description

Location
City: Statewide
County: Statewide
Legislative District: 098

Project Type
Acquisition - Land

Growth Management impacts
None.

New Facility: No

Funding

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Operating Impacts

No Operating Impact