



## NEWS RELEASE

January 7, 2015

# Public invited to comment on proposed expansion of Morning Star Natural Resources Conservation Area and an exchange of state trust lands near Everett

OLYMPIA – The Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will conduct a public hearing on January 21 in Everett to provide information and receive comments about a proposed expansion of the Morning Star Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA) and two related transactions involving state trust lands.

**Who:** Interested members of the public

**What:** Public information meeting followed by a public hearing

**When:** 6:30 p.m., Wednesday, January 21, 2015

**Where:** Snohomish County Campus  
Robert J. Drewel Building  
Public Meeting Room #1  
3000 Rockefeller Avenue  
Everett, WA 98201

**Why:** DNR will provide information and obtain public comments about a proposed expansion of the Morning Star Natural Resources Conservation Area (NRCA) and related land transactions. Comments from the public will help Commissioner of Public Lands Peter Goldmark determine whether to expand the Morning Star NRCA. A summary of hearing comments and written testimony regarding two related transactions — the proposed Morning Star Inter-Trust Exchange and the Morning Star trust land transfer — will be presented to the Board of Natural Resources for a decision at one of its regularly scheduled meetings.

## Morning Star NRCA expansion

DNR proposes to expand the boundary of the Morning Star NRCA by 4,999 acres, all of which are currently managed by DNR as state trust land. The boundary expansion does not include any privately owned property.

DNR is accepting written comments about the proposed NRCA boundary expansion until 5:00 p.m., February 6, 2015. Send written comments to: Washington Department of Natural Resources, Attn: Paul McFarland, 919 North Township Street, Sedro-Woolley, WA 98284 or email to: [paul.mcfarland@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:paul.mcfarland@dnr.wa.gov). For additional information, please contact Paul McFarland.

### **Inter-trust exchange and transfer**

DNR also proposes to exchange land trust designations for two state-managed parcels in the area. If approved, a parcel currently designated for the State Forest Land Trust will be exchanged for a Common School Trust land parcel of equal value. Both parcels are in Snohomish County. The transaction involves an exchange of land trust designations only — DNR will continue to manage both parcels.

The inter-trust exchange would position the newly designated Common School Trust parcel for a future transfer into the Morning Star NRCA. If transferred, the land would be managed for recreation, open space or wildlife habitat, consistent with the Natural Resources Conservation Areas Statewide Management Plan.

The newly designated State Forest Land Trust parcel would remain in state ownership and be managed for revenue to benefit Snohomish County government services.

DNR is accepting written comments about the proposed inter-trust exchange and trust land transfer until 5:00 p.m., February 6, 2015. Mail written comments to DNR, Morning Star Inter-Trust Exchange, Attn: Bob Winslow, PO Box 47014, Olympia, WA 98504-7014 or by email to: [Exchanges@dnr.wa.gov](mailto:Exchanges@dnr.wa.gov). For more information and to view maps, visit [www.dnr.wa.gov](http://www.dnr.wa.gov), Leasing and Land Transactions, Proposed Trust Land Exchanges.

### **Proposed Morning Star NRCA expansion**

The proposed expansion area includes portions of the following lands: Sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 14, 15, Township 28 North, Range 9 East, W.M., Snohomish County, Washington.

### **Exchange property descriptions**

State Forest Land Trust property: The following parcel would change from State Forest Land Trust to Common School Trust as part of the exchange between trusts: a portion of Section 15, Township 28 North, Range 9 East, W.M., Snohomish County, Washington.

Common School Trust property: The following parcel would change from Common School Trust to State Forest Land Trust as part of the exchange between trusts: a portion of Section 32, Township 29 North, Range 8 East, W.M., Snohomish County, Washington.

### **Trust Land Transfer property descriptions**

Morning Star Trust Land Transfer property: Portions of the following parcels would be transferred into the DNR-managed Morning Star NRCA through a 2013 legislatively-funded trust land transfer: portions of Sections 2, 10, 11, 14 and 15, Township 28 North, Range 9 East, W.M., Snohomish County, Washington.

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